

Selection and supervision procedure of PhD students

When a PhD research position opens up with one of the participating partners, there is usually an open round of applications. Important criteria in the selection procedure are the potential of the student for doing independent scientific research and the level and skills demonstrated in the Master's program.

Admission to the DRSTP requires the submission of an *'Education and Supervision Form'* [opleiding- en begeleidingsplan (**OBP**)] containing a global description of educational activities with details provided for the first year. The plan also specifies how individual guidance will be provided under responsibility of the thesis advisor. The Research School safeguards a consistent implementation of the agreement, with uniform standards. The plan has to be submitted to the DRSTP bureau. Also required is a **Registration form DRSTP PhD students**. Formal admission is subject to approval by the Governing Board.

After one year the progress is evaluated, based on an interview with the thesis advisor and an independent second referee. The school safeguards this procedure without interfering with the responsibilities of the employer. Participation in the educational program is an explicit element of the evaluation: students are expected to attend at least two DRSTP postgraduate schools and the DRSTP symposium 'Trends in Theory'. The outcome of the evaluation will reflect on whether the student will be able to complete the research program within the amount of time allotted. If the prognosis is negative, the student will be asked to leave the DRSTP. Such outcomes should be, and are, extremely rare provided proper care is given to the initial selection.

A student can appeal a negative evaluation with the Governing Board of the school; a decision will be reached within one month. If the student does leave the school before completing the PhD, a diploma, specifying the student's accomplishments in the educational program, will be provided.

After the first year, throughout the duration of the PhD project, the progress will be closely monitored, for example by additional yearly evaluation interviews.