



Marcelo de Andrade Oliveira,
PhD student at the Combustion Technology
Division of the department Mechanical
Engineering:

“At TU/e personal development is valued and fostered. This might be expressed, for example, by a focus on communication and social skills as well as technical knowledge.”

www.tue.nl/proof



PROOF

a proven program for PhD students

It's clear that your PhD project is a time of scientific growth. But personal growth is also important. For example by developing your social and communication skills. That's why the TU/e offers you ample opportunities for personal development in these areas. We do this with a series of courses that are part of PROOF (PROviding Opportunities For PhD students). This is a very worthwhile program, and it makes an excellent addition to your scientific education.

The design of the PROOF program takes into account the various phases of your PhD project. The guideline for your personal development is the OBP (plan for training and support), which you draw up together with your supervisor. Based on these agreements, you can decide which training best matches your own personal and professional development.

The courses shown in this brochure have proved their value to PhD students, and we can warmly recommend them to you!



Ineke Wijnheimer, PhD student at research group Photonics Semiconductors Nanophysics, Applied Physics:

“TU/e offers many high quality courses for personal development. For example, after participating in the course “Writing in English for publication”, the structure of my texts improved significantly. This was clear, because I received only minor comments on a first version of a new paper.”

PhD Program	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	4 th year
Research subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration research plan • Literature study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of research • Publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of research • Publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete research • PhD thesis
Teaching subjects		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Master’s students and interns; tutorship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervising Master’s students and interns; tutorship 	
Recommended PROOF courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking charge of your PhD project • Intercultural communication & cooperation • Science & intellectual property • Scientific integrity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The art of presenting science • Writing articles & abstracts • Supervising master students • Teaching & learning in higher education 	Career orientation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual personality analysis • Technology Entrepreneurship 	Career orientation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career consult
Personal Development Evaluation points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education supervision plan within 3 months • in the first year ('go/ no-go') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance interview • Form I' (after 3,5 years) • Obtain your PhD

PROOF: PROviding Opportunities For PhD students

First year

Taking charge of your PhD project

At the start of your PhD project you will be faced with the need to organize your studies as a whole. A lot of questions will arise, such as: ‘How can I get a grip on my research project, and what do I have to do when?’ ‘How can I clearly understand the expectations of my supervisor?’ ‘How to make joint agreements?’ The course will help you to find answers to these questions. During the course you will also familiarize yourself with a number of basic personal skills and negotiating techniques.

Intercultural communication & cooperation

Scientific work at the TU/e takes place in an international and intercultural environment. The workshop offers you the basic skills you need to develop cultural awareness and group dynamics to work successfully across cultures in a Dutch academic context.

Science & intellectual property

This interactive workshop will offer you practical skills and will increase your knowledge of elementary aspects of intellectual property, the patenting of inventions and legal aspects regarding the licensing and technology transfer process.

Scientific integrity

The aim of the course is to raise awareness of possible scientific issues in research at the TU/e. After finishing this course you will be able to identify a number of categories of scientific integrity issues and recognize situations in which scientific integrity can be compromised. The main part of the course consists of two or three activities, each of which focuses on a specific sub-area of scientific integrity.

Second year

Writing articles & abstracts

The course facilitates you in improving your scientific writing skills. This kind of writing requires the ability to analyze information, as well as an understanding of how to use language in a scientific context. These are the focal points of the course, together with special attention for writing in English. The course on writing articles and abstracts will help you to improve your scientific writing skills.

The art of presenting science

In ‘the art of presenting science’ you will learn to use theatrical techniques that will enhance the impact of your presentation considerably and will ensure that you don’t lose the attention of your audience. Along with theatrical techniques, the course focuses on the use of story construction techniques that will make your audience involved, curious and attentive all the way through. In addition to taking a look at both theatrical techniques and storyline, other subjects such as the use of slides, reacting to questions, effectiveness of presentation and the relationship between form and content are also part of the program.

Supervising master’s students

A range of skills are required for supervising master’s students. For example how to gain a clear understanding of your tasks and how to formulate a graduation project. It’s also interesting to find out your own supervising style. All these issues are discussed in the course.

Teaching & learning in higher education

This course will give you a broad overview of the different tasks involved in education and prepares you for specific tasks such as giving lectures and tutorials and guiding students in project groups. In the course we will address questions such as: ‘Am I able to get my message across to students?’ ‘How can I make my teaching more effective?’ ‘What is the best way to prepare and how can I improve my performance?’ There will be ample opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with others.

Third and fourth years

Career orientation

Your third and fourth years are devoted almost entirely to your PhD project, of course. But it’s also a good idea to spend some time during that period thinking about your future. The TU/e offers several career orientation options to help you make the right choice.

Personality analysis

You will be offered an individual personality analysis which is intended to give you more insight into your own personality and it will help you to answer questions like: What do you want to do after you gain your PhD? Do you want to continue doing scientific research, or would you prefer to work in industry? You will complete the personality analysis test, which you fill in in your native language. The information will then be discussed with you in a private interview. The results of both the personal talk and the analysis will be set out in a personal report with recommendations closely matching your personal development needs.

Workshop Technology entrepreneurship

The TU/e finds it important to support PhD students who are already planning to start a business enterprise of their own or who are seriously considering this. Within a short time span you will gain insight into the main aspects of starting up your own business. How to commercialize research results will be one of the topics discussed during the workshop.

Career consult

The aim of the career consult is to stimulate you into thinking about your ambitions. A consultant can show you whether your goals are realistic and can help you to take the next step in your career.

Take the opportunity!

The courses offered in the PROOF program have been developed for all PhD students at the TU/e. In many cases the courses are given in a group, which means you also work with PhD students from other disciplines. This interaction gives you an insight into the work of other departments. And at the same time it will enable you to build up a personal network within the university.

As you can see, the TU/e offers numerous opportunities for further personal development. It’s well worth taking advantage of these facilities. They will not only enable you to complete your PhD project more successfully, but it will also increase your chances on the employment market.

For more general information about the courses in the PROOF program, contact the HR advisor in your department or visit www.tue.nl/proof.