

## Costs of living in Wageningen

On average, overall monthly expenditure is about € 1000 which include:

- Rent of student accommodation: between € 300 and € 500 per month
- Health insurance and legal liability insurance: approximately € 50 per month

- Books and study materials: approximately € 200 per year
- Groceries: approximately € 300 per month

Note that costs of travel to and from the Netherlands and visa costs (€ 650 for a stay of more than three months) must also be considered.

## Application

Research assistants and staff PhD candidates are appointed via a job application (vacancy announcement). All other PhD candidates must choose a Graduate School of Wageningen University in whose research programme the intended PhD research fits. Accordingly they submit an application to that graduate school which includes:

- 1 Cover letter describing the applicant's motivation to apply.
- 2 Preliminary research proposal<sup>1</sup> (approximately two pages), including:
  - problem definition
  - research questions
  - proposed methodology linked to the research questions
  - up-to-date literature references
- 3 References from at least two supervisors or professors. The references must contain information regarding the applicant's performance during their Master programme as well as a reflection on the applicant's capacity to finish a PhD programme in the area of application.
- 4 Curriculum Vitae, including information on education, research experience and, if applicable, list of publications.
- 5 Photocopy of a diploma of higher education; minimum requirement: equivalent of a Master's degree. Also include transcripts of academic records. An additional official translation is required if the documents are not in English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish or Afrikaans.

- 6 PhD candidates from non-Anglophone countries, who did not complete their higher education with English as the language of instruction, are required to submit an internationally recognised Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language. Minimum required scores:
  - TOEFL internet-based 90, with minimum sub-score 23 for speaking
  - IELTS 6.5, with minimum sub-score 6.0 for speaking
  - Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) minimum grade B
  - Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) any grade

Test results must be dated within 24 months prior to an application to the PhD Programme.

- 7 Photocopy of the (valid) passport.
- 8 Information on funding. Wageningen University and the Graduate Schools will usually not assist in finding funding sources. There is a much higher chance of being accepted if funding is secured.
- 9 For Sandwich PhD candidates: proof of commitment from the home institute.

The Graduate School evaluates the application. After a positive evaluation the application is forwarded to a prospective supervisor (Professor) from Wageningen University for further evaluation. If the application is approved by the supervisor she/he will contact the applicant.

For more information about the PhD Programme and application procedure see: [www.phd.wu.nl](http://www.phd.wu.nl)



Wageningen University is part of Wageningen University & Research centre  
[www.wur.nl](http://www.wur.nl)

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# PhD Programme

<sup>1</sup> For Sandwich PhD candidates, the research proposal should preferably be linked to the applicant's country of origin, or should be of interest to research organisations in the applicant's country of origin.



Wageningen University is a leading international institute in the fields of nutrition and health, sustainable agriculture, environment, and processes of social change.

It is known for its international approach to research where the wide variety of disciplines, focusing on human, animal and plant life, and the environment, allow for an integrated approach to both fundamental and applied research. The available research and innovative education opportunities are often at the forefront of pioneering research and form an excellent setting for PhD training and research. This has given Wageningen University an excellent international reputation and consequently some 1700 PhD candidates from all over the world are enrolled in the Wageningen University PhD programme.

## The PhD Programme

The PhD programme has been set up for a PhD candidate to reach the required end-terms which involve being able to:

- Function as an independent scientist (hypothesis development, testing and communication)
- Integrate the research in a theoretical framework of the discipline as well as a broader area of research
- Place one's own work in a societal context
- Publish in peer reviewed journals or books or communicate a design that is described in the thesis

The four-year PhD programme largely consists of conducting research (under supervision) and writing a thesis (dissertation). Furthermore, up to 15% of the time is used for training and education activities which include participation in: courses, competence and skills training, seminars, conferences and working visits. These activities are aimed at supporting the PhD candidate in acquiring in-depth knowledge of specific research issues, broadening the candidate's scientific scope, improving general skills as well as integrating the PhD research in other research areas and being able to place it in a societal context.

## The Wageningen Graduate Schools

PhD training and research at Wageningen University is organised in six Graduate Schools, each working in a specific research field. The Graduate Schools of Wageningen University are formally organised in WGS (Wageningen Graduate Schools). Several Graduate Schools also have participants from other national universities and institutes. The six Wageningen University Graduate Schools are listed below.

### 1 Experimental Plant Sciences (EPS)

The mission of EPS is:

- To organise the training of PhD candidates to become self-reliant, societal skilled researchers in the field of basic and strategic research on healthy plants or plants affected by biotic or abiotic factors. The understanding of the functioning of plants offers new means for establishing sustainable agriculture and sustainable production of food, feed, non-food and green energy, and is also essential for the management of renewable natural resources.
- To create a national platform for academic experimental plant scientists for mutual consultation, collaboration and coordination in research, research policy, fundraising, societal discussions and representation at the national and international level, thus contributing to

solutions for societal problems.

- To create an international network with graduate schools in Northwestern Europe for joint PhD activities and collaboration in research activities.

EPS organises and coordinates fundamental and strategic plant research of the collaborating universities, aiming at the development of new principles in plant molecular biology, plant physiology, plant growth for sustainable agriculture and horticulture, plant breeding and plant protection.

*Research programmes:*

- Developmental biology of plants
- Interactions of plants and biotic agents
- Metabolism and adaptation
- Genome biology

Scientific Director: Prof. A.H.J. Bisseling

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### 2 Production Ecology and Resource Conservation (PE&RC)

The mission of PE&RC is to understand the functioning of (agro)ecosystems to design and enable the development of sustainable and multifunctional production and land use systems.

This mission can be viewed from various temporal and spatial scales and different levels of biological integration and complexity where production refers to products as well as services (e.g. recreation, biodiversity). PE&RC research ranges from intensive agro-systems (e.g. glasshouses) to extensive (semi)natural systems (e.g. agro-forests and savannas). Bio-/geo-sciences are corner stones of PE&RC research, but communication and collaboration with social sciences are essential for the design and development of sustainable and multifunctional land use systems.

Scientific Director: Prof. L. Brussaard

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### 3 Food Technology, Agro-Biotechnology, Nutrition and Health Sciences (VLAG)

The mission of the Graduate School VLAG is to develop the careers of young researchers and to promote research collaboration in Food Technology, Agro-Biotechnology, Nutrition, and Health Sciences. As a community of academic research groups and institutions, VLAG aims to contribute to the development of better food and nutrition, for better health of individuals and better health of the environment.

*Research areas:*

- Sustainable production - including biological and biotechnological production routes, and new process principles and production systems as subareas
- Product and ingredient structuring and functionality – including sensory perceived properties of foods, and new ingredient functionality as subareas
- Food safety – including toxicology and microbiology approach
- Nutrition, metabolism and health on cellular, individual and population levels

Scientific Director: Prof. R.M. Boom

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### 4 Wageningen School of Social Sciences (WASS)

The mission of WASS is to understand social processes with regard to today's global challenges of disparities and poverty, of responsible production and consumption, of natural resource use and the environment, as well as of knowledge in society.

WASS research analyses interactions between institutions, practices and social change, often in relation to the material-physical world of natural resources, technologies and artefacts. Research topics include major societal transformation processes such as globalisation of markets, technological changes, unequal access to resources, climate change, shifts in political power and economic prosperity, fast developments in the information society, and emerging fluidity of boundaries between science and politics.

WASS researchers work in a variety of social science disciplines and also develop interdisciplinary (beta-gamma) methodologies to bridge scientific disciplines.

Scientific Director: Prof. A.P.J. Mol

**Contact:** Dr E. Roquas (executive secretary and education coordinator) / M.E. Vaane, MA (executive secretary and course coordinator)  
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### 5 Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences (WIAS)

The mission of WIAS is to improve our understanding of animals and their various roles for mankind through fundamental and strategic research and training of early stage researchers (PhD and post-doc).

WIAS is engaged in fundamental and strategic research and provides training for young researchers on societally relevant animals, ranging from commercial animals such as livestock and fish, to experimental animals such as zebra fish, mice and rats, to companion animals and free ranging (wild) animals.

Scientific Director: Prof. J.A.J. Verreth

**Contact:** D.L. Magendans, MSc (executive secretary)  
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### 6 Wageningen Institute for Environment and Climate Research (WIMEK)

WIMEK aims at developing an integrated understanding of environmental change and its impact on people, society and nature. It is WIMEK's ambition to excel as:

- School for multidisciplinary PhD training
- Network for high-quality environmental research
- Bridge for sustainable solutions around the globe

WIMEK actively participates in the Dutch inter-university network of environmental research groups: the Research School of the Socio-Economic and Natural Sciences of the Environment (SENSE). Through SENSE, WIMEK PhD candidates are part of an interdisciplinary community offering a broad range of high level courses and opportunities for networking and exchange.

## Categories of PhD candidates

Wageningen University classifies PhD candidates into five categories, each category having a specific relation with the organisation:

- 1 Research Assistant:** PhD candidate who is a temporary employee of Wageningen University.
- 2 Staff:** PhD candidate who has a permanent position at Wageningen University.
- 3 Sandwich PhD:** PhD candidate with a scholarship whose research is primarily conducted at the home

*Research themes:*

- Environmental contaminants and nutrients
- Environmental processes and ecosystem dynamics
- Global environmental change
- Sustainable development and change: actors, institutions and governance

Scientific Director: Prof. H.H.M. (Huub) Rijnaarts

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institute or in his/her country of residence/origin.

- 4 Guest PhD:** PhD candidate with a scholarship whose research is primarily conducted at Wageningen University.
- 5 External PhD:** PhD candidate not employed by Wageningen University who conducts research at an institute other than Wageningen University and whose only affiliation with Wageningen University is via the supervisor.

## Tuition fees

Tuition fees differ between categories of PhD candidates. Some indications are given below

Category	Tuition fee
<b>1 Research assistant</b>	No
<b>2 Staff PhD</b> (not a research assistant)	No
<b>3 Sandwich PhD</b>	
Wageningen University Funding	No
NWO Funding	No
Funding by a third party	€ 1000 / month
<b>4 Guest PhD</b>	€ 1000 / month
<b>5 External PhD</b>	No

Please note that:

- 1 Tuition fees are indexed for the year 2012.
- 2 Wageningen University cannot assist in securing funding.
- 3 Tuition fees are levied by sciences groups / chair groups, which may specify exceptions.
- 4 All PhD candidates who are registered at a Wageningen graduate school and will defend their thesis at Wageningen University receive an Education Budget of min. € 2500,-.