

Policy for the awarding of the ius promovendi to assistant and associate professors

Version approved by the PhD Board on 14 February 2024

About this policy memorandum

Since 2017, it has been legally possible to award the ius promovendi to holders of academic positions other than professor. At the time, the UG decided to establish the award criteria for associate professors and to award the ius promovendi on a case-by-case basis. The UG now has around six years of experience using this policy, and developments (including discussions arising from the Recognition and Rewards programme) are underway to adapt the current practice.

Key principles

Key points to consider when developing the UG's new policy:

- Quality assurance for PhD supervision
- Powers and responsibilities regarding PhD supervision are in balance
- The award criteria are objectifiable and can be applied in all faculties
- The assessment as to whether a candidate fulfils the requirements is carried out by a Faculty Assessment Committee

Award criteria for the ius promovendi

The UG will not automatically grant an assistant/associate professor the ius promovendi. The following criteria must be fulfilled:

- The assistant/associate professor is employed by the UG or UMCG.
- The assistant/associate professor holds a PhD degree.
- The assistant/associate professor is a good researcher.
- The assistant/associate professor is a good supervisor.

The exact requirements for the last two criteria depend on the relevant discipline. At University level, the following clarification of these criteria is used.

Good researcher:

- In the opinion of the Faculty Assessment Committee, the candidate has a proven track record in research.

Good supervisor:

- The candidate has proven themselves to be a good supervisor by successfully having played a role in the supervision of at least two PhD students as a co-supervisor or similar. At least one of these PhD programmes must have been completed within the last five years. The candidate regularly supervises PhD students. A PhD programme is considered to have been completed when it has been positively evaluated by the Assessment Committee.
- The candidate has participated in a training course for supervisors of PhD students and can provide evidence of participation.

Faculty assessment

The Dean asks several members of the Faculty to assess, on the basis of the dossier submitted, whether the candidate meets the assessment criteria for the ius promovendi. In addition to the Director of the relevant research institute and the Director of the Graduate School, a professor from the relevant field may be considered. If this assessment coincides with the assessment for promotion to associate professor, both aspects may be dealt with simultaneously by the relevant committee.

Procedure

The Dean receives requests from candidates to be awarded the ius promovendi.

The candidate must substantiate this request with documentation, including an evidence-based curriculum vitae focused on the award criteria, a list of their five best publications, any external evidence of recognition as a researcher, an overview of research projects granted and completed, an overview of PhD projects supervised and completed, and the date and proof of a training course for supervisors of PhD students.

The Dean forwards the requests for advice internally to the Director of the research institute, the Director of the Graduate School, and a professor from the relevant discipline. These officials review the documentation, possibly consult others in the relevant discipline, and consult the primary supervisors of PhD students supervised by the assistant/associate professor.

The Dean forwards the recommendation to the PhD Board, together with the documentation and the assessment per criterion, using the standard report.

Name of candidate: Faculty:	
- The assistant/associate professor is employed by the UG or UMCG.	
- The assistant/associate professor holds a PhD degree.	Date: Title of PhD thesis
- In the opinion of the Faculty Assessment Committee, the assistant/associate professor is a good researcher.	
Explanatory notes:	
- The candidate has proven themselves to be a good supervisor by successfully having played a role in the supervision of at least two PhD students as a co-supervisor or similar. At least one of these PhD programmes was completed within the last five years. The candidate regularly supervises PhD students. A PhD programme is considered to have been completed when it has been positively evaluated by the assessment committee.	
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Completed PhD projects: names/dates	
- The candidate has participated in a training course for supervisors of PhD students (date of training) and can provide evidence of participation.	
Explanatory notes:	

Duration:

In principle, the ius promovendi is awarded for an indefinite period of time. The Dean may revoke this right on the grounds that the criteria are no longer met. The Dean is responsible for assessing whether the assistant/associate professor still satisfies the criteria for the ius promovendi.

If the criteria are no longer met, for example because complaints have been made by PhD students about their supervision, the Dean may ask the PhD Board to prematurely terminate the ius promovendi.

The ius promovendi obtained in this way is linked to the assistant/associate professor's appointment at the UG or UMCG. If the assistant/associate professor is honourably discharged or retires, the ius promovendi remains in place for five more years, to finalize any ongoing PhD projects. This means that the approval of the thesis by the assessment committee will have to take place within five years after the assistant/associate professor's discharge. After the discharge, no new PhD projects will begin.

What is the ius promovendi?

The ius promovendi gives assistant/associate professors the right to act as primary supervisors for PhD students at the UG and as second/third supervisors at other universities¹. It also provides the right to take a seat in the assessment committee of other PhD ceremonies at the UG (or at other universities). In spoken language, this committee is often still referred to by its former name, 'thesis committee'. These rights at other universities take effect as soon as they have been laid down in all PhD regulations. As a member of the PhD Examining Committee, assistant/associate professors with the ius promovendi may wear a toga during PhD ceremonies. Assistant/associate professors with the ius promovendi may not use the title of 'professor'².

¹ If an assistant/associate professor leaves the UG to go work at another university, the ius promovendi does not automatically transfer with them; the rules of the university in question apply.

² Adjunct professors automatically receive the ius promovendi upon appointment and may use the title of 'professor' during the period of their employment. Adjunct professors who are not promoted to the position of Professor 2 within seven years will retain the ius promovendi for five years after the end of their appointment, so that they can complete their current PhD projects. Adjunct professors are appointed for a maximum of seven years; this period lapses automatically. This means that an adjunct professor whose tenure track has ended will not be able to supervise any new PhD programmes as primary supervisor. The Dean can initiate the regular application procedure for the ius promovendi for assistant/associate professors to enable them to supervise new PhD students (see above). The staff member in question will not be able to act as primary supervisor for new PhD programmes if this procedure is not followed.