APPLICATION FORM WGS SANDWICH PHD PROGRAMME 2025

Incomplete applications, applications in a different format or applications that do not meet the conditions as mentioned in this form or in the instructions, will not be taken into consideration by the selection committee.

Applications should be submitted at the latest by **12 May 2025, 23:59 hrs (CET)**. Send your **application + annexes in one compiled file (digital only)** to [saskia.deboer@wur.nl](mailto:saskia.deboer@wur.nl)

*Checklist of required documents:*

* **Completed application form.**
* **Letter of support from the local institute: use letter format to be found at the end of this form.**
* **Proof that the candidate’s master degree is recognised by WU.  
  In case of a non-Dutch master degree a positive diploma validation by Nuffic is needed. At the time of submission, diploma validation by Nuffic of the candidate’s master degree must be initiated.**
* **Proof of English proficiency as required by WU.**
* **Bachelor and master transcripts (inventories of courses and grades, including degrees conferred).**

If you have any questions about this form or the procedure, please contact saskia.deboer@wur.nl

## **Conditions**

* Applications can only be submitted by WU promotors.
* WU promotors can submit only one application.
* A budget of €85,000 is provided to cover living allowance (salary costs fictitious employment) for a total of 18 months in Wageningen, (partial) travel costs of candidate and WU/local supervisors, visa application costs, and overhead (use of facilities, such as the WUR library, ICT network, office space, access to the campus buildings).
* The applicants should guarantee the additional (research) budget needed.

The candidate should possess a Master degree which is recognised by Wageningen University. **At the time of submission**, **the** **diploma validation** **by Nuffic must be initiated**.  
**Contact the relevant Graduate School for starting the necessary procedure of the diploma validation by Nuffic in time!**

* The candidate should possess a proof of English proficiency required for the Wageningen University PhD programme at the time of submission.
* The candidate should be a national of an eligible country.
* The candidate should not be enrolled in another PhD program.
* The candidate must **start** the PhD project and hence **the stay at Wageningen University in 2025**.
* The candidate should be employed at the home institute during the entire PhD trajectory. It is a plus if the candidate remains employed at the home institute after completing the PhD programme.

## **Selection criteria (all weigh 33%)**

* Collaboration WU and home institution  
  Including quality and infrastructure of supervising groups, institutional support and quality of the relationship between home institute and WU.
* Quality of the candidate  
  Including motivation and CV.
* Quality of the proposal  
  Including originality, clarity, feasibility, and strategic contribution to the WU graduate school and chair group(s).

**General information**

**Graduate School:** EPS/PE&RC/VLAG/WASS/WIAS/WIMEK

**Department:** AFSG/ASG/ESG/PSG/SSG

**Chair group(s):**

**Project title:***Provide a short but informative project title. Include in the title the name(s) of the country(ies) where the research will be carried out.*

**Start and end date of the project**

Start date\*: dd/mm/yyyy

End date: dd/mm/yyyy

\**Candidates must start their PhD project physically at Wageningen University in 2025. If this requirement is not met, the grant will be revoked*.

**Home institute**

Name:

Address:

**CANDIDATE**

**Candidate details:**

Full name:

Nationality:

*Dutch nationals (or double nationality) are not accepted as Sandwich PhD candidates.*

Date of birth:

Year Master degree obtained:

*Candidates must already be in the possession of a Master degree (or equivalent) that is recognised by Wageningen University. At the time of submission of the application, the diploma validation by Nuffic must at least have started.*

Institute Master degree obtained:

**CV of candidate (max. 300 words, add word count)**

*Including academic degrees (place, title and date(s) of graduation), work experience, academic achievement, title of master thesis and a list of publications if available*.

**Motivation PhD candidate (max. 200 words, add word count)**

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (max. 200 words, add word count):**

*Provide a summary of 200 words at maximum. The summary contains the problem definition and objectives and indicates the methodology.*

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT (max. 1000 words excl. literature references, add word count):**

Scientific significance/ innovative aspects

Research problem, research objective(s) and research questions

Research methodology

Background of the project and available knowledge in literature

**WORKPLAN**

Detailed work plan for the first period in Wageningen (max. 200 words, add word count:)

*Indicate the length of the first period in Wageningen and the activities to be performed (including training)*

A rough work plan for the rest of the period (max. 100 words, add word count:)

*A rough work plan for the rest of the period. Indicate at least whether there is a second period in Wageningen before finishing the research at Wageningen University. It should be clear that after finalising the thesis (the approval of the supervisor) and submitting it, there is a period of at least 3 months before graduation.*

**Collaboration WU and home institute**

**Composition\* of the project group and scheduled time for the project**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Funded by** | **Hours per week** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

*\* A local supervisor is copromotor and will act as copromotor at the graduation ceremony.*

**Description of supervision from Wageningen University *and* from the home institute of the PhD candidate (max. 200 words, add word count):**

*Elaborate on the supervision in Wageningen* ***and*** *at the home institute. Also state the contribution of each of the supervisors.*

**CV of the supervisor(s) in the home institute (max. 200 words, add word count):**

**Relation between home institute and WU (max. 200 words, add word count):**

**What is the added value for the WU chair group to collaborate with this particular home institute (max. 200 words, add word count):**

*Provide an explanation how the collaboration between the chair group and this particular home institute meets the programme’s objective for capacity building.*

**Strategic contribution of project to the WU graduate school(s) and group(s) (max. 200 words, add word count):**

*Provide a short description of the strategic contribution of this research project to the graduate school(s) and to the chair group within which the sandwich PhD candidate will work.*

**Link of PhD candidate with home institute (max. 100 words, add word count)**

*Employment of the PhD candidate at the home institute during the entire PhD project is a prerequisite. Candidates who remain to be employed at the home institute after completion of the PhD programme will receive priority. Applications for PhD candidates without any further linkage to the home institute will not be taken into consideration.*

**Description of support from the home institute (max. 200 words, add word count):**

*Applications for PhD candidates that cannot work fulltime (in case of 1fte) or 80% (in case 0.8fte) on their PhD project during the time spent at the home institute will not be taken into consideration.*

**BUDGET:**

**Other funding sources**

Intending to apply for additional or future funding: yes/no  
*Wageningen University encourages application for future or additional grants to improve the opportunities for good research and implementation. This could be a grant of WOTRO (www.nwo.nl ), Rockefeller Foundation (http://www.rockfound.org), Ford Foundation (http://www.fordfound.org), DELTA (http://www.nuffic.nl ), the Neys van Hoogstraten Foundation (http://www.neys-vanhoogstraten.nl ), etc.*

If YES, please specify:

*If you intend to apply for additional funding, please indicate where and for what part of the total project. Additional Funding must not be detrimental to building a research link and/or institutional co-operation.*

**Budgetary breakdown for the *entire* PhD Programme**

*The WGS Sandwich PhD finances 18 months of the PhD programme at Wageningen University. Provide an overview of the budget for the* ***entire*** *(not only the WGS Sandwich PhD finances) PhD programme, including* ***additional / future funding*** *to finance research at the home institute. Please note that if additional funding is covering the same costs as the WGS sandwich PhD, external funds will replace the WU-funds.*

*Proven (financial) support during the fieldwork period is a prerequisite.*

*Funding of the programme includes €70.000 to cover:*

* *PhD living allowance for a total of 18 months in Wageningen*
* *(partial) reimbursements for travel costs of candidate, WU supervisor and local supervisors*
* *visa application costs*
* *use of facilities.*

Other project costs (these costs will *not* be subsidized by the WGS sandwich programme):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total costs (€) | To be financed by: |
| Consumables |  |  |
| Investments/equipment |  |  |
| Training |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |
| Salary while at home institute |  |  |

**SIGNATURES**

**Chair of Group(s)** **Applicant (i.e. promotor)**

Name: Name:

Date: Date:

Signature: Signature:

**Local supervisor**

Name:

Date:

Signature:

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**LITERATURE REFERENCES**

*Provide references in the usual way for scientific research*

Format employer’s letter of support

The employer’s statement is to be submitted on official letterhead, dated, signed by the superior of the candidate and stamped

To whom it may concern

I am writing to you with regard to the 2025 application of [*name of candidate]* at theWGS Sandwich PhD Programme. This letter is intended to express both support and commitment to [*name of candidate]* for pursuing a PhD trajectory at *[name graduate school]* within Wageningen University. [*Name of candidate*] is a [*position of candidate*] at [*name local institute*].

[*Paragraph on relevance of the PhD research (max. 120 words)*  
*Elaborate on:   
- why this candidate  
- what is the added value of this PhD research for candidate*

*- what is the added value of this PhD research for local institute.]*

[*Paragraph on commitment: supervision and financial support (max. 160 words)*

*Elaborate on:*

*- employment conditions during entire PhD trajectory*

*- composition and commitment of the local supervising team/supervisor*

*- usage of facilities at the home institute.*

*- envisaged employment opportunities at local institute upon completing the PhD trajectory]*

In addition to the above, I declare that

1. the candidate will not be assigned any tasks during the scholarship period that hinder fulltime availability for the study programme to ensure good progress;
2. I understand that WU has the right to end the collaboration on the PhD project and hence the grant when the at point 1 mentioned condition is not complied with;
3. I am willing to cooperate with Wageningen University for evaluation purposes of the programme;
4. the information provided in this letter is true and correct.

Signature

[*name of the superior of the candidate*]

[*position of superior*]

[*date*]