

AMC Graduate School for Medical Sciences – Annual Report 2014

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 2014 was 220. The median duration of AMC PhD projects is stabilized at 4.9 years.

AMC Graduate School for Medical Sciences	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Inflow of PhD candidates per starting year	234	222	195	249	237
Registered active PhD candidates	1306	1.209	1.137	1.032	903
Appointment:					
- AMC	26%	27%	26%	24%	28%
- AMC Medical Research B.V.	52%	53%	52%	52%	46%
- other	22%	20%	22%	24%	26%
Number of courses	47	39	35	31	29
Number of participants in courses	1690	1.420	1.271	1.069	1.004
PhD defenses	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;
- Enhancement of specific research fields.

The number of courses offered to AMC PhD candidates by the AMC Graduate School increased to 47 in 2014. The number of participants in the courses also increased considerably in 2014. Concurrently, waiting lists were reduced due to development of smart and course specific techniques. For instance, the course Practical Biostatistics is now offered as an e-learning module enabling unlimited capacity of participants.

In 2014, 7 AMC PhD Scholarships and 2 MD/PhD Scholarships were granted to exceptionally talented candidates.

The AMC Graduate School website got a facelift and became more structured and better accessible. It also replaces the yearly sent brochure for current AMC PhD candidates.

The evaluation of AMC PhD tracks was further elaborated in 2014. Next to individual appointments with starting PhD candidates -which started in 2012- the monitoring of PhD projects developed into peer support. Also, the exit survey for PhD graduates on experiences with the PhD period started.

In 2013, the portfolio was introduced as a mandatory part of the PhD Thesis. The number of PhD Theses containing a portfolio increased from 25% (first quarter of 2013) to almost 90% (last quarter of 2014).

The UvA published new Doctorate Regulations. As a result, many procedures for obtaining a doctorate degree changed. E.g., it is no longer allowed for a PhD candidate to obtain a doctorate degree with one single supervisor, and all manuscript have to be subjected to a screening on plagiarism.

Finally, the AMC Graduate School office and the AMC Office for Doctorate Affairs moved to a new and common location within the AMC building, close to our colleagues of AMR Ltd and Education Support.