

PhD supervisors

CC to: Doctoral Service Centre, General Directors, PhD Council, Graduate Schools, Emeriti with *ius promovendi*

Dear PhD supervisors,

Please find below a list of clarifications and changes regarding the policy that the Academic Board has implemented to further improve the quality of the Wageningen University PhD programme. Please note that these changes do not include significant revisions to the [doctoral degree regulations](#)¹.

Inauguration slot changes from Thursday to Friday

The time slot for inaugural and farewell addresses of professors will change from Thursday 16.00h to Friday 16.00h from the 1st of September 2024 onwards.

The thesis evaluation process and diversity within the thesis committee The thesis committee (art 7 of the doctoral degree regulations) in terms of its members should remain unchanged throughout the entire evaluation procedure unless there are unforeseen circumstances. The (co)promoter, neither the candidate is permitted to contact an opponent during the time the opponents are evaluating the reading version of the thesis. The rationale behind this is to maintain the integrity and impartiality of the evaluation process, ensuring its fairness and objectivity.

The academic board encourages promoters to consider gender diversity when selecting opponents. Also, there is an emphasis on the value of diversity between thesis committees which promoters recommend to the board. Promoters are kindly asked to avoid repeatedly recommending the same opponents for thesis evaluations.

Policy for the use of regenerative AI by PhD candidates

Given the nowadays widespread use of regenerative AI tools in both research and education, the necessity for clear guidelines and an ethical framework regarding the use of these technologies in the PhD programme is urgently required. Therefore, the academic board is currently developing a comprehensive policy regarding the utilization of regenerative AI by PhD candidates.

The length of the PhD programme

As previously communicated in a letter from the dean of research, the structure of the PhD programme is intended to span a duration of four years for a full-time contract or the equivalent part-time commitment.

IND budget threshold and inflation correction for scholarships

¹ <https://www.wur.nl/en/education-programmes/phd-programme/rules-regulations.htm>

DATE
19 December 2023

SUBJECT
clarifications/ changes policy
PhD

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From January 1, 2024 onwards, the Wageningen PhD programme will only accept candidates with scholarships that meet or exceed the established IND (Immigratie en Naturalisatie Dienst) budget threshold by the scholarship itself. Please note that supplementary financial contributions provided by the chair group are not permitted; the scholarship itself must meet the IND budget threshold including a guaranteed future inflation correction by the scholarship provider. Alternatively, the scholarship should be above a set amount per month which from 1 January 2024 is €1750/month. Our adjustments to these criteria will occur biannually on the first of January and July. The required monthly living allowance for each half year will be available on this [website](#)² once the government publishes an updated IND budget threshold value.

List other than professors with *ius promovendi*

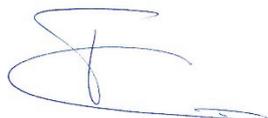
The academic board has received multiple requests to provide the names of individuals other than professors who possess the *ius promovendi*. In response to these requests, the academic board is currently in the process of organizing the necessary information and compiling a list which will be available on the intranet within the coming year.

ISBN on dissertation no longer required

The value of adding International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) to theses is nowadays limited, especially considering that a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is also allocated to each thesis, and the creation of a printed trade edition rarely occurs. In cases where a printed edition is necessary, obtaining an ISBN through the printer/publisher suffices. Therefore, the ISBN will no longer be required for the thesis. Annex 3 and 7 of the doctoral degree regulations have been updated accordingly.

Unless otherwise stated, the above-mentioned changes will take effect on 1 January 2024.

With kind regards,



Prof. dr Arthur P. J. Mol
Rector Magnificus Wageningen University

² <https://www.wur.nl/en/education-programmes/phd-programme/registration-and-admission-procedures-criteria/entry-requirements.htm>