



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Amsterdam School of Economics



Advice, support and guidance for your PhD



Advice, Support and Guidance for your PhD in Economics and Business at the University of Amsterdam

PhD@EB Community

October 2025

Relation with supervisor and colleagues

Ideally, your supervisor is the main person at the UvA that you reach out to with issues you have. These issues can be work-related, but also personal, given that they indirectly might affect your productivity and the way you deal with the challenges you experience at work.

This also means your supervisor has the role of mentoring and actually supervising you. Keep in mind your PhD is not just an academic process where you only need support through expertise. Some of your insecurities might also be resolved by simply talking to your colleagues and fellow PhD's: often they are dealing with similar things!

However, if there are problems you find hard to discuss with your supervisor or colleagues, or they cannot help you, the University of Amsterdam provides many other services you can make use of as a PhD student of the faculty of Economics and Business, both at the [Amsterdam Business School](#) as well as the [Amsterdam School of Economics](#).

Mental support

▪ Section head and research director

If there are issues regarding your PhD trajectory or concerning supervision, you can talk to several people:

- PhD Coordinator: [Alisa Mulder](#), and/or Richard Ronay (specifically for ABS research)
- Your section head
- The Research Directors (Randolph Sloof for ASE, Deanne den Hartog for ABS)

▪ Faculty mentors

If you have questions or concerns regarding working relationships, the informal structure at work, or your personal well-being at work. Mentors can advise you, or help you to find appropriate support inside or outside the university.

- Amsterdam Business School (ABS): [Corine Boon](#)
- Amsterdam School of Economics (ASE): TBA

▪ Mastering my PhD

The newly developed *Mastering your PhD* programme begins annually and includes courses on personal growth, professional development, teaching and research skills, and career support. Some courses are compulsory, while many others are offered as electives. You will receive more information in due time.

▪ Coaching

In previous years the UvA collaborated closely with [Academic Vision](#) for workshops on our PhD. While this programme has been changed, Academic Vision still offers content on some of the issues you might be experiencing at work and their underlying causes.

- Reach out to Academic Vision and ask for [Anneke Dekker](#) for more information or ask your colleagues.

In addition the UvA offers support/workshops through many bodies: CREA, Tinbergen Institute, TLC, etc.

- **Social Safety and Integrity Reporting Point**

As of October 2025, the UvA has a [Central Social Safety and Integrity Reporting Point](#) that you can reach out to for questions and reports related to social safety and integrity. Students, staff, PhD candidates, and visitors to the University of Amsterdam can contact the reporting point for support. It is part of the Office of the Ombudsperson and refers questions and reports to the appropriate entity within the university (such as confidential advisors, the ombudsperson, or the complaints committee).

- **Psychologists**

For doctoral candidates who have problems with studying, personal problems (insecurities, anxiety, family problems), ADHD, autism, etc. [UvA's psychologists](#) can offer support in the form of groups, workshops, training sessions, consultation. This is a great resource you can go here anytime for a check-in and also get sessions for free. You don't need a referral.

- **GP Practice UvA**

UvA's [general practitioners practice](#) has specific knowledge about student (and PhD) life: for sickness, mental problems, other health concerns, prescriptions, lab tests or vaccinations.

Working environment

Support concerning working environment is quite broad and has some overlap with the above-mentioned mentors and confidential advisors. Apart from these, there are some more specific alternatives to consider reaching out to.

- **EB PhD Council**

The faculty's [PhD Council](#) is the sounding board for organizational developments within the faculty that concern PhD candidates. [The Council](#) meets once a month, and everyone is welcome to join the meetings, raise topics and/or join the Council.

- **Works Council**

The faculty's [Works Council](#) assess, monitor and report on issues relating to working conditions, teaching, research, support and finance.

- **Confidential Advisors**

You may be confronted with [undesirable behaviour](#) during your studies, which can cause stress and mental and physical health problems. Don't keep this for yourself, but talk to one of the confidential advisors.

Undesirable behaviour includes: sexual and general harassment, aggression, bullying, discrimination.

Confidential advisors help you to look for a solution, provide support and guidance if you wish to submit a formal complaint, or help you to find a specialist inside or outside the university to help you with your issues.

- For Economics and Business, the confidential advisor is: [Karin Venetis](#)

- **Ombudsperson UvA**

[The ombudsperson](#) can provide support with regard to questions, dilemmas or conflicts at work or within a degree programme. All [contact](#) can be kept confidential.

- Some other useful contacts:
 - Workplace check: to improve your seating position or check whether your working-from-home setting is ergonomically set up. Contact [Tineke Seinstra](#) for more information
 - Diversity Officer: [Siri Boe-Lillegraven](#)

Career support

- Academic career support

For worries about your career (path), you can always talk with your supervisor. Additionally, if you're part of the Tinbergen Institute, you can talk to the [Tinbergen placement bureau](#).

- General career support
 - You can talk to the Personnel & Organisation advisor [Bernadette Clemens](#) for more general information on career support.
 - ProActief UvA: confidential career advice and support on career questions.
 - PhD@EB: Alisa Mulder (PhD Coordinator, policy advisor research)
 - For practical matters regarding the PhD trajectory, such as admission to the doctorate programme and the graduation procedure: contact [Alisa Mulder](#).

Teaching support

- Didactic coaching

Academic Vision offers, next to their personal coaches, access to didactic coaches. They can monitor your teaching during a lecture, and provide helpful feedback to improve and become more confident.

- Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)

The [TLC](#) offers advice on teaching, and offers a range of courses to teachers to improve teaching skills.

General Advice for PhD(ing)

- Secretariats

For any questions related to facilities, such as (when starting) picking up and (when leaving) handing in your laptop, working spaces, office supplies, room and catering reservations and other types of assistance, please note that this goes through the secretariats of the research institutes:

- ASE: secretariaat-ase@uva.nl
- ABS: secbs-abs@uva.nl (please note that at ABS requests for laptops or computers can be made through [Bas Bouten](#))

- [The Employee A-Z](#)

On the website of the faculty you find loads of advice for a wide range of topics, as well as advice on the PhD trajectory and specific [PhD needs](#).

- Microsoft Teams

[In Microsoft Teams we have an UvA EB PhD group](#). Here you find useful files and information like this one. You can also use this to share files with fellow PhDs. The PhD Council collected resources on topics including: PhD visits, travels, courses etc.

- Grants

Receiving [grants](#) helps your research and your CV. UvA has loads of resources that directly provide grants or help you find and apply to others. Talk to your colleagues and supervisors or see the Microsoft Teams. Alisa Mulder can provide more information on grants as well, and knows more about who the right person to talk to is.

- Mental and Physical Health

Doing a PhD can be hard. You are not alone. Through our social events you can meet people that will tell you about their problems in their PhD and might help you through a rough patch.

- You can get discounted deals for the [UvA gym and sports memberships](#). Here you can meet new people and work on your physical health (which, in the end is good for your mental health as well).
- Socializing: [Jong UvA](#) organises events for employees and is a great resource to meet people and join fun events.

- Courses

You have a lot of options to follow [courses at UvA](#). This includes all courses taught at the university (also at other faculties and different levels), most of them are accessible through normal sign-ups.

You can also join language courses (Dutch courses are fully covered by the faculty). For this reach out to: [Bernadette Clemens](#). Both INTT and UvA Talen offer great courses.

There are also a lot of skills courses you can follow check out:

- [CREA](#)
- [GoodHabitZ](#) (covered by UvA)
- Often other faculties also offer best practice courses to PhD students that you can join.

- Housing

To apply for UvA's Housing services, you can contact [Alisa Mulder](#). Please note that the housing shortages in the Netherlands also affect UvA's Housing services. We cannot accommodate people who have a Dutch passport, have been living in the Netherlands for more than six months and people who are planning to move with two children (or more).

For any additional tips, you can contact Alisa Mulder.

Learn from your peers

We are in the process of setting up a sharing system so that we can learn from each other. This should include documents but also masterclasses, slides etc. If you want to contribute, host a workshop or have any other idea [please reach out](#).

Do you miss something? Let us know and we can see whether this type of support can also be provided in the future.