
Chapter 8

Assessment of the Manuscript and Thesis

Article 8.1 Assessment of the Manuscript by the (Co-)Supervisor

1. The (Co-)supervisor is responsible for the assessment of the Manuscript and the acceptance of the Manuscript as a Thesis suitable for assessment.
2. The (Co-)Supervisor tests the Manuscript against the guidelines set by the Graduate School and against the requirements of these Regulations. If, in the opinion of the (Co-)Supervisor, the Manuscript meets the set requirements, they will, in mutual consultation, approve the Manuscript.
3. If the mutual consultation does not lead to agreement, each (Co-)Supervisor issues a report to the Director of the Graduate School, with a copy of these reports to be sent to the PhD Candidate. The Director of the Graduate School then acts as he sees fit.
4. The (Co-)Supervisor informs the Graduate School and the PhD Candidate of the assessment of the Manuscript referred to in the second paragraph, together with a request to the Doctorate Board for the establishment of a PhD Committee.
5. The (Co-)Supervisor may decide not to approve the Manuscript. After a final negative assessment on the Manuscript, the Doctorate Board will proceed to terminate the PhD program prematurely.

Article 8.2 Assessment of the Thesis by the PhD Committee

1. The Graduate School is responsible for the distribution of the Thesis to the members of the PhD Committee.
2. The members assess in the form of a vote in favor or against, provided with written comments. Members are free to provide suggestions and/or recommendations with their assessments. The members submit their assessments to the Director of the Graduate School within four weeks of receiving the Thesis. The Graduate School informs the PhD Candidate and the PhD Committee of the assessments, after having received all the assessments.
3. If the members of the PhD Committee unanimously believe that the PhD Candidate can be admitted to the public defense, the PhD Committee is not convened.
4. In the event of one or more dissenting votes, the Director of the Graduate School convenes the PhD Committee and (Co-)Supervisor to discuss the Thesis with the PhD Candidate.

At least half of the members of the PhD Committee take part in this closed meeting virtually or face-to-face, including at least the member or members who voted against, under the chairmanship of the Director of the Graduate School. The PhD Committee decides at the end of the meeting:

- a. to admit the PhD Candidate to the defense of the Thesis
 - i. If the PhD Committee is of the opinion that minor adjustments to the Thesis are necessary, the PhD Candidate carries these out within a period to be determined in consultation with the PhD Committee. The Supervisor monitors this.
- b. not to admit the PhD Candidate to the defense of the Thesis for the time being
 - i. The PhD Committee may give the PhD Candidate the opportunity to make a number of extensive adjustments to the Thesis. The PhD Candidate must incorporate these changes in the Thesis within a period to be determined in consultation with the PhD Committee. The Supervisor monitors this. The adjustments are submitted to the PhD Committee for approval. The PhD Committee then decides whether or not to admit the PhD Candidate to the public defense.
- c. not to allow the PhD Candidate to defend the Thesis because the Thesis does not meet the Assessment Criteria and the PhD Committee does not expect improvement to be possible within a reasonable period of time. After a final negative assessment of the Thesis, the Doctorate Board proceeds to terminate the PhD program prematurely.

Decisions as referred to under a., b., and c. are only taken with a maximum of one dissenting vote. A report is made of this meeting.

5. The Director of the Graduate School informs the Doctorate Board, for approval, of the decision of the PhD Committee. The Doctorate Board informs the Supervisor, the PhD Committee, and the PhD Candidate and admits the PhD Candidate to the defense of the Thesis, or not, as the case may be.

Chapter 9

PhD Defense Ceremony

Article 9.1 PhD defense

After approval of the Thesis, the PhD Candidate publicly defends the Thesis for one academic hour against the comments of the PhD Committee, as well as of any other person who has received permission to do so from the Doctorate Board.

Article 9.2 Conditions for admission to the PhD Defense Ceremony

Any person is admitted to the PhD Defense Ceremony if he/she:

- a. has written a PhD Thesis as proof of competence, of which the PhD Committee has judged that it meets the Assessment Criteria and is of sufficient quality to admit him or her to the PhD defense;
- b. has complied with the agreements made in the Training and Supervision Plan regarding the educational program;
- c. has declared that the research on which the Thesis is based and the Thesis itself comply with the standards for good research practice as included in the current Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity; and
- d. has complied with the other requirements imposed by or pursuant to these Regulations.

Article 9.3 Procedure for admission to the PhD Defense Ceremony

If the PhD Committee is of the opinion that the PhD Candidate can be admitted to the PhD defense, the Graduate School informs the Doctorate Board accordingly. The Doctorate Board informs the PhD Candidate and the members of the PhD Committee about this by confirming the date for the PhD Defense Ceremony.

Article 9.4 PhD Defense Ceremony

1. The PhD Defense Ceremony is chaired by the Rector Magnificus or a substitute, who is a professor or emeritus professor, appointed by him or her.
2. The time and place of the PhD Defense Ceremony is determined by or on behalf of the Rector Magnificus after consultation with the Supervisor, the Director of the Graduate School, and the PhD Candidate.
3. The Doctorate Board establishes the protocol for the PhD Defense Ceremony.
4. Prior to the PhD defense, the PhD Candidate provides a brief explanatory lecture on the PhD Research in terms that are comprehensible for the invited guests. This explanatory lecture may last up to 12 minutes and may be in the Candidate's mother tongue, provided that the accompanying sheets/slides are presented in English. The explanatory lecture does not form part of the PhD defense of the Thesis and is not included in the assessment of the Thesis.
5. Persons present at the PhD Defense Ceremony other than the members of the PhD Committee may oppose the PhD candidate, provided that they have submitted a written request to this effect to the Director of the Graduate School not later than three weeks before the PhD Defense Ceremony and that they have obtained the Doctorate Board's permission to participate in the opposition. The official invitation of these opponents will be sent via the Doctorate Board's secretaries' office.
6. If the Thesis is written by two persons, each of them must defend the Thesis separately as set out in this article. In this case, the Doctoral degree or Doctor of Philosophy degree is conferred in one and the same ceremony after the completion of the PhD defense by the second PhD Candidate.
7. The PhD defense of the Thesis and the raising of comments takes place *ex tempore*, in Dutch or English or, with the approval of the Rector or a deputy professor appointed by him or her, in a different language.

Article 9.5 Deliberation of the PhD Committee and conferral of the Doctoral degree or Doctor of Philosophy degree

1. The chair of the PhD Committee is authorized to decide, on behalf of the Doctorate Board and with due observance of the advice of the PhD Committee after deliberation, to grant the Doctoral degree or Doctor of Philosophy degree.
2. The deliberation on the recommendation to award the Doctoral degree or Doctor of Philosophy degree takes place in a