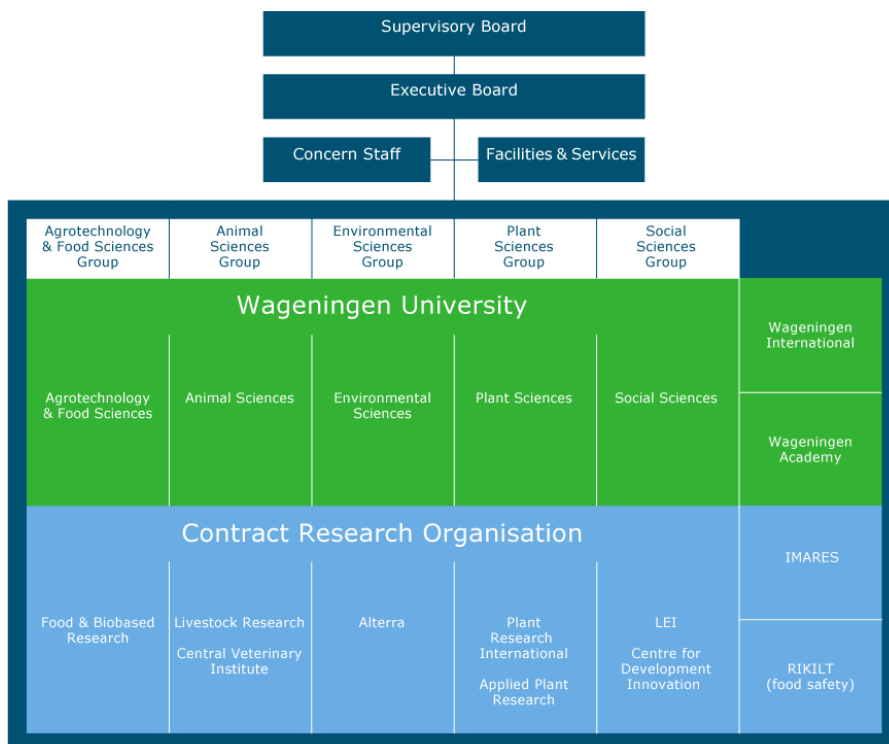


The organization of Wageningen University

Wageningen University and Research is a combination of a university and the Wageningen Research Foundation in which legal entity various research institutes are organized (formerly known as institutes of DLO, *Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek*). The Executive Board of Wageningen UR is equally responsible for the management and administration of both entities. Although they are separate legal entities, in many aspects the university and the research institutes are linked or intermingled. However, in this document we will focus on the organisation of the university. The organisation of the university is based on the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW, *Wet Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijke Onderzoek*). Unlike most Dutch universities, Wageningen university has only one faculty, the faculty of agricultural and environmental sciences. This aspect and the combination of the university with the research institutes makes the organization slightly different from most universities. The organogram gives an overview of Wageningen University and Research; the most relevant parts of the university organisation will be explained in the following sections.



1. General management

The university is managed by the **Executive Board** (*college van bestuur*) which consists of three members: the president, the rector magnificus who is also the vice president, and a third member. The members are appointed for a four year's period

by the Supervisory Board and are responsible for the management and administration of the whole university. The rector magnificus is appointed from the group of professors of the university and is nominated by the Academic Board (*college voor promoties*).

The **Supervisory Board** (*Raad van Toezicht*) supervises and advises the Executive Board. The members of the Supervisory Board are appointed by the Minister of Economic Affairs, who is responsible for all education in agricultural and environmental sciences.

On a central level, the university is supported by the Concern Staff and by Facilities and Services (see section 5).

For the composition of the boards:

<http://www.wur.nl/en/About-Wageningen/Board.htm>

2. Management of the departments in the faculty

In the faculty, we distinguish five university **departments**: Agrotechnology and Food Sciences, Animal Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Plant Sciences and Social Sciences. Each department (the green parts in the organigram) and one or more research institutes in the same field (the light blue parts) are combined in a Science Group, managed by a **general director**. The general directors are accountable to the Executive Board and they meet each other and the Executive Board on a regular basis (every two weeks) in a meeting of the **Board of Directors**.

<http://www.wur.nl/en/About-Wageningen/Board.htm>

Each department contains between eleven and twenty **chair groups** (about 90 for the whole university). Each chair group is managed by a professor, the **chair holder**. Chair holders are responsible for the development of a particular science field, as described in the chair plan. In this field the chair holder manages the members of the chair group and distributes research and education activities among them. The chair holder is accountable to the corporate director of the science group.

<http://www.wur.nl/en/wageningen-university/About-Wageningen-University/Professors.htm>

In the faculty we have several institutions, mainly for education and research, that surpass the level of the chairs and chair holders or even the departments. The education is organized and managed by the Board of Education, the research in six Graduate Schools (see sections 3 and 4). A third important central body is the **Academic Board**. Its members (at least 7) are professor at the university and they are appointed for three years by the Executive Board. The Academic Board is responsible for the granting of the doctor's degrees and it advises the Executive Board on matters of science and education and on the appointment of endowed chairs.

<http://www.wur.nl/en/wageningen-university/About-Wageningen-University/Academic-board.htm>

3. Management of Education

The **Board of Education** manages all bachelor's and master's programmes offered by the university (in the role of 'opleidingsbestuur' as meant in art 9.14 of the Law). The Board of Education comprises eight members: four professors and four students.

Under the central management of the Executive Board and within the framework set by the Executive Board, the OWI-Board is responsible for decisions on the structure and content of the programmes and for the evaluation and quality of all education. It also assigns the available budget for education to the various programmes. The Board advises the Executive Board on the start and the termination of programmes, general education matters, the Education and Examination Regulations and the establishment, extensions or discontinuance of chairs.

The Board of Education also appoints the members of the **programme committees**. Programme committees develop a vision on the programme, advise the Board on the content and set-up and evaluate the quality of the programme regularly. They also evaluate the proper application of the Education and Examination Regulations and advise on proposed changes in these regulations. A programme committee is a body for advice and co-management (for one or for a group of similar degree programmes) which has six, eight or ten members, half students and half scientific staff involved in the programme(s). They work in close contact with the **programme director** who is responsible for the daily coordination and execution of the programme.

The **Dean of Education** is responsible for the education policy and the translation of that policy in implementation. The Dean of Education is the technical chair of the Board of Education and heads the department of Education and Student Affairs (ESA). Next to advising the Executive Board about education, the Dean of Education and his ESA staff advise the Board of Education, the programme directors and the study advisors of the programmes.

The university has installed four independent **examining boards**, each for a group of programmes. The examining board is the independent body that determines, in an objective and expert manner, whether students comply with the conditions in the Education and Examination Regulations with respect to the knowledge, insight and skills required to acquire the degree. It also issues the diploma's. Within the framework of the Education and Examination Regulations, the examining boards compose Rules and Regulations regarding the performance and exercise of their duties and powers and the measures they may take. These Rules and Regulations give procedures for the composition of the individual examination programme, requests for exemptions, the order during exams and the measures which can be taken in case of fraud. The examining boards appoint the examiners who are responsible for the interim examinations. Finally the Executive Board has mandated the examining boards to execute the Regulations Binding Study Advice.

<http://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Current-Students/Examining-Boards.htm>

4. Management of research

The scientific staff in the chair groups is occupied with both education and research. Their research activities are bundled in six **graduate schools**:

- Experimental Plant Sciences (EPS)

- Wageningen Institute for Environment and Climate Research (WIMEK)
- Wageningen Institute for Animal Sciences (WIAS)
- Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS)
- Food Technology, Agrobiotechnology, Nutrition and Health Science (VLAG)
- Production Ecology and Resource Conservation (PE&RC)

In each graduate school every five years a research programme is adopted by the participating chair groups and researchers. The graduate schools are responsible for the education of the PhD-candidates within the school. They advise the Executive Board on the establishment, continuance or discontinuance of chairs.

The Wageningen Graduate Schools are chaired by a board consisting of a scientific director (chair of the board) and several members (with at least one PhD candidate and one scientist from another university). The scientific directors convene on a regular basis in the assembly called **Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS)**, to align strategies on the quality of research and PhD-education. The Executive Board will hear WGS in relevant policy issues that concern the education of PhD candidates and the research performed by the Graduate Schools. The chair of the combined Wageningen Graduate Schools is the **Dean of Research**.

<http://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/Graduate-Schools.htm>

5. Corporate Staff and Facilities

The university is supported by the corporate staff and by the Facilities department. The corporate staff has seven divisions: Education & Student Affairs, Strategy & Accounts, Value Creation, Finance & Control, Governance & Legal Services, Human Resources, and Communication. These divisions provide services for students and staff and they advise the boards and the science groups in their specific expertise. The Facilities department is responsible for services like IT, the library and catering and for all the buildings and the campus of Wageningen UR.

6. Participation

Students and staff participate in the management of the university via the participation councils. There is a central WUR Council, in which the various central participation councils convene for both the university and the research organisation. The participation councils dedicated to the university are the Student Staff Council in which both staff and students are represented and the Student Council in which only the students are represented. Students also participate in programme committees and in the Board of Education.

<http://www.wur.nl/en/About-Wageningen/Corporate-governance/Participation-WUR-Council.htm>

<http://www.wur.nl/en/About-Wageningen/SC.htm>