

JURISPRUDENCE / EXPLANATORY NOTES for the Leiden University PhD Regulations 2026 (dated 1 October 2026)

Contact: secretary of the Doctorate Board, Anneke Hendriks: a.m.hendriks@bb.leidenuniv.nl

Article in the PhD Regulations		
1.u	External parties wishing to act as supervisors at Leiden University	Since the protocol for PhD defences states that the official address at the ceremony must be given by a Leiden University professor or an academic staff member, as referred to in Article 6 of the PhD Regulations 2026, with ius promovendi, a professor from outside Leiden University can only act as a supervisor at Leiden University if a Leiden University professor/ an academic staff member, as referred to in Article 6 of the PhD Regulations 2026, with ius promovendi, is also appointed as a supervisor. In principle, professors who were appointed outside the Netherlands may also be appointed as a supervisor or second supervisor.
1.d	Professor's title outside the Netherlands	A Leiden University UD (lecturer/assistant professor) who is a professor (or professor by special appointment) outside the Netherlands may, in the Leiden University dissertation for which that person is a co-supervisor, be listed as a co-supervisor using the Leiden University title, followed by the addition of 'professor at ...' in brackets.
2.3	Joint degree	It is permitted to include one title page, on which both institutions are stated; the logo of the other university may appear on that title page, and a supplement to the diploma may be issued. A PhD candidate who is funded by another institution, which therefore serves as their home institution, and who is conducting research in Leiden for a maximum of one year is permitted to defend their PhD exclusively at their home institution. In the case of a joint degree, a Leiden PhD will only be awarded to the PhD candidate if the thesis has been defended at Leiden University. If the defence of a jointly supervised thesis takes place at another institution, Leiden University can issue a paired diploma.
3cIIiii	Additional requirements	Examples of such additional requirements are taking courses, such as the Basic Course on Regulations and Organisation for Clinical Investigators (BROK) or a course on datamanagement.
4.2	Admission	In the case of (external) PhD candidates whose degree is assessed at bachelor's level, the Dean has the authority to admit the PhD candidates to the Graduate School or to the PhD track, or to refuse admission. If a PhD candidate has already completed the dissertation but

		has not yet completed the master's programme, it is not necessary to still obtain that master's diploma.
6.6	Co-supervisors/supervisors without ius promovendi	Article 6, sixth paragraph, provides that if the employment contract expires on reaching retirement age, the academic staff member, as referred to Article 6, first paragraph, shall retain ius promovendi for a further five years. Academic staff members who are co-supervisors but do not hold ius promovendi shall also retain the right of co-supervision for a period of five years to complete ongoing PhD supervision programmes in the event that their employment contract expires upon reaching retirement age.
8.3	Emeritus professors and ius promovendi	After retirement, an emeritus professor retains ius promovendi for five years; this period may be extended upon request (requests should be submitted to the Doctorate Board via the Dean). Emeritus professors can be involved in new PhD supervision trajectories only as a co-supervisor, at the request of the supervisor, if there are no other co-supervisors available in the field.
11	Co-supervisors	Co-supervisors do not necessarily have to be affiliated with a university. Unlike members of Doctorate Committees, they may be affiliated with Dutch or foreign industrial or commercial institutions for scientific research or education.
15.2	Propositions	Article 15, second paragraph, reads: "The propositions must be concise, may not consist solely of a quotation and must always include an original contribution by the candidate, and must be such that they can be defended with scientific arguments." This rule naturally also applies for propositions that were generated with ChatGPT or another chatbot/AI text generator.
18	Language	All members of the Doctorate Committee and the Examining Committee must be sufficiently proficient in the language in which the dissertation is written so that they can read and evaluate the entire dissertation.
19	Photograph	The CV may include a photograph of the PhD candidate.
19.1	Name	The title page must bear the official name of the PhD candidate; however, the cover may bear a shortened/different version of the name.
24	Doctorate Committee	The Secretary must be a professor or an academic staff member, as referred to in Article 6 of the PhD Regulations 2026, with ius promovendi, but may be from a different faculty of Leiden University. The Secretary is also a full member of the Doctorate Committee.

		In exceptional cases, a person without a PhD may be a member of a Doctorate Committee, subject to the Doctorate Board's approval. For Doctorate Committees in the Arts (ACPA), the Doctorate Board's approval does not need to be sought. A lecturer at a university of applied sciences (<i>lector aan een hogeschool</i>) may be appointed as a member of a Doctorate Committee. Generally speaking, members of bodies such as the Supreme Court, courts of appeal and the Council of State who have obtained a PhD may be appointed to Doctorate Committees.
28	Examining Committee	Deans ensure that Examining Committees are of a sufficient size so that a PhD defence can go ahead even if two members are unable to attend. It is not desirable for the Doctorate Committee and the Examining Committee to have no overlap whatsoever, but neither is it desirable for the Examining Committee and the Doctorate Committee to be identical. For the purpose of the defence, the Doctorate Committee is preferably supplemented by a few external members
28.5	Majority from Leiden University	In the case of an individual joint degree agreement where a PhD candidate who is predominantly hosted and funded by a foreign institution defends their thesis in Leiden only, the opposition committee may consist of 50/50 representatives from Leiden and the other institution (with a chair and secretary from Leiden)
31	Awarding the doctorate	The formula to award the PhD may be spoken by the supervisor or a substitute or a 'pro-supervisor', who may be appointed by the Dean. Examples of situations in which a decision is made not to award the doctorate are when a serious suspicion of fraud arises during the defence, which has not previously been discovered, or if the PhD candidate remains silent during the defence.
	Foreword/acknowledgements	Although it is permitted to state in the foreword/acknowledgements, in a restrained way, that faith has been important during the PhD track, it is not permitted to thank a deity/higher power.
	PD Eng	This degree is not comparable to a PhD.