

## **Guidelines PhD ceremonies RUG as of 15 December 2020**

As of 15 December, PhD ceremonies have been changed due to the current lockdown. Audiences are not allowed to be present at the ceremonies until further notice. Furthermore, the guidelines mentioned below will be applied, next to the regular protocol for PhD ceremonies. These guidelines have been created to guarantee the safety of the personnel and those who are present.

### **Attendees in the Aula**

Only the following people are allowed to physically attend the PhD ceremonies: the Chair of the PhD Examining Committee, the secretary, the PhD student and the supervisor(s). The Aula has been arranged so that all attendees are able to maintain a mutual distance of 1.5 meters. If desired, the supervisors and members of the PhD Examining Committee may participate via video conference. The Chair of the PhD Examining Committee must always be physically present.

Audience are able to watch the ceremony through a livestream. The PhD office will send invitations through Webex to all members of the 'Corona' who are participating online.

### **Mouth masks**

All attendees are strongly advised to wear a mouth mask in the Academy Building (please bring your own). When seated, the mask may be taken off.

### **Guidelines for the Academy Building and walking routes.**

Attendees are required follow the instructions of the Porter's Office. Attendees can enter the Academy Building through the side entrance. A walking route will guide them to the Aula. If necessary, this route can be changed and a corona-host will be present.

### **Preliminary meeting and deliberations in the Curatorenkamer**

The preliminary meeting and the deliberations (held after the public thesis defense) 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 16: In case of a cum laude promotion, the voting will be done orally. In this case, the voting is not confidential.

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 and/or the Secretary 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.

**Date and time of the ceremony**

The timeslot, determined in Hora Finita, will be available for the ceremony. The PhD student will have the choice between a hybrid or a fully digital ceremony. It is also possible to postpone the ceremony.

**Reception**

Until further notice, it is not possible to host a reception at 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.