



WASS Graduate Programme



Wageningen School
of Social Sciences

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



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

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, together with other incoming proposals from MSc-students. Where students need to submit a proposal in cooperation with a WASS-aligned chair group.

Eligible MSc programmes:

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

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 Research Practice or Research Internship (24 erts),** the research internship is preferred at another selected university or research organisation (possibly abroad).
- 4 A research master cluster (12 erts) 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 13 November 2023. The selection will take place in November. The selection committee will consist of the Chair of the WASS Board and Director of WASS and one of the master programme directors. Applications can be send to [Fennie van Straalen](#).

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 CPT-56306	Embodiment, Food & Environment CPT-55104	Advanced Qualitative Research Design and Data Collection Methods GEO-56806	Gender and Diversity in the Life Sciences Domains GEO-58806	Advanced Macro-economics DEC-53806	Multivariate Data Analysis YRM-50806
Advanced Micro-economics UEC-51806	African Philosophy CPT-39806			Model Thinking INF-51806	Qualitative Data Analysis Methods MAT-50806
Advanced Social Theory RSO-58306					
WASS Orientation (3 ECTS) YSS-50303					
WASS Interdisciplinary Windows (2 ECTS)					
	Institutions and Societal Transformation CPT-57802	Visual Research Methods CPT-53302	Advanced Course on Economic Regulation AEP-53802		
	From business theory to practical applications BEC-55802		Water Policy & Politics: theories and cases PAP-54302		

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).

About WASS

WASS currently hosts around 525 PhD candidates, about 70 post-docs and some 235 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](#)