

## About WASS

WASS currently hosts around 400 PhD candidates, about 25 post-docs and some 160 fellows (senior researchers), working on four broad themes: Disparities, Responsible production and consumption, Natural resources and the environment, and Knowledge in society.

## Chair groups participating in WASS

Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy	AEP
Business Economics	BEC
Business Management and Organisation	BMO
Consumption and Healthy Lifestyles	CHL
Cultural Geography	GEO
Development Economics	DEC
Education and Learning Sciences	ELS
Environmental Economics and Natural Resources	ENR
Environmental Policy	ENP
Forest and Nature Conservation Policy	FNP
Health and Society	HSO
Information Technology	INF
Knowledge, Technology and Innovation	KTI
Land Use Planning	LUP
Law and Governance	LAW
Marketing and Consumer Behaviour	MCB
Operations Research and Logistics	ORL
Philosophy	PHI
Public Administration and Policy	PAP
Rural and Environmental History	RHI
Rural Sociology	RSO
Sociology of Development and Change	SDC
Strategic Communication	COM
Urban Economics	UEC
Water Resources Management	WRM

## Contact

For more information contact your own study advisor or WASS ([fennie.vanstralen@wur.nl](mailto:fennie.vanstralen@wur.nl))



# WASS Graduate Programme

For MSc students in  
MAM, MCH, MCL, MDR, MES, MFN,  
MID, MLP, MME and MUE

# WASS Graduate Programme

The Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS) Graduate Programme offers motivated MSc students from several MSc programmes the opportunity to follow a special track starting in the second half of the first year of their MSc. The specific content and scheduling of this track differs per MSc programme and is determined in consultation with your study advisor.

The programme prepares students for a PhD position by providing them with additional support for writing and defending their own PhD research proposal. Participants receive the best possible training and supervision in their endeavour to become a PhD candidate thereafter.

Students who complete the graduate programme will receive a WASS certificate. WASS intends to earmark budget for (at least) one PhD position for the student with the best PhD proposal each year. Students can compete during the yearly WASS open round for PhD positions. Where students need to submit a proposal in cooperation with a WASS-aligned chair group.

Eligible MSc programmes:

<b>MAM</b> Aquaculture and Marine Resource Management*	<b>MES</b> Environmental Sciences*
<b>MCH</b> Communication, Health and Life Sciences	<b>MFN</b> Forest and Nature Conservation*
<b>MCL</b> Climate Studies*	<b>MID</b> International Development studies
<b>MDR</b> Development and Rural Innovation	<b>MLP</b> Landscape Architecture and Planning*
<b>MME</b> Management, Economics and Consumer studies	<b>MUE</b> Urban Environmental Management*

## Educational elements

The programme will be as much as possible incorporated in your regular MSc programme and consists of the following elements:

- 1. WASS orientation (3 ECTS):** The orientation offers insight in the research programmes of the chair groups of WASS and in the PhD trajectory. With this knowledge, the course guides students in making an informed choice for a research topic, a chair group and a tutor for writing a PhD proposal.
- 2. Advanced master courses/ WASS interdisciplinary windows (min. 8 ECTS)**
  - a. Advanced master courses: Restricted optional courses (6 ECTS each), offering advanced knowledge on theory or methodology;
  - b. WASS interdisciplinary windows: Tutorials (2 ECTS each) developed within one of the WASS themes, in which small groups of MSc students and PhD candidates guided by senior experts, deepen their knowledge on theory or methodology.
- 3. A minor thesis (24 ects)** at another selected university or research organisation, preferably abroad;
- 4. A research master cluster (12 ects) aimed at writing and defending a PhD proposal.**

\*The graduate programme student has to write the major thesis at a WASS aligned chair group (see back of the flyer)

# Selection

In order to be admitted to the graduate programme, students need to:

- » be enrolled in one of the eligible MSc programmes
- » send the following items to the selection committee:
  - a motivation letter conveying fascination for research (1 A4)
  - an official transcript of BSc and MSc records (as far as completed): an average of at least 7.5 is mandatory
  - a CV

In addition, a positive advise from the study advisor will be needed. Which the selection committee will obtain after submission.

The application deadline is Monday 16 November 2020. The selection will take place in December. The selection committee will consist of the Chair of the WASS Board and Director of WASS and one of the master programme directors.

## Graduate programme courses

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
WASS Graduate Programme Courses (6 ECTS)					
Analysing Discourse: Theories, Methods and Techniques		Advanced Qualitative Research Design and Data Collection Methods		Advanced Macro-economics	Quantitative Data Analysis: Multivariate Techniques
Advanced Micro-economics					Qualitative Data Analysis: Procedures and Strategies
Advanced Social Theory					Modelling and Simulation of Complex Socio-Technical Systems
					WASS Orientation (3 ECTS)
WASS Interdisciplinary Windows (2 ECTS)					
Theories for Business Decisions			Institutions and Societal Transformation	Visual Research Methods	Advanced Course on Economic Regulation
					Water Politics
					Embodiment, Food & Environment

The minor thesis will replace the internship in the regular MSc programme. The Research Master Cluster will replace the ACT and Modular Skills training in most regular programmes (ask your study advisor).