

Privacy statement: PhD Survey 2023

Date: 14 April 2023

The Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (hereinafter: "**VU**") attaches great importance to the protection of your privacy and the security of your personal data. In this privacy statement we describe how we handle your personal data in conducting the VU PhD Survey 2023. We process your personal data in accordance with applicable privacy legislation, including the General Data Protection Act (hereinafter: "**GDPR**").

1. Who is responsible for the processing of my personal data?

Stichting VU is responsible for the data processing described in this privacy statement. Stichting VU maintains the VU as a privately run university in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act of The Netherlands (*'Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek'*).

Stichting VU has its registered office at De Boelelaan 1105 in (1081 HV) Amsterdam and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under number 53815211.

If you consent to share your data and answers to the national survey questions, VU will transfer them to University of Groningen (RUG). The RUG will collect all answers to the national questions on behalf and under the responsibility of all Dutch universities and analyse them to create a national report. This report will not contain any personal data.

2. What (categories of) personal data will be processed?

A. The VU will process the following personal data if you participate in this survey:

Data extracted from Hora Finita (PhD registration system)

- Email address (to send the invitation email with the link to the survey)
- Type of PhD appointment according to the UNL categories
- Graduate School and/or Faculty and/or Research institute
- Phase of your trajectory (starter, senior)
- Age category (<30, 30–40, >40)
- Nationality category (Dutch, EEA, non-EEA)

Data collected as you answer survey questions

- Answers to all survey questions: national and specific VU questions (incl. open answers)
- The PhD candidate's subject field (ISCED category)
- Gender (male, female, other/prefer not to say)

B. If you consent to share your data and answers to the national survey questions, VU will transfer the following data to the University of Groningen (RUG). The RUG will collect all answers to the national questions on behalf and under the responsibility of all Dutch universities and analyse them to create a national report:

- Answers to the national questions (excl. open answers)
- The PhD candidate's institution (university)
- The PhD candidate's subject field (ISCED category)
- The type of PhD appointment according to the UNL categories
- Gender (male, female, other/prefer not to say)
- Phase of your trajectory (starter, senior)

- Age category (<30, 30–40, >40)
- Nationality category (Dutch, EEA, non-EEA)

Averages and percentages will be calculated for each question, categorized by university, type of PhD appointment, phase of the PhD programme, research field, age category, gender and nationality category. Results will be presented for each group in a report, with a minimum group size of 15 people.

3. For which purposes are my personal data processed, and on the basis of which legal grounds?

The data collected in the VU PhD Survey 2023 will be used for the following two objectives:

Objective 1 > To evaluate the experiences of PhD candidates at VU.

The Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam conducts surveys regularly to gain insight into the experiences of its PhD candidates and to improve the PhD projects offered by our Graduate Schools. The results are published in reports. Previous reports can be found [here](#).

Your personal data will be processed on the basis of the following legal ground: consent (article 6.1 (a) GDPR).

Objective 2 > To evaluate the experiences of PhD candidates at universities in the Netherlands.

A large part of the survey response will be, if consent is provided, combined with information from other Dutch universities. By comparing the answers to a series of shared questions, a national picture will emerge of how PhD students evaluate various aspects of their trajectory, such as teaching activities, supervision, work pressure and career prospects, as well as their mental health.

Your personal data will be processed on the basis of the following legal ground: consent (article 6.1 (a) GDPR).

4. Who has access to my personal data?

The personal data will only be accessed by employees of the VU who by reason of their function have a role in the processing of your personal data for the abovementioned purposes and for whom it is necessary that they have access to the personal data.

If you consent to sharing your personal data with the University of Groningen (RUG) to compare the survey questions of all PhD candidates nationwide, the employees of the RUG will have access to your data (see question 3, objective 2) to analyse it and create a national report on the experience of PhD students at Dutch universities. The personal data will only be accessed by employees of the RUG who by reason of their function have a role in the processing of your personal data and for whom it is necessary that they have access to the personal data.

5. Will my personal data be shared with third parties?

For conducting and analysing the VU PhD Survey 2023, the VU uses the services of Ruigrok (a market research company). The VU has concluded a data processing agreement with Ruigrok to ensure that your personal data is processed carefully, securely and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We remain solely responsible for these processing activities.

If you consent to share your data and answers to the national survey questions, VU will transfer the data as mentioned under 2B to the University of Groningen (RUG). The RUG will collect all answers to the

national questions on behalf and under the responsibility of all Dutch universities and analyse them to create a national report. This report will not contain any personal data.

6. Will my personal data be transferred to countries outside of the European Economic Area?

No, your personal data will not be transferred to international organisations or countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA).

7. For how long will my personal data be retained?

The VU will not retain your personal data for longer than 12 months.

The data collected by the University of Groningen (RUG) nationwide will be stored for ten years. After five years the pseudonymized data on gender, age category and nationality category will be removed. After ten years the dataset will be deleted.

8. How will my personal data be secured?

The VU and the University of Groningen (RUG) will take appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect your personal data against loss and any form of unlawful processing.

9. Who can I contact with questions about the processing of my personal data?

You can ask questions about how we process your personal data via Fernie Maas (PhD policy advisor, Institutional Affairs), f.g.t.maas@vu.nl

10. How can I exercise my privacy rights?

On the basis of the GDPR you have the right – under certain conditions – to access your personal data that we process, to correct your personal data if it contains factual inaccuracies, to delete your personal data, to limit the processing of your personal data, to portability of your personal data and to object to the processing of your personal data.

If you wish to exercise any of these privacy rights, you can contact the Data Protection Officer of VU Amsterdam via:

Data Protection Officer
De Boelelaan 1105
1081 HV AMSTERDAM
functionarisgegevensbescherming@vu.nl

To be able to deal with your request, you may be asked to identify yourself on the basis of additional personal data that the VU has of you. If this method of identification is not possible, you may be asked to identify yourself with an identification card. In this way it will be verified that the request has been made by the right person. If you are not satisfied with the way in which we deal with your personal data, you always have the right to submit a complaint with a supervisory authority.
