



Universiteit Utrecht



UMC Utrecht

**Universiteitsweg 98, 3584 CG Utrecht
The Netherlands**

To all PhD candidates and
their (daily) supervisors of the
Graduate School of Life Sciences

**Utrecht University
Graduate School of Life Sciences**

Chair Board of Studies:
Prof. W.J.A. Dhert, PhD

Chair Executive Board of Studies:
Prof. J.A.G. van Strijp, PhD

Administrative Secretary:
S.B. Ebeling, PhD

March 5th 2018

Dear PhD candidates and (daily) supervisors,

Since the beginning of this year PhD candidates are required to contribute a small fee (€25 per half-day) for participation in the courses of the PhD Course Centre of the Graduate School of Life Sciences, to be paid from the candidate's personal course budget. This measurement has raised some questions regarding the nature and source of this budget. With this letter we like to clarify this issue.

Since 2015 the Graduate School of Life Sciences offers general courses via its PhD Course Centre. Until this year participation in these courses was free of charge. In 2012 the personal course budget for PhD candidates was set at €400.- per year of research appointment by the Board of Studies of the GS-LS, with a maximum of €1,600.- per PhD candidate. Per 2013 this budget was supplemented to the budgets of the Divisions, and hence departments. The candidates can access this budget via their supervisors. A new element is that per 2018 this budget also serves to finance courses organized by the PhD Course Centre.

In 2018 the GS-LS is forced to demand a modest fee for participation, to be paid from their personal course budget of €400/year of research. This budget may also be used for courses offered elsewhere, for instance by a national research school or (inter)national university or research institute as long as they fit the competences defined in the School's PhD Competence Model (general research skills & knowledge, responsible conduct of science, communication, teaching, leadership & management, personal effectiveness and professional development). We are presently working on a solution for free access to courses offered by the PhD Course Centre from 2019 onwards.

Clarification

We like to emphasize that per decision of the Board of Studies in 2009 PhD candidates have a right to follow courses to a minimum of 20 European credits at a research appointment of 4 years. In case of shorter research appointments of minimally 2 years, this compares to an average of 5 EC per year. This arrangement is laid down in the Training & Supervision Agreement of the GS-LS signed by PhD candidates and their supervisors at the start of the PhD track. In case of questions the administrative secretary of the Board of Studies of the GS-LS dr. Saskia Ebeling may be contacted at gs.lifesciences@uu.nl.

On behalf of the Board of Studies,

Prof. J.E.G. van Strijp, PhD
Chair Executive Board of Studies