Guidelines UG PhD ceremonies as from 3 May 2021

As from 3 May 2021, a maximum of 15 people may attend a PhD ceremony in the Aula. The regular protocol for PhD ceremonies at the UG, together with the agreements stated below, will apply to these ceremonies. These arrangements were made to secure the safety of support staff and the attendees relating to COVID-19.

Maximum of 15 attendees in the Aula
A maximum of 15 people may be present in the Aula, including the PhD student, their supervisor(s), members of the PhD Examining Committee, the beadle, the assistants ('paranymphs') and, potentially, a photographer. The number may be completed with members of the audience, as long as it does not exceed the maximum of 15 people.

The Aula has been arranged so that all attendees are able to maintain a mutual distance of 1.5 metres. If desired, the PhD student, supervisor(s) and members of the PhD Examining Committee can attend the ceremony online. The Chair will always be physically present. Due to the limited space, a maximum of seven members of the 'Corona' (members of the PhD Examining Committee, including the Chair and the supervisor(s)) may be present in person.

The audience may attend the PhD ceremony through a live stream. The PhD Degree Registration Office will send Webex invitations to the 'Corona' members who will attend the ceremony online.

Face masks
All attendees must wear a face mask in the Academy Building. You must bring your own face mask. Once seated in the Aula, you can remove the face mask.

Guidelines Academy Building and routing
The attendees must follow the instructions of the Porter's Office in the Academy Building. They can enter the Academy Building through the side entrance and will follow a route to the Aula. If needed, the routing will be adjusted and guided by a so-called Corona host.

Preliminary meeting and deliberations in the Curatorenkamer
The preliminary meeting and the deliberations, held after the public thesis defence, take place in the Curatorenkamer. The PhD student's supervisors and members of the PhD Examining Committee may participate via video conference.

Deviations from the protocol
The following points deviate from the regular protocol for PhD ceremonies, as attached to the PhD regulations:
Point 5: If desired, the supervisor(s) and members of the PhD Board may take part via video conference.
Point 7: The Chair, and the supervisors and members of the PhD Examining Committee who are physically present will be guided to the auditorium.
Point 15: The supervisor(s) and members of the PhD Examining Committee who are not physically present will take part in the deliberations via video conference.
Point 16: In the case that a PhD student may be awarded the cum laude distinction, voting on this will be done orally. This process thus deviates from anonymous voting.
Point 20: If the PhD student's supervisor takes part via video conference, they will remain seated throughout the laudatio and the other texts to be read aloud.

Degree certificate and meeting form
The Chair and Secretary of the PhD Examining Committee and the supervisor(s) will sign the degree certificate and meeting form during the deliberations meeting as usual. If one or more supervisors or co-supervisors, and/or the Secretary cannot be physically present, the PhD Degree Registration Office will prepare the degree certificate and the meeting form with digital signature two weeks before the PhD ceremony. The Chair must always issue their signature pen-on-paper.

Date and time of the ceremony
The time block as scheduled in Hora Finita will be used. The PhD student shall be given the choice between a hybrid or fully digital ceremony. The PhD student may also decide to postpone the ceremony.

Reception
Until further notice, receptions cannot be organized in the Academy Building.

Dress code
The dress code may be relaxed; it may, for example, be difficult for a PhD student to hire a suit during this time. The requirement for attendees to wear sober clothing will still be enforced. Due to hygiene regulations, gowns cannot be borrowed.