

WIAS News



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NEWS

Registration for WIAS Science Day extended till 26 February

Because of the network problems we had last month, we have extended the period for registration till Monday 26 February. That is also the last day to cancel your registration, if needed. Participation is free but if you registered for dinner and don't show up, you pay for the meal. You can register directly at www.wias.nl/courses/view_course.php?ID=59.

How do you like living in the Netherlands?

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science would like to find out whether foreign researchers and scientists at Dutch universities and research institutes are satisfied with the scientific environment and daily life in the Netherlands. The Ministry asked the company Dialogic to carry out a 'quick scan' on these topics. The results will provide input for a conference the Ministry is organising on the international scientific position of the Netherlands (May 2007).

One part of this survey is an Internet consultation among foreign researchers and scientists. Dialogic has compiled a short Internet questionnaire with questions on the research environment and daily life in the Netherlands. The questionnaire includes three sections:

- Getting a job in the Netherlands.
- Living in the Netherlands.
- Working in the Netherlands.

and concludes with some background questions.

It takes approximately ten minutes to fill out this questionnaire. We will treat your answers confidentially and will not pass on any confidential information to third parties. Respondents of this questionnaire will not be

identifiable in the results we publish. The Internet questionnaire is accessible till 28 February 2007 at www.dialogiconderzoek.nl/ocw.

IN-DEPTH COURSES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

EPS Course Bioinformatics - a user's approach

13-16 March 2007, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

The aim of this course is to present a hands-on approach to bioinformatics utility software for computing novices. The course will provide an overview of available software, discuss some of the ideas behind the approaches and tackle some common tasks.

Info and registration: course-registration@graduateschool-eps.info, mentioning course Bioinformatics.

New insights into mixed model methodology with applications to genomics and biostatistics

International Doctoral Course jointly organised by INA Paris-Grignon, INRA-Animal Genetics Department and Graduate School ABIES, May 21-25, 2007, La-Londe-les-Maures, France, by Dr Jean-Louis FOULLEY and Dr Florence JAFFREZIC

Mixed Model Methodology (MMM) is a key procedure for analyzing correlated data within a broad range of covariance structures both in linear and non linear frameworks. We are now in a new stage involving more sophisticated modelling approaches.

The purpose of this course is twofold: (i) to review these new tools in a pedagogical way and (ii) to show how they can already be applied in many areas of biostatistics (e.g. functional data analysis and genomics) using existing softwares (e.g. SAS, winbugs, R-oriented tools). Special attention will be devoted to examples and real data processing.

More info at www.inapg.inra.fr/dsa/ger_genetique/intercourses/DoctoralCourse2007.pdf

Conference on 'Genomics for Animal Health'

The EU-funded projects EADGENE (European Animal Disease Genomics Network of Excellence) and SABRE (Cutting Edge Genomics for Sustainable Animal Breeding) would like to invite you to their joint Conference on "Genomics for Animal Health" from 4th - 8th June 2007 in Utrecht, The Netherlands. This 5-day event will focus on the latest genetics and genomics research in the field of farm animal health, through a joint 2-day conference which will be preceded and followed by a series of satellite workshops and meetings.

Further information for this meeting is given in the attached advertisement, and I would appreciate it if you could distribute this amongst interested colleagues, and display a printed copy in a prominent position within your organisation. Travel and hotel information is also attached.

Registration for this event is free. Further information, programme updates, travel and hotel information and an on-line registration form will be made available at www.sabre-eu.eu and www.eadgene.org. Please note that the deadline for registration is 30th April 2007, however several of the workshops have a limit on the number of participants, so registration at your earliest convenience is recommended.

Science, Knowledge and Complexity: Implications for Research and Innovation Linking Dutch and International Experiences

Wednesday afternoon 7th March, 2007, WICC, Kleine Veerzaal, Wageningen.

Within the context of Wageningen UR's focus on "Science for Impact", LEI and Wageningen International invite you to this seminar that will explore how different types of complexity impact on research and innovation strategy. A particular focus will be on linking Dutch and International experiences with new approaches to interactive research and innovation.

The seminar will explore the nature of different 'practical' problem types, ask if a more expansive concept of science is needed and discuss the implications for the relationship between researchers and wider society.

For further information, please contact Jolanda van de Berg (LEI, jolanda.vandenberg@wur.nl).

Food for thought: dynamics of fish and fishers

A Symposium about fisheries, ecosystems and sustainable management on the occasion of the official retirement of prof dr Niels Daan (Wageningen IMARES). In total 14 presentations by international specialists in aquatic ecology and fisheries.

Date: 19 April 2007. Venue: IJmuiden (Thalia theatre). See www.foodforthought.wur.nl.

SKILLS COURSES

New Workshop Writing Winning Grant Proposals

WIAS Director Prof. Johan van Arendonk is prepared to give this workshop for the third time. It will contain two sessions before summer, three in the autumn of this year. At the end of the workshop, you will have produced a grant proposal ready to submit. The workshop is open for WIAS postdocs and staff, and also for PhD students who want to write a proposal for e.g. NWO Rubicon. An important condition is that you have the time available to actually write a grant proposal.

Dates have not been set yet and will be determined with the participants. Maximum number of participants is six. You may express your interest, including a brief outline of your plans, to Johan.vanArendonk@wur.nl.

WGS course Ethics and Philosophy of Animal Science

This former WIAS course is now elevated to WGS level and will be given on Thursday mornings 15, 22, 29 March, 12, 19, 26 April 2007. The general objective of the course is to develop competence in handling and discussing ethical and philosophical issues in animal science. In order to develop this competence PhD students learn: to explicate and scrutinize their tacit ideas of 'good science', 'good scientific practice' and 'scientific responsibility', to reflect on their role as scientist and scientific expert in (modern) expert-oriented democracies, to develop a perspective on responsibility for animals and society at large as a point of departure for ethical deliberation on research (projects) in animal science. A course on ethics and/or philosophy of science is mandatory for WIAS PhD students and this course (or e.g. the VLAG course announced below here) offers a good way to fulfil that obligation. There are still three places available. Participation for WIAS PhD students is free. More info on:

www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS_Ethics+Animal+Science.

VLAG course Philosophy and Ethics of Food Science & Technology

In March and April 2007 VLAG organises the second edition of this course. A series of six Thursday afternoon sessions will include dealings with ethical, philosophical, and social issues surrounding science. The discussion with the guest scientists is based upon relevant and actual cases from the realm of food (technology), nutrition and health. The goal of this discussion series is to spark educated discussions on various facets of science and about the responsibilities of being a scientist. More info on www.vlaggraduateschool.nl/phil-ethics.pdf.

Intermediar PhD Career Event

On 19th of April 2007 Passenger Terminal, Amsterdam.

The first events, held on June 2005 and May 2006, have been a great success and will therefore again be organised. We are inviting PhD students to the next Intermediar PhD Career Event. The Intermediar PhD Career Event aims exclusively at doctoral students from every university.

It will give you the opportunity to meet the leading organizations in commercial and public fields in the Netherlands and also to attend important presentations and workshops. Entrance is free!

For more information and the final application form please go to www.intermediar.nl/phd.

COURSES OFFERED BY WAGENINGEN GRADUATE SCHOOLS (WGS)

A lot of new skills courses such as career development, scientific writing, and giving presentations start this spring: www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/General+Courses/

Courses by the WUR Library

- 13 February 2007: Information Literacy for Employees

- 15 February 2007: EndNote Advanced

- 2 February 2007, 09.00-10.00 an extra Wageningen Digital Library Introduction in the Leeuwenborch, room C71.

More info on <http://library.wur.nl/desktop/services/courses>.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

New call for STW Valorisation Grant

Are you considering commercial application of your research results? Then this might be the grant to make that happen. Deadline is 15 March. More info on www.stw.nl/Programmas/ValorisationGrant.

NWO-WOTRO gets more money

WOTRO's strategy plan for 2007-2010 has been positively received by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Directorate General for International Cooperation, DGIS). The ministry increases its contribution to the budget of WOTRO considerably, in total close to 20M euros. The NWO governing board has already supported the WOTRO strategy with a one-off extra contribution of 3.7M euros.

Next NWO Veni deadline 1 May 2007

Veni grants offer researchers who have only recently completed their doctorates the opportunity to develop their ideas over a further three years. The maximum amount of grant is 208.000 euros. [Read more...](#)