

PhD Regulations Faculty of Theology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (final version, 20180426)

In accordance with article 38.2 of the Doctorate Regulations of the Vrije Universiteit, the Dean, having consulted the Faculty's professors, stipulates the following rules:

Article	Supplement
8.1.a	The candidate has graduated from a degree programme that matches the chosen field of expertise or has demonstrably obtained knowledge and competences for this field in another manner.
9.4	The training and supervision plan is drafted by the candidate and her/his intended Supervisor and has to be formally approved by the Director of the Graduate School.
11.5	Within a year upon being admitted to the Graduate School (for part-time and external PhD students: two years) the candidate has to hand in her/his proposal. This proposal shall first be approved by the intended Supervisor and discussed within one of the Faculty's research groups. The proposal is handed in to the Director of the Graduate School and will be discussed in the Board of Professors.
11.5	In order to select the Supervisor for a given project, the Dean shall first inquire with the Board of Professors and its members, in order to reach a decision.
13.2	The Dean shall consult all professors present at the monthly meeting of the Board of Professors before deciding to appoint a second (Co-)Supervisor and shall weigh the advice of those who cannot attend the meeting but do send in a written reply concerning the Dean's proposal.
14.2	The Dean and the Director of Research are authorised by the Board of Professors to appoint the members of Assessment Committees to be installed. They account for the decisions made by handing in a full list of Assessment Committees installed at each meeting of the Board of Professors. The Supervisor of a given PhD project proposes the members of the Assessment Committee to the Dean and makes sure that there is some degree of interdisciplinarity on the Committee, and that there is gender balance. In agreement with the Faculty's general gender policy, at least two female colleagues are to be proposed in each Assessment Committee, primarily selected on the basis of their expertise. In case the Supervisor does not succeed at finding at least two suitable female colleagues, the installation of the Assessment Committee shall be discussed in the Board of Professors, in order to make use of the networks of the members of the Board and find suitable, qualified female candidates for the Committee.
14.4	The "Department" mentioned in 14.4 is the research group of which the Supervisor is a member. In case two (co-) Supervisors of the Faculty of (Religion and) Theology are involved in a project, one colleague of each of their research groups can be appointed on the Assessment Committee, regardless of what else is stipulated in article 14.4.
15.4	The curriculum, conditions, and grading of the teaching programme are the responsibility of the Director of the Graduate School and shall be communicated by the Graduate School.

15.5	PhD candidates who hold an M.Phil. degree obtained at the Faculty of Theology VU and who prepare a dissertation on the same subject that they have worked on during their programme can be given exemption from the PhD curriculum. Candidates with another degree or with demonstrably obtained competences that correspond to the content of the PhD curriculum, can request exemption of the curriculum or part of it, and have to file this request at the Director of the Graduate School.
16.4	The evaluation of the curriculum and the handing out of the teaching certificate of the training programme is performed by the Director of the Graduate School. The Director informs the Director of Research, who informs the Supervisor (on behalf of the Dean) at the moment the verdict of the Assessment Committee on the dissertation is communicated.
17.3	Given the large differences in methodology between dissertations, the Faculty neither defines a minimum, nor a maximum number of pages for a dissertation. The rule of thumb is: a good dissertation gives an in-depth analysis in combination with being readable and concise. The average number of pages is somewhere between 150 and 400 (75,000 to 200,000 words).
17.3	In case a dissertation consists of published articles, the minimum number of articles is five. Three of these should be published in international, scholarly journals or series (refereed or highly qualified in another way), and at least two of the other articles should have reached the status "accepted". The contribution of the PhD candidate to the compiled articles should be substantial, and the Supervisor has to hand in a written statement expressing this fact.
19.1	Normally, dissertations are not written in any other language than Dutch, English, French, or German, since an adequate supervision and assessment may in other cases not be guaranteed.
21.4	Next to the number of dissertations that the candidate has to hand in at the Beadle's office, eight copies have to be delivered to the Faculty's secretary.
27.2	The chair of the PhD Ceremony may also be a professor who is a member of the Board of the Faculty.
27.5	On the basis of article 14.7 the Supervisor(s) and possible Co-Supervisor(s) are not eligible to vote.
	The Faculty has two counselors for PhD students.