**WIAS TSP Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. How to count credits for courses?**

One ECTS credit equals a study load of approximately 28 hours. Every course day counts for 0.3 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 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 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

 Read monthly WIAS news letter

 WIAS offers several courses (see: https://www.wias.nl/)

 Wageningen Graduate Schools offers subsidized competence, skills and career oriented courses (see: https://wgs.crs.wur.nl/)

 Courses at the other 5 Wageningen graduate schools (see websites of VLAG, PE&RC, WIMEK, WASS, EPS)

**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.

Minimum 2 original presentations are requested, of which at least one oral, and at least one at an international conference (1 ECTS each)

Maximum 4 scientific presentations can count for credits. When given more presentations, these can be included in the TSP, but without credits.

**7. PhD discussion group requirements?**

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.

PhD discussion groups can be part of the TSP with a maximum of 4 ECTS; maximum 2 ECTS per discussion group.

**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 included in the TSP up to a maximum of 6 ECTS.

*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 online courses be included on the TSP?**

Online courses can be included on the TSP if:

 The level of the online course is at least MSc level. An online course at MSc level can be filled in as part of the maximum 6 ECTS MSc level courses.

 Your supervisor agrees with doing the course.

 You have a proof of successful completion of the course, like a course certificate

**10. 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)

When after RMC elaborating your proposal for your PhD project this can be included on the TSP with maximum 6 ECTS for proposal writing (TSP section ‘’Disciplinary Competences’’).

*Teaching* by PhD candidates in the Research Master Cluster (review of scientific articles and pre-proposals) is awarded on the TSP as ‘’Teaching Competence’’ with 0,5 ECTS.

**11. 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).

**12. Professional competences: management skills training, how many credits?**

Organizing a seminar or conference usually counts for 1 to 2 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. Organising the WIAS Science Day/WIAS Annual Conference counts for 2 ECTS, except the chair with 4 ECTS.

**13. When and how to apply for the certificate of PhD education?**

Not later than 15 weeks before defence submit to WIAS education coordinator:

-the (by PhD and supervisor) signed final TSP

-proofs of the education done, like course certificates or other proofs

-the electronic excel file of the final TSP

All can be sent in electronically.