

# **EDUCATION AND** **EXAMINATION CODE**

**Academic Year 2019-2020**

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# PART IV

## EXAMINATION CODE GOVERNING

## THE PREDOCTORAL TRAINING

## PROGRAMME, THE DOCTORATE,

## AND THE DOCTORAL TRAINING

## PROGRAMME

### SECTION I

## THE PREDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

#### ARTICLE 79 ADMISSION TO A PREDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Any permission for prospective doctoral students who need to pass a predoctoral training programme in order to be admitted to the doctorate, is granted according to the procedure mentioned in article 3 §1.b of the [resolution of the Executive Board pertaining to the organization of permanent training and postgraduate programmes at Ghent University](#) (including predoctoral training programmes).

The applicable language requirements are stipulated in article 10.

#### ARTICLE 80 ENROLLING FOR A PREDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

All enrolments are subject to the stipulations of article 15 and following.

The enrolment makes it mandatory upon students to pay the tuition fee, in accordance with the stipulations of article 21. The tuition fee (without the fixed amount) will be reimbursed to all students who have enrolled for the predoctoral training programme, unless they terminate their contract within 4 months after their enrolment (cf. article 34).

#### ARTICLE 81 ASSESSMENT OF THE PREDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

§1. The assessment of parts of the curriculum of the predoctoral training programme is subject to the stipulations of article 91.

§2. Examination Board of the predoctoral training programme

The Examination Board of a predoctoral training programme is composed by the Faculty Council and always includes the professorial staff member acting as the prospective doctoral student's supervisor, in accordance with article 3 §1b of the resolution pertaining to the organization of postgraduate

programmes (with the inclusion of predoctoral training programmes) and of permanent training programmes. For each Examination Board of a predoctoral training programme, the Faculty Council assigns a chair and a secretary, who may or may not be examiners, and who are professorial staff members.

The competencies of this Examination Board are the following:

- appraising the predoctoral training programme;
- taking examination-related disciplinary decisions in accordance with article 90.

Except in cases of material error, the Examination Board is not qualified to change examination marks during deliberations.

The deliberations of the Examination Board take place face-to-face or electronically. The chair and secretary always check the deliberation lists for any material errors or anomalies and put these to the disposal of the members of the Examination Board (electronically or otherwise). The Examination Board may be assembled at the simple request of one of its members or the ombudsperson.

The members of the Examination Board have a duty to attend deliberation meetings and to sign the attendance register if they convene face-to-face. If a member of the Examination Board is unable to attend the deliberation meeting, s/he is to report this to the chair of the Examination Board without delay. Any unjustified absences of members are reported to the rector by the chair. The Examination Board can only deliberate legitimately if at least half of its members are present. Faculty ombudspersons are entitled to attend the deliberation meetings of the Examination Boards in an observer capacity.

### §3. Two-step appraisal

The appraisal of the predoctoral training programme takes place in two steps: (1) the deliberation on the completed deliberation sets, and (2) the deliberation on the study programme.

(1) deliberations on the deliberation sets are organized in the fixed time periods as soon as the prospective doctoral student has taken the exams of all course units of a deliberation set of the predoctoral training programme.

(2) the final deliberation on the predoctoral training programme is to occur immediately after the deliberation on the last remaining deliberation set to be taken if the student is declared to have passed this deliberation set.

Deliberations on the predoctoral training programme may take place in the examination periods laid down in the academic calendar or at a different time. The Faculty Council is qualified to decide when deliberations on the predoctoral training programme can be take place.

### §4. Decisions by the Examination Board

If the prospective doctoral student has obtained at least 10 out of 20 for all course units of a full deliberation set, s/he is declared to have passed the relevant full deliberation set by the Examination Board. If a prospective doctoral student has not passed all course units of the deliberation set, the Examination Board may – after a secret ballot or otherwise – make a substantiated decision that s/he is still declared to have passed this deliberation set.

Without prejudice to the authority to deliberate of the Examination Board, prospective doctoral students are declared to have passed the predoctoral training programme if they have obtained a credit certificate for all course units to be taken and/or if they have been declared to have passed all deliberation sets of the predoctoral training programme.

Unless a member of an Examination Board or a Faculty ombudsperson requests for the decision to be brought to the vote, the chair's proposal for the final appraisal is accepted as the general consensus. The decisions by an Examination Board of a predoctoral training programme are carried by simple majority of the votes. Abstentions are not taken into consideration when voting. In the event of a tie, the decision is in the prospective doctoral student's favour.

The predoctoral training programme is authenticated with a postgraduate certificate, as specified in article 8 §1.b of the Resolution pertaining to the organization of postgraduate programmes (with the inclusion of predoctoral training programmes) and of permanent training programmes. For predoctoral training programmes, no grades of merit are awarded.

The deliberation decisions of an Examination Board are to be substantiated and recorded in a report, along with the attendance register of the members of the Examination Board. These reports are kept on file for 5 years, after which they are transferred to the University archives for storage. Prospective doctoral students have the right to peruse the sections of the report that refer to them. To do so, they need to contact the Faculty Student Administration. Students are notified of the exam decision within 15 calendar days after the date of the Examination Board meeting. The results of students who have passed the predoctoral training programme may be made public.

### §5. Appeal

Students may file an appeal against the exam decision by the Examination Board with the Institutional Appeals Committee, as specified in article 100.

### §6. Reconsideration of Examination Board decisions

If material errors, fraud or irregularities are found after the exam decision has been made, article 65 applies, on the understanding that this cannot affect the grade of merit.

## SECTION II

# THE DOCTORATE AND THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

### ARTICLE 82 ACCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTORATE AND THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

#### §1. Holders of a Belgian diploma:

It is a general access requirement for students who want to enrol for the preparation of a doctoral dissertation that they hold a Master's degree awarded by a recognized Belgian institute of higher education. The faculty may make a complementary enquiry to assess the prospective doctoral students' aptitude for conducting scientific research in the discipline concerned and for recording the results of any such research efforts in a dissertation. Prospective doctoral students who do not hold a Master's degree are required to pass a predoctoral training programme ([as determined in the decision concerned](#)), as well as articles 79, 80 and 81).

In addition, prospective doctoral students need to successfully complete the admission procedure as set out under article 83.

#### §2. Holders of a non-Belgian diploma:

Holders of a non-Belgian diploma may be admitted to the doctorate and the doctoral training programme after an [admission procedure](#) (cf. article 12 and following), after which a predoctoral training programme may be imposed (as determined in the [decision](#) concerned, as well as articles 79, 80 and 81). Admissions are also dependent on whether or not the prospective doctoral student have successfully followed the procedures stipulated in article 83.

#### §3. Language requirements

The language requirements for the doctorate are stipulated in article 10.

### ARTICLE 83 ADMISSION TO THE FIRST ENROLMENT FOR THE DOCTORATE AND THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

#### §1. Admission to the first enrolment for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme is awarded in accordance with the following procedure:

Prospective doctoral students are to present themselves in writing to the Faculty Council (contact: Faculty Education Services, FDO), with the approval of at least one supervisor. At least one of the supervisors is to belong to one of the following categories:

Ghent University professorial staff members

visiting professors with a research assignment

retired professorial staff members who have been granted permission to continue (part of) their paid educational activities at Ghent University.

§2. When they report, the prospective doctoral students will provide the following information: the proposed research topic of the doctorate, the intended doctoral title, the language in which the dissertation will be written, and the choice of Doctoral School. They will also inform the Faculty Council of the diplomas they obtained or the documents that may allow them to obtain the doctoral title.

§3. Students can take their doctorate under the joint supervision of Ghent University and one or several other partner institutions. They can do this by means of a co-operation agreement between the student and the institutions concerned, in accordance with the resolution of the Executive Board of Ghent University pertaining to co-operation agreements that are negotiated in order to supervise and certificate a doctorate together (['Gezamenlijk doctoraat' / 'Jointly Supervised PhD' / 'Cotutelle'](#)). If the education and examination codes of the institutions involved in a joint doctorate contradict each other, then departures from the Ghent University regulations are allowed, as stipulated in the co-operation agreement. Such departures are not allowed in two cases: an annual progress report always needs to be submitted (cf. article 89) and the doctoral student is always required to enrol at Ghent University every year (cf. article 90).

§4. Students may also take an interdisciplinary doctorate, leading to a combined doctoral degree under the joint supervision of two or more Ghent University supervisors who belong to different fields, in accordance with the [resolution pertaining to awarding combined doctoral degrees for interdisciplinary doctorates \('Interdisciplinary Doctorate'\)](#) as approved by the Executive Board at its meeting on 29 April 2016.

§5. On the basis of the submitted file, the Faculty Council decides whether or not the doctoral student will be granted permission to enrol for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme. If this permission is granted, the Faculty Council will appoint the supervisor(s); one of these supervisors

who belongs to the categories listed in §1 will be appointed as the administrative supervisor responsible. If applicable, the Faculty Council will also appoint the members of the doctoral advisory committee. Finally, the Faculty Council also approves the proposed research topic, the language in which the dissertation will be written, and the intended doctoral title.

Doctoral dissertations are to be written in Dutch or in English. However, after a substantiated and written request from the doctoral student, permission may be granted by the Faculty Council for the whole or part of the dissertation to be written in another language. If a doctoral dissertation has a foreign language as its subject - either in part or as a whole - the Faculty Council may decide to impose the use of said other language. If the doctoral dissertation is written in English, the Faculty may require the doctoral student to corroborate that s/he has a command of English (cf. article 10, §8), unless the student is exempted from such an obligation pursuant to the provisions of article 10 §1.

The Faculty Council decides if the doctoral training programme is to be followed in full or only partly, will determine the curriculum of this possibly mandatory doctoral training programme and will also set a date by which the obligation is to be met (in accordance with the particular structure of the programme, as well as the stipulations of the Resolution of the Executive Board pertaining to the organization of the Ghent University doctoral training programme and, if applicable, the supplementary faculty regulations).

The Faculty Council may alter any part of the admission file in the course of their investigation, in accordance with the stipulations of the supplementary faculty regulations. It will also confirm that the prospective doctoral student has been accepted into the Doctoral School of his/her choice, as determined in article 9 §1 of the [Doctoral Schools Regulations](#).

## ARTICLE 84 FIRST ENROLMENT FOR THE DOCTORATE AND THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

### §1. Enrolment Period

As soon as the doctoral student has been granted admission to the doctorate and the doctoral training programme, s/he is to enrol as a doctoral student as soon as possible and within the academic year to which the permission is applicable. A first (provisional) enrolment for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme can be arranged at any time in the course of the academic year.

### §2. Tuition fee

The enrolment makes it mandatory upon students to pay the tuition fee, in accordance with the stipulations of article 21. The tuition fee (without the fixed amount) will be reimbursed to all students who have enrolled for the doctorate and the predoctoral training programme, unless they terminate their contract within 4 months after their enrolment (cf. article 34).

§3. The Registrar's Office of the Department of Educational Policy deals with the actual enrolment formalities.

## ARTICLE 85 PROPERTY RIGHTS ON RESEARCH RESULTS AND VALORIZATION

§1. In execution of article 4 of the General Research and Co-operation Regulations of Ghent University Association (Algemeen Onderzoeks- en Samenwerkingsreglement van de Associatie Universiteit Gent, AOSR), all doctoral students who are considered voluntary researchers in accordance with article IV.48 of the Codex Higher Education transfer all property rights of their research results to Ghent University upon enrolment. Unless stated otherwise in their contract, all doctoral students are treated as researchers at Ghent University as far as the implementation is concerned of all applicable regulations on the valorization of research results.

§2. The supervisor(s) and the doctoral students see to it that all research results that can create value are reported to the Technology Transfer Office prior to publication in any which shape or form, in accordance with the AOSR.

## ARTICLE 86 THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

§1. The Ghent University doctoral training programme is a flexible study programme which is offered within a Faculty and is organized by the Doctoral Schools. The training programme is intended to broaden as well as deepen the knowledge and competencies of doctoral students, in preparation of a doctoral dissertation.

§2. The Doctoral Schools are in charge of the doctoral training programme, in joint consultation with the Faculties concerned.

§3. Upon the successful completion of the full doctoral training programme's curriculum and after the recommendation of the Doctoral School, the Faculty awards a certificate that is given by the rector. This certificate cannot be conferred if the degree of doctor is not conferred.

## ARTICLE 87 LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND COMMUNICATION AS PART OF THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME AND THE DOCTORATE

§1. Language of instruction and communication:

The language of instruction and communication for educational and other activities within Ghent University as part of the doctoral training programme is English, with the exception of specific cases in which the activities concerned take a different language as their subject, or in which all students involved use Dutch as their speaking language (see also article 10 on language requirements).

§2. The language used within the context of a joint doctorate is established in accordance with the resolution of the Executive Board at Ghent University pertaining to co-operation agreements that are negotiated in order to supervise and certificate a doctorate together ('Gezamenlijk doctoraat' / 'Jointly Supervised PhD' / 'Cotutelle')<sup>80</sup>.

## ARTICLE 88 GUIDANCE OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

§1. The Faculty Council guarantees that all doctoral students who enrolled for the first time for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme from the academic year 2015-2016 onwards will be coached by at least two people, either by appointing more than one supervisor or by assigning a doctoral advisory committee, or in another way that is to be determined by the Faculty.

§2. The supervisor(s), doctoral advisory committee and/or other mentor(s) are responsible for the support, follow-up and appraisal of the doctoral student throughout the entire study and research period. One supervisor is appointed as the administrative supervisor responsible (cf. article 83 §1 and §4).

A relative by blood or by marriage up to and including the fourth degree is not allowed to act as a supervisor, a member of the doctoral advisory committee or a mentor. Any relations arising from a legal partnership are hereby considered equivalent to those arising from marriage. If this relation is created after the supervisor, member of the doctoral advisory committee or mentor has been appointed, the supervisor in question will request a replacement. Similar measures need to be taken if, for reasons of personal involvement with the student, it may not be possible to offer good guidance or remain objective while evaluating (the progress of) the dissertation.

§3. The Faculty Council determines in the faculty regulations whether or not a doctoral advisory committee is required. Without prejudice to the stipulations of the supplementary faculty regulations, all doctoral students may request the appointment of a doctoral advisory committee.

§4. The Faculty Council appoints the doctoral advisory committee, in accordance with faculty regulations or at the doctoral student's request. If no doctoral advisory committee is assigned, the (administrative) supervisor (responsible) will take on all the duties and responsibilities of the doctoral advisory committee, except for those mentioned in article 89 §5 and §6, which are taken up by the Doctoral Committee (or, if no Doctoral Committee has been composed, the committee which the Faculty Council has assigned these tasks and responsibilities).

§5. The doctoral advisory committees consist of least three and at most five members, including the supervisor(s). At least one member needs to be an expert from outside the department of the supervisor(s), and preferably an outside expert unrelated to Ghent University. The members of the doctoral advisory committee are not required to have a doctoral degree themselves, unless otherwise stated in the supplementary faculty regulations.

§6. The doctoral advisory committee will formulate a report on the doctoral student's progress in his/her research and training on an annual basis (as described in article 89).

§7. The doctoral advisory committee decides the individual curriculum of the doctoral training programme. It does so in joint consultation with the doctoral student and without prejudice to any stipulations on mandatory doctoral training programmes.

§8. The doctoral advisory committee will formulate a recommendation on submitting the dissertation with the Faculty Council.

§9. The doctoral advisory committee is part of the assessment committee that will formulate a recommendation on whether or not the curriculum of the doctoral training programme is complete and whether or not the doctoral student in question has acquired everything in it, with the exception of the defence (in accordance with article 92).

## ARTICLE 89 THE PROGRESS REPORT

§1. Doctoral students will report regularly, at their own initiative or when requested, on the progress in their research to the doctoral advisory committee or their supervisor(s).

§2. Between 1 April and 30 June of the ongoing academic year, all doctoral students are to submit an annual progress report to the doctoral advisory committee or, in its absence, the supervisor(s). If they enrolled for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme for the first time after 31 May of the ongoing academic year, they are not required to submit a progress report. At a minimum, the first progress report is to contain an action plan for the doctoral research.

§3. Based on the progress report, the doctoral advisory committee or, in its absence, the supervisor(s) formulate(s) an annual report on the doctoral students' progress in their research and, if applicable, their doctoral training programme. This report is to expressly state whether the research offers sufficient doctoral opportunities within a reasonable time span. The report is drawn up on an annual basis and its contents are communicated in a personal conversation with the students. As such, the students are given the opportunity to provide any additional argumentation. Doctoral students may be assisted by a Flemish Sign Language interpreter, a speech-to-text interpreter or an interpreter of another sign language (<https://www.vaph.be/tolk>). The supplementary faculty regulations may determine any possible modalities to set and follow up on meetings between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisory committee.

§4. If the doctoral advisory committee or, in its absence, the supervisor(s) believe(s) that the research offers sufficient doctoral opportunities within a reasonable time span, the administrative supervisor responsible will draw up a favourable (i.e. positive) report on the progress report in writing. This invariably means that the student in question is allowed to enrol for the following academic year, in accordance with the stipulations of article 90. The report may also include recommendations or requirements concerning the research progress in that year. Both the progress report and the positive feedback are also delivered to the relevant Doctoral School for further follow-up.

§5. This paragraph is only applicable if a doctoral advisory committee has been established (see §7 if that is not the case). If the doctoral advisory committee believes that the research does not offer sufficient doctoral opportunities within a reasonable time span, the administrative supervisor responsible will draw up an unfavourable (i.e. negative) report on the progress report in writing. This needs to be substantiated in a report demonstrating that the student in question has been heard and has been given the opportunity to make sufficient research progress. The faculty ombudsperson for doctoral students may attend the meeting of the doctoral advisory committee with the doctoral student as an observer. Doctoral students may be assisted by a Flemish Sign Language interpreter, a speech-to-text interpreter or an interpreter of another sign language (<https://www.vaph.be/tolk>). The negative report invariably means that the student in question is advised not to enrol for the following academic year. Both the progress report and the negative feedback are also delivered to the relevant Doctoral School for further follow-up. After consulting with the Faculty Doctoral Committee (or, if the Faculty Doctoral Committee has not been composed, the committee that was appointed to this end in the supplementary faculty regulations), the dean of the faculty where the student has enrolled will decide whether or not the student is allowed to enrol, in accordance with the stipulations of article 90. The dean or Faculty Committee may take the initiative to hear the doctoral student, the supervisor(s) and / or the doctoral advisory committee. The faculty ombudsperson for doctoral students can attend the hearing(s) as an observer. The modalities for the hearing(s) can be laid down in the supplementary faculty regulations.

This decision is taken no later than 90 calendar days after the negative report was filed. At the express request of the doctoral student, this term is extended by a period of 60 calendar days if the dean or the Faculty Committee wishes to hear the doctoral student, but this is not possible within the stipulated term for proven medical reasons. If, after the extension, a hearing is still not possible due to proven medical reasons, the doctoral student may submit a written defence.

The rector communicates this decision to the student in writing within 30 calendar days.

§6. This paragraph is only applicable if a doctoral advisory committee has been established (see §7 if that is not the case). If a supervisor declares that s/he no longer wishes to supervise a doctorate and substantiates this decision when the progress report is being assessed, and the other members of the doctoral advisory committee believe that the research offers sufficient doctoral opportunities within a reasonable time span, the administrative supervisor responsible will draw up an unfavourable (i.e. negative) report on the progress report in writing. This report needs to demonstrate that the research offers sufficient doctoral opportunities within a reasonable time span. Both the progress report and the negative feedback are also delivered to the relevant Doctoral School for further follow-up. The Faculty Doctoral Committee (or, if the Faculty Doctoral Committee has not been composed, the committee that was appointed to this end in the supplementary faculty regulations) will recommend a new supervisor and the Faculty Council will appoint him/her. The doctoral student is allowed to enrol for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme for the following academic year, in accordance with the stipulations in article 84 and 90, under the guidance of the newly appointed supervisor.

§7. If no doctoral advisory committee has been appointed and the supervisor(s) believe(s) that the research does not offer sufficient doctoral opportunities within a reasonable time span, or if the supervisor(s) declare(s) that they no longer wish to supervise the doctorate and substantiate this decision, the administrative supervisor responsible will draw up an unfavourable (i.e. negative) report on the progress report in writing. Both the progress report and the negative feedback are also delivered to the relevant Doctoral School for further follow-up. The Faculty Doctoral Committee (or, if the Faculty Doctoral Committee has not been composed, the committee that was appointed to this end in the supplementary faculty regulations) will investigate this negative feedback and will check if the doctoral student had the opportunity to make sufficient research progress. The doctoral student and the supervisor(s) will have the opportunity to be heard. The faculty ombudsperson for doctoral students may attend the meeting(s) of the competent

committee as an observer. Doctoral students may be assisted by a Flemish Sign Language interpreter, a speech-to-text interpreter or an interpreter of another sign language (<https://www.vaph.be/tolk>). The modalities for the hearing(s) can be laid down in the supplementary faculty regulations.

If the Faculty Doctoral Committee (or, if the Faculty Doctoral Committee has not been composed, the committee that was appointed to this end in the supplementary faculty regulations) finds that the research does not offer sufficient doctoral opportunities within a reasonable time span, a negative report will be delivered to the dean of the faculty where the student has enrolled within 60 calendar days. S/he will then decide whether or not the student is allowed to enrol, in accordance with the stipulations of article 90. This decision is taken no later than 90 calendar days after the negative report was filed. At the express request of the doctoral student, this term is extended by a period of 60 calendar days if the dean or the Faculty Committee wishes to hear the doctoral student, but this is not possible within the stipulated term for proven medical reasons. If, after the extension, a hearing is still not possible due to proven medical reasons, the doctoral student may submit a written defence.

The rector communicates this decision to the student in writing within 30 calendar days.

If the Faculty Doctoral Committee (or, if the Faculty Doctoral Committee has not been composed, the committee that was appointed to this end in the supplementary faculty regulations) finds that the research does offer sufficient doctoral opportunities within a reasonable time span, a positive report will be delivered to the dean of the faculty where the student has enrolled within 60 calendar days. If applicable, the relevant committee will recommend a new supervisor and the Faculty Council will appoint him/her. The positive report implies that the doctoral student is allowed to enrol for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme for the following academic year, in accordance with the stipulations in article 90, possibly under the guidance of the newly appointed supervisor.

§8. An appeal may be filed against the decision of the dean (cf. §5 and §7) to the Institutional Appeals Committee, as stipulated in article 100.

## ARTICLE 90 RE-ENROLMENT FOR THE DOCTORATE AND THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

§1. Doctoral students are required to re-enrol every year within the fixed enrolment period stipulated in article 15 until they have successfully defended their doctoral dissertation, regardless of their type of appointment or funding.

§2. Doctoral students who, in accordance with the stipulations in article 84, enrol for the first time for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme after 31 May of the ongoing academic year are not required to submit a progress report and may re-enrol for the following academic year without any additional preconditions.

§3. Doctoral students who have enrolled for the doctorate and the doctoral training programme and who are required to submit a progress report between 1 April and 30 June of the ongoing academic year may enrol if the following conditions have been met:

- the doctoral advisory committee or, in its absence, the supervisor(s) have given positive feedback on the progress report, in accordance with article 89;
- the doctoral student has received written permission to re-enrol from the rector, in accordance with article 89;
- the doctoral student has received permission to re-enrol from the faculty after a new supervisor has been appointed, in accordance with article 89;

§4. Re-enrolment will be refused if the progress report received negative feedback, in accordance with article 89.

§5. Re-enrolment may be refused if the terms of the contract have been breached in case of a joint doctorate.

## ARTICLE 91 EVALUATION OF PARTS OF THE CURRICULUM OF THE PREDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME AND THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

### §1. Regular course units

The evaluation and examination methods as laid down and publicized under articles 49, 50 and 51 and 75 apply for all regular course units that are taken as part of the (pre)doctoral training programme and that belong to Bachelor's and Master's programmes, preparatory and linking courses, postgraduate programmes (with the exception of the predoctoral training programmes), and specific teacher training programmes.

### §2. Regular course units organized by the Doctoral Schools

Regular course units organized by the Doctoral Schools as part of the doctoral training programme are evaluated with the examination methods and at the evaluation moments that are determined by the lecturers concerned and ratified by the Doctoral School Boards or the collegial body of the directors

of the Doctoral Schools when they confirm the relevant course units and course sheets. The students are informed of these evaluation arrangements no later than at the start of the educational activities.

### §3. Specialized courses and the doctoral seminars in transferable skills organized by the Doctoral Schools

The specialized courses and the doctoral seminars in transferable skills organized by the Doctoral Schools as part of the doctoral training programme are evaluated with the examination methods and at the evaluation moments that are determined by the lecturers concerned and ratified by the Doctoral School Directors or the collegial body of the directors of the Doctoral Schools at the time of approval. The students are informed of these evaluation arrangements no later than at the start of the educational activities.

### §4. Research-related activities

With reference to research-related activities conducted as part of the doctoral training programme, active participation is a requirement to valorize these within the doctoral training programme. Doctoral students are to annually compile an inventory of their activities and, if applicable, submit these to the doctoral advisory committee. They also need to submit a final overview of the research-related activities that are to be taken up in the curriculum to the assessment committee.

### §5. Replacement of the examiner

Article 76 applies to the evaluation of parts of the curriculum of the (pre)doctoral training programme.

### §6. Image and/or sound recording

Students, observers or third parties are not allowed to make any image and/or sound recordings of an evaluation or an examination as part of the (pre)doctoral training programme, except when these evaluations or examinations take place through video conferencing. Prohibited recordings are inadmissible as evidence in administrative or legal proceedings and are also to be destroyed at the first request. For the doctoral exam, the provisions of articles 96 and 97 are in place.

### §7. Examination mark

The result of the evaluation of each regular course unit, specialist course or research-related activity is expressed in a single examination mark. This examination mark is a whole number, ranging from 0 up to and including 20, and is calculated in accordance with the method specified in the course sheet.

For units from the doctoral training programme for which the result is not expressed in an examination mark - such as permanent training courses, specific specialized courses or doctoral seminars in transferable skills staged by the Doctoral Schools - the result of the evaluation is expressed as "passed" or "not passed".

Doctoral students taking regular course units and sitting exams at a domestic or foreign institute of higher education as part of the doctoral training programme, are awarded examination marks by Ghent University upon their return. These examination marks are awarded in accordance with the local grade awarded per course unit

based on a conversion (in accordance with the guidelines in the ECTS Users' Guide), the procedure of which is described at <https://www.ugent.be/nl/univgent/waarvoor-staat-ugent/internationalisering/ects.htm>.

Doctoral students who, within the framework of the doctoral training programme, are taking course units at a domestic or foreign institute of higher education for which the result is not expressed in an examination mark will be awarded the result "passed" or "not passed" upon their return.

Doctoral students who, within the framework of the doctoral training programme, are taking specialized courses or doctoral seminars to improve particular skills at a domestic or foreign institute of higher education, are required to submit these for approval to the doctoral advisory committee or, in its absence, the supervisor(s), in order for them to be acknowledged as part of their curriculum.

### §8. Credit certificate

For all regular course units taken as part of the (pre)doctoral training programme for which the student obtained at least 10 out of 20, the student obtains a credit certificate which complies with the provisions set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 57.

The credit certificate is obtained after the closing of the relevant examination period if it involves regular course units from Bachelor's and Master's programmes, preparatory and linking courses, postgraduate programmes (with the exception of the predoctoral training programmes), and specific teacher training programmes.

For regular course units organized by the Doctoral Schools as part of the doctoral training programme, the credit certificates are obtained on the day after the day of the evaluation.

Specialized courses and doctoral seminars in transferable skills staged by the Doctoral Schools within the framework of the doctoral training programme are not regular course units and cannot lead to any credit certificates. At the request of the doctoral student, the organizing Doctoral Schools may award certificates for these courses and seminars.

## §9. Observers

For the evaluation of regular course units, (prospective) doctoral students and examiners may request for an observer to sit in on oral examinations in accordance with the provisions set out under article 77.

## ARTICLE 92 ASSESSMENT OF THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

§1. The appraisal of the doctoral training programme occurs in two steps:

1° The appraisal of the completeness of the curriculum and the acquisition of all its units - with the exception of the defence of the doctoral dissertation - is conducted by an assessment committee consisting of the director of the Doctoral School (who will also act as the chair of the assessment committee) where the doctoral student has enrolled and the members of the doctoral advisory committee or, failing any such committee, the supervisor(s). Article 76 §2 applies to this appraisal.

This appraisal occurs prior to the meeting of the Faculty Council, as specified under article 93. To this end, the doctoral student is to provide the chair of the assessment committee with proof that, with the exception of the defence of the doctoral dissertation, the required programme of the doctoral training programme was completed. S/he is to submit the relevant documents at least 20 working days ahead of the meeting of the Faculty Council concerned.

The recommendation of the assessment committee is sent to the Faculty.

The assessment committee also has the authority to take examination-related disciplinary decisions in accordance with article 97.

2° The fact that the doctoral student has passed the doctoral training programme after his/her successful public defence of the doctoral dissertation will be authenticated by means of a certificate. The Examination Board (cf. article 94) establishes whether the doctoral student meets the requirements to obtain this certificate.

§2. The decisions by the assessment committee and the Examination Board are to be substantiated and included in a report, together with the attendance register of the members of the assessment committee and the Examination Board. These reports are kept on file for 5 years, after which they are transferred to the University archives for storage.

Doctoral students have the right to peruse these reports. To do so, they need to contact the Faculty Student Administration.

§3. Students are notified of the decisions by the assessment committee and the Examination Board in writing within 15 working days after the date of the meetings of the respective committees. It may be made public that students have obtained the doctoral training programme certificate.

§4. Students may file an appeal against the decision by the assessment committee with the Institutional Appeals Committee, as specified in article 100.

§5. Reconsideration of assessment committee and Examination Board decisions:

If material errors, fraud or irregularities are found after the exam decision has been made, article 65 applies, on the understanding that any rectifications are made by the assessment committee and the Examination Board and that this cannot affect the grade of merit.

## ARTICLE 93 ENROLMENT FOR THE DOCTORAL EXAM AND SUBMISSION OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

§1. Doctoral students are to submit their doctoral dissertation to the Faculty Council, accompanied by the recommendation of the doctoral advisory committee or, in its absence, from the supervisor(s). The Faculty Council determines how many copies of their doctoral dissertation the doctoral students need to submit. In any case, an electronic version of the doctoral dissertation also needs to be submitted and each doctoral dissertation is to include a Dutch and English summary.

Amongst other things, the recommendation of the doctoral advisory committee or, in its absence, the supervisor(s) needs to contain a clause on the status of research results that can create value.

If the doctoral student was required to take a mandatory part of the doctoral training programme as an additional access requirement for the defence of the doctoral dissertation, the submitted file also needs to include the recommendation of the assessment committee confirming that the doctoral student has complied with this requirement, as specified in article 92. If any part of the file is lacking, the Faculty Council will request that the file be completed before it is taken up in a next meeting.

§2. After the Faculty Council has established that the doctoral student meets the requirements to take the doctoral exam and has declared the doctoral dissertation to be admissible, the information on the doctoral exam is sent to the Registrar's Office and the tuition fee is claimed.

## ARTICLE 94 EXAMINATION BOARD FOR THE DOCTORAL EXAM

§1. The Faculty Council will assign an Examination Board for the doctoral exam.

In the report of the Faculty Council, sufficient argumentation is provided for selecting the members of the Examination Board. The following people may act as members of an Examination Board:

- professorial staff members of Ghent University;
- other people who may or may not be affiliated with Ghent University and who are intimately familiar with the subject of the doctorate.

A relative by blood or by marriage of the doctoral student or his/her supervisor up to and including the fourth degree or anyone who cannot guarantee an objective evaluation of the dissertation due to personal involvement with the student or his/her supervisor, cannot be a member of the Examination Board. Any relations arising from a legal partnership are hereby considered equivalent to those arising from marriage.

The Examination Board shall consist of at least five and at most eight members who are qualified to vote, including the chair and the secretary. One or more supervisors can be added to the Examination Board, but they will not be qualified to vote. Adding other members to the Examination Board is not possible.

At the request of the chair, the Faculty Council can change the composition of the Examination Board as long as it has not yet convened. The composition of the Examination Board cannot be changed once the first meeting has taken place, with the exception of the chair. If the chair is unable to attend, a proxy can be appointed by the dean.

The following stipulations are taken into account when the members of the Examination Board who are qualified to vote are appointed:

- at least two members who are qualified to vote are not affiliated with the faculty, and one of these two members is not affiliated with Ghent University;
- at least half the members who are qualified to vote are authorized to act as a supervisor for a doctorate at their own organization;
- at least half the members who are qualified to vote have a full-time or part-time (temporary) appointment at Ghent University or are postdoctoral researchers of the Research Foundation Flanders, with Ghent University as its host institution;
- not more than half of the members who are qualified to vote are part of the doctoral advisory committee or are co-authors of a publication or patent that is included in the dissertation in full.

A later change in the status of a voting member does not lead to an invalid composition of the Examination Board.

The dean or the delegate of the professorial staff of the dean fill the chairmanship of the Examination Board. Retired members of the professorial staff who have been authorized to continue certain activities can also be appointed as chair by the dean. A supervisor of the dissertation cannot be appointed as the chairman of the Examination Board.

The Examination Board appoints one of its members who are qualified to vote as the secretary.

The Examination Board is authorized to perform the following tasks:

- testing the candidate's skills and competencies;
- taking examination-related disciplinary decisions in accordance with article 97;
- establishing, on the basis of the report by the assessment committee and on the basis of the doctoral exam result, whether the doctoral student is to be awarded the doctoral training programme certificate.

§2. The Faculty Council affixes the general and specific roles of all members of the Examination Board. Depending on their individual expertise, these roles may be altered. All members of the Examination Board who are qualified to vote contribute to the deliberation of the doctoral exam. If, during the deliberation, a conflict of interest arises with regard to one of the voting members, the member in question loses the right to vote. This change does not affect the requirements regarding the composition of the voting part of the Examination Board.

§3. With the exception of the chair, each member of the Examination Board who is qualified to vote will draw up a written appraisal of the dissertation prior to the doctoral exam. The nature and content of the written appraisal may be altered depending on the specific role of the member in the Examination Board. The written appraisal consists of two parts: (1) the first part is delivered to the student before the first deliberation of the Examination Board on the dissertation and (2) the second part is intended for the Examination Board. The latter part includes at a minimum a recommendation on whether or not the public defence will be allowed (possibly after the student has made some adjustments in the dissertation text).

§4. If a patent application for the legal protection of research results that can create value is still being prepared when the Examination Board is formed, the Technology Transfer Office will request the dean to take the necessary measures in writing to ensure that all members of the Examination Board treat the doctoral dissertation with due confidentiality. At a minimum, the following measures are to be observed:

- If the members of the Examination Board are employees of Ghent University, the chair of the Examination Board – upon dispatching the doctoral dissertation – needs to inform the members in writing of the confidential nature of specific parts of the doctoral dissertation.

- If the members of the Examination Board are not employees of Ghent University, the chair of the Examination Board needs to ensure that, before the doctoral dissertation is dispatched to the outside member of the Board, a confidentiality agreement has been concluded with this member or affiliate organization.

The Technology Transfer Office aspires to ensure the legal protection of the research results that can create value prior to the public defence of the doctoral dissertation.

## ARTICLE 95 THE DOCTORAL EXAM

§1. After the dissertation has been submitted, the faculty will decide if the candidate is admitted to the doctoral exam, in accordance with article 93. The doctoral exam consists of two parts that are each deliberated on and assessed:

- the first deliberation of the Examination Board on the doctoral dissertation
- the public defence of said dissertation

§2. All members of the Examination Board attend the deliberations and evaluations and sign the attendance list. If one or more members are attending through video conferencing, the secretary will take attendance.

If one of the members of the Examination Board is unable to attend, the chairperson of the Examination Board will be notified immediately. At least three-fifths of all members with a vote need to be present in order for any meeting of the Examination Board to be valid.

The faculty ombudsperson for doctoral students may attend the deliberations and evaluations of the Examination Board with the doctoral student as an observer.

The doctoral student concerned is not allowed to take part of the doctoral examination through video conferencing. Exceptionally, this provision can be deviated from after the rector has allowed it on the basis of a fully substantiated file and if the following cumulative conditions are met:

- the doctoral student is refused entry into Belgian territory and no solution can be found within the set time limits;
- videoconferencing may take place on the premises of a partner university or a Belgian diplomatic office;
- a member of the Examination Board who is affiliated with Ghent University may be present with the doctoral student at the time of the (relevant part of the) doctoral examination that will be conducted by video conference.

## ARTICLE 96 THE EXAMINATION BOARD'S FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

§1. The Examination Board's first assessment of the doctoral exam should take place at least 30 calendar days and no more than 90 calendar days after the appointment of the Examination Board. The latter time limit is suspended by the recess periods (i.e. not by the inter-term recess or by the week from 14/09/2020 through 19/09/2020).

The first part of the doctoral exam may take place at any time in the course of the academic year, except during recess, the inter-term recess and the closing days listed in article 2 §4. With the express permission of the dean, the supervisor, the members of the Examination Board and the doctoral student, it is possible to depart from this rule.

Prior to the first part of the doctoral exam, the Examination Board will deliver the written appraisals of the members of the Examination Board to the student in question. If one or more reports are not delivered, the first meeting will be postponed at the doctoral student's request.

§2. The appraisal of the Examination Board occurs behind closed doors and cannot be recorded by any means of image and/or sound recording, by the student, the observer or third parties. Members of the Examination Board may attend the deliberation/appraisal through video conferencing. Prohibited recordings are inadmissible as evidence in administrative or legal proceedings and are also to be destroyed at the first request.

The Examination Board hears the doctoral student during this deliberation and shall appraise the doctoral dissertation of the candidate in question and the merit of his/her research. The faculty shall determine in the supplementary faculty regulations the way in which the doctoral student shall be involved in the first part of the doctoral exam (including the language that will be used during the hearing of the doctoral student).

§3. The members of the Examination Board who are qualified to vote assess the candidate's skills and competencies and deliberate on the basis of (1) the written reports by each of the members who are qualified to vote and (2) the hearing of the doctoral student.

The deliberation will result in one of the appraisals below:

- admission to the second part of the examination (public defence of the doctoral dissertation);
- admission to the second part, after the doctoral student has revised the dissertation. The Examination Board will see to it that this revision is feasible within a reasonable time span determined by the Board. The chair of the Examination Board and the supervisor(s) of the dissertation together will make sure that the required corrections are made. If this is not the case, or if the corrections do not meet the required standards, the Examination Board may yet decide to deny the student access to the second part of the doctoral examination;

- no admission to the second part of the examination.

The members of the Examination Board who are qualified to vote decide by simple majority of the votes, abstentions not taken into consideration. In the event of a tie after the first voting round, a second ballot will be held. If this second round again results in a tie, the decision will not be in the student's favour.

§4. The final outcome of this deliberation round is to be substantiated and included in a deliberation report, together with the attendance register of the members of the Examination Board. These reports are kept on file for 5 years, after which they are transferred to the University archives for storage.

§5. After its approval, the deliberation report (including the final deliberation decision) is communicated to the candidate and the supervisor(s) in writing. Students may file an appeal against the decision pronounced with the Institutional Appeals Committee, as specified under article 100.

## ARTICLE 97 PUBLIC DEFENCE OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

§1. The public defence takes place within 60 calendar days after the first assessment of the dissertation by the Examination Board, subject to the doctoral student's consent to change this date.

The public defence may take place at any time in the course of the academic year, except during recess, the inter-term recess and the closing days listed in article 2 §4. With the express permission of the dean, the supervisor(s), the members of the Examination Board and the doctoral student, it is possible to depart from this rule.

The precise date of the public defence cannot be fixed until after the Examination Board has taken a deliberation decision, during the first part of the doctoral examination.

The time and location of the public defence meeting are announced electronically. In order for the public defence of the doctoral dissertation to be registered in the university's central administration records and for it to be announced on the Ghent University website, the Faculty will send all the necessary details [in accordance with the appropriate procedure](#) to the Registrar's Office of the Department of Educational Policy.

§2. If the research results that can create value are not identified until after the appointment of the Examination Board and prior to the public defence of the doctoral dissertation, the Technology Transfer Office addresses a substantiated letter to the chair of the Examination Board, and a copy of this letter to the Dean. In order to prevent the loss of patent rights, the applicable emergency procedures will be instigated in joint consultation with the Technology Transfer Office to obtain a conditional publication of research results that can create value. In the above situation, the Technology Transfer Office will aim to restrict the confidential information, giving priority to the legal protection of the research results that can create value in order to make unconditional publication possible.

§3. During the public defence, the doctoral student puts forward an oral and public defence of his/her doctoral dissertation before the Examination Board. The public defence cannot take less than one hour and no more than two hours. Subject to any prior permission or obligation from the Faculty Council stating the contrary, the public defence takes place in Dutch or English.

§4. The members of the Examination Board who are qualified to vote deliberate in camera on the examination as a whole, immediately after the public defence session. This appraisal occurs behind closed doors and cannot be recorded by any means of image and/or sound recording, by the student, the observer or third parties. Members of the Examination Board may attend the deliberation/appraisal through video conferencing. Prohibited recordings are inadmissible as evidence in administrative or legal proceedings and are also to be destroyed at the first request.

The members without a vote may attend the deliberations as observers. The members with a vote decide by simple majority of the votes, abstentions not taken into consideration, whether or not the academic degree of doctor is to be awarded. In the event of a tie after a first voting round, a second ballot is to be held. If this second round again results in a tie, the decision will not be in the student's favour.

§5. The decision of the members of the Examination Board who are qualified to vote needs to be substantiated and included in a deliberation report, together with the attendance register of the members of the Examination Board. These reports are kept on file for 5 years, after which they are transferred to the University archives for storage. Doctoral students have the right to peruse these reports. To do so, they need to contact the Faculty Student Administration.

§6. The examination decision is publicly announced by the chair immediately after the deliberation. Students may file an appeal against the examination decision with the Institutional Appeals Committee, as specified in article 95.

§7. After the successful public defence of their doctorate, doctoral students are to provide the university library with a digital copy of their doctoral dissertation. Without detracting from the rights of the author, Ghent University or third parties, the university library will make the doctoral dissertation accessible by way of an open access system.

§8. The public defence (except the deliberation of the Examination Board) may be made available via a livestream and/or an image and/or sound recording to all those who are unable to attend the public defence in person. In this case, the Examination Board and the doctoral student need to agree to this and no form of limitation and/or confidentiality should have been imposed to protect the research results that can create value.

## SECTION III

# SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

### ARTICLE 97BIS FRAUD OR IRREGULARITIES IN THE PREDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME, THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME AND THE DOCTORATE

§1. If an evaluator has reason to suspect that a student is committing fraud or irregularities during the evaluation of a regular course unit, a specialist course, a doctoral seminar in transferable skills as part of the predoctoral training programme or the doctoral training programme, the evaluation for the course unit or seminar concerned may be terminated immediately for this (doctoral) student.

If the events occurred during a predoctoral training programme, the evaluator needs to promptly relate the events to the chair of the Examination Board. If they occurred during a doctoral training programme, the evaluator will immediately inform the chair of the assessment committee. If the assessment committee has already taken a decision, the chair of the Examination Board will be notified.

§2. If a mentor/evaluator of a research-related activity within the context of the doctorate or doctoral training programme suspects that there has been a breach of academic integrity, as determined in the Regulations pertaining to the procedure to investigate breaches of academic integrity, this person will immediately inform the Examination Board of this, insofar as the Examination Board has already been composed. In all other cases (before the Examination Board has been composed and after the doctoral defence), the mentor/evaluator will immediately inform the Committee for Scientific Integrity.

§3. If, before the dissertation has been submitted, a mentor/evaluator suspects that there has been a breach of academic integrity in (parts of) this dissertation, as determined in the Regulations pertaining to the procedure to investigate breaches of academic integrity, this person will immediately inform the Examination Board of this, insofar as the Examination Board has already been composed. In all other cases (before the Examination Board has been composed and after the doctoral defence), the mentor/evaluator will immediately inform the Committee for Scientific Integrity. Committing plagiarism is considered a breach of academic integrity. The mentors and members of the Examination Board of the doctorate may test the originality of the submitted doctoral dissertations, for example by means of anti-plagiarism software.

§4. Each faculty may supplement or specify the basic definitions and concepts concerning fraud and irregularities and breaches of academic integrity in the supplementary faculty regulations. Distinctions may be made depending on the intended qualification. All additions or changes need to be made in accordance with applicable Ghent University regulations, guidelines and (policy) documents. This information is also communicated to the faculty's doctoral students.

§5. Whether or not an examination-related disciplinary measure will be imposed after an examination-related disciplinary decision is to be decided by the Examination Board or the assessment committee which is qualified for the evaluation of doctoral students or students enrolled in the predoctoral training programme suspected of fraud or irregularities (cf. §1).

§6. No later than 5 calendar days before the hearing, the (doctoral) student concerned will be invited by the chair of the relevant Examination Board or assessment committee, in order to be heard by them. The invitation is sent to the (doctoral) student's e-mail address connected to his/her Ghent University account and needs to state the time, date and place of the hearing, as well as describe the charges against the student and the possible disciplinary measure for exams as stated in §8. The (doctoral) student concerned is allowed to peruse the case file.

A Faculty ombudsperson will be invited to attend the hearing. At the hearing, the (doctoral) student may be accompanied by a trusted representative or legal adviser. If the (doctoral) student is legitimately absent, s/he has the right to let a legal adviser represent him/her or to put his/her defence forward in writing. If the (doctoral) student is absent from the hearing and has not appointed a legal representative, nor put forward any defence in writing, the Examination Board or assessment committee concerned will take cognizance of this and may yet officially deliberate on the case at hand and impose a disciplinary measure for exams.

§7. The Examination Board or assessment committee that is to rule on the fraud or irregularity offence will convene as soon as possible after the hearing in order to take a decision.

§8. The examination-related disciplinary measure is pronounced by the Examination Board or assessment committee concerned (cf. §1).

If the fraud or irregularities relate to a regular course unit, a specialized course, a doctoral seminar in transferable skills or a research-related activity, the examination disciplinary body may impose the following (combination of) examination-related disciplinary measures if the offences are deemed substantiated:

- The (doctoral) student's examination result is revised for the examination or the assignment by which the regular course unit from the (pre)doctoral training programme was evaluated, or s/he is given the designation that the specialized course, doctoral seminar in transferable skills or research-related activity concerned has not been obtained within the curriculum of the doctoral training programme.
- The (doctoral) student is given a 'fraud' designation for the regular course unit, the specialized course, the doctoral seminar in transferable skills or the research-related activity concerned from the (pre)doctoral training programme in question.
- The (doctoral) student cannot obtain a credit certificate for a part of the course units that s/he has taken in the academic year concerned. The number of course units for which this is the case is determined in consideration of the severity of the offence. This means that the (doctoral) student is given an examination mark of 0/20 for the course units concerned. It is possible that the (doctoral) student cannot obtain a credit certificate for any of the course units taken up.
- The (doctoral) student may be excluded from (part of) the evaluations in the resit examination period for the course units concerned.
- The (doctoral) student cannot take part in or be evaluated for other than the above-mentioned units of the doctoral training programme during the current academic year, or only to a limited degree, which is to be determined by the Examination Board.

If the fraud or the irregularities relate to the doctoral dissertation or the doctoral exam, the examination disciplinary body may, if the offences are deemed substantiated, impose the following examination-related disciplinary measures:

- The doctoral student who committed plagiarism in his/her doctoral dissertation is required to revise this doctoral dissertation in such a way that it no longer constitutes plagiarism. Subsequently, the doctoral student resubmits the doctoral dissertation to the Examination Board, which will then determine whether there are any instances of plagiarism left.
- The doctoral dissertation is refused and the doctoral student is not allowed to submit or defend a doctoral dissertation on the same subject or a subject that is closely related with the original topic.
- The doctoral dissertation is refused and the doctoral student is excluded.

The 'fraud' designation for a regular course unit implies that the doctoral student cannot be awarded any examination marks in the examination period concerned.

The 'fraud' designation for a specialized course, a doctoral seminar in transferable skills or research-related activities from the (pre)doctoral training programme implies that the doctoral student did not obtain these in the examination period concerned and that the student cannot be awarded a certificate from the Doctoral School for the units in question of the doctoral training programme.

If a doctoral student is excluded, s/he no longer has doctoral student status and is prohibited from re-enrolling at Ghent University for a number of academic years. This time span is specified in the examination-related disciplinary decision and cannot exceed a period of 10 academic years.

§9. After the examination disciplinary body has arrived at an examination-related disciplinary decision, the Examination Board rules whether or not the student has passed the doctoral training programme or the doctorate, in due consideration of the imposed examination-related disciplinary measure. For predoctoral training programmes, the Examination Board defers its decision whether or not the doctoral student has passed the deliberation set that features the course unit where the fraud or irregularities have allegedly been committed, until it has taken an examination-related disciplinary decision or until it has found that there are no grounds to take one.

§10. In some cases, the fraud is not discovered until after the (doctoral) student was awarded a credit certificate for a regular course unit, or until after s/he was declared to have passed a specialized course, doctoral seminar in transferable skills or a research-related activity, or until after s/he passed the doctoral exam. In such cases, the examination disciplinary body may as yet declare the obtained credit certificate or the result of the evaluation to be null and void. If appropriate, the examination disciplinary body may also declare the diploma or the certificate given for the study programme or the doctorate to be null and void and reclaim said diploma or certificate.

In addition to the aforementioned measures, the examination disciplinary body may also decide to impose examination-related disciplinary measures as specified under §8.

§11. In its report, the examination disciplinary body includes a list of the people present at the meeting. This report specifies the offence(s) and the motivations behind the examination-related disciplinary decision. The disciplinary body for exams communicates the decision to impose an examination-related disciplinary measure, possibly detailing what the measure will entail, to the student in question by registered mail. A copy of this report will then be delivered to the director of the Department of Educational Policy, the director of the Research Department and the Committee on Scientific Integrity.

§12. As long as no examination-related disciplinary decision has been found or as long as the examination-related disciplinary decision is not yet final, (doctoral) students suspected of fraud or irregularities may continue to take part in further evaluations of the (pre)doctoral training programme at their own risk. An examination-related disciplinary decision becomes final if an appeal or a subsequent external appeal fails to be filed in timely fashion or if

said external appeal is turned down by the Council for Disputes on Study Progress Decisions (Raad voor Betwistingen inzake Studievoortgangsbepalingen).

§13. Students may file an appeal against the examination-related disciplinary decision pronounced against them with the Institutional Appeals Committee, as specified in article 100.

§14. In accordance with §2 and §3, the stipulations of §4 up to and including §13 apply for the Examination Board for the doctoral examination. In accordance with §2 and §3, the [Regulations pertaining to the procedure to investigate breaches of academic integrity](#) apply for the Committee for Scientific Integrity.