



Doctoral education in landscape architecture in Holland

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In Holland doctoral education is organised at the University level. That means that candidate in Landscape architecture will get a degree, say from Wageningen University in 'Agronomy and Environmental Sciences'. So doctoral degrees are not organised on the level of Faculties, like in many other countries.

Requirements for starting a PhD

The requirements for PhD - candidates are: a degree at the Master's level or equivalent. Those who do not have such a degree and that do want to start a PhD project have to do an exam at the University where they want to work on their PhD, the so-called 'Colloquium Doctum'.

Programs

Programs for doctoral education are identical among all Dutch universities; basically four years of research, the first year is a year where the decision is made for 'go or no-go'. There are two types of PhD - candidates; those who have a formal contract with a university and those who do their research next to their regular work. The last category is diminishing rapidly but there is still a substantial number of them. Candidates with a formal contract with a University are paid for the four years of research.

There are two possibilities for PhD - candidates to choose a subject for their research. Either you come up with a subject yourself and search a professor in landscape architecture interested in your subject, to be your 'promotor'. The other possibility is to contact a professor of landscape architecture and to ask for a research subject that is interesting for you as a candidate.

After having chosen a subject of research, coaching is in most cases done by a 'daily supervisor' who has frequent contacts with the candidate, whereas the promotor is finally responsible for the research project and the final results at the end. The final project is judged by a committee of more than three professors or researchers with a finished PhD, at least one professor from another faculty.

The Universities

For landscape architects there are basically three Universities where you can do a Doctorate in the field of landscape architecture.

First of all, **Wageningen** is the best known and has had most doctorates in landscape architecture and urban design. Wageningen as a University has a very international reputation; there are PhD - students from all over the world. PhD's in landscape architecture form a relatively small number. The research of the Dept. of Landscape architecture is firmly grounded in the sciences and knowledge of the natural system; soil science, hydrology, biology and vegetation science. This is also the tradition of the landscape architecture in Wageningen both in research and teaching; planning and design of landscapes based on knowledge of the natural system. Library and information resources in landscape architecture and urban design are well organised and internationally oriented. The Dept. of Landscape architecture is very well known, also internationally with many relations all over Europe and the United States. The doctoral degree is formally a degree in 'agricultural and environmental sciences'

Second is **Delft University of Technology**, where landscape architecture is taught as a series of courses in the Faculty of Architecture, all in direct relation to architecture and urban design. Landscape architecture in Delft is part of the architecture and urban design; there is virtually no background in the natural sciences. Until now a limited number of PhD's in the field of landscape architecture have been accomplished. The doctoral degree is formally a degree in 'technical sciences'

Third would be **Eindhoven University of Technology**, that also has a Faculty of Architecture where a small

number of courses in landscape architecture are taught by Han Lörzing. Until now there has been no PhD in the field of Landscape architecture in Eindhoven. The doctoral degree is formally a degree in 'technical sciences'

Note that in Holland PhD research is only done at the University level; so both the Academy of Architecture in Amsterdam and the University of Professional Education in Larenstein do not offer a education at the Doctorate level.

Contacts and information:

Web-sites (all are both in Dutch and in English)

Wageningen: www.wur.nl

Delft: www.tudelft.nl

Eindhoven: www.tue.nl

To quote this document, please use the following reference: M. van den Toorn, Doctoral education in landscape architecture in Holland, *Les travaux de Topia*, janvier 2010, www.Topia.fr .