Procedure for assigning 'ius promovendi' to an associate professor
This version is from October 14, 2026

The VU Doctorate Regulations, article 12, state that 'ius promovendi' (the right to act as supervisor) can be assigned to an associate professor.

The criteria for assigning 'ius promovendi' are the following:

1. The proposed supervisor is an excellent researcher, as evidenced by positive peer evaluations and recognition, such as the award of grants for externally funded research, the assessment 'excellent' on applications for such grants, or multiple peer reviewed publications evidencing a high level of scholarly excellence; and
2. the proposed supervisor is an excellent supervisor, as evidenced by at least two successfully completed doctorates that they have supervised in the formal role of co-supervisor.[1]

The College of Deans added:

3. The associate professor has been trained in the supervision of PhD candidates.[2]

Procedure

1. The associate professor submits a request to be granted 'ius promovendi' to the Graduate School of Social Sciences (GSSS): graduate.school.ssw@vu.nl. The following information should be included in the request:
   a) A short description of **at least two completed** promotion trajectories[3] in which the associate professor has been involved from the start as co-supervisor, including a description of the role played in the supervision team. Include a description of what was learned during the mentoring of successful and possibly unsuccessful candidates.
   b) A copy of the PhD training certificate.
   c) References (if available) to major successful grant applications or applications that were at least marked as 'excellent'.
   d) A list of scientific, peer-reviewed publications, with the three most prestigious ones highlighted.
2. The GSSS Director reviews the submitted request, determines whether the associate professor meets the relevant criteria, and thereafter advises the Dean whether or not to grant 'ius promovendi'.
3. The Dean decides on the application for 'ius promovendi', taking the advice of the GSSS Director into account.
4. Once an associate professor has been granted 'ius promovendi', they can act as first supervisor for any number of subsequent PhD candidates.

[1] VU Doctorate Regulations, Procedural regulations, article 3 (criteria 1 and 2).
[2] Decision by the College of Deans in 2022 (criterion 3).
[3] If the PhD trajectory was not completed at the VU Graduate School of Social Sciences, attach formal institutional documentation showing the involvement as co-supervisor, such as a manuscript title page where the supervisory team is listed, or a signed institutional letter from the Dean/Head of Department.