

Admission documents

This version is from March 26, 2026

In accordance with a School of Social Sciences policy in force as of March 2025, all incoming external PhD candidates must **undergo a selection procedure** conducted by the department. This procedure must take place before the candidate applies to be admitted to the Graduate School.

Once the recruitment or selection process has been performed, please submit the following documents to the GSSS (graduate.school.ssw@vu.nl):

- Proof of Master's (or copy of Master's diploma)
- Proof of English level; minimum requirement is TOEFL 600 (internet based); TOEFL 100 (paper based); or IELTS 7.0. If an English master has been obtained a TOEFL/IELTS certificate is not necessary (include a copy of the diploma supplement or other proof that English was the language of instruction)
- A preliminary research proposal (including a paragraph on the time commitment of the candidate). Keep in mind that this planning should be feasible - a regular full-time project takes 4 years to complete. For an 8-year project (maximum allowed) the candidate should be available at least 2,5 days per week
- Budget plan (see template on the VU-GSSS website)
- Curriculum Vitae
- 'Data on supervisors at the start of a PhD project' (fill-in document on the website, to be completed by the supervisors and sent to the GSSS with all supervisors in cc)

By submitting the 'Data on supervisors' document, all supervisors commit to adhere to the VU-GSSS 'Standards of supervising' (document on the website).

Please submit all the requested (and other relevant) information at once. Keep in mind that we will not be able to review the admission if the documents are unclear or incomplete.

All documents and further information can be found on the [VU-GSSS website](#).