## Costs of living in Wageningen

On average, overall monthly expenditure is about € 1000 • Books and study materials: approximately € 200 which include:

- Rent of student accommodation: between € 300 and € 500 per month
- Health insurance and legal liability insurance: approximately € 50 per month
- Groceries: approximately € 300 per month

Note that costs of travel to and from the Netherlands and visa costs (€ 650 for a stay of more than three months) must also be considered.

### Application

Research assistants and staff PhD candidates are recruited via vacancy announcements on Academic Transfer. In other cases candidates start by selecting a Graduate School in which the candidates proposed project fits best.

Subsequently the candidate submits an application to that graduate school which includes:

- 1 Cover letter describing the motivation to apply.
- 2 Preliminary research proposal (approximately two pages), containing:
- problem definition
- research questions
- proposed methodology linked to the research questions
- up-to-date literature references
- 3 References from at least two supervisors or professors. The references must contain information regarding the candidate's performance during the Master programme and should contain a reflection on the candidate's capacity to finish a PhD in the area of application.
- 4 Curriculum Vitae, including information on education, research experience and, if applicable, list of publications.
- 5 Photocopy of diplomas of higher education (both BSc and MSc) minimum requirement being an equivalent of a Master's degree. Also include transcripts of academic applicant. records. An additional official translation is required if the documents are not in English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish or Afrikaans.
- 6 If the candidate is not Dutch, from a non-Anglophone country and has not completed the higher education with English as the language of instruction, an inter-

nationally recognised Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language should be submitted. Minimum required scores:

- TOEFL internet-based 90, with minimum sub-score
- IELTS 6.5, with minimum sub-score 6.0 for speaking
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) with minimum grade B
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) any grade

Test results must be dated within 24 months prior to the application.

- 7 Photocopy of the candidate's (valid) passport.
- 8 Information on funding. Wageningen University and the Graduate Schools will usually not assist in finding funding sources. There is a much higher chance of being accepted if funding is secured.
- 9 For Sandwich PhD candidates: Proof of commitment from the home institute.

The Graduate School evaluates the application. After a positive evaluation the application is forwarded to a prospective supervisor (Professor) from Wageningen University for further evaluation. If the application is approved by the supervisor she/he will contact the

For more information about the application procedure see: http://www.wageningenUR.nl/en/ Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/Application.htm



Wageningen University is part of Wageningen UR (University & Research centre) www.wageningenUR.nl





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Claudius van de Vijver and Emiel van Puffelen April 2014

We have done our best to provide you with correct information; however, no rights can be derived from this publication.

The mission of Wageningen University is 'To explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life'. It is a leading international institute in the fields of nutrition and health, sustainable agriculture and multifunctional land use, environment, and processes of social change. Its strength lies in the interaction of the various fields of natural and social sciences that allow for an integrated approach to both fundamental and applied research. The available research and innovative education opportunities are often at the forefront of pioneering research and form an excellent setting for PhD training and research. This has given Wageningen University an excellent international reputation and consequently some 1900 PhD candidates from all over the world are enrolled in the Wageningen University PhD programme.

# The PhD Programme

Wageningen University offers a four-year PhD programme. The focus of the programme is the PhD research project (setting up, planning and performing research, then writing it up and presenting it), which leads to a thesis and associated publications. The research is done under the supervision of scientific staff.

PhD candidates are also required to spend 15% of their time on training and education activities, such as courses, seminars, conferences and workshops to broaden their skills, deepen their knowledge and increase their exposure • Publish in peer reviewed journals or books or comto the international scientific community. PhD candidates who are employed by a Dutch tax-paying organisation

(like Wageningen UR) have the option to spend up to 10% of their time teaching.

Upon completion the PhD candidate is required to be

- Function as an independent scientist (hypothesis development, testing and communication)
- Integrate the research in a theoretical framework of the discipline as well as a broader area of research
- Place one's own work in a societal context
- municate a design that is described in the thesis

## The Wageningen Graduate Schools

The PhD programme is coordinated by six Graduate Schools of Wageningen University, each working in a specific research field. Together they constitute "Wageningen Graduate Schools" (WGS). Several Graduate Schools also have participants from other national universities and institutes. The six Wageningen University Graduate Schools are listed below.

### 1 Experimental Plant Sciences (EPS)

The mission of EPS is:

- To organise the training of PhD candidates to become self-reliant, societal skilled researchers in the field of basic and strategic research on healthy plants or plants affected by biotic or abiotic factors. The 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.
- plant scientists for mutual consultation, collaboration and coordination in research, research policy, fundraising, societal discussions and representation at the national and international level, thus contributing to I www.graduateschool-eps.info solutions for societal problems.

• To create an international network with graduate schools in Northwestern Europe for joint PhD activities and collaboration in research activities.

EPS organises and coordinates fundamental and strategic plant research of the collaborating universities, aiming at the development of new principles in plant molecular biology, plant physiology, plant growth for sustainable agriculture and horticulture, plant breeding and plant

Research programmes:

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

Scientific Director: Prof. A.H.J. Bisseling

• To create a national platform for academic experimental **Contact:** Dr. I.J.E. Vleghels (executive secretary)/ Dr. D. Zuidema (PhD Programme coordinator)

T +31 317 48 47 57

E secretary@graduateschool-eps.info

# 2 Production Ecology and Resource Conservation

The mission of PE&RC is to understand the functioning of (agro)ecosystems to design and enable the development of sustainable and multifunctional production and land use

This mission can be viewed from various temporal and spatial scales and different levels of biological integration and complexity where production refers to products as well as services (e.g. recreation, biodiversity). PE&RC research ranges from intensive agro-systems (e.g. glasshouses) to extensive (semi-)natural systems (e.g. agro-forests and savannas). Bio-/geo-sciences are corner stones of PE&RC research, but communication and collaboration with social sciences are essential for the design and development of sustainable and multifunctional land use systems.

Research in PE&RC can be divided into four overlapping themes that range from sub-individual to global levels of integration:

- Systems biology
- Bio-/geo-interactions and biodiversity
- · Complex adaptive systems
- · Innovative nature

Scientific Director: Prof. L. Brussaard

**Contact:** Dr. ir. T.H. Jetten (executive secretary)/ Dr. C.A.D.M. van de Vijver (PhD Programme coordinator) T +31 317 48 36 87/+31 317 48 51 16

E office.pe@wur.nl

I www.pe-rc.nl

### 3 Advanced studies in Food Technology, Agro-Biotechnology, Nutrition and Health Sciences (VLAG)

The mission of VLAG is to develop the careers of young researchers and to promote research collaboration in Food Technology, Agro-Biotechnology, Nutrition, and Health Sciences. As a community of academic research groups and institutions, VLAG aims to contribute to the development of better food and nutrition, for better health of individuals and better health of the environment.

VLAG is a partnership between Wageningen University, Maastricht University Medical Centre+, and five research institutes: NIZO food research, Wageningen UR Food & Biobased Research, RIKILT, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), and TNO.

The research portfolio of VLAG is mainly composed of the work done within the Agrotechnology & Food Sciences Group organised within four clusters:

- Food Sciences
- · Biomolecular Sciences

- Bio-based Sciences
- Nutrition Sciences

Scientific Director: Prof. R.M. Boom

**Contact:** Dr. F. Pepping (executive secretary)

- T +31 317 48 51 08/+31 317 48 57 51
- E vlag@wur.nl
- I www.vlaggraduateschool.nl

### 4 Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS)

The mission of WASS is to understand social processes with regard to today's global challenges of disparities and poverty, of responsible production and consumption, of natural resource use and the environment, as well as of knowledge in society.

WASS research analyses interactions between institutions practices and social change, often in relation to the material-physical world of natural resources, technologies and artefacts. Research topics include major societal transformation processes such as globalisation of markets, technological changes, unequal access to resources, climate change, shifts in political power and economic prosperity, fast developments in the information society, and emerging fluidity of boundaries between science and politics.

WASS researchers work in a variety of social science disciplines and also develop interdisciplinary (beta-gamma) methodologies to bridge scientific disciplines.

### Research themes:

- Disparities: poverty, wealth and distribution
- Responsible production and consumption: sustainability, health and quality
- Natural resources and the environment: conflicts, competition and collaboration
- Knowledge in society: contestation, boundaries and bridges

Scientific Director: Prof. A.P.J. Mol

**Contact:** Dr. E. Roguas (executive secretary)/ Dr. S. Wahlen (PhD programme coordinator)

T +31 317 48 41 26/+31 317 48 29 23 E wass@wur.nl

I www.wageningenUR.nl/wass

### 5 Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences

The mission of WIAS is to improve our understanding of animals and their various roles for mankind through fundamental and strategic research and training of early stage researchers (PhD and post-doc).

WIAS is engaged in fundamental and strategic research and provides training for young researchers on societally relevant animals, ranging from commercial animals such as livestock and fish, to experimental animals such as zebra fish, mice and rats, to companion animals and free ranging (wild) animals.

Scientific Director: Prof. J.A.J. Verreth

**Contact:** D.L. Magendans, MSc (executive secretary)

T +31 317 48 26 41

E info@wias.nl

I www.wias.nl

### 6 Wageningen Institute for Environment and Climate Research (WIMEK)

WIMEK aims at developing an integrated understanding of environmental change and its impact on the quality of life and sustainability and offering solutions for environmental improvement. It is WIMEK's ambition to excel as:

- School for multidisciplinary PhD training
- Network for high-quality environmental research
- Bridge for sustainable solutions around the globe

WIMEK actively participates in the Dutch inter-university network of environmental research groups: the Research School for the Socio-Economic and Natural Sciences of the Environment (SENSE). Through SENSE, WIMEK PhD candidates are part of an interdisciplinary community offering a broad range of high level courses and opportunities for networking and exchange.

### Research themes:

- Environmental contaminants and nutrients
- Environmental processes and ecosystem dynamics
- Global and regional environmental change
- Sustainable development and social change: actors, institutions and governance
- Spatial analyses

Scientific Director: Prof. H.H.M. (Huub) Rijnaarts

**Contact:** J. Feenstra (executive secretary)

T +31 317 48 48 36

E wimek@wur.nl

I www.wimek.wur.nl & www.sense.nl

# Categories of PhD candidates

A Wageningen University five categories of PhD candidates are identified, each category having a specific relation with the organisation:

- **1 Research Assistant:** PhD candidate who is a temporary employee of Wageningen University.
- **2 Staff:** PhD candidate who has a permanent position at Wageningen University.
- **3 Sandwich PhD:** PhD candidate with a scholarship whose research is primarily conducted at the home institute or in his/her country of residence/origin. There are two types of Sandwich PhD candidates:
- a. Sandwich fellowship PhD candidates: PhD project funded from outside Wageningen UR.

- b. Sandwich employee PhD candidates: PhD project funded by Wageningen UR.
- 4 Guest PhD: Foreign PhD candidates who do their research at Wageningen University but are not employed by Wageningen University. Funding generally comes from a local, national or international funding agency.
- **5 External PhD:** PhD candidate not employed by Wageningen University who conducts research at an institute other than Wageningen University and whose only affiliation with Wageningen University is via the supervisor.

### **Tuition fees**

Tuition fees differ between categories of PhD candidates. Some indications are given below

	Category	Tuition fee
1	Research assistant	No
2	Staff PhD (not a research assistant)	No
3	Sandwich PhD	
	Wageningen University Funding	No
	NWO Funding	No
	Funding by a third party	€ 1000/month
4	Guest PhD	€ 1000/month
5	External PhD	No

Please note that:

- 1 Wageningen University cannot assist in securing funding.
- 2 Tuition fees are levied by sciences groups/chair groups, which may specify exceptions.
- 3 All PhD candidates who are registered at a Wageningen graduate school and will defend their thesis at Wageningen University receive an Education Budget of min. € 2500,-