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News from the WIAS office

We hope you and your relatives are in good health in these bizarre period. The WIAS team is working from home, but of course you can contact us via e-mail, Skype and phone. We will inform you about the possible solutions that WU can offer regarding experienced problems by PhD candidates due to the corona measures in the coming weeks. Please discuss any problems you as PhD candidate experience first with your promotor/chaingroup.

Information regarding PhD and corona

All updates regarding corona measures and PhD are publishes on [the Intranet](#).

Vacancy Research committee

WIAS is looking for a new volunteer member for its Research Committee to follow up on Walter Gerrits who recently stepped down from the committee.

The tasks of the Research Committee are:

- To advice the scientific director of WIAS about external developments in research, possible external speakers, the link of WUR strategic investment themes with WIAS research lines in the long term and about collaboration;
- To judge the literature surveys and rebuttals of PhD proposals of WIAS PhD candidates;
- To review postdoc fellowship applications.

The committee is supported by the executive secretary of WIAS, Janneke van Seters. The Research committee meets about 4 times per year. Normally, meetings are held in Wageningen.

Applications are encouraged from WIAS fellows who meet the following criteria:

- RC-members should be associate professor or personal professor (not necessarily in Tenure Track)
- The RC-members must together have a broad representation of disciplines within WIAS, so the new member's expertise should be complementary to the current RC composition. Current members in the RC are: Eddie Bokkers, Mario Calus, Johan Schrama and Michiel Kleerebezem.

INREF call full programmes 2020

Originally deadlines were set on June 15 for pre-proposals and October 1 for full proposals. Due to the precautions for the corona-virus we anticipate difficulties in preparations of the proposals,

therefor the INREF board decided to postpone deadlines by 2 months. The new deadlines are now October 1 for pre-proposals and January 15, 2021 for full proposals (on invitation). 4 pre-proposals will be selected and invited to develop a full proposal, of which 2 will be granted.

For more information and submission, see the [Intranet page](#).

Call WGS sandwich programme

The aim of the WGS Sandwich PhD Programme is capacity building: a way for the university to reach out to like-minded *scientific* institutes to build international scientific networks, to facilitate exchange and to reinforce the knowledge basis of these institutes.

This programme includes an 18 month scholarship for PhD candidates in Wageningen and other financial components such as visa compensation and travel costs. Additional funding for a candidate is needed for the time not spent in Wageningen. Compared to last year, some alterations to eligibility criteria and the application form have been made. For more information please click [here](#).

- **Number of positions available:** 6
- **Eligibility:** see [country](#) list
- **Application deadline:** 12 May 2020
- **Start:** at the latest 1 December 2020

Call African Talent programme

Wageningen University & Research has initiated 'The Africa Talent Programme' to give top talents from Africa the opportunity for a PhD study or a postdoc position at Wageningen University.

What can be applied for?

A 4-year, full-time PhD position or a postdoc position of 2-3 years (the financial equivalent of a PhD position).

Who can apply?

Candidates for the PhD position should meet the entry requirement of Wageningen University for a PhD (see the website of Wageningen University) including English proficiency and a recognized MSc degree.

Candidates for the postdoc position must have a recognized doctoral degree and the applicant must be fluent in scientific English.

All (PhD and postdoc) applicants must be able to start their position on 1 December 2020 at the latest.

Application procedure

Applications can be submitted by a Wageningen University staff member who has the *ius promovendi*. **The deadline for application is May 1st 2020**. Please submit your applications to wias@wur.nl. Applications will first be evaluated by WIAS.

Each of the six graduate schools is allowed to submit only one application for this programme. There are three positions available. The final selection of the three candidates will be done by a small selection committee at WUR level.

It is up to the applicant to provide the appropriate documentation that could convince the selection committee that you are a suitable candidate for the African Talent Programme.

Please include:

- (Concise) strong Curriculum Vitae (max 2 A4)
- Motivation letter (max 1 A4)
- Proposal (max 2 A4)
- Scholarly achievements
- Letter(s) of recommendation
- Awards
- A support letter of the chair of the Wageningen University chair group that will host you

WIAS Lunch Lectures

The WIAS lunch lectures are cancelled until 1 June 2020.

Recent PhD graduations

- 6 March: **Esinam Amuzu-Aweh** (ABG) “Genomics of heterosis and egg production in White Leghorns”.
- 10 March: **Sally Migose** (APS) “Addressing variation in smallholder farming systems to improve dairy development in Kenya”.
- 11 March: **Daniel Akakpo** (APS) “Grain legume residues as a livestock feed resource for smallholders in northern Ghana”.
- 13 March: **Pascal Duenk** (ABG) “Genetics of crossbreeding”.

Courses and seminars

Until August 1st, due to COVID-19 measures, WUR decided to offer only online education. It means all PhD courses with physical presence are cancelled or postponed. This includes also several WIAS in-depth courses and summer schools. However, PhD courses that can be given online will continue.

Online are offered:

- The TSP “Basic Package courses”:
 1. WGS Scientific Integrity: 2 April, 23 April, 26 May, 22 June (one-day course)
 2. WGS Ethics in Animal Sciences: 12 and 14 May (2-days course)
- Several TSP “Professional Competence courses”, like writing courses, career related courses, project planning/time management. See [WGS website](#).

PhD statistics courses:

- At the moment is being checked if and which courses can be offered online.
- A possibility could be to do an online MSc statistics course, like Advanced Statistics (is for your TSP a MSc level course) or Modern Statistics in the Life Sciences (is an exception, and for your TSP a PhD level course).

Free online EDx courses and MOOCs:

- Can be included in the TSP category MSc level courses (max 6 ECTS); a certificate must be obtained, and course and level discussed with your supervisor.

Wageningen Graduate Schools courses

Courses for PhD's, Postdocs and PhD supervisors organized by Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS).

Due to the corona crisis. Most courses will be offered online, please check our [website](#) for the most recent updates

Courses that will continue online:

- [Adobe InDesign](#)
- [Brain friendly working and writing](#)
- [Brain Training](#)
- [Career Assessment](#)
- [Career Development for Postdocs: Science and the Alternatives](#)
- [Career Orientation](#)
- [Career Perspectives](#)
- [Efficient Writing Strategies](#)
- [Project and Time Management](#)
- [Scientific Integrity](#)
- [Scientific Writing](#)

We are currently checking if we can offer more courses online, including [Bridging across cultural differences](#) and [Ethics in Plant and Environmental Sciences](#).

Highlights:

[Efficient Writing Strategies](#) (29 April *-online-*)

Putting your thoughts on paper.

[Brain friendly working and writing](#) (7 May *-online-*)

Learn to increase your productivity by using the Brain-Friendly working method.

[Project and Time Management](#) (14 May, 28 May, 25 June *-online-*)

Planning, control, monitoring and management of the research project and time are essential in accomplishing the PhD.

[Career Perspectives](#) (4, 11, 18. 25 June, 2 July *-online-*)

Meant for PhDs in their third or fourth year who want support in defining and taking the next step in their career.

[Brain Training](#) (16 June *-online-*)

Increase Reading Speed + Brain Rythm + Memory Boost.

[Career Assessment](#) (plan a date with the organisers upon registration *-online-*)

Individual assessment for PhDs who have questions concerning their personal competences, career opportunities and next career step.

New Dates available:

[Mobilising your - scientific - network](#) (22 and 29 September)

Offers you the essential tools to create a network through a variety of introductions, discussions and assignments.

Overview of all courses 2020

For a complete overview of all competence, skills and career development training activities, please click [here](#).

WUR Library courses

To our regret all Library courses and demos have been cancelled. Our information specialists are happy to assist students and staff individually. If you need support with EndNote or Mendeley,

Searching for literature or Citing & referencing, please mail to forum.library@wur.nl.

[More information](#) about the courses. You can register for a course via the [WGS course page](#).

Activities

PhD defence ceremonies

All our PhD defence ceremonies will be held online as of next week. Candidates are able to choose whether they prefer their defence to be postponed to a later date, or to continue online according to plan, in consultation with their supervisor. If a postponement is elected, the ceremony will be held at a later date. The online defence is mainly similar to a standard, physical, ceremony. This regulation applies at least until 1 August.

Follow [this intranet page](#) for more information about the procedure for digital defence. Also more specific updates regarding PhD research and corona are announced in that group.

21 April 2020

PhD graduation Devi Hermsen

Title Nutritious Ponds; Valorising waste using natural production.
Chair group Aquaculture and Fisheries Group (AFI)
Promotor dr. M.C.J. Verdegem & prof. dr. J.A.J. Verreth
Time 11:00 hrs

24 April 2020

PhD graduation Lu Luo

Title Effects of early life and current environmental enrichment on behaviour, affective state and immunity in pigs.
Chair group Adaptation Physiology Group (ADP)
Promotor prof. dr. ir. B. Kemp
Time 11:00 hrs

24 April 2020

PhD graduation Shuwen Xia

Title Exploring the potential of genetic improvement of insects: A case study using the haplodiploid parasitoid wasp *Nsonia vitripennis*.
Chair group Animal Breeding and Genomics Group (ABG)
Promotor prof. dr. M.A.M. Groenen & prof. dr. B.J. Zwaan
Time 13:30 hrs

Other

edX Remote Access Program available for staff and students

Many edX partners joined forces and allow each other's student and staff to take their courses completely free of charge during the Corona outbreak. Wageningen embraced this initiative and therefor everybody with a WUR account can get full access to one of the many online courses from

institutions like Cornell University, TU Delft, Harvard, MIT, RWTH Aachen University, Tecnológico de Monterrey, and many more.

This initiative is open to anyone with a WUR account, including staff. While many of us are working from home, this might be a good time to take a look at the enormous offer and find a topic you always wanted to learn more about.

edX traditionally has many academic courses, but there are also courses like Learn to program in Java, Visualizing data with Excel, Designing and Creating Skirts, Ancient Masterpieces of World Literature, Strategic Management and much more!

It doesn't matter if you want to develop your personal or professional skills or gain knowledge on a specific theme or discipline, there is always a course that fits your interest. Just remember to enrol and use your code before 1 May 2020. Once you activated your code you will have full access to the course. You don't have to finish the course by that date, just enrol and use the coupon code for full access. Within your course environment you find deadlines for each specific course.

Read everything about this initiative and how to join [online](#).

Call for proposals – de Vos Fund

The 'de Vos Fund' is making 15,000 Euros available for researchers of Wageningen University & Research! The Fund focuses on supporting research and education into (biological control of) human and animal diseases transmitted by vectors and is meant to bring ongoing research to a higher level.

Are you interested in submitting a proposal? You have until May 1st 2020. Read the guidelines and fill in the format on the website. We look forward to receiving your proposal! For more information, see the website: [de Vos Fund](#).

If you have any questions about this WIAS News please contact WIAS at wias@wur.nl