

PE&RC Graduate Programme 2024 call
(submission deadline final proposal: 9 September 2024 14.00 CE(S)T)
(submission deadline candidates interested: 1 July 2024 14.00 CE(S)T)

The PE&RC Graduate Programme call involves the funding of two PhD positions and aims to stimulate talented MSc students of Wageningen University (WU) to obtain their PhD at WU through research that is embedded in one of the WU-PE&RC chair groups and where the daily supervisor/promotor is a PE&RC member. *Supervisors (incl. promotors) can only be involved in one application.* - The grant covers the 4-year salary costs of the candidate plus related overhead (~34% of the salary costs). Direct research costs exceeding the overhead are to be covered by the chair group that is hosting the PhD candidate. Applications are written and submitted by candidates who have obtained or will obtain their WU MSc-degree between 1st of September 2023 and the 9th of September 2024. Also candidates are eligible who have not formally received their MSc-degree but who have completed their MSc work the 9th of September 2024 at the latest. All applications need to be accompanied by a motivated letter of support from the main supervisor of the project. The main supervisor is a WU PE&RC staff member with ius promovendi (a promotor).

Registration candidates interested:

In case a candidate is interested in this call one **must pre-register the 1st of July 2024 at the latest**. A candidate is asked to mail her/his name, foreseen supervisor(s) including the main supervisor, chair group, and research area of interest (max 50 words) to [Theo Jetten](#). This pre-registration is obligated and needed to compose the selection committee in time. Candidates that register later are not eligible. It is not allowed to submit an application for a Wageningen University Graduate programme funding to two Graduate Schools simultaneously.

Selection of the candidates:

A PE&RC selection committee, composed of PE&RC executive and academic staff members, will assess the submissions based on:

1. Quality of the candidate as shown by the Curriculum Vitae (50%);
2. Motivation of the candidates as shown by the motivation letter (20%);
3. Scientific and/or societal impact of the proposed research (20%);
4. Relevance of the proposed research to PE&RC given its mission: "Understanding the functioning of natural and managed ecosystems to improve the quality of life" and more specifically one of its themes: a. Re-design of (agro-) ecological systems; b. Ecology, biodiversity & conservation; c. One Health; d. Data and engineering science (10%).

Regarding the quality of the candidate a rule of thumb of a grade of 8 or higher for the MSc-thesis is needed to qualify for the grant (in case a grade is not available yet an argued statement with respect to the expected grade for the MSc thesis should be provided by the supervisor of the thesis). We would like to stress that in the last few years many very good to excellent candidates applied which made the competition very stiff. While we are happy to see so many excellent MSc-students graduating from Wageningen University, this also clearly demonstrates that applications need to convincingly show that the candidate not only belongs to the top of their class but also have a variety of talents needed to shine as a PhD-candidate.

From the applications a maximum of four candidates (two candidates per position) will be invited to present themselves and their research in an interactive session with the selection committee. This will be in October/early November 2024. In the presentation the candidate is asked to elaborate the research project with a focus on innovative aspects and scientific impact. On the basis of the presentation and the interview, the selection committee will then conclude its judgement and will announce the grant winners no later than November 2024. The granted PhD projects must start at latest February 2025.

The application form for the final proposal has been annexed.