

Category	Training Element	Explanation and examples of training activities
A Discipline specific activities Min 11 credits	A1 Scientific courses at post graduate level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VLAG courses, courses organised by other Graduate Schools at Wageningen University, and other research institutions in the Netherlands or abroad. - The goal of attending the course can be to deepen or to broaden your scientific knowledge. - In case you present (oral presentation and/or poster) during a course, 0.5 extra credits are awarded. - Advanced statistics courses (such as Chemometrics)
	A2 Scientific courses at MSc level Max 3 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An MSc course from WUR or another reputable university. Attendance and examination are required. (Credits can be divided between category A and D, with a maximum of 3 credits in category A)¹
	A3 Visiting researcher, secondment Max 6 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50% of the period spent at another research institute/university will be acknowledged as training, up to a maximum of 6 credits
	A4 Conferences and scientific meetings of 'learned societies'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In case of presenting at a conference (oral presentation and/or poster) 1 extra credit is awarded. For posters this only applies for dedicated, newly made posters.
B General courses Min 6 credits	Competence, skills and career-oriented activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VLAG PhD week - PhD competence assessment - Courses to develop and strengthen professional skills and competences scientists need (e.g. writing and presenting skills, time planning and project management, communication skills, didactic skills). - Scientific integrity or Ethics courses (highly recommended) - Basic statistics courses (e.g. Introduction to R, Applied statistics) - Courses on Programming Languages - Courses on specific laboratory techniques - Career courses/career events
C Assisting in teaching and supervision activities² Max 4 credits	C1 Supervision of practical courses/ Tutorials / Lecturing Max 2 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0.3 credits per lecture or per day of practical/tutorial supervision (includes preparation time)
	C2 BSc / MSc thesis supervision³ Max 2 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BSc / MSc thesis supervision (1 credit per thesis)
D Other activities Min 8 credits	D1 Preparing research proposal 4 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing your VLAG PhD research proposal and reflecting on reviewer's comments
	D2 Internal scientific meetings Max 6 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature study groups (e.g. journal club) and discussion groups consisting of a (multidisciplinary) group of scientists. The group meets on a regular (e.g. monthly) basis and discusses scientific issues/ papers (e.g. key publications, PhD manuscripts and proposals, new developments in scientific theory) (max 3 credits) - Small scale meetings/seminars where research is presented and discussed with colleagues (other than your supervisors) (max 3 credits)
	D3 Societally relevant exposure Max 1.5 credits in total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any kind of societally relevant outreach activity in relation to the research of the PhD candidate. - Examples include TV / radio interviews, newspaper/press articles, popular science magazine articles, blogs (0.3 ects per activity).
	D4 Employing transferable skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VLAG PhD Council or Wageningen PhD council membership (1 credit per council/committee per year) - Organisation or co-organisation of a scientific conference/event, broader than chair group-level (member of scientific organizing committee) (max 1 credit) - Organisation of an international PhD excursion (max 1 credit)
	D5 International PhD excursion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of credits for participating in an international PhD excursion are based on length of scientific programme (to be calculated by VLAG office)

	D6 Reviewing scientific articles	- Provide the title and unique identifier of the scientific article as well as the name of your supervisor who has guided you during this learning activity (0.5 credits per paper, max 1 credit)
	D7 MSc courses	- See information below ¹
Total Min 30 credits	The total number of credits for all categories together should be at least 30 credits	

All credits mentioned are based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One ECTS credit is approximately equivalent to a study load of 28 hours. Some organisers of scientific courses and events have defined the number of credits for their activities. If this is not the case, you have to calculate it yourself by dividing the number of study/contact hours by 28 (round the number to one decimal). For example: 3 days = 24 hours. $24/28 = 0.86$. This equals 0.9 ECTS.

Courses followed online: It is possible to include them in the TSP if

- Your supervisor approves you taking this course
- The course is at least at MSc level, but preferably at post-graduate level
- You have to complete the course (take exams etc.) and prove this completion by an official certificate or an e-mail message from your supervisor, including the level and duration of the course in this message.

TIP: Platforms such as Coursera and EdX offer an interesting curriculum of online courses for free.

Footnotes:

1. Although MSc courses are not at PhD level, there can be a content driven necessity to take one. Therefore, at most 6 credits for relevant MSc courses (from WUR or another reputable University) are allowed as part of the TSP. The credit points can be registered (partly) in the discipline specific course category (A) or in the category other activities (D). In case of 4 or more credits for MSc courses, the credits are equally divided between the categories Discipline specific activities and Other activities to keep the TSP categories balanced. To include an MSc course in the category Discipline specific activities, a WUR MSc course should have a course code starting with a '2' or higher, thus excluding introductory courses. Passing the examination is a requirement to include an MSc course in the TSP.
2. For teaching activities, which include thesis supervision and practical course contribution, clear learning goals need to be specified. Attending teaching courses to further develop didactic skills, organised by the Education Support Centre are strongly recommended (LINK: <https://esd.crs.wur.nl/>) The time a WUR contract PhD candidate may spend on teaching activities is maximally 10% of their overall workload (84 days = 672 hours). A PhD candidate without a WUR contract is not obliged to participate in teaching activities, but they may if they desire. In exceptional cases a chair group can make an appeal to a WUR contract PhD candidate to spend more than 10% of their time on teaching activities. In those cases, an extension of the employee contract is compulsory to compensate for the extra time. LINK: <https://www.wur.nl/en/education-programmes/phd-programme/aim-content-of-the-wageningen-university-research-phd-programme/wur-teaching-rules.htm>
3. Depending on the type of thesis the number of teaching activity hours by PhD candidates vary. In the table below you find the number of hours that you should use for your TSP. If the thesis is a blended form of lab and desk study, a corresponding ratio must be used to calculate the supervision hours.

	hours, thesis (36 ECTS)	hours, thesis (24 ECTS)	hours, thesis (12 ECTS)	hours, internship
LAB	90	56	20	20
DESK	38	30	20	20