

WIAS TSP Frequently Asked Questions

1. How to count credits for courses and conferences?

One ECTS credit equals a study load of approximately 28 hours. Every course-, conference- or seminar-day counts for 0.3 ECTS (a seminar of half a day 0.15 ECTS). Courses can have extra credits because of "home-work". Usually a course certificate mentions the study load in credits or in hours (in the latter case ECTS can be calculated).

2. Mandatory courses and waivers?

Mandatory courses (the WIAS Introduction course and the Ethics course) can only be waived if the PhD candidate can proof that all the competences that should be gained in these courses, are already fulfilled in previous courses or by work experience in a previous job. If a waiver is granted, the course credits are not awarded; the TSP minimum requirement of 30 ECTS still applies. For more information contact the education coordinator.

3. Can previous education count on the TSP?

PhD candidates starting their PhD period not directly after their MSc graduation may have done education during a previous job. This can be filled in on the TSP till a maximum of 10 ECTS. For more information contact the education coordinator.

4. Courses and conferences are not yet known 4 years ahead.

Try to plan as much as possible already in the first plan TSP. In the midterm TSP (submitted at two years after the start of the PhD project) some changes and additions can be made.

5. How to find relevant courses?

PhD courses can be done anywhere in the Netherlands or abroad

- Search on internet, discuss with supervisors, discuss with colleague PhD candidates
- WIAS offers several courses and seminars
- Wageningen Graduate Schools offers subsidized skills courses.
- Educational Staff Development offers teaching courses
- Courses at the other Wageningen graduate schools

6. Presentation requirements?

Oral or poster presentations should be given for a broad scientific public, e.g. at a conference, seminar or workshop, to get feed-back on your work from this broad scientific public. Internal presentations, e.g. at your group, cannot count on the TSP.

Presentations must be "original"; e.g. present twice the same poster cannot count twice.

7. PhD discussion group requirements?

PhD discussion groups can be part of the TSP with a maximum of 1,5 ECTS.

A PhD discussion group has to be approved by the WIAS-EC based on a written application which describes a discussion-group-plan. In-depth discussion (e.g. of papers, chapters of a book, with invited guest speakers, etc.) should be the core of the meeting. Meetings have to be on a regular basis (at least 6 times per year) and information of each meeting (date, duration, name of staff member present, subject discussed, list of participants) should be archived.

8. Can BSc- or MSc-level courses count on the TSP?

BSc-level courses cannot count on the TSP.

In case of deficiencies MSc-level courses (done after MSc graduation) can be filled in with credits in the TSP category "In-Depth Studies: MSc level courses". However, the minimum requirement of 4 ECTS PhD level "In-Depth Studies" still applies.

Exception: the level of the MSc course "Modern Statistics for the Life Sciences" (ABG-30806) is comparable with the WIAS PhD course "Statistics for the Life Sciences" and can be filled in as PhD level Advanced statistics course (only when done after MSc graduation).

9. Can the Research Master be part of the TSP?

Research Master courses done *during your MSc* cannot count on the TSP (courses cannot count twice)

The Research Master Cluster course done *after your MSc / during your PhD* can count on the TSP with: 6 ECTS "Research Skills Training" for proposal writing (a second proposal however cannot count again) and 6 ECTS "Professional Skills Support courses"(in that case still 2 ECTS PhD skills courses have to be done, instead of 3 ECTS)

Teaching by PhD candidates in the Research Master Cluster (review of scientific articles and pre-proposals) is awarded on the TSP as "Didactic Skills Training" with 0,5 ECTS.

10. When and how counts an external training period on the TSP?

An external training period for one month or more, e.g. at an external lab or a renowned institute abroad (which means not at your home institute or at Wageningen UR), counts for 2 ECTS. (Awarded is the extra learning experience of being somewhere external).

11. Management skills training, how many credits?

Organizing a seminar or conference usually counts for 1 or 1,5 ECTS.

For membership of a scientific board or committee (e.g. chairman, secretary, education committee) credits depend on workload. For information on WAPS council functions see the WAPS page.