

Wageningen University PhD Programme



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY

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Introduction

Wageningen University is a leading international institute in the fields of nutrition and health, sustainable agriculture, environment and processes of social change. Apart from domestic activities, Wageningen University is known for its international approach to research.

The wide variety of disciplines within Wageningen University, which focus on human, animal and plant life and the environment, allow for an integrated approach to both fundamental and applied research. Our pioneering research and innovative education create an excellent setting for PhD study.

The Wageningen Graduate Schools

Research at Wageningen University is organised in 7 Graduate Schools, each having a specific research field, defined by their mission and research themes. The Wageningen University Graduate Schools have three main tasks:

1. To stimulate and co-ordinate the development of a coherent university research programme within the mission of the graduate school
2. To safeguard and stimulate the quality of academic research (PhD, Postdocs and staff)
3. To co-ordinate, develop and facilitate post-graduate education

The Graduate Schools of Wageningen University are formally organised in WGS (Wageningen Graduate Schools). Several Graduate Schools also have participants from other national universities and institutes. Below is a description of the 7 Wageningen Graduate Schools, their research scope and their individual themes:

CERES Research School for Resource Studies for Human Development

Research scope:

Unravel the interactions of local and regional level organisation of production and consumption and changing international relations, thereby addressing issues of poverty and inequality.

Research themes:

- State, risk and society
- Knowledge, technology and social transformation
- Processes of distribution and management of natural resources

Email: ceres@wur.nl

Graduate School Experimental Plant Sciences (EPS)

Research scope:

To organise the training of PhD students and postdocs to deliver self-reliant, skilled researchers in the field of basic and strategic research on healthy plants or plants affected by biotic or abiotic factors. An understanding of the functioning of plants offers new means for establishing sustainable agriculture and sustainable production of food, feed, non-food and green energy, and is also essential for the management of renewable natural resources.

To create a national platform for plant scientists to facilitate mutual consultation, collaboration and co-ordination in research, research policy, fund raising, societal discussions and representation at the national and international level, thus contributing to solutions for societal problems.

Research themes:

- Developmental biology of plants
- Interactions between plants and biotic agents
- Metabolism and adaptation
- Genome plasticity

Email: secretary@graduateschool-eps.info

Mansholt Graduate School of Social Sciences (MGS)

Research scope:

Contributing to the transformation of agriculture, rural areas and agri-chains and food chains towards multifunctionality and sustainability.

Research themes:

- Rural activities and green space
- Consumer-oriented chains
- Institutions

Email: office.mansholt@wur.nl

C.T. de Wit Graduate School for Production Ecology and Resource Conservation (PE&RC)

Research scope:

Understanding the functioning of ecosystems and agri-ecosystems to enable the development of sustainable and multifunctional production and land use systems.

Research themes:

- Effects of scale
- Biodiversity
- Quality
- Sustainability

Email: office.pe@wur.nl

Graduate School VLAG (Food Technology, Agrobiotechnology, Nutrition and Health Sciences)

Research scope:

Performing research leading to future innovation in the areas of food technology, nutrition and health at the crossroads of different disciplines. Production of non-food products may also be studied where there is an evident relationship with the processing of food products.

Research themes:

- Sustainable production
- Product and ingredient structuring and functionality
- Food safety
- Nutrition, metabolism and health

Email: vlag@wur.nl

Graduate School Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences (WIAS)

Research scope:

Improve our understanding of animals and their various roles for mankind through fundamental and strategic research.

The WIAS research programmes cover the fields of:

- Animal health and welfare
- Food security and quality
- Ecology and society

Email: info@wias.nl

Wageningen Institute for Environment and Climate Research (WIMEK)

Research scope:

Analysis of the causes and the ecological and societal effects of environmental problems originating from substance flows through environment and society, the development of solutions for sustainable environmental management and nature conservation, and the ecological transformation of production and consumption.

Research themes:

- Micro pollutants
- Environmental change and ecosystem dynamics
- Global change: climate, land use and biogeochemical cycles
- Industrial transformation – towards sustainable use of energy and materials
- Fundamental methodological research

Email: wimek@wur.nl

The Wageningen University PhD Programme

The four-year PhD programme largely consists of conducting research (under supervision) and writing a thesis (dissertation) and up to 15% time investment in participating in educational activities (e.g. courses, seminars at Wageningen University or elsewhere) and supervising MSc students. These tasks are defined in a Training and Supervision Plan. This tailor-made Training and Supervision Plan aims at acquiring in-depth knowledge of specific research issues, improving general skills as well as broadening the candidate's scientific scope and integrating the PhD research in other research areas and in a societal context. At graduation the PhD student is expected to be a self-reliant, highly qualified and skilled researcher in the field of basic and strategic research.

Categories of PhD students

Wageningen University recognises different categories of PhD candidates. The category that best fits your situation depends on the way the PhD programme will be funded and whether or not you will conduct your research as an employee of Wageningen University. Below you will find a description of the various categories.

1. Junior Researcher

PhD candidates who are temporary employees of Wageningen University, usually for a period of 4 years. This category was in the past known as AIO or OIO, the Dutch abbreviation for Research Trainee.

2. Sandwich PhD student

Foreign PhD candidates who are not employed by Wageningen University but have a grant and 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, with the thesis being finalised in the last 6-8 months. 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 their 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 email and annual visits.

3. Staff

PhD candidates who are already employees of Wageningen University and are given the opportunity to conduct PhD research.

4. Guest PhD student

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

5. External PhD student

PhD candidates who 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.

Admission requirements

Admission requirements vary depending on the PhD category. Junior Researchers are appointed via a job application (vacancy announcement). Sandwich PhD students, Guest PhD students and External PhD students must meet the requirements listed below, and send a complete file to one of the Wageningen Graduate Schools, containing:

- **A Letter motivating the application**
- **Proof of financial support**
- **Proof of local commitment from the home institute** (in the case of Sandwich PhD construction)
- **Photocopy of diplomas for higher education and transcripts of academic records** (If not in English, also send official translations)
- **Proof of proficiency in the English language** (*Candidates from non-Anglophone countries must add a certificate of proficiency, issued by a recognised language institute; this may not be more than 24 months old.*)
- **Photocopy of the applicant's valid passport**
- **Preliminary research proposal*** (about two A4), that should include:
 - a problem definition
 - research questions
 - the proposed methodology
 - literature references
- **Curriculum Vitae**, including information on the applicant's
 - education
 - research experience
 - list of publications
- **References** from at least two supervisors/professors, with information regarding the applicant's performance on the Masters programme and the applicant's prospects for finishing a PhD degree in the area of application.

Note: For Sandwich PhD candidates, the research proposal should preferably be linked to the applicant's country of origin, or should be of interest to research organisations in the applicant's country of origin. The pre-proposal must demonstrate that the applicant is competent in independent scientific research and has the qualities necessary to be enrolled in the PhD programme.

Costs

PhD candidates need funding for the following:

- University fee
- Departmental fee (research fee)
- Costs of living in Wageningen
- Visa & Residence permit

Wageningen University can not assist in finding (additional) funding.

University Fee

The following PhD candidates pay a one-time university fee of € 5000.

- **Sandwich PhD students:** not funded by Wageningen University or NWO (Dutch Organisation for Scientific research)
- **Guest PhD students**

Departmental Fee

PhD candidates financed by an organisation or institution other than Wageningen University are required to pay a monthly Departmental fee (research fee). The Departmental fee varies, depending on the type of research. The exact amount of the departmental fee will be determined by the department involved. For example, desk-based research may involve less cost than research which requires the use of laboratory facilities.

Note: The departmental fees are subject to change. For an up to date overview of the fees, please check the Wageningen University PhD website: <http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/>

Costs of living in Wageningen

On average, overall monthly expenditure will be about € 900. Please take the following expenses into account:

- Rent of student accommodation: between € 235 and € 290 per month

- Health insurance and legal liability insurance: € 40 per month
- Books and study materials

Costs of travel to and from the Netherlands, and visa costs are not included.

Visa & Legal Residence

Legal residence in the Netherlands means that you, as a foreigner, reside in the Netherlands with permission of the Dutch government in order to make use of a specific facility in this country.

Under Dutch law, universities must verify that foreign students are legally resident in the Netherlands before registering them as a student. This is done by checking whether they have reported to the aliens registration officials and, if applicable, have applied for a residence permit.

Students from outside the European Union who plan to stay for longer than 3 months, as well as all students from within the European Union (regardless of the duration of their stay), have to report to the Municipality of Wageningen within three days of their arrival in the Netherlands. EU citizens do not formally need a residence permit. However, if they plan to stay in the Netherlands for a period longer than 6 months it is advisable to apply for a residence permit. Costs are € 28.

Costs of a residence permit for non-EU citizens are:

- € 250 application fee at a Dutch consulate or embassy
- € 188 for the actual residence permit

Note: The above information is subject to change. For detailed information and further specification of the regulations, visit the Dutch Immigration Services website: www.IND.nl (also in English) or contact a Dutch consulate or embassy.

Application

For additional and more detailed information on the above subjects, please have a look at our website:

<http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/>

For applications: Send a complete file to one of the Graduate Schools of Wageningen University (see Admission requirements). Incomplete applications will not be taken into

Wageningen University & Research Centre

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While every effort was made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure was correct at the time of going to press, it is subject to change.

