

## AMC Graduate School for Medical Sciences – Annual Report 2016

The AMC Graduate School organizes the doctoral level academic training of AMC PhD candidates. The AMC Graduate School aims at creating an infrastructure that promotes and supports excellence in the doctorate level training of PhD candidates as highly qualified future professionals in an international environment.

The number of AMC PhD defenses in 2016 was 209. The median duration of AMC PhD projects stabilized at 5.0 years (mean 5.4 years).

AMC Graduate School for Medical Sciences	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Inflow of PhD candidates per starting year	240	225	234	222	195	249	237
Registered active PhD candidates	1.541	1.498	1.306	1.209	1.137	1.032	903
Appointment:							
•AMC	27%	27%	26%	27%	26%	24%	28%
•AMC Medical Research B.V.	51%	51%	52%	53%	52%	52%	46%
•Other	22%	22%	22%	20%	22%	24%	26%
Number of courses	48	47	47	39	35	31	29
Number of participants in courses	1.449	1.419	1.690	1.420	1.271	1.069	1.004
PhD defenses	209	217	220	238	186	170	156

The AMC Graduate School strives to offer a broad educational program to AMC PhD candidates, consisting of courses in the realms of:

- General scientific competences
- Research methods
- Specific research fields

The number of courses offered to AMC PhD candidates by the AMC Graduate School slightly increased in 2016 to 48. The number of courses that PhD candidates on average follow increased from 3.2 (2014) to 3.6 in 2016.

In 2016, 7 AMC PhD Scholarships and 4 MD/PhD Scholarships were granted to exceptionally talented candidates. Prizes for best PhD thesis, best publications and best poster in 2015 were awarded. 'Advanced topics in Biostatistics' was nominated best PhD course. 12 PhD candidates obtained a travel grant from the AMC Young Talent Fund.

In cooperation with other UMC Graduate Schools the PhD Competence Model was developed, a self-assessment tool for PhD candidates that intends raising awareness of professional competences that are needed for career development. The PhD Competence Model was presented at two international conferences and received (inter-)national interest.

Medical doctors performing (fundamental) research were at risk of not fulfilling the requirement for periodic re-registration in the Dutch BIG-register. The Minister of Health recently – and after interference of UMCs - decided that PhD research in the Biomedical Sciences is also considered relevant work experience. This means that medical doctors performing biomedical PhD research can also apply for BIG re-registration.

The quality cycle of AMC PhD tracks was intensely observed in 2016. At three time points (at the start, mid-way and after PhD graduation) progress and quality of the process were monitored and evaluated. Conversance and compliance by PhD candidates and their PhD supervisors are increasing.