

## Contents

- Introduction
- News
- PrOut activities



## Introduction

In this newsletter we would like to inform you about a recent charter we wrote against political plans to allow bursary PhD students, present brief reports on our two recent PrOut events, and announce our PhD day plans! Furthermore, we would like to draw your specific attention to our call for new PrOut members and a questionnaire regarding our activities (see below).

Enjoy your read!

## News

### Action against bursary PhD students

PrOut is concerned by the recent debate on the implementation of a bursary PhD student system in the Netherlands. In contrast to previous political views, the current government seeks to legally enable Dutch universities to facilitate Dutch bursary PhD students. Although this could possibly lead to an increase in cost efficiency for universities and hence to a larger number of PhD students, PrOut believes the introduction of bursary PhD students is a bad idea. We wrote a charter that was offered to the University Council (U-raad), the University Board (CvB) and the rector magnificus. The charter can be found [on our website](#).

Also, the national PhD candidates network (PNN) calls upon all PhD candidates to sign a petition on [www.promovendus.org](http://www.promovendus.org), which also contains a list of arguments (NB: the website is in Dutch). So let's all join our forces!

### Work2Work: PhD Activating Career Event (PhACE)

In the previous newsletter we announced that Work2Work was working on an event for PhD candidates who are approaching the end of their project. The organization is now in full swing and you are encouraged to subscribe!

[PhACE](#) is a two-day event where different career possibilities for PhD's will be shown (creating role models in seven different tracks, being academia, R&D in a company, teaching, entrepreneurship, management, consultancy and non-profit/government). Also there are three rounds of workshops where you will be activated to work on your skills, evaluate your dreams and learn how to take charge of your career path.

All third year PhD students can subscribe to this event. However, there is a limit of 50 participants. Please note that when you subscribe, attendance of the two full days is required and attendance of the follow-up is highly encouraged. The format is chosen such that the coherence and effectiveness is optimized not only by attending the lectures and workshops, but also by the interaction with your fellow participants.

More information can be found at [the PhACE website](#). To participate, write an email to Selma Huisman ([S.E.Huisman@uu.nl](mailto:S.E.Huisman@uu.nl)) indicating your name, email address, faculty and department, and the starting date of your PhD.

### Wanted: new PrOut board members

We are [looking for successors!](#) Would you like to represent your faculty, to broaden your interests and your network, to organize events for all PhD candidates, to learn more about politics, policies and regulations that affect our working conditions, and represent PhD candidates on these matters? Why not join PrOut?

As you have noticed, we are really up and running at the moment, and we hope this can be continued over the coming years. Meetings are once a month at Tuesday nights from 17:00 – 19:00 (also, we do go out for drinks regularly...). If you're interested please contact us at [info@prout.nl](mailto:info@prout.nl) for more information, or to join a meeting.

## PrOut activities

### Report: PrOut event 'Taking life after your PhD for granted?'



Many PhD candidates wish to pursue an academic career after obtaining their PhD. Unfortunately, though, not everyone will be able to get a position. In cooperation with the Faculty Club, we organized an [information evening on getting grants](#): which are available, and what are the best ways to apply? The topic appeared to be rather popular: The Kanunikkenzaal was fully packed (see picture)! After a brief welcome by Nicole Gregoire, Esther Stiekema presented a general introduction into European and

Dutch research grants. We learned that it's a tough competition.... However, before getting too pessimistic, the evening proceeded with 3 VENI-laureates who enthusiastically told us about their grant proposals and what they did to be successful. Many useful tips and tricks were given, leaving the audience inspired. Drinks (and snacks!) were provided by the [Faculty Club](#) afterwards.

### Report: PrOut event 'Tips for tax declaration and refund for PhD candidates'

On the 10th of March in a packed Maskeradezaal in the University Hall Roel Kolder LLM and his daughter Iris Kolder told us everything about tax declaration and refund for PhD candidates. From their experiences with filling in tax forms they gave us tips about which costs are deductible like study books, computers and even part of the costs for an internet connection. Furthermore they gave information about taxes related to buying your own house, donations, living together, and getting children, and about averaging your income over three years.



During the lecture and afterwards there was the opportunity to ask questions. Afterwards there were drinks and snacks served in the foyer. If you missed the lecture you can find the presentation (and the documents discussed during the presentation) [on our website](#).

### PhD day: June 8th!

On the 8th of June, PrOut will organize the annual PhD day. Every PhD candidate from Utrecht University is invited and attendance to any of the activities is free! The PhD day will start with an information market specifically for PhD candidates, followed by workshops and a lecture by Maarten van Rossem. We will end the day with drinks and a barbecue.

### Activities Questionnaire

We would value your feedback on the activities we organize. If you want to help us, please fill in this short [4-item questionnaire](#). Your help is much appreciated!

### Help Us Improve!

If you have any remarks, tips or ideas concerning PrOut, the newsletter, and/or the website, please let us know (e-mail: [info@prout.nl](mailto:info@prout.nl))!

If you have any issues or questions concerning your PhD (work, social benefits etc.), please feel free to contact your faculty PhD council. If it is a main Utrecht matter, or you don't think you can find your faculty PhD council, you can also contact PrOut ([info@prout.nl](mailto:info@prout.nl) or [www.prout.nl](http://www.prout.nl)).