

# Doctoral Regulations **2014**





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## Doctoral Regulations

Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)

For further information about these regulations, please contact:  
The Graduate Office, TU Delft Graduate School  
[www.graduateschool.tudelft.nl](http://www.graduateschool.tudelft.nl)

The Doctoral Regulations were established by the Board for Doctorates in its meeting of 30 June 2014. The amendments are effective from 1 January 2015.



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President of the Executive Board  
Rector Magnificus of TU Delft



# Table of Contents

<b>General provisions</b> .....	<b>7</b>
1 Definitions .....	7
2 Doctorate .....	10
3 Joint doctorate .....	11
4 Start of Doctoral programme.....	12
5 Doctoral candidate and preparation of the dissertation .....	12
6 DE programme .....	13
7 Go/No Go meeting .....	13
8 Appointment of promotor and copromotor .....	14
9 Duties and responsibilities of promotor and copromotor.....	15
10 Approval of draft dissertation .....	17
11 Application for doctoral defence ceremony .....	18
12 Composition of doctoral committee .....	18
13 Appointment of doctoral committee.....	19
14 Assessment of draft dissertation by doctoral committee.....	20
15 Preparations for the doctoral defence ceremony .....	21
16 Doctoral defence ceremony .....	22
17 Awarding of the degree of Doctor .....	22
18 Awarding of the degree of Doctor with designation cum laude....	23
19 Disputes .....	25
20 Mediation.....	26
21 Honorary doctorate.....	26
22 Final provisions.....	27
23 Transitional provisions .....	28





# General provisions

## Article 1 Definitions

1.1. The terms used in these Regulations are defined as follows:

Board for Doctorates:	the board for doctorates of the university within the meaning of Article 7.18 section 4 and Article 9.10 of the Act;
Copromotor:	the person appointed by the Board for Doctorates to work with the promotor in supervising the doctoral candidate;
DE Programme:	the Doctoral Education (DE) training programme that is compulsory for doctoral candidates;
DMA:	Doctoral Monitoring Application; a web-based administrative system for monitoring progress in the Doctoral Programme;
Doctoral candidate:	the person registered as such at the TU Delft Graduate School and following a Doctoral Programme;
Doctoral committee:	the committee, appointed by the Board for Doctorates, before which the doctoral defence ceremony will take place;
Doctoral defence ceremony:	the public session of the doctoral committee in which the doctoral candidate defends his dissertation, including appendices and propositions, in order to be awarded the degree of Doctor;
Doctoral dissertation:	the scientific treatise as defined in Section 7.18, paragraph 2b of the WHW;

Doctoral Examination Working Committee:	the committee established as such by the Rector Magnificus, whose members deputise for the Rector Magnificus in his role as chairperson during the doctoral defence ceremony;
Doctoral Programme:	the period from registration as a doctoral candidate up to and including the doctoral defence ceremony;
Draft doctoral dissertation:	the draft for the doctoral dissertation that is submitted for assessment by the doctoral committee after being approved by the promotor;
Faculty Graduate School:	the Graduate School of a faculty as defined in Article 18a of the Executive and Management Regulations;
Go/No Go meeting:	meeting at the end of the first year of the doctoral programme in which the intended promotor makes an assessment, based on a committee's recommendations, as to whether the doctoral candidate is considered capable of successfully completing the Doctoral Programme;
Graduate School Office:	support office of the TU Delft Graduate School responsible for day-to-day business concerning doctorates and which supports the TU Delft Graduate School;
Implementation Decree:	more specific rules concerning the implementation of the Doctoral Regulations, to be adopted by the Board for Doctorates;
Intended promotor:	professor who has reached agreement with the doctoral

	candidate on the subject of the doctoral research and who, after a Go decision has been made during the Go/No Go meeting, requests that the Board for Doctorates appoint him as promotor;
Promotor:	the professor appointed as such by the Board for Doctorates in accordance with Section 7.18, paragraph 4 of the WHW;
Propositions:	statements argued and appended to the dissertation designated by the promotor as academically sound, examinable and defensible and which the doctoral candidate will defend;
Rector Magnificus:	the Rector Magnificus of the university, also chairperson of the Board for Doctorates or his replacement during a doctoral defence ceremony;
TU Delft Graduate School:	the Graduate School of the university, as defined in Article 18a of TU Delft's Executive and Management Regulations, consisting of the faculty Graduate Schools and a board;
Vice-Rector:	the vice-chairperson of the Board for Doctorates, who also chairs the Doctoral Examination Working Committee;
WHW:	the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act of the Netherlands (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek).

- 1.2. Where these Regulations, the explanatory notes or the appendices make use of male pronouns, these should be read as female pronouns in the event that they refer to a female person.
- 1.3. Any references in these Regulations to
  - a. promotor or copromotor should be interpreted as meaning promotors and/or copromotor in cases in which more than one promotor and/or copromotor have been appointed;
  - b. promotor or copromotor should also be interpreted as intended promotor or intended copromotor during the period before a Go decision has been made and the appointment as promotor has taken place;
  - c. professor, who is the promotor, should be interpreted as professors in cases in which there is more than one promotor;
  - d. professor should also be interpreted as the former professor acting as promotor.
- 1.4. The provisions included in these Regulations concerning the dissertation will also be applicable to the Doctoral Design (with appendices). This refers to the original, innovative technical design, comprising design drawings, models and/or other products developed by using appropriate specialist theoretical knowledge, methods and/or calculations, combined with scientific justification and documentation compiled in writing.

## **Article 2      Doctorate**

- 2.1. The degree of Doctor can be obtained at TU Delft following the public defence of a dissertation before the Board for Doctorates or the doctoral committee appointed by it. The Board for Doctorates will award the degree of Doctor. By way of a departure from that stipulated in the other Articles in these Regulations, the provisions of Article 21 will apply to the awarding of the honorary doctorate degree.
- 2.2. Admission to the doctoral defence ceremony will be open to anyone:
  - a. who has been awarded the degree of Master in accordance with Section 7.10a, paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of the WHW, and
  - b. who, as proof of competence to practice science independently has written a dissertation or prepared a Doctoral Design (including appendices), and
  - c. has met the other requirements set in these Doctoral Regulations with regard to, among other things:

- completing a Doctoral programme,
  - following a DE programme and
  - the quality and content of the dissertation.
- 2.3. In exceptional circumstances, the Board for Doctorates can, on request, admit access to the doctoral defence ceremony to a person who is not in possession of the required degree but who meets the requirements stipulated in Article 2.2b and c, if the person requesting this demonstrates in some other way, and to the satisfaction of the Board for Doctorates, that he has sufficient knowledge. The Board for Doctorates can determine more specific rules for this in the Implementation Decree.

### **Article 3      Joint Doctorate**

- 3.1. TU Delft can, together with one or more Dutch or foreign institutions of academic education, jointly:
- a. award the degree of Doctor by issuing a single degree certificate;
  - b. award the degree of Doctor, with each of the institutions awarding the degree of Doctor including a reference to the fact that the degree is being awarded jointly.
- 3.2. The joint doctorate will be awarded by the Board for Doctorates, together with or in conjunction with a similar body at the partner institution.
- 3.3. The joint doctorate will meet the following requirements:
- a. a cooperation agreement has been concluded with the other institution in advance;
  - b. the Board for Doctorates has issued permission in writing prior to the Doctoral Programme;
  - c. the provisions of the Doctoral Regulations will apply to the joint doctorate, unless exceptions apply that have been substantiated and authorised by the Board for Doctorates.
- 3.4. In the Implementation Decree, the Board for Doctorates will determine more specific rules with regard to the conditions and requirements that a joint doctorate must always meet.

## **Article 4      Start of Doctoral Programme**

- 4.1.      A person who wishes to complete a Doctoral Programme in order to obtain a doctorate must:
  - a.          enter into consultations with the most appropriate professor in view of the field of science involved and reach agreement on the subject of the doctoral research, the title of the dissertation and his willingness to act as promotor, and
  - b.          register as a doctoral candidate at the TU Delft Graduate School by submitting valid proof of identity and a certified copy of a degree certificate as defined in Article 2.2a or a copy of the awarding of access pursuant to Article 2.3.
  
- 4.2.      When the conditions stipulated in 4.1 have been met, the TU Delft Graduate School will ensure that a statement is issued as soon as possible on behalf of the Board for Doctorates detailing the registration as a doctoral candidate and the appointment as intended promotor of the professor referred to in 4.1a, and, if applicable, the appointment of an intended copromotor.
  
- 4.3.      Within three months of employment as a doctoral candidate or receipt of a TU Delft hospitality declaration, the doctoral candidate must have made agreements with his intended promotor on his supervision and the content of the DE Programme to be followed and this must be recorded in a PhD agreement using DMA. The doctoral candidate will record his progress in DMA.

## **Article 5      Doctoral candidate and preparation of dissertation**

- 5.1.      The doctoral candidate will conduct independent scientific research. He will also maintain the customary academic contacts with his fellow scientists.
  
  - 5.2.      The doctoral candidate is responsible for producing the dissertation as a contribution to science and for ensuring that the research is conducted:
    - a.          in accordance with the code of conduct and professional code that apply to professional activities in the area of science concerned;
    - b.          according to the statutory regulations and university regulations applicable, in all events, for research
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- c. involving animal testing, hazardous (e.g. radioactive) materials, hazardous (e.g. biological) substances; and without the imposition of any limitations that conflict with academic freedom on the research and the freedom of publication of data and results from the research, also insofar as (part of) the research is funded by third parties.

## **Article 6 DE Programme**

- 6.1. The doctoral candidate is obliged to follow the DE Programme and complete it successfully and will receive a DE certificate for this.
- 6.2. The DE Programme consists of the following course components: transferable, research-related and discipline-related skills. The Board for Doctorates will specify further requirements concerning the size/scope of these course components.
- 6.3. In very exceptional cases, the Board for Doctorates can award exemption from taking a component or course in the DE Programme. A request to this effect must be submitted by the doctoral candidate within twelve months of registering as a doctoral candidate.
- 6.4. In very exceptional cases, the Board for Doctorates can award full dispensation from taking the DE Programme. A request to this effect must be submitted by the doctoral candidate within three months of registering as a doctoral candidate. In the case of full dispensation, no DE certificate will be awarded.

## **Article 7 Go/No Go meeting**

- 7.1. At the latest one year after registration of the doctoral candidate, a Go/No Go meeting will be held between the doctoral candidate and the intended promotor following which the intended promotor will explicitly inform the doctoral candidate of his expectations concerning the successful completion of the Doctoral Programme within a reasonable time period. Based on this, the intended promotor will decide whether the Doctoral programme can proceed (Go) or will be terminated (No Go).
- 7.2. If the Doctoral Programme involves a full-time appointment as doctoral candidate, a period of four years will be considered to be a reasonable time period.

- 7.3. In the decision referred to in paragraph 1, the intended promotor will take prior advice from a committee consisting of at least three members, including an independent professor or assistant/associate professor holding a doctorate, in principle from outside the department but in all events from outside the promotor's research group.
- 7.4. If the intended promotor reaches a Go decision, as a result of which the Doctoral Programme can proceed, he will, within two weeks of the decision, request that the faculty Graduate School formally register the doctoral candidate with the Board for Doctorates for further admission to the Doctoral Programme. At the same time, he will request that the Board for Doctorates appoint him/her as promotor and also appoint any copromotor.
- 7.5. Within four weeks of the requests referred to in the previous paragraph, the Board for Doctorates will notify the doctoral candidate whether he has been formally admitted to the Doctoral Programme and of the appointment of the promotor and any copromotor, who will also be notified of this.
- 7.6. If the intended promotor reaches a No Go decision, the Doctoral Programme will end for the doctoral candidate and the doctoral candidate's registration at TU Delft will be terminated.

## **Article 8 Appointment of promotor and copromotor**

- 8.1. The Board for Doctorates will appoint a TU Delft professor as promotor in accordance with Section 7.18, paragraph 4 of the WHW. In addition, a second promotor can be appointed provided that he has *ius promovendi* (the right to bestow doctoral degrees) from a Dutch or foreign institution for higher education and scientific research.
- 8.2. Close family members with an affinity up to and including the fourth degree or other persons who have such a relationship to the doctoral candidate that they cannot reasonably be expected to make a judgement will not be eligible to act as promotor or copromotor.
- 8.3. A professor given an honourable discharge will, until five years after being discharged, retain the right to act as promotor with regard to the doctoral candidate for whom he was appointed as promotor by the Board for Doctorates. In this case, the Board for Doctorates can determine that a daily supervisor be appointed from the academic staff.



- 8.4. At the request of the promotor, the Board for Doctorates can appoint a copromotor. In very exceptional circumstances, a second copromotor can be appointed. The copromotor appointed must be an employee at TU Delft or an institute of higher education with which TU Delft as an institution has a cooperation agreement. Anyone who has been awarded a doctorate, has specific expertise in the scientific area to which the dissertation relates and does not have ius promovendi can be appointed as copromotor. The copromotor must also be involved in the daily supervision of the doctoral candidate. A copromotor can act as such for five years after his honourable discharge.
- 8.5. If there are several intended promotors or copromotors, they will appoint one of their number as coordinator who will be responsible for communication with the doctoral candidate, the faculty and University Graduate School, the Board for Doctorates and other parties involved, such as fellow promotors and copromotors and insofar as it concerns issues relating to the Doctoral Regulations. In that case, the term promotor in these Regulations should be interpreted as corresponding supervisor.
- 8.6. The Board for Doctorates will appoint the promotor and possibly also the copromotor after a Go decision (to proceed with the Doctoral Programme), as stipulated in Article 7, has been made.
- 8.7. The Board for Doctorates may decide not to appoint the promotor or to remove an appointed promotor from his position in the event of serious neglect of his duties and responsibilities. Prior to the decision referred to, the Board will give the promotor involved the opportunity to present his case.

## **Article 9      Duties and responsibilities of promotor and copromotor**

- 9.1. The promotor is responsible for supervising the doctoral candidate throughout the entire Doctoral Programme and in the preparation of the dissertation. There will be regular consultations between the doctoral candidate and his promotor. The supervision provided will aim to ensure that:
- a. the research is conducted in accordance with Article 5;
  - b. the draft dissertation is submitted and approved within a reasonable time period after the start of the doctoral research;

- c. the doctoral candidate develops to become a fully-fledged scientific researcher;
  - d. the doctoral candidate follows and successfully completes the DE Programme;
  - e. the progress and agreements made are recorded in DMA.
- 9.2. If a copromotor has been appointed, the duties and authority described in these Regulations will be exercised jointly by the promotor and copromotor. In that case, the use of the term promotor in these Regulations will also include the copromotor where applicable.
- 9.3. The promotor will assess the draft dissertation in accordance with the requirements he sets as the basis for awarding the doctorate on the grounds of his responsibility for the dissertation.  
In assessing the draft dissertation, the promotor will take account of the following factors:
- a. the relevance of the subject;
  - b. the importance of the problem definition and its precise formulation;
  - c. the originality of its treatment;
  - d. the scientific nature of the research: organisation, analysis, processing of materials and synthesis;
  - e. the presence of creative suggestions with regard to the area of science treated in the dissertation;
  - f. a critical confrontation of the candidate's conclusions with existing theories or views;
  - g. a balanced structure in the dissertation, clarity of style, correct and appropriate use of language;
  - h. the absence of anything at odds with public order or decency, and;
  - i. the other provisions stipulated in Article 5.2.
- 9.4. In consultation with the doctoral candidate and other persons involved in preparing the draft dissertation, the promotor can propose changes and/or additions.
- 9.5. The promotor will inform the Board for Doctorates of his approval of the draft dissertation in writing, submit a proposal for a doctoral committee to be established, will then append his approval to the propositions and make the necessary preparations for the doctoral defence ceremony in accordance with the Implementation Decree.

## Article 10 Approval of draft dissertation

- 10.1. At the request of the doctoral candidate for the approval of the draft dissertation, the promotor will decide if the doctoral candidate has met the requirements stated in these regulations.
- 10.2. If more than one promotor and/or copromotor have been appointed, the draft dissertation will be approved in mutual consultation between them. If this results in agreement, the promotor will provide written notification of this to the Board for Doctorates, sending a copy to the doctoral candidate.
- 10.3. If this consultation does not result in agreement, each promotor will notify the Board for Doctorates, also sending a copy to the doctoral candidate, of his substantiated judgement, after which the Board for Doctorates will take appropriate action.
- 10.4. Within two months of receipt of the draft dissertation, the promotor will decide to approve or not to approve it, unless the doctoral candidate agrees to a longer time period for the decision. If this time period is exceeded, the doctoral candidate can request that the Board for Doctorates impose a specific deadline by which the promotor must reach a decision concerning approval. The Board for Doctorates will decide on this within a week of receiving the request.
- 10.5. In the event of a refusal to approve the draft dissertation, the Board for Doctorates can, at the request of the doctoral candidate and after allowing the latter and the promotor the opportunity to present their cases, remove the promotor from his duties. If it judges that the doctoral programme can still proceed, with amendments to the dissertation, the Board for Doctorates will appoint an alternative promotor. Unless it judges that a new appointment is not necessary, which may be the case if several promotors have been appointed. The appointment of an alternative promotor will only take place after the dean of the faculty concerned has been given the opportunity to offer advice.
- 10.6. If, in the situation described in the previous paragraph, the Board for Doctorates judges that the Doctoral Programme cannot proceed even with amendments to the dissertation because its quality is insufficient, it will not appoint an alternative promotor.

## **Article 11      Application for doctoral defence ceremony**

- 11.1.      After the draft dissertation has been approved by the promotor and the doctoral candidate has successfully completed the DE Programme, or been awarded full dispensation from it, the doctoral candidate can apply for the doctoral defence ceremony. For this purpose, he must, with the approval of the promotor, submit a request for a provisional defence ceremony date.
- 11.2.      The following must be appended to this request:
  - a.          The definitive title of the dissertation and a (digital) copy of the draft dissertation with propositions;
  - b.          The written statement from the promotor confirming that he has approved the draft dissertation;
  - c.          The DE certificate or notification that full dispensation from the DE Programme has been granted.

## **Article 12      Composition of Doctoral Committee**

- 12.1.      A doctoral committee consists of at least six and at most eight members and is composed as follows:
    - a.          the Rector Magnificus or a member of the Doctoral Examination Working Committee as chairperson;
    - b.          the promotor;
    - c.          at least four independent members, as described in 12.2;
    - d.          possibly also an additional promotor, copromotor or another member.
  - 12.2.      All members have the task of assessing the dissertation and the propositions and acting as examiners during the doctoral defence ceremony. An independent member is not involved in the preparation of the dissertation. He must be capable of reaching an independent judgement of the quality of the dissertation and the doctoral candidate without having any personal interest in this judgement and that of the other members of the doctoral committee.
  - 12.3.      The members must be experts in the area of science of the dissertation or part of it. This requirement does not apply to the chairperson.
  - 12.4.      Close family members with an affinity up to and including the fourth degree or other persons who have such a relationship to the doctoral candidate that they cannot reasonably be expected to make a judgement will not be eligible to act as members of the doctoral committee.
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- 12.5. At least three independent members will have ius promovendi at a Dutch or foreign university, of whom at least one must be employed at TU Delft as professor and at least one at an institute for higher education other than TU Delft.
- 12.6. The other members will be holders of a doctorate. The Board for Doctorates may depart from this in response to a substantiated request from the promotor.
- 12.7. If the doctoral committee includes only one independent member who is employed at TU Delft as professor, a TU Delft professor must be added to the committee as a reserve member. The reserve member must be available on-call until ten minutes before the time of the doctoral defence ceremony and will only be part of the committee if the aforementioned independent member is unable to take part in the doctoral defence ceremony. The task of the reserve member is to assess the dissertation and propositions as stipulated in paragraph 2.

### **Article 13 Appointment of Doctoral Committee**

- 13.1. At the latest eleven weeks before the provisional defence ceremony date, the promotor will submit a written and substantiated proposal for the composition of the doctoral committee once he is convinced that the members will accept the appointment and will be present at the doctoral defence ceremony on the provisional defence ceremony date. This proposal will include relevant details concerning the proposed members, with a reference to the judgement about their independence referred to in Article 12.2.
- 13.2. Within one week after receipt of the proposal, the Board for Doctorates will make a decision on the appointment of members of the doctoral committee and send written notification concerning that decision to the promotor, the doctoral candidate and the members of the doctoral committee.
- 13.3. If the Board for Doctorates does not agree to the composition of the doctoral committee proposed by the promotor, it will request a new proposal on this from the promotor. The Board for Doctorates reserves the right to appoint members to the doctoral committee itself.
- 13.4. The members of the doctoral committee will confirm whether or not they agree to their appointment as soon as possible, at the latest within two weeks of their appointment.

## **Article 14      Assessment of draft dissertation by doctoral committee**

- 14.1.      At the latest in the eleventh week before the provisional defence date, the Graduate School Office will send each of the proposed members of the doctoral committee and the Board for Doctorates a copy of the draft dissertation.
- 14.2.      Within five weeks of their appointment, the doctoral committee members will report in writing, with a copy to the promotor, to the Board for Doctorates on their judgement concerning whether the draft dissertation appears to show sufficient evidence that the doctoral candidate is capable of independently practising science and whether the doctoral candidate can be admitted to the doctoral defence ceremony.
- 14.3.      Doctoral committee members can vote on admission to the doctoral defence ceremony as follows:
- A.          Approval without reservation: the member considers written comments to be unnecessary or advises stylistic/textual improvements that have no impact on the conclusions but aim to improve readability;
  - B.          Approval with reservation: the member is of the opinion that essential corrections need to be made to the dissertation before approval can be given for admission and gives detailed indications of these to the doctoral candidate and the promotor;
  - C.          No approval: the member does not consider the dissertation to be of sufficient academic quality and level and is of the opinion that the doctoral candidate cannot be admitted to the doctoral defence ceremony. He may also indicate that a revised version of the draft dissertation can be submitted after serious substantive conditions have been met.
- 14.4.      The result of the vote referred to in paragraph 3 is 'postponement of the doctoral defence ceremony' if at least:
- a.          two members vote according to 14.3 C,
  - b.          one member votes according to 14.3 C and two according to 14.3 B, or
  - c.          three members vote according to 14.3 B.

In all other cases, the Doctoral candidate will be admitted to the doctoral defence ceremony.

- 14.5.      If, after the vote, the doctoral committee admits the doctoral candidate to the doctoral defence ceremony, the doctoral

candidate and the promotor, if applicable, must take the written comments referred to in paragraph 3 into account in the definitive version of the dissertation.

- 14.6. If the result of the vote is 'postponement of the doctoral defence ceremony', the Rector Magnificus will give the promotor an opportunity to present his case. He will urge the promotor to take account of the committee's objections in a new draft dissertation. If the promotor, following consultation with the doctoral candidate, agrees to a new draft dissertation being prepared and to the postponement, a new defence ceremony date will be agreed on, after approval of the revised draft dissertation. The revised draft dissertation will be resubmitted to the doctoral committee, who will again assess it and vote on it in accordance with this Article.
- 14.7. If the involvement of the Rector Magnificus referred to in paragraph 6 does not result in agreement with the promotor, the Board for Doctorates will decide on the postponement of the doctoral defence ceremony. Based on its findings, the Board for Doctorates can refuse to hold the doctoral defence ceremony if it does not have confidence that its postponement will result in improved quality of the dissertation. In that case, the doctoral committee will be disbanded and the Board for Doctorates will then act according to the relevant circumstances.

## **Article 15    Preparations for the doctoral defence ceremony**

- 15.1. The definitive date and time for the doctoral defence ceremony will be determined by the Graduate School Office on behalf of the Rector Magnificus, in consultation with the promotor, the doctoral committee and the doctoral candidate.
- 15.2. At least two weeks before the doctoral defence ceremony, the doctoral candidate must report to the Graduate School Office. The Graduate School Office will ensure that the doctoral defence ceremony is announced at least two weeks before the date agreed and that the doctoral candidate is aware of the protocol during the doctoral defence ceremony.
- 15.3. At the latest two weeks before the doctoral defence ceremony, the doctoral candidate will contact the chairperson of the doctoral committee and make an appointment with the chairperson. If desired, the doctoral candidate will also make an appointment with the other members of the doctoral committee.

- 15.4. If other persons who are not members of the doctoral committee wish to examine the candidate, a written request to this effect must be submitted in writing at the latest two weeks before the agreed defence ceremony date to the Rector Magnificus, who will make a decision on whether to honour the request within one week. An examiner of this type must hold a doctorate or be authorised to act as promotor.

## **Article 16 Doctoral defence ceremony**

- 16.1. The doctoral defence ceremony will take place in public before the Board for Doctorates or a doctoral committee established by it. The doctoral defence ceremony will be chaired by the Rector Magnificus, a member of the Doctoral Examination Working Committee or a member of the Board for Doctorates. The doctoral committee will convene for a closed meeting before the public defence.
- 16.2. The doctoral candidate will spend one hour defending the dissertation and the propositions in the face of the reservations of the doctoral committee, as well as anyone given permission in accordance with Article 15.4. During the defence of the dissertation and the propositions, the doctoral candidate can be assisted by one or two paranymps (supporters).
- 16.3. After the defence, the session will be adjourned for deliberations by the doctoral committee.

## **Article 17 Awarding of the degree of Doctor**

- 17.1. The decision on the awarding of the degree of Doctor will be taken in a closed meeting of the doctoral committee immediately after the adjournment of the doctoral defence ceremony. The chairperson will ask the members for their judgement on the defence in particular and will also take into account the quality of the dissertation and propositions. If at least one member of the doctoral committee demands it, a roll call vote will be held on the proposal to award the degree of Doctor. This will be subject to the voting protocol referred to in Article 14.3 and 14.4 on awarding the degree of Doctor.
- 17.2. If the degree of Doctor is awarded, the chairperson of the doctoral committee and the promotor (and where applicable also the copromotor) will sign the certificate. When the doctoral defence ceremony is reconvened, the chairperson will inform the doctoral candidate that the doctoral committee has decided



on behalf of the Board for Doctorates to award the doctoral degree. If the designation *cum laude* is also to be attached to the doctorate, this will also be announced. The chairperson will explicitly draw the attention of the Doctor to the scientific integrity associated with obtaining a doctorate.

- 17.3. In the event that the degree of Doctor is not awarded after the vote referred to in paragraph 1,
- a. the chairperson will inform the doctoral candidate of this during the meeting referred to in paragraph 1,
  - b. after reconvening the doctoral defence ceremony, the chairperson will announce that the awarding of the degree of Doctor is to be postponed and will then close the session, and
  - c. the chairperson will provide notification of the decision made by the doctoral committee in writing to the Rector Magnificus who will then convene a special session of the doctoral committee, together with the Board for Doctorates.
- 17.4. The result of the session referred to in paragraph 1 can either be that the doctoral candidate is readmitted to defend the dissertation and propositions or that the degree of Doctor is not awarded. The Rector Magnificus will inform the doctoral candidate of this decision in writing, together with the reasons for it.
- 17.5. Candidates who are awarded the degree of Doctor receive the certificate referred to in paragraph 2. The form and content of the certificate is established by the Board for Doctorates. If the designation *cum laude* referred to in Article 18 is awarded, this is indicated on the certificate.

## **Article 18      Awarding of the degree of Doctor with designation *cum laude***

- 18.1. If the promotor or another member of the doctoral committee is of the opinion that the dissertation shows evidence of exceptional competence on the part of the doctoral candidate to practice science independently, he can submit a proposal in writing, including full substantiation, for the awarding of the degree of Doctor with designation *cum laude*. A proposal of this kind can only be submitted after the promotor has agreed to it. The proposal will be accompanied by at least two letters of recommendation from leading external experts in the area of science concerned, who are not members of the doctoral committee.

- 18.2. The following criteria apply to the awarding of the designation cum laude:
- a. the doctoral research conducted is pioneering and innovative;
  - b. the candidate has reached the result independently;
  - c. the dissertation was completed within a reasonable period of time;
  - d. the candidate's publications and appearances in the scientific community have made an impression on leading colleagues;
  - e. the candidate has preferably also demonstrated the implications of his research for technology and science.
- The doctoral committee can also take into account publications or other evidence of outstanding scientific quality.
- 18.3. The proposal referred to in paragraph 1 must be in the possession of the Rector Magnificus at the latest five weeks before the agreed defence ceremony date. He will assess whether the nomination meets the procedural criteria. If the proposal is declared admissible, he will notify the other members of the doctoral committee and issue them with copies of the proposal and the referees' letters. If the proposal is not declared to be admissible, he will contact the promotor. The proposal can be rewritten and enhanced, after which the Rector Magnificus will again make a decision. The proposal must be handled strictly confidentially at all times and only made known to members of the doctoral committee.
- 18.4. If a proposal to award the degree of Doctor with designation cum laude has been made and there are no objections from the Board for Doctorates, the doctoral committee will include it in its deliberations prior to the doctoral defence ceremony.
- 18.5. Deliberations will be held on the proposal to award the degree of Doctor with designation cum laude during the meeting referred to in Article 17.1. This will involve: the proposal, the content of the dissertation and the propositions and their defence, the criteria for the awarding of the designation cum laude and the letters of recommendation.
- 18.6. After the deliberations referred to in Article 17.1, all members of the doctoral committee will vote anonymously and in writing on the proposal to award the degree of Doctor with designation cum laude and the decision on the awarding of it will be made. This will be subject to the following voting protocol. The proposal will be rejected if:

- a. two members vote against;
- b. one member votes against and two members abstain;
- c. three members abstain.

## **Article 19 Disputes**

- 19.1. For these Regulations, a dispute is interpreted to mean an objection to a decision by or on behalf of the Board for Doctorates or a complaint against the conduct of a doctoral candidate, promotor, copromotor, doctoral committee member or another person involved in the Doctoral Programme. The handling of a dispute will be subject to the General Administrative Law Act (Algemene wet bestuursrecht). A dispute concerning the legal status of a doctoral candidate with an appointment is not included in this definition of dispute.
- 19.2. An interested party can lodge an objection with the Board for Doctorates to a decision by or on behalf of the Board for Doctorates within six weeks of being informed of the decision.
- 19.3. An independent committee appointed by the Board for Doctorates will give advice on the objection. The Implementation Decree will include further details of the composition and working methods of the committee.
- 19.4. The committee will give the parties involved the opportunity to present their cases and will be entitled to elicit information that is necessary for it to exercise its duty responsibly.
- 19.5. Within six weeks of the objection being lodged, the committee will issue written advice to the Board for Doctorates together with a report of the hearings.
- 19.6. The Board will make a decision on the objection with due observance of the time periods specified in the General Administrative Law Act.
- 19.7. If a doctoral candidate lodges an objection to a No Go decision by an intended promotor as stipulated in Article 7.6, the following will apply by way of a departure from the previous paragraphs of this Article: the committee will issue its advice within two weeks and the Board for Doctorates will decide within four weeks of the objection being lodged.
- 19.8. The provisions of paragraphs 2 to 6 will apply mutatis mutandis to the handling of a complaint as defined in the first paragraph.

## Article 20 Mediation

- 20.1. Before a dispute can be handled, the Board for Doctorates must submit the dispute for mediation to the director of the Faculty Graduate School. The mediator will investigate whether an amicable settlement of the dispute is possible and will hold hearings with the parties involved in the dispute for this purpose.
- 20.2. If the mediation does not result in agreement within four weeks, the person who raised the dispute can request that the Board for Doctorates handle the dispute. The time periods in Articles 19.5 and 19.6, will be delayed to take account of the mediation.
- 20.3. An interested party can turn to the director of the Faculty Graduate School directly for mediation in a dispute. Paragraph 1, sentence 2 and paragraph 2, sentence 1 apply in this case. The time period for submitting a dispute to the Board for Doctorates will, by way of departure from Article 19.2, begin after it has been notified of the result of mediation.
- 20.4. This Article does not apply to an objection by a doctoral candidate to a No Go decision by the intended promotor, referred to in Article 7.6.
- 20.5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 to 3 of this Article will apply mutatis mutandis to the handling of a complaint as defined in the first paragraph of Article 19.1.

## Article 21 Honorary doctorate

- 21.1. Following nomination by a dean or the Executive Board, the Board for Doctorates has the power to award an honorary doctorate to:
  - a. a person who has conducted research that has been shown to be of exceptional significance to the practice of science at the university or for science in general, and that of TU Delft in particular;
  - b. a person who, from a scientific, cultural or societal perspective, has either directly or indirectly contributed exceptionally to academic education and research.
- 21.2. If the Board for Doctorates intends to approve a nomination by a dean to award an honorary doctorate, the Executive Board will be invited to present its views on this nomination in confidence. After taking cognisance of the Executive Board's position, the Board for Doctorates will make a decision on the awarding of the honorary doctorate.

- 21.3. If the Board for Doctorates decides to award an honorary doctorate, it will also appoint one or more TU Delft professors as promotor. Confidential notification of the decision will be made to the doctoral candidate, the promotor and the dean of the faculty involved. The decision will not be made public until the doctoral candidate has declared his willingness to accept the honorary doctorate.
- 21.4. The awarding of the honorary doctorate will take place in a public, special session of the Board for Doctorates. On behalf of the Rector Magnificus, the promotor will confer the dignity awarded on the honorary doctoral candidate, while expressing words of praise and appreciation. As proof of the dignity awarded, the honorary Doctor will be presented with a shoulder cape and a certificate signed by the Rector Magnificus.

## **Article 22 Final provisions**

- 22.1. The Board for Doctorates can determine more specific rules in the Implementation Decree, including rules concerning the following:
- a. the procedure for exemption from prior education (Article 2.3);
  - b. the joint doctorate (Article 2.4);
  - c. the requirements for and the form of the dissertation;
  - d. the requirements for and the form of the propositions;
  - e. the procedure for the doctoral conferral ceremony and the defence;
  - f. the settlement of disputes.
- 22.2. The Board for Doctorates may prescribe (digital) forms that must be used by the parties involved in the acts included in these Regulations.
- 22.3. In cases not covered in these Doctoral Regulations, or if any Article is susceptible to multiple interpretations, the Board for Doctorates will decide.
- 22.4. Anyone who wishes to be exempted from a provision in the Doctoral Regulations must submit a written and substantiated request to that effect to the Board for Doctorates, which will reach a decision on it within 30 days.
- 22.5. In exceptional cases, the Board for Doctorates can allow substantiated departures from that stipulated in these Regulations.

## **Article 23    Transitional provisions**

Decisions that precede the entry into force of these Regulations, or any amendments to it, made concerning the appointment of the promotor and copromotor, the composition of the doctoral committee or exemptions from or amendments to that stipulated in these Regulations will remain in full force.













