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News from the WIAS office

As the government has further tightened the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, WUR adjusted their protocol. The adjustments include a stricter work from home policy: work from home and only come to WUR locations for lab work or work that requires your presence on-site. Therefore, the WIAS team is working from home, but of course you can still contact us via e-mail, Skype/Teams and phone.

Information regarding PhD and corona

PhD graduation ceremonies may be held with a maximum of 30 persons, if the distancing norm of 1.5 metres is strictly ensured, along with all other preventive measures. Moreover, PhD defences online remain a possibility.

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

Covid-19 financial compensation for PhD candidates and post docs

The current possibilities for financial compensation of PhD candidates and post-docs have been extended with an additional possibility for non-employed PhD candidates and are:

1. Emergency fund for students (not postdocs) This fund is meant for students and non-employed PhD candidates who face urgent financial problems. For more information, visit the website at www.wur.nl/en/Benefactors/More-information-1/For-Applicants/Emergency-Fund-for-students.htm.
2. Compensation arrangement for employed PhD candidates and postdocs whose contract ends in 2021. The deadline for application is 22 November 2020.
3. Compensation arrangement for non-employed PhD candidates and postdocs whose project ends in 2020 and 2021. These funds are open to all non-employed PhD candidates who are registered as PhD candidate at Wageningen University. The deadline for application is 22 November 2020.

WIAS Lunch Lectures

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the lunch lecture of 6 October. The next lunch lecture will be given on Tuesday, 3 November by Christina Rochus and will take place via Microsoft Teams.

The WIAS lunch lectures take place every first Tuesday of the month.

WIAS Course Highlights

WIAS Courses

From September 2020, some courses will be held in classrooms. However, COVID-19 measures - like maintaining the 1.5 metres apart will be enforced in the classrooms. Some courses will continue online to accommodate PhD candidates who cannot be in Wageningen and the restricted classroom availability.

WIAS recommends the following courses (still places available):

- **WGS Scientific Integrity:**
 - 20 November
 - 18 December
- **WIAS course The Final Touch:**
 - 27 October
- **WIAS/PE&RC advanced statistics course Design of Experiments:**
 - 16 - 18 December (*online course*)

For an overview of WIAS courses and seminars please go to: <https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/Graduate-Schools/Wageningen-Institute-of-Animal-Sciences/Courses-and-seminars.htm>

WIAS Seminars

Early feed intake and welfare in pigs:

9 October. **Webinar** on the PhD defence of Anouschka Middelkoop.

WGS Courses

Introduction to WUR Library for PhD candidates (next online workshop on 8 October)

Don't miss out on our "WUR Library introduction for new PhD candidates" on Thursday 8 October! In 30 minutes, you will be introduced to the tools and services of WUR Library relevant to the first steps of your research. This is an online session with Skype for Business. Please mail to office.library@wur.nl. You will receive an invitation by email, so you can join the Skype meeting

Searching and Organising Literature (online training on 27, 28 October)

Make effective use of scientific information sources in the Wageningen University & Research Digital Library and EndNote

Project and Time Management (in-person training on 30 October, 13 November, 11 December)

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

Reviewing a Scientific Manuscript (12 November)

To obtain insight in the aspects of reviewing scientific manuscripts

Ethics in Plant and Environmental Sciences (13 November)

This one-day course focuses on ethical issues that are encountered when doing research in plant and environmental sciences.

Scientific Integrity (20 November and 18 December)

This 1 day-course focuses on an array challenges related to scientific integrity.

Ethics for Social Sciences Research (in-person training on 7 December)

One-day seminar on dealing with ethical issues in human subjects' research

Writing propositions for your PhD (in-person training on 11 December, can be combined with Last Stretch of the PhD Programme)

Workshop on propositions of the PhD thesis, including a lecture on propositions and possibility to submit your own (draft) proposition.

Last Stretch of the PhD Programme (in-person training on 11 December, can be combined with Writing propositions for your PhD)

Issues and questions: what must you do first, who is responsible, printing your thesis, do's and don'ts.

New dates available

Working on your PhD research in times of crisis (online training on 9, 11, 19 November)

In this training, you will jointly discuss experiences, identify new or amplified challenges as well as means and methods to tackle these to finally translate this in a (SMART) plan of action to get you (back) on track.

[Introduction to LaTeX](#) (online training on 25 November)

An introductory workshop that covers the basics and the useful features of LaTeX; an automated document preparation system and mark-up language which can be used as an alternative to text processors like MS-WORD.

Overview of all PhD training sessions 2020

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

Other courses and training of interest

Online Career Day (14 October 2020)

Online Career Day of 14 October is open for all students, graduates and PhD candidates! Use your WUR email address if you have one, make your profile and go in the main event WUR Online Career Day 2020. You can register for orientation interviews with employers (deadline for registration for interviews is 6 October 23:59) and during the day you can also join lots of online live presentations.

<https://wur.jobteaser.com/en/backend/events/78355-wur-online-career-day-2020>

Writing Lab Free feedback on your academic text during the Editing Desk walk-in hours

English for IELTS and RATER

[Sports Centre the Bongerd](#) offers [health courses](#).

The Modelling & Simulation Discussion Group

In many fields of research, modelling and simulation are critical tools. As their popularity has grown, so has the discourse surrounding why and how they should be used. To help inform this debate, we have created a university-wide platform for discussing systems modelling. The Modelling & Simulation Discussion Group meets once a month, alternating guest lectures with open fora for discussing members' modelling-related questions. Topics of interest include system decomposition, conceptual models, modelling paradigms (agent-based, system dynamics, discrete event...), uncertainty and sensitivity analysis, experiment design, and more. We are open to all skill levels and backgrounds. Our upcoming schedule (every third Wednesday of the month):

- 21 October 2020, 13:00-15:00, online: Uncertainty in systems modelling, Dr Willem Auping (TU Delft)
- 18 November 2020, 13:00-15:00, online: Open Forum
- 16 December 2020, 13:00-15:00, online: Sensitivity analysis: concepts and methods, Dr Marc Jaxa-Rozen (Uni Geneva)

If you are interested in joining, please get in touch with Patrick: patrick.steinmann@wur.nl.

Library Courses

WUR Library courses

6 October 2020 – Workshop
8 October 2020 – Presentation
15 October 2020 – Presentation
27/28 October 2020 – Course

5 November 2020 – Workshop
9/10 November – Course
10 November – Presentation

[Optimise your text: lunch workshop for students](#)

[Introduction to WUR Library for PhD candidates \(online\)](#)

[EndNote, demonstration session](#)

[Searching and Organising Literature for PhD Candidates \(online course\)](#)

[Plan for success](#)

[Adobe InDesign Essential Training \(online course\)](#)

[EndNote, demonstration session](#)

PhD Graduations

Recent PhD graduations

11 September: **Esther van der Heide** (ABG) "Predicting survival in dairy cattle using machine learning"

11 September: **Biaty Raymond** (ABG) "Use of whole-genome sequence data for genomic prediction across populations and species"

18 September: **Harmen Doekes** (ABG) "Genomic characterization and conservation of genetic diversity in cattle"

5 October: **Wouter van Veen** (EZO) "Aerodynamics of insect flight"

Upcoming PhD graduations

7 October 2020

PhD graduation Haibo Lu

Title Genetic-wide interaction analyses of milk production traits in dairy cattle

Chair group Animal Breeding and Genomics Group (ABG)

Promotor Prof. Dr H. Bovenhuis

Time and Place 13:30 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen.

7 October 2020

PhD graduation Sandra Vreman

Title Toll-like receptor agonist adjuvanted vaccination: steering immune responses in neonate and adult pigs

Chair group Cell Biology and Immunology Group (CBI)

Promotor Prof. Dr H.F.J. Savelkoul

Time and Place 16:00 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen.

9 October 2020

PhD graduation Anouschka Middelkoop

Title Foraging in the farrowing room: getting piglets to eat is bitter sweet.

Chair group Adaptation Physiology Group (ADP)

Promotor Prof. Dr B. Kemp

Time and Place 16:00 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen.

12 October 2020

PhD graduation Aisling O'Connor

Title Suboptimal mobility in spring calving, pasture-based dairy systems: causes and economic consequences

Chair group Animal Production Systems Group (APS)

Promotor Prof. Dr I.J.M. de Boer

Time and Place 16:00 hrs, Online

14 October 2020

PhD graduation Chiara Bortoluzzi

Title Using whole-genome sequencing data for demographic and functional evaluations of small managed populations

Chair group Animal Breeding and Genomics Group (ABG)

Promotor Prof. Dr M.A.M. Groenen

Time and Place 16:00 hrs, Online

21 October 2020

PhD graduation Nedup Dorji

Title Transhumant pastoralism in a changing world: challenges and opportunities to sustainable yak farming in Bhutan
Chair group FTE & APS
Promotor Prof. Dr Ir PWG Groot Koerkamp
Time and Place 13:30 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen.

28 October 2020

PhD graduation Natasja Costermans

Title Physiological and molecular aspects of ovarian follicular developmental competence in sows
Chair group Human and Animal Physiology Group & Adaptation Physiology Group (HAP & ADP)
Promotor Prof. Dr J Keijer, Prof. Dr B Kemp
Time and Place 16:00 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen.

30 October 2020

PhD graduation Ollie van Hal

Title Upcycling biomass in a circular food system the role of livestock and fish
Chair group Animal Production Systems Group (APS)
Promotor Prof. Dr I.J.M. de Boer
Time and Place 13:30 hrs in the Aula, General Foulkesweg 1 Wageningen.

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