

Regulations for the widening of the *ius promovendi* at the University of Amsterdam

Change in the law

As of 1 September 2017, the law provides for persons who are not full professors to obtain the *ius promovendi*:

'The Doctorate Board appoints a supervisor for each doctoral candidate. The supervisor can be any full professor or other member of staff of a university, a university founded on religious or ideological principles or the Open University, provided they have been awarded the degree of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy and have been deemed by the Doctorate Board to be sufficiently capable of serving as a supervisor.' (Higher Education and Research Act, Section 7.18, clause 4)

For persons who are not full professors, the *ius promovendi* is a conditional right – it is up to the Doctorate Board to determine whether members of university staff who are doctorate holders are sufficiently capable of serving as a supervisor.

Doctorate Board Regulations

In its meeting on 7 March 2017, the Doctorate Board adopted the following framework for the widening of the *ius promovendi*:

1. All of the university's associate professors who are doctorate holders (i.e. UHD-1 and UHD-2) will have the *ius promovendi* by default.
2. It is up to the Dean to determine whether to actually propose an associate professor as a supervisor to the Doctorate Board and what requirements he/she should meet.
3. Very exceptionally, the *ius promovendi* may be extended to an assistant professor who is a doctorate holder (making no distinction between UD-1 and UD-2). It is up to the Doctorate Board to extend the *ius promovendi* to an assistant professor, subject to a reasoned proposal by the Dean.
4. When proposing an associate professor as a supervisor, the Dean may determine what requirements he/she should meet. In any event, a UHD-2 may only be proposed as a supervisor if he/she has served as a co-supervisor successfully at least twice (or has acquired comparable experience abroad in the eyes of the Dean). This general condition does not apply to a UHD-1, unless the Dean makes it an additional requirement.

The widening of the *ius promovendi* is a matter for the Deans of the faculties individually. Those faculties who wish to widen the *ius promovendi* will need to draw up their own faculty regulations. These may be based on the definitive Guidelines for Doctorate Boards disseminated by the VSNU. The guiding principle when drawing up the regulations should be to ensure the quality of supervision and ultimately safeguard the high level of doctoral programmes in the Netherlands.

Amendments to the Doctorate Regulations

The widening of the *ius promovendi* has also led to a number of amendments to the university's Doctorate Regulations. These amendments were established by the meeting of the Doctorate Board on 12 October 2017 and have been included in an Addendum to the 2014 Doctorate Regulations, effective 1 November 2017.