

Ghent University PhD Community – Articles of Association

ENGLISH VERSION – UNOFFICIAL

TITLE I : PURPOSE

Art. 1 Name

The name of the association is Ghent University PhD Community, abbreviated PhDC UGent.

Art. 2 Purpose

The Ghent University PhD Community is a de facto association ('feitelijke vereniging') whose purpose is to organise activities for the benefit of PhD researchers at Ghent University.

To fulfil this purpose, the Ghent University PhD Community organises social and cultural events that enhance the network of PhD researchers, improve interdisciplinary cooperation between researchers, promote the potential of PhD researchers vis-à-vis external actors and, in a broader sense, benefit the social and professional life of PhD researchers at Ghent University.

Art. 3 Language

The Ghent University PhD Community uses Dutch and English as working languages.

Art. 4 Organisation

The Ghent University PhD Community is a de facto association ('feitelijke vereniging') for an indefinite period of time founded and managed by PhD researchers of Ghent University.

The Ghent University PhD Community is an independently operating de facto association supported by the Doctoral Schools Office of UGent and the University OAP consultation ('Universitair OAP-overleg'), with which the Ghent University PhD Community meets at regular intervals.

The Ghent University PhD Community has its registered seat at Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, 9000 Ghent (Doctoral Schools Office t.a.v. Ghent University PhD Community).

TITLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Art. 5 Membership

Membership of the Ghent University PhD Community is open to any doctoral researcher connected to Ghent University, regardless of their status.

Each member is part of the Board of the Ghent University PhD Community.

Upon termination of the PhD trajectory, membership of the PhD Community is terminated, notwithstanding the possibility to continue an existing engagement for a reasonable period of time.

Membership is free of charge.

Art. 6 Application for membership

The Ghent University PhD Community organises a call for new members at regular intervals. New members can also apply by contacting the Ghent University PhD Community themselves via its website, social media or members.

Art. 7 Engagement

Membership of the PhD Community implies a commitment to commit oneself, for at least one academic year, to the purpose of the PhD Community. This commitment is exemplified (among others) by participating and contributing to the internal organisation and events of the Ghent University PhD Community, taking into account to the extent possible the individual capacities and availabilities of each member.

Art. 8 Withdrawal

Notwithstanding the provisions of Art. 7, a member may withdraw from the association at any time. In doing so, a member shall, to the extent possible, take into account the completion of an existing commitment.

Art. 9 Voluntariness

Membership of the Ghent University PhD Community is based on the principle of voluntariness. No remuneration is linked to membership.

TITLE III: ORGANS

Art. 10 Organs

The Ghent University PhD Community has 2 organs, namely (1) a Board and (2) a General Assembly.

Section I: Board

Art. 11 Composition & authority

The Board consists of all members of the Ghent University PhD Community and is a permanent body.

The Board is authorised to organise the activities of the PhD community and has residual powers.

In function of the needs of the Ghent University PhD Community, the Board meets at regular intervals and makes decisions by a simple majority of those present on the basis of an agenda drawn up by the steering committee.

Every member of the Ghent University PhD Community has voting rights at meetings of the Board.

There are no restrictions on the number of Board members. Based on the needs of the Ghent University PhD Community, working groups can be created that are responsible for the organisation of a sub-aspect of the goal of the Ghent University PhD Community, such as the organisation of a specific task or activity.

Art. 12 Steering Committee

Each academic year, during the final meeting of the Board, a steering committee is elected for the following academic year. Members of the steering committee are part of the Board.

Every member who is active in the PhD Community for at least one full academic year can stand for election to the steering committee at this meeting. The steering committee represents the Ghent University PhD Community to external parties. Members of the steering committee are elected individually by a simple majority of votes from those present.

The steering committee consists at least of the following positions, with any additional positions serving the needs of the Ghent University PhD Community being created by the Board:

One or more internal chairperson(s), who serves as the ultimate person responsible for the internal organisation of the PhD community, prepares meetings of the board and fulfils a general steering function.

One or more financial chairperson(s), who holds final responsibility for the financial management and budget of the Ghent University PhD Community, and in doing so consults with the competent bodies of Ghent University.

One or more IT-manager(s), who acts as the person with final responsibility for the website of the Ghent University PhD Community, and undertakes to comply with any conditions imposed for the management of the Ghent University PhD Community's web page within Ghent University.

Section II: General Assembly

Art. 13 Composition & authority

Every year, the Board organises one general assembly, with the aim of organising this assembly at the end of an operational year, preferably during the month of June. The Board shall ensure that this meeting is publicly announced. The general assembly is not a permanent body and meets when convened by the executive Board.

Every doctoral researcher affiliated with Ghent University can participate in this meeting and has the right to speak.

During the general meeting, the steering committee, in cooperation with the Board, gives an overview of the functioning of the Ghent University PhD Community during the past academic year. The general meeting can be consulted on any matter relating to the purpose of the Ghent University PhD Community.

TITLE IV: FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 14 Amendments

These articles of association may be amended on the proposal of (at least) 2/3rds of the members of the Steering Committee. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Board and the General Assembly for consultation. Amendments can be made by 2/3rds majority of the board members present at the next Board meeting following the general meeting.

Art. 15 Language articles of association

The official language of these articles of association is Dutch. An unofficial English translation of these statutes is made available on the info channels of the Ghent University PhD Community. In case of conflict between both language versions, the Dutch text shall prevail.

Art. 16 Dissolution

The Ghent University PhD Community may be dissolved by unanimous proposal of the Steering Committee and after consultation of the Doctoral Schools Office, which must be subsequently ratified by 3/4th majority of those present by both the Executive Committee and a specially convened general meeting.

After dissolution, members have no personal claim to the assets of the Ghent University PhD Community. Any remaining assets will, after discharge of debts, be transferred to the Doctoral Schools Office.

Approved on 12th January 2023, Ghent.

