Take your PhD at Leiden University

In 1575, the Netherlands founded its first university in Leiden. It soon became one of Europe’s leading universities and remains so today. In its nearly 450 years of existence, our university has built a solid reputation. Leiden University’s good name will help you find a job after you graduate. Our international university is also the ideal place for networking with people from all over the world. Your opinion matters. Whatever your views, whatever your faith, for us freedom of opinion is key. Discover yourself. We would love to welcome you at Leiden University!

Why Leiden University?

- **English-taught:** It’s not necessary to know any Dutch.
- **International:** Students and staff from over 110 different nationalities are represented throughout the university.
- **Facilities:** World famous collections, high level research infrastructure and extensive international contacts.
- **Prestige:** Leiden University is the oldest university in the NL and one of the oldest in Europe with more than 16 Nobel Prize winners.
- **Great scholars and scientists:** Our academics feature strongly in awards from the National Research Council (NWO), the European Research Council (ERC), The Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences and other research organisations.

- **Ranking:** Leiden University consistently ranks highly in international rankings such as the Times Higher Education World University ranking (THE) and the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities.
- **Inspiring locations:** The university is located in the safe, dynamic and historical cities of Leiden and The Hague, right in the heart of Europe.

**What can you expect as a PhD student in Leiden?**

Doing your PhD in Leiden involves conducting four years of original research and having access to courses at Leiden University and Dutch Research Schools. You will write a doctoral dissertation under close supervision of Leiden’s renowned academics and your dissertation will be defended before an expert jury.
Leiden has strong ties with other top research institutes across the world and is one of the founding members of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). This provides you ample opportunities for expanding your international network.

The support network for PhD students is strong. The Leiden PhD council and the Dutch PhD Network are both organisations that promote the interests of PhD students. In addition, the university offers training and careers advice to maximize employment potential and our PhD graduates are employed by universities, research institutes and other organisations throughout the world. PhD candidates also receive support in developing grant proposals and in administrative issues such as applying for visa and work permits.

**How can you arrange your PhD?**

In the Netherlands there are different ways of funding your PhD. You can apply for a paid PhD position advertised on our website or you can enroll as a full-time or part-time PhD candidate supported by a scholarship or by your own funding. Leiden University has a wealth of options on offer across all fields for those ambitious enough to pursue a PhD.

In the Netherlands, your doctoral research and your course work is developed in close cooperation with your supervisor and the Graduate School. Finding and securing a PhD position starts with finding a professor willing to supervise your doctoral research. The following options are available for finding a placement at Leiden University:

1. The university vacancy database advertises available PhD vacancies.
2. The Graduate Schools can be contacted directly. Moreover, they can provide more specific information on the application procedure at their school and support you in finding a possible supervisor.
3. You can contact a professor to ask if they could be your potential supervisor. Include your research proposal, CV and publication list. The Leiden University website contains the e-mail addresses of all full professors at the university.

**Diploma requirements PhD programmes**

You are required to have a relevant master’s degree (or equivalent) with good results from a recognized university.

**Finances and housing**

To cover your living and other expenses, you will need approximately €14,000 per year. There are several ways to find housing in and nearby Leiden and The Hague. The University can assist PhD candidates in finding accommodation.

Some of the PhD programmes may ask for a bench fee.

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**Find out more**

**Practical information and Graduate Schools**

[www.universiteitleiden.nl/studying-for-a-phd](http://www.universiteitleiden.nl/studying-for-a-phd)

**The university vacancy database**

[werkenbij.leidenuniv.nl/vacatures/phd-posities](http://werkenbij.leidenuniv.nl/vacatures/phd-posities)

**Direct contact with professors**

[www.leidenuniv.nl/proffessoren](http://www.leidenuniv.nl/proffessoren)

**Information about housing**

[www.universiteitleiden.nl/housing](http://www.universiteitleiden.nl/housing)

**Summerschools**

[www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/summerschool](http://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/summerschool)