

Privacy statement: VU PhD Survey 2025

Date: 14 October 2025

The Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (hereinafter: "**VU**") attaches great importance to the protection of your privacy and the security of your personal data. In this privacy statement we describe how we handle your personal data in conducting the VU PhD Survey 2025. We process your personal data in accordance with applicable privacy legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulation (hereinafter: "**GDPR**").

1. Who is responsible for the processing of my personal data?

Stichting VU is responsible for the data processing described in this privacy statement. Stichting VU maintains the VU as a privately run university in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act of The Netherlands ('*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*').

Stichting VU has its registered office at De Boelelaan 1105 in (1081 HV) Amsterdam and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under number 53815211.

2. What (categories of) personal data will be processed?

VU will process the following personal data:

Data extracted from Hora Finita (PhD registration system)

- Email address (to send the invitation email with the link to the survey)

If you participate in this survey:

- Answers to all survey questions
- Age category (<30, 30–40, >40)
- Gender (male, female, non-binary, prefer not to say)
- Nationality category (Dutch, EEA, non-EEA)
- Phase of PhD trajectory (starter, intermediate, senior)
- Type of PhD candidate according to the UNL categories
- Faculty
- Department

Averages and percentages will be calculated for each question, categorized by type of PhD appointment, phase of the PhD programme, research field, age category, gender and nationality category. Results will be presented for each group in a report, with a minimum group size of 15 people. The published results will only contain anonymised, aggregated data, so that no individual will be identifiable.

3. For which purposes are my personal data processed, and on the basis of which legal grounds?

The data collected in the VU PhD Survey 2025 will be used for the following objective:

To evaluate the experiences of PhD candidates at VU.

VU conducts surveys regularly to gain insight into the experiences of its PhD candidates and to improve the PhD projects offered by our Graduate Schools. The results are published in reports. Previous reports can be found here.

Participation in this survey is voluntary; there are no negative consequences if you do not participate.

Your personal data will be processed on the basis of the following legal ground: consent (article 6.1 (a) GDPR). Consent can be withdrawn at any time by the participant.

4. Who has access to my personal data?

The personal data will only be accessed by employees of VU who by reason of their function have a role in the processing of your personal data for the abovementioned purposes and for whom it is necessary that they have access to the personal data.

5. Will my personal data be shared with third parties?

For conducting and analysing the VU PhD Survey 2025, the VU uses Qualtrics. VU has concluded a data processing agreement with Qualtrics to ensure that your personal data is processed carefully, securely and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We remain solely responsible for these processing activities.

6. Will my personal data be transferred to countries outside of the European Economic Area?

This research makes use of Qualtrics. As a result, personal data may be transferred to the United States. VU has implemented appropriate safeguards to ensure secure data transfer (see also Articles 45 and 46.2(c) of the GDPR).

7. For how long will my personal data be retained?

VU will not retain your personal data for this survey longer than 12 months. After this period your personal data will be deleted permanently.

8. How will my personal data be secured?

VU will take appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect your personal data against loss and any form of unlawful processing.

9. Who can I contact with questions about the processing of my personal data?

You can ask questions about how we process your personal data via Fernie Maas (PhD policy advisor, Institutional Affairs), f.g.t.maas@vu.nl

10. How can I exercise my privacy rights?

On the basis of the GDPR you have the right – under certain conditions – to access your personal data that we process, to correct your personal data if it contains factual inaccuracies, to delete your personal data, to limit the processing of your personal data, to portability of your personal data and to object to the processing of your personal data.

If you wish to exercise any of these privacy rights, you can contact the Data Protection Officer of VU Amsterdam via:

Data Protection Officer
De Boelelaan 1105
1081 HV AMSTERDAM
functionarisgegevensbescherming@vu.nl

To be able to deal with your request, you may be asked to identify yourself on the basis of additional personal data that the VU has of you. If this method of identification is not possible, you may be asked to identify yourself with an identification card. In this way it will be verified that the request has been made by the right person. If you are not satisfied with the way in which we deal with your personal data, you always have the right to submit a complaint with the [Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens in the Netherlands \(AP\)](#).
