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**PhD Project Proposal form for approval by the WIMEK Graduate School**

Version date of this proposal (dd/mm/yyyy):

Main research group involved:

Other research group(s) involved:

**Important:**

Please read the **instructions** at the end of this form thoroughly before answering each question! Please insert text electronically

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1. PhD CANDIDATE details

Full name of PhD candidate (as in passport):

Gender (F / M):

e-mail:

Period of appointment / fellowship (dd/mm/yyyy): from to

PhD category (Research Assistant, Sandwich PhD, Guest PhD, External PhD or staff - see explanation / instructions):

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2a. SUPERVISORS and TECHNICAL SUPPORT

List all staff members involved in the proposed research: provide name, initials, titles and type of involvement, e.g. promotor, co-promotor, daily supervisor, technician, advisor

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name and title | Specialization | Organisation / Institute | Involvement | Hours supervision per week |
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2b. CO-OPERATION

With which other organisations outside your own university will co-operation take place?

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3a. PROJECT TITLE (English):

3b. KEYWORDS (3 – 5):

3c. POPULAR SUMMARY of the proposal in English (max 100 words):

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4a. CODE OF CONDUCT for RESEARCH INTEGRITY

I, [name PhD candidate], declare and promise that I will adhere to the [Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](https://www.vsnu.nl/files/documents/Netherlands%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20for%20Research%20Integrity%202018.pdf) and will faithfully act according its guiding principles regarding honesty, scrupulousness, transparency, independence and responsibility. Moreover, I will also adhere to the [Research Integrity Code](https://www.wur.nl/upload_mm/0/a/3/88afd23f-6fa6-4b9f-9ec8-3c9b7eca27f1_2019_%20Integriteitscode_WUR_1.0_UK.PDF) of Wageningen University and Research, focusing on the good behaviour of everyone at WUR: staff members, PhD candidates and students.

4b. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Does the proposed research comply with the law and legal requirements, such as ‘DNA recombinant legislation’, ‘Code openness Animal Experiments’ and/or ‘Code of conduct for Biosecurity’ ?

Yes / No / not applicable

4c. ETHICAL DILEMMAS

Describe potential ethical dilemmas regarding this research project (see instructions):

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5a. FINANCING: How is the project financed? (more than one possible)

University funds, percentage:

(First flow of funds)

Externally financed by NWO/STW/WOTRO/KNAW, percentage:

(Second flow of funds)

Please specify:

Externally financed by other parties (EU, government, industry, NGOs), percentage:

(Third flow of funds)

Please specify:

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6 RESEARCH CONTEXT

6a. Will the project be executed (partly) outside The Netherlands? Yes / No

If Yes specify: in

6b. Affiliation with national or international research programmes (if applicable):

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1. SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (max 250 words):

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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

(for question 8 a - f, use a maximum of 2500 words)

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8a. Problem definition and research objectives

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8b. Scientific approach / methodological design

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8c. Work plan and time schedule (detailed work plan for the first year of the research

project and a rough work plan for the second part of the project)

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8d. Type of publications to be expected

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8e. Scientific significance / innovative aspects

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8f. Societal relevance (valorisation and dissemination of results)

(please mention the expected relevance for environmental and sustainability issues; the main stakeholders and the way you will disseminate the results to the stakeholders)

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1. DATA MANAGEMENT

(data storage, data ownership and data sharing: see instructions)

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10. FEASIBILITY

10a. Top 5 publications of the involved research groups, related to this proposal

(other bibliographic references are listed in annex 1).

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10b. Data requirements and availability

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10c. Collaboration both national and international

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11. FINANCIAL ARRRANGEMENTS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3** | **Year 4** |
| Personnel (k€) | |  |  |  |  |
| Research costs (k€) | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Equipment |  |  |  |  |
|  | Consumables |  |  |  |  |
|  | Fieldwork |  |  |  |  |
|  | PhD training and education |  |  |  |  |

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12. ARE ALL REQUIREMENTS (FINANCIAL, PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT) AVAILABLE AND/OR ARRANGED? Yes / No

If not, please explain:

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13. AGREED (digital) signatures

PhD candidate Promotor

Name: Name:

Date: Date:

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14. NAMES, ADDRESSES AND EXPERTISE OF POSSIBLE REFEREES

Please name here at least five national and foreign referees *(name, affiliation, e-mail),* who will be able to give an independent judgement on the scientific quality and feasibility of the research project:

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***Annex 1***

**Literature / References (bibliographic)**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SENSE APPLICATION FORM FOR REGISTRATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF A PhD PROJECT**

**Provide a clear description of your research project, which is understandable for non-specialists.**

**Send this project proposal by e-mail to the WIMEK secretariat:** [**Johan.Feenstra@wur.nl**](mailto:Johan.Feenstra@wur.nl)

**Instructions for each question:**

**Research Group(s):** please mention the chair group(s) responsible for the supervision of the PhD project

1. **PhD candidate details**

PhD category

Make here the appropriate choice between AIO or OIO (= Research Assistant) / Sandwich PhD / Guest PhD / External PhD:

* + Research Assistant (AIO / OIO) = temporary employee appointed at a SENSE University;
  + Sandwich PhD: fellowship student whose research is primarily conducted at the home institute or country of residence / origin
  + Guest PhD: fellowship student whose research is primarily conducted at a SENSE University
  + External PhD: PhD candidate not employed at a SENSE University who conducts research at an institute other than the SENSE University and whose only affiliation with the SENSE university is the promotor and supervisor(s).

Note: if you are not sure to which PhD category you belong, please ask your supervisor or the secretary of your research group.

1. **Supervisors and technical support**

List all staff members involved in the proposed research: provide name, initials, titles and type of involvement, e.g. promotor / main thesis supervisor, co-promotor, daily guidance, technician, advisor and the expected average number of hours per week they will spend on the project. For supervisors: the agreed average number of hours per week they will spend on supervision.

1. **3a Project title**  
   Formulate the project title as concisely and specifically as possible (in English)

**3b Keywords**

Please mention the main 3 – 5 keywords, which are specific or characteristic for your PhD project. These keywords will be used at the SENSE website for search functions.

**3c Popular summary**

This summary will be used as description of your PhD proposal at the SENSE website. It should be inspiring and understandable for higher educated people outside your field of study.

**4. Animal experiments / genetically modified organisms / ethical dilemmas**

**4a: Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**

All researchers at WUR must read and have to adhere to the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and the integrity code of WUR. By signing the proposal form you declare and promise that you will adhere to both integrity codes.

**4b: Legal requirements**

Animal experiments are regulated by the Law on Animal Experiments. If vertebrate animals are used within a new project, the Animal Experiments Committee (DEC) will send you a separate questionnaire. In case of genetically modified research an ethical check is compulsory. In that case you should contact the DEC too.

**4c: Potential ethical dilemmas**

Ethical dilemmas, considerations and decisions should play an important role in the programming of research proposals. Ethical dilemmas deal with potential harm to society, people, animals and ecosystems and with the potential use or misuse of research results.

Relevant aspects are:

* + What are the funding organisations of the PhD research and what is their interest in the research results.
  + Research methods: animal experiments; involving people in your experiments.
  + Research location: research carried out in countries where human rights are violated.

Relevant questions may be:

* + For whom is the research question relevant;
  + Who can profit most of the research outcomes;
  + Who could be harmed most by the research outcomes;
  + Which development is supported by this research;
  + Does the research support sustainable development; etc.

In general there are no good or wrong answers to ethical dilemmas, but it is very important to present your own considerations clearly and transparently.

**5. Financing**  
Please tick the box to state how the project is financed. If more than one way of financing is used, tick more boxes and specify the most important ones and the proportion of the financial contributions.

**6. Research context**Please specify where the research will be carried out and the affiliation with national or international research programmes. This text will be used for research summaries. A maximum of 250 words is applicable.

**7. Scientific summary of the research project**

This brief summary should explain the title of the research project and present a sound view of the main objectives, design and expected results of the PhD research

**8. Description of the research project**

(For the total of question 8a to 8f, a maximum of 2500 words is applicable)

This question constitutes the main core of the project application.

**8a. Problem definition and research objectives**

The problem definition provides a concise description of the problem setting. The problem definition has to be translated into one or more research objectives. Problem definition and objectives should be as specific as possible. The research objectives clearly state the different questions to which the results of the research should provide an answer.

**8b. Methodological design**

Here the question is addressed how the research objectives are met. The methodological design provides a clear description of the methods and research techniques that are going to be used to meet the different research objectives. So what methodology and methods are going to be used to answer the different research questions?

**8c. Work plan and time schedule**

Present a detailed work plan for the first year of the research project with smart objectives and a rough work plan for the overall PhD project.

**8d. Type of publications to be expected**

Mention here the outline of the expected scientific publications based on the research results.

**8e. Scientific significance**

Under scientific significance a description is given of the innovative aspects and motivated how the problem definition and research objectives follow from already available research results, knowledge and questions (the literature). What does the research add to the already existing scientific literature?

**8f. Societal relevance (valorisation and dissemination of results)**

What is the relevance of the research outcome(s) for current environmental and sustainability issues? What are the main stakeholders which may be interested in the results of your PhD research? How are these stakeholders involved during the PhD research? In what way will the dissemination of the results take place to stakeholders and society?

# References Include the references in the usual way for scientific reporting in a separate annex 1.

**9. Data management**

This section outlines the data management plan and must include:

* Where and how the data will be storaged (short term and long term storage),
* data ownership (please specify the ownership of data produced in this project or external data used for this project)
* data sharing (agreement on who will have access to and use your (un)published data)
* data management (who will be responsible for the data management after finalisation of your PhD)

This section may include references to a more comprehensive (i.e. 2 to 3 pages) data management plan in which elements are outlined in more detail and can also refer to a plan at the level of a research group. Note that the content of this document does not need to be included in this proposal; a citation is sufficient.

You can find more details [here](http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Data-Management-Support-Hub/Browse-by-Subject/Data-Management-Planning-1.htm). Please note that data collection is also part of a data management plan but is specified in section 8 of this research proposal.

**10. Feasibility**

**10a. Relevant publications of the research group and related projects**

Mention the top five publications of the research group related to the problem definition and

research objectives. This question addresses the feasibility of the research. Is the background of the research group such that the supervision can be adequate?

**10b. Data availability**

Is data availability guaranteed? Does the research make use of available data sources or will data be collected using surveys, interviews, etc. Is it feasible to collect the data within the timeframe of the PhD project? Are there challenges taken into account considering the data collection? How representative are these data?

**10c. Collaboration both national and international**

In what way does the national and/or international collaboration add to the feasibility of the research?

In case of Sandwich PhDs, is supervision in the country where the research will be performed adequate? Please specify which agreements have been made.

# 11. Financial arrangements Please specify the budget for the PhD project: personnel costs, research costs, additional costs and the available budget for PhD training and education

# 12. Check: are all requirements arranged ?

This question is for your last check on the requirements. Are all the financial, personnel and equipment arrangements accounted for? Covering these requirements is the responsibility of the chair group. Before submitting the project proposal all requirements should be covered and arrangements finalised. If not, specify the situation and actions that will be taken to cover all requirements before the start of the project.

# 13. Agreed Please verify that all mentioned research leaders have read and accepted the latest version of this project proposal. You may send this form by e-mail; a paper version with real signature is not required.

# 14. Names, addresses and expertise of possible referees Provide here names, affiliation and e-mail of at least five national and international referees with their expertise related to this research proposal. We will send the comments of two referees back to you anonymously – generally within four weeks - for a reply.