External PhD students at the Amsterdam School of Economics
October 2026

As of May 1, 2017, the following conditions apply to new external PhD students at the Amsterdam School of Economics.

Intake/selection
The qualifications of the potential external PhD student are first assessed by the potential supervisor(s) and the director of the ASE research institute. External PhD students have to meet the same criteria as internal candidates regarding previous education (i.e., they need to hold at least an MSc/MA/MPhil degree in economics or from related fields such as psychology, mathematics, etc., depending on the PhD project) and need to have had excellent results in this study as well as an explicit motivation for doing scientific research. At least one of the supervisors has to be an active researcher as, for example, reflected by a TI fellowship. Potential external PhD students have to commit to work on their PhD and be present at the UvA (at least) one day per week.

Plan on Education and Supervision
Once the qualifications are approved, the external PhD student has three months to submit a Plan on Education and Supervision which has to be signed by the potential supervisor(s) and the PhD student. The plan can be amended continuously but it is mandatory that both parties agree on the proposed changes.

Annual consultation
At least once a year, during the mandatory annual consultation, the supervisor(s) and PhD student discuss the necessity of adaptations to the Plan on Education and Supervision. The customary PhD evaluation forms are used.

Research proposal
Within 12 months a full research proposal or research plan for a first paper which is approved by the supervisors has to be finished and submitted to the ASE research institute. An approval of the research plan by the Research Director is necessary to obtain an extension of the guest appointment (see below).

Admission to the UvA doctoral programme
After the Research Proposal is approved by the Research Director, the formal admission to the UvA doctoral program (UvA doctoral board) can be requested through the regular procedure.

Tuition fee
€2.000,- per annum, the first payment is to be made after an approved Plan of Supervision and Education (which includes descriptions of the main topic of research, the main problem being analyzed and of how the research is going to be conducted as well as an overview of which types of workshops/courses will be followed to ensure sufficient knowledge of the field of study, research methodology, and research ethics). The Plan of Supervision and Education has to include a statement by which the employer of the external PhD student commits to the external PhD student at least one day a week to work on his/her PhD. This implies that one day a week the external PhD student should be at the UvA.

Courses
We request the PhD student to obtain 9-12 ECTS (3-4 courses) of (advanced) master program courses. These can be freely chosen from the advanced courses provided by the different graduate schools, such as, for example, the Tinbergen Institute. If need be, these courses are paid for by ASE-RI. No credit is given for courses obtained previously.

Seminar
The student is expected to present at least once a year in an open seminar series at ASE in the second or third year of the PhD trajectory.

Facilities
In addition to the supervision by the promotor and co-promotor(s), the PhD student will have access to the following facilities at ASE: a guest appointment (UvA email, access to the UvA library, databases and systems), a flex desk (on request and subject to availability), access to special TI PhD workshops on methodology, research ethics, and academic writing (on request and subject to availability), invitations to ASE seminars, invitations to all PhD events (via the PhD mailing list).

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