

Guidelines on PhD ceremonies as from 24 August 2020

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is not possible to allow PhD ceremonies to take place in the usual manner. As from 24 August, it will be possible for PhD ceremonies to be held in the Aula with a maximum of 47 attendees. The regular protocol for PhD ceremonies at the UG, together with the agreements stated below, will apply to these ceremonies. This procedure remains valid until further notice.

That being said, PhD students may still choose to have a digital ceremony after 15 June, with only themselves, the Chair of the PhD Examining Committee and their supervisor present in the Aula. The unabridged *Richtlijn alternatief promoties RUG* [UG Guidelines on Alternative PhD Ceremonies] and *Protocol digitale promotieplechtigheid RUG* [UG Protocol for Digital PhD Ceremonies] apply to these ceremonies.

Maximum of 47 attendees in the Aula

A maximum of 47 people may be present in the Aula, including the PhD student, their supervisors, members of the PhD Examining Committee, the beadle, the assistants ('paranymphs') and members of the public. The Aula has been arranged so that all attendees are able to maintain a mutual distance of 1.5 metres. If desired, the supervisors and members of the PhD Examining Committee may participate via video conference. The Chair and Secretary of the PhD Examining Committee must always be physically present. Due to the limited space, a maximum of nine members of the PhD Examining Committee and including the supervisor(s) may be present in person.

Preliminary meeting and deliberations in the Curatorenkamer

The preliminary meeting and the deliberations (held after the public thesis defence) take place in the *Curatorenkamer*. The PhD student's supervisors and members of the PhD Examining Committee who are not physically present may participate via video conference.

Deviations from the protocol

The following points deviate from the regular protocol for PhD ceremonies, as attached to the PhD regulations:

Point 5: If desired, supervisors and members of the PhD Examining Committee may take part via video conference.

Point 7: The supervisors and members of the PhD Examining Committee who are physically present will be guided to the auditorium.

Point 15: The supervisors and members of the PhD Examining Committee who are not physically present will take part in the deliberations via video conference.

Point 16: In the case that a PhD student may be awarded the cum laude distinction, voting on this will happen verbally. This process thus deviates from anonymous voting.

Point 20: If the PhD student's supervisor takes part via video conference, they will remain seated throughout the laudatio and the other texts to be read aloud.

PhD degree certificate and meeting form

The Chair and Secretary of the PhD Examining Committee, and the supervisors will sign the PhD degree certificate and meeting form during the deliberations meeting as usual. If one or more supervisors cannot be physically present, the PhD degree registration office will add the

digital signature(s) of the absentees to the degree certificate and meeting form two weeks in advance of the PhD ceremony. The Chair must always issue their signature pen-on-paper.

Catching up on backlog of postponed PhD ceremonies

To catch up on the backlog of postponed PhD ceremonies, extra time slots will be made available on Tuesdays and in the early evening (from 6 p.m.).

Reception

It is possible to host a limited reception in the Academy Building, with a maximum of 47 attendees.

Pictures

Pictures on the stairs of the Academy Building can only be taken of a limited number of people, for example of the PhD student, the paranymphs and the supervisor.

Monitoring and instructions

The University Services Department asks the PhD student to state the names of the members of the public who have been invited to their ceremony, as well as the assistants ('paranymphs') and potential photographer, before the ceremony takes place and then draws up a list of attendees on this basis. Only the persons stated on this list will be permitted to attend the PhD ceremony and potential reception. The attendees must follow the instructions of the Porter's Office and University Services Department when being present in the Academy Building.

Dress code

Dress codes can be handled in a flexible way as PhD students may, for example, have difficulty renting suits. The requirement that smart clothing must be worn will, however, be maintained.

Due to hygiene regulations, gowns cannot be borrowed.