WASS Introduction Course

18-20 October 2016

Registration deadline is 30 September!

Course organised by Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS), Wageningen University

Introduction
Starting a PhD is a big challenge. Especially in the beginning, new candidates will encounter lots of new information and uncertainties; a new workplace, new colleagues, preparing a four-year process, writing a research proposal, etcetera. In order to feel at home within the Wageningen School of Social Science (WASS), to get to know your fellow PhD-candidates, and to overcome pitfalls and problems during the PhD process, Wageningen School of Social Science offers the WASS Introduction Course for new PhD candidates.

Objectives of the course
The objective of the WASS Introduction Course is to make new PhD candidates more familiar with the WASS organisation and to prepare them for the PhD process. During various sessions, PhD candidates will be introduced to the WASS organisation, its fellows, and the PhD Council. A number of workshops will be offered with the objective to prepare candidates for their PhD process.
More specifically, the following issues will be considered:
-   Everything you need to know about WASS
-   Meeting the PhD Council
-   Ethics in Social Sciences
-   Competences necessary for the PhD process
-   Proposal approval & Code of conduct
-   Networking
-   Dealing with your supervisor

Next to informative sessions and workshops, the program also includes social (teambuilding) activities . Since the Introduction Course lasts 3 days and is held at an external location (Congrescentrum De Werelt in Lunteren), there will be plenty of opportunities to get to know your fellow PhD candidates. Activities include, among others, a cultural evening on the arrival day and a final outdoor (teambuilding) activity.

Target group and learning outcomes
Target group are new WASS PhD candidates. After the completion of this introduction course participants:
-   are better prepared for their PhD process by being:
    o   Informed about practicalities and formalities in their PhD process
    o   Aware of the competences that are needed in their PhD process
    o   Aware of communication issues that can occur with supervisors and learning how to deal with these
    o   Informed on the approval procedure of their research proposal
-   have a better understanding of the WASS organisation and feeling as a member of WASS
    o   The (international) candidates have a better insight in the Dutch culture
    o   Candidates are aware of the WASS mission and themes
    o   Candidates know the importance of ethics within WASS research and can relate that to their own research
    o   Candidates know each other and are familiar with the WASS staff and the WASS fellows.

Course fee
There is a fee of 150 euros (incl. two nights at Congrescentrum De Werelt Lunteren, drinks, breakfasts, lunches and dinners, course materials and a team building activity).

Outline and ECTS
The WASS Introduction Course will be offered regularly. It is a compulsory course for 1 ECTS.
The course in October 2016 is scheduled on the following dates:
-   **Tuesday October 18, 08:30 hrs   –   Thursday October 20, 14:00 hrs**

The course is structured in two parts:
1. *Get to know WASS and its practicalities:* the focus will be on getting to know each other, the WASS organisation, working and living in Wageningen, and 'what to do when' during your PhD process.
2. *PhD process related workshops:* various workshops are offered on topics that are relevant to strengthen the PhD process and that focus on development of skills such as communication, ethical issues or networking.

Teaching methods
Information sessions are combined with interactive workshops and social activities.

Requirements
The Introduction Course does not require specific knowledge or preparation. This course is especially useful for WASS PhD candidates that have just started their PhD project. For preparation, the PhD candidates could make a list of all the questions they have about WASS, the PhD process, and pitfalls that could occur during their PhD process.

Registration
Registration is possible electronically via the WASS course registration page:
http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/Graduate-Schools/Wageningen-School-of-Social-Sciences/Courses/Registration.htm

Registration deadline is September 30!

Please make sure that you provide the most recent contact details so that in case of any changes you will be notified promptly. After your internet registration you will receive a short notification that your name has been registered. At least two weeks before the course you will receive a confirmation about the location and the schedule. WASS will also send an invoice to the address indicated in the registration form.

Please e-mail to Marcella.Haan@wur.nl in case you have not received the second confirmation one week before the course.

Cancellation policy
Cancellations may be made free of charge until 1 month before the start of the course. Cancellation fee of 100 % applies if participants cancel the course less than 1 month prior to the course. The organisers have a right to cancel the course not later than 1 month before the course starts. The participants will be notified of any changes at their e-mail addresses.

Further information
On course *content* please contact the course organiser, WASS education coordinator Maartje van de Velde.
edco.wass@wur.nl
Tel +31 317 4 84116

For details about the *logistics, accommodation, registration, fees, study materials*, etc. please contact
Marcella Haan
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Contact address:
Wageningen School of Social Sciences
Wageningen University
Hollandseweg 1
6706 KN WAGENINGEN
The Netherlands

Preliminary Course Schedule

When	What
07:30 – 08.30	**Travel** to accommodation 'Congrescentrum De Werelt' in Lunteren from station Ede-Wageningen by train. **Alternative:** use bike (14.7 km from Hollandseweg 1)
08:30 – 09:45	**Introduction game 'Meeting your WASS colleagues' and photoshoot**
09:45 – 11:15	**What is WASS & What makes you a WASS PhD?** **Presentation: WASS – one word, multiple meanings** Wageningen University: discuss university politics and organisations structure (incl. tenure track), compare Wageningen approach to other Universities Graduate School – Organisation, What can you expect from WASS, What does WASS expect from you. Social Sciences – Introduce WASS themes and explain social sciences research
11:15 – 11:45	**Coffee Break**
11:45 – 12:30	**Everything you need to know about WASS - Practicalities** Presentation to inform candidates about WASS requirements (TSP, Go no-go, Publication, Chair group support. Candidates receive written information: What to do when list, documents with procedures and regulations + Vitae booklets and Tips and Tricks document.
12:30 - 13:30	**Lunch and check in**
13:30 – 15:30	**Overview of WASS research – 2min presentations** Present in 2 min. (using PowerPoint): Who are you, where are you from, what is your background, what will your PhD be about?
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break and check in**
16:30 – 18:30	**Meet the PhD Council** Information + quiz/ discussion (Snacks and drinks)
18:30 – 19:30	**Dinner**
19:30 – 20:00	**Prepare for cultural evening**
20:30 - ...	**Cultural evening** Participants prepare/bring drinks and snacks / item from their home country. Group discussion/Speeddating about cultural differences, living and working in Wageningen.
DAY 2	
07:00 – 08:30	**Breakfast**
08:30 – 09:15	Presentation about RAC and proposal approval
09:15 – 10:15	Methodology
10.15 – 10:45	**Coffee**
10:45 – 12.45	Ethics seminar
12.45 – 13.45	**Lunch**
14:00 – 18:00	Teambuilding
18:00 – 19:00	**Dinner**
19:00 – 20:30	**Leisure time**
20:30 - ...	Inspringtheater
DAY 3	
07:00 – 09:00	**Breakfast**
08:00 – 09:00	**Check –out?**
09:00 – 10:30	Game/ Workshop on competences in a PhD, based on the competence assessment filled out before Intro
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee**
10:45 – 12:30	Game/ Workshop on competences in a PhD based
12.30 – 14:00	**Lunch and going home**