A PhD at Radboud University
Nijmegen – the Netherlands

We invite you to change perspective
Research at Radboud University

At Radboud University, we do research and teach programmes covering the full width of the academic spectrum. We do this on a green, modern campus with state-of-the-art facilities. The atmosphere on campus is open and personal, which stimulates colleagues to share their knowledge beyond the boundaries of their own discipline. It encourages all to look further, to see more. Thus, Radboud University contributes to the development of new perspectives. Within science and within society. This makes Radboud University successful and of international importance.

We stimulate our PhD candidates to look beyond their own discipline for we truly believe that a broad scope will lead to new and exciting insights. Radboud University is a close-knit community where academics from different faculties – thanks to being at walking-distance from each other – often work together in cross-disciplinary teams. Therefore, as a PhD candidate at Radboud University, you will be able to converse with people from other programmes, teachers, professors, and top-notch scientists. These meetings will stimulate you to take a fresh look at things and change your perspective.

A PhD at Radboud University

A PhD candidate in the Netherlands has the status of a professional researcher rather than a student. The majority of PhD candidates are employed by our university, which strengthens their status as a professional researcher. A PhD programme takes at least four years of doing research and writing a dissertation. Candidates sometimes have to follow compulsory courses.

Radboud University welcomes PhD candidates from all over the world. Our research and education benefit from an international interdisciplinary approach; PhD candidates play an important role in this process. All PhD candidates are assigned a supervisor who oversees the academic quality of the research dissertation, as well as the planning and human resources aspects. The University offers a number of university-based programmes to prepare PhD candidates for their future career.

At Radboud University, there are two options for PhD candidates:

Working as an internal PhD candidate
As an internal PhD candidate you would be employed by the University. You would first of all need a Master’s degree or equivalent, and after that you need to apply for an official vacancy. Most vacancies can be found on Radboud University’s website and the Radboudumc website. Other vacancies can be found on the faculty websites or on Academic Transfer, a joint career website for all Dutch universities, academic hospitals, and research institutes.

› www.ru.nl/vacancies
› www.academictransfer.com

Working as an external PhD candidate
Some PhD candidates at Radboud University carry out their research and write their thesis in their own time and without an employment contract at the University. These external PhD candidates are supervised by a Radboud University professor.

› www.ru.nl/externalphd

Scholarships for the Netherlands

There are several scholarships available for studying or doing a PhD at Radboud University Nijmegen. For more information, please visit:

› www.ru.nl/phil

Xuefei Shi
From: China

Master’s degree in: International Studies from Peking University
PhD research field: Development Studies
Affiliated research institute: Department of Anthropology and Development Studies (CAOS)

“I met my current supervisor, Paul Hoebink, at an educational fair in Peking. He told me about the research that was going on at Radboud University in the field that I was interested in: Africa-China relationship. At that time, three years ago, Nijmegen was one of the few places that did such in-depth research in this field.

Paul Hoebink also told me about how a PhD candidate is considered an equal colleague by all and therefore that there are great opportunities for independent research. I have found this to be true, you can approach any scientist here and they are more than willing to help or collaborate. I believe all Dutch universities are good but there’s a great energy here that I haven’t felt with other universities in the country. Because the CAOS has such a good network in Africa, lots of African students have come to Radboud University. This came in handy when I travelled to Africa for research. There was always a Radboud alumnus that I could fall back on for assistance. I’m also glad for the opportunity to do field research. I have been able to get the funding from Radboud University to go to Africa twice so far and am going again one final time.”

Rahajeng Tunjungputri
From: Indonesia

Master’s degree in: Biomedical Sciences from Diponegoro University
PhD research field: Infectious diseases and immunity
Affiliated research institute: Radboud Institute for Health Sciences (RIHS)

“I have a long relationship with Radboud University. It started when I came for a couple of months as a Bachelor’s student. As a Master’s student I did my internship here and now I’m a PhD candidate. I did not come here simply to be abroad, I was really impressed by the quality of education here. There’s a lot that attracted me to Radboud University, but it’s the good relationship I have with the staff and fellow class-mates and researchers that kept me here and keeps me motivated.

Thanks to the expertise of the staff and excellent research facilities, Radboud University gives me the opportunity to discover the outer limits of my field. When I go back to Indonesia I won’t have access to such state-of-the-art equipment but I will know what’s possible and that inspires me to be creative and adapt my research to the possibilities I have in Indonesia.

My supervisors also accommodate in this by offering applicable science and adjusting my programme to meet my future professional plans.

My research group consists largely of other international students. They are like a second family to me, which is really important as my family lives 19 hours by plane away. The professional relationships are also good. Together we form a team that strives to compete with the best in our field all over the world. This motivates and everyone is pushed to bring out the best of themselves.”
The city of Nijmegen

In Nijmegen you will be based in a true university city: of its 165,000 inhabitants, some 30,000 are students. Students appreciate the city’s attractive, green surroundings and its many venues for relaxation and entertainment. The cultural centre LUX is the largest art house cinema in the Netherlands and also offers theatre, music, debate, and multimedia. Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands, dates from Roman times when its name was Noviomagus (New Market). Situated close to the German border, Nijmegen lies on the banks of the river Waal, a branch of the Rhine. It’s a friendly and safe place to live and study and work.

Reasons for working at Radboud University

Excellent reputation
For the fourth consecutive year, the Dutch university information guide Keuzegids Universiteiten recently awarded Radboud University the number 1 spot in the list of traditional universities in the Netherlands. The 2010 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to a professor connected to Radboud University for his discovery of graphene. You will be joining a truly excellent institution.

Excellent research facilities
One of the main strengths of research at our University is the way we forge cooperative links across national and disciplinary boundaries. Our top people derive their strength from a continuous exchange of ideas and results with others working in related areas. We have several major research institutes, each offering outstanding potential to students and researchers alike.

Excellent services
Radboud University strives for the highest quality, also with its services. This has even been acknowledged by the European Commission who recently stated that Radboud University has “an impressive range of activities and a high sense of concern for quality.” During your stay in Nijmegen you can take part in a variety of activities specifically organised by the University for internationals students and PhD candidates.

Build a valuable network
By working at Radboud University, you can build a powerful, professional network of valuable contacts. Naturally, you will become part of our alumni network to stay closely connected to your fellow colleagues and professors.

Historically and culturally rich city
Working in Nijmegen means living in the oldest city of the Netherlands, where you can find Roman ruins and modern architecture side by side. But apart from its rich history, Nijmegen offers a lively social culture!

Greenest campus in the Netherlands
The Radboud campus in Nijmegen is considered to be the greenest and most beautiful campus in the Netherlands.

Prime location
You can take advantage of the favourable location of Nijmegen. Major European cities like Amsterdam, Brussels, and Paris are just a train ride away and via the many nearby airports you’re well connected to the rest of Europe.

www.ru.nl/phd