

Education programme PhD candidates Humanities

(annex to the PhD regulations, article 15)

Version: May 2025

The PhD candidate needs to acquire 30 EC (credits) during his/her appointment. The educational portion of the PhD training programme in the Faculty of Humanities is structured as follows:

Compulsory courses and training

**Min
21,5 EC**

Research Integrity – Arts and Humanities

(2 EC)

Every year the Faculty offers a course on ethics and scholarly integrity. This course consists of 6 or 7 weekly sessions, which will address questions related to responsible research conduct, research misconduct, as well as questionable research practices. We will zoom in on a couple of topics in detail, including replication in the humanities, open science, data management, and bias in research. To ensure that the sessions are interactive and insightful, you are required to prepare well for each session by reading the mandatory literature and completing the preparatory assignments ahead of time. At the end of the course, you will submit a portfolio illustrating what you have learned during the course. Please be aware that in addition to the portfolio, attendance during the sessions is compulsory to obtain the certificate needed to complete

Writing a Data Management Plan – Faculty of Humanities

(1,5 EC)

A data management plan (DMP) is a document that helps researchers to formulate and plan their research. It is meant to offer guidance throughout a research project and a detailed DMP is often the first deliverable after having received a grant from a funding agency. A DMP covers topics such methods used for data collection, licenses, ethical guidelines, storage, and archiving. In this course you learn how you write a good Data Management Plan (DMP) for your research project, in which you discuss:

- ☐ which laws and codes of conduct your research should comply with,
- ☐ where you are going to store your data,
- ☐ where you are going to archive them for the long term,
- ☐ how you can make them FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).

This mandatory course is aimed at PhD students at the beginning of their research project ($\pm$ 1st year) from the Faculty of Humanities (FGW).

Key Issues in the Humanities

(2 EC)

All PhD candidates in the Faculty of Humanities follow the methodology course *Key Issues in the Humanities*, which is given every year. During this course, the PhD candidates get acquainted with (specifically VU) core problems and debates in the humanities. In the course we will identify and discuss current topics in the Humanities and how they might affect your own research project and career perspectives. This will take three sessions. The course concludes with a Graduate Seminar for Master's and Research Master's students in the Faculty of Humanities, in January. The seminar is an integral part of the course and will be prepared by the course participants (in smaller groups).

Conference visit

(6 EC guideline)

The PhD candidate visits at least 2 international conferences, at one of which he/she gives a talk or a poster presentation.

- Conference visit without talk/paper/poster (1 EC)
- Conference visit with talk/paper/poster (2 EC)

Courses in national research schools

(10 EC)

The PhD candidate is obliged to devote at least 10 EC to a selection of courses at one or more of the national research schools.

A list of the relevant national research schools can be found on the website of the Graduate School. Every PhD candidate must be registered with one of these schools. Registration takes place through an application via the Graduate School of Humanities. Courses can also be taken at other national research schools than the one you are a member of.

Research skills/ elective modules

8,5 EC

The development of research skills takes place through active participation in the PhD colloquium, the Faculty's Graduate Lectures, and/or participation in research groups connected to the supervisor or other research groups. These meetings allow PhD candidates to practice the presentation of their own research, improve their communicative skills, have interaction with peers, defend their own research and give critical reflection on the research of others, as well as improving their language and writing skills.

PhD colloquium**(1 EC)**

All PhD candidates are cordially invited to join in the meetings of the PhD colloquium. We will organise lunch meetings and workshops on themes such as time management, intellectual property, open access, research data management, presentation skills and career orientation. For 1EC the PhD candidate attends at least five such meetings during his/ her time at the VU. Invitations will be sent by email.

Graduate Lectures**(1 EC)**

Another aspect of skills education is participation in Graduate Lectures, Seminars and Master Classes given by international researchers and organised by the Graduate School of Humanities or by CLUE⁺ or the Network Institute. For 1EC the PhD candidate attends at least five such meetings during his/her time at the VU.

Research groups connected to the supervisor:**(1 EC)**

It is also possible to use regular participation in seminars connected to the supervisor for the development of research skills. The supervisors should inform the Graduate School of these seminars.

VU course on PhD success and personal efficacy**(2 EC)**

At the beginning of your time as a PhD candidate, you will have to become familiar with your area of research in a short time, and learn how to determine the path you will follow. In this course, you will learn to set your own goals, to develop a strategy for realizing them and to communicate them to others. The training will take place over a period of approx. 6 weeks and consists of three modules of two days each, covering the following:

- Time and project management
- Communicating convincingly with others, including supervisors
- Presenting to different types of audiences.

This course is free of charge for VU employees. See: VuNet > services > personnel > training courses.

Candidate's own contribution:

PhD candidates can also propose to organise lectures, workshops etc. or they can join other research groups.

Other possible electives:

In addition to the modules already outlined, the PhD candidate can choose other activities to develop his/her academic skills and competences, reflecting his/ her personal requirements and preferences.

- research stay at a foreign university or research institution
- taking courses at a summer or winter school
- taking courses at another Graduate School at the VU
- VU modules in *Academic English*, specially: *Advanced English Writing for PhD researchers*
- *NT2 Dutch for foreigners*
- or other courses at an academic level, such as online IT modules
- VU Training in *Career Orientation for PhD candidates* or comparable courses or individual coaching tracks
- BKO (Basic Teaching Qualification; 5 EC)

Please contact your supervisor if you wish to include one of these options in your programme.