

Categories of PhD students

Wageningen University distinguishes five categories of PhD candidates:

1. Research Assistant
2. Sandwich PhD student
3. Staff
4. Guest PhD student
5. External PhD student

Funding Sources:

1] Wageningen University funded research ('1e geldstroom')

2] NWO funded research ('2e geldstroom')

PhD research funded by NWO (*Nederlandse organisatie Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* / Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research).

3] Funded by a third party ('3e geldstroom')

e.g. EU, industries, fellowships other than those financed by Wageningen University or NWO. PhD candidates who are funded by a third party require a **'letter of agreement'** or PhD contract before they can formally be admitted to the PhD Programme. This letter of agreement is a contract between Wageningen University and the PhD candidate's sponsor regarding logistics and financial issues. The contract will be drafted by the concerned department according to the specific situation of the PhD candidate.

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1. Research Assistant

This category of PhD candidates, previously known as AIO and OIO, has a temporary appointment at Wageningen University, usually for a period of 4 years (full-time employment).

2. Sandwich PhD Student

Sandwich PhD students are international PhD candidates who are not employed by Wageningen University but have a grant and in general only spend the initial and last 6-8 months of the 4-year PhD Programme in Wageningen. The first period is spent elaborating on the proposal, studying literature and following courses, while the last period is spent finishing the thesis. In the intermediate period the PhD candidate performs his/her research in the country of origin. These PhD candidates need to have the support of both their home institute and supervisor at Wageningen University. The actual research takes place in the PhD candidate's own country under local supervision. During this period, contact with the supervisor in Wageningen is by e-mail and annual visits.

3. Staff

PhD candidates in this category are already employees of Wageningen University and are given the opportunity to conduct PhD research. This category of PhD candidates will not be charged any fees. Registration at the Central Student Administration is also not necessary. These PhD candidates might already have significant teaching and/or research experience. The Training and Supervision Plan will be adapted to this experience.

4. Guest PhD student

Guest PhD students are PhD candidates who perform their research at Wageningen University but are not employed by Wageningen University.

This category of PhD candidate has to pay a tuition fee and departmental fees. When applying to the PhD Programme of Wageningen University, the PhD candidate must be able to demonstrate at an early stage that he/she has secured appropriate financial support as well as commitment from the relevant department / institute in Wageningen.

5. External PhD student

PhD candidates in this category are not employed by Wageningen University and conduct (or have conducted) their research at an institute other than Wageningen University. The link with Wageningen University is primarily via the supervisor.

These PhD students do not pay a University Fee and are not entitled to an education budget. If the PhD candidate follows an education programme, it is paid for by the PhD sponsor.

A schematic overview of the PhD categories:

	Category	University fee	Departmental fee	Education budget
1	Research Assistant			
	Wageningen University Funding	No	No	Yes
	NWO Funding	No	No	Yes
	Funding by a third party	No	No	Yes
2	Sandwich PhD student			
	Wageningen University Funding	No	No	Yes ¹
	NWO Funding	No	No	Yes ¹
	Funding by a third party	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹
3	Staff			
	Wageningen University Funding	No	No	No
	NWO Funding	No	No	No
	Funding by a third party	No	No	No
4	Guest PhD Student	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹
5	External			
	With TSP	No	No	No ²
	Without TSP	No	No	No

¹ Only applicable for PhD candidates who started after January 2002

² External PhD students from an International Education Institute (ITC, IHE), who will graduate at Wageningen University, receive an education budget from Wageningen University