

Spring 2008

INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY FOR Ph.D. POSITIONS AT THE AMSTERDAM SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (ASSR) OR PARTICIPATION IN THE Ph.D. PROGRAM.

Every year, The Amsterdam School for Social science Research has Ph.D. positions for Ph.D. research in the fields of anthropology, sociology and political science.

The information provided on or via the website should not be used as a substitute for any for of advice. Decisions based on this information are for your own account and risk.

Especially in case of applications for jobs/posts/scholarships, selection and admission procedures, always inform yourself about the specific procedures and dates with the Bureau of the Amsterdam School. Check the information provided on or via this website periodically for changes by contacting the Bureau of the Amsterdam School.

2008

From September 2009 onward, scholarships will be available for PhD research in anthropology, sociology and political science.

The Ph.D. positions are what is called “free”, which means no project description has been drawn up in advance, Ph.D. candidates can submit their own proposals, and the best candidates will be selected.

Apart from subsidized Ph.D. positions, candidate’s always can apply for admission to the Ph.D. program of the Amsterdam School if they can support themselves while working on the thesis or if the are supported by external organizations.

Ph.D. candidates at the Amsterdam School for Social science Research are to complete their dissertation within a period of four years.

If you wish to apply for a Ph.D. scholarship and participation in the Ph.D. program of the Amsterdam School, please wait until de deadline for 2010 is announced.

1. **A letter** in which you describe the reasons of your application for a Ph.D. research position, how the dissertation can be completed in the given period of time and your present situation and employment;
2. **A Summarized Ph.D. Proposal** no longer than 1.100 words, describing the questions to be answered and the propositions or hypotheses to be defended or refuted and indicating what material is to be consulted, what theoretical principles are to be utilized and why the subject is of academic importance (see Rules for Summarized Ph.D. Proposal)
3. **A Curriculum Vitae**
4. **A List of publications** or, if you are a recent graduate, a list of papers you have written

5. **A Copy of your Master's degree examination grades**
6. **Results of TOEFL test** (for foreign applicants, whose native language is not English)
7. **Two letters of recommendation** written by persons with a Ph.D. in social sciences, sent by separate mail (or in sealed envelopes) to the ASSR, indicating whether you can be expected to complete your dissertation in four years and the quality of the thesis you can be expected to write (if possible)

N.B.

- * The application may be written in Dutch or English
- * The deadline is very strict: the proposal has to be in on the date mentioned!
- * Please do not use staples, ring binder or glue (as the applications will be copied)
- * Do send only copies of your diplomas: originals to be shown after being selected
- * Applications by fax or email will not be taken into consideration.

Consideration of applications

If you submit an application, you will receive a confirmation of receipt with further information about the schedule of the evaluation process after the deadline.

The applications will be subjected to a preliminary screening. The candidates selected during this first round will be invited for an interview. If they reside abroad, the selection committee will evaluate their application in a plenary session. The final decisions will be made shortly after the interviews and deliberation in the committee. Applications will be judged on the basis of the minimum admission requirements, a short proposal outlining the intended research and reference letters from scholars.

Minimum admission requirements

Candidates entering the PhD programme should have completed a Master's degree (such as a MA) at an accredited University. The Master's degree should have been completed with a high grade.

Persons educated outside the Netherlands are eligible to pursue a doctorate, to participate in the PhD training programme and to receive an ASSR PhD position provided they are granted exemption from the legal Dutch educational MA requirement. If the candidate's foreign education makes him or her eligible to pursue a PhD degree in that same country, such exemption will be easy to obtain. Otherwise, the candidate must provide proof that satisfies the Doctorate Board (College van Promoties) that he or she may be regarded as capable of the independent pursuit of a PhD. Such proof may consist of a current University function or other professional position, publications, and so forth.

It is advisable to start the exemption-procedure only when you've passed the selections and after consultation with the Amsterdam School.

All foreign candidates applying to the ASSR are required to demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English to enroll in the ASSR PhD program. A PhD candidate can prove that he/she has sufficient English language ability by submitting a TOEFL, IELTS or Cambridge score that meets the minimum ASSR requirements. The only condition by which a non-native foreign speaker of English may be exempted from the proficiency test requirement is if the candidate has studied for a minimum of two years at a university-level institution where all coursework was conducted in English. If a candidate meets this criterion, he or she should submit a letter sent by the university directly to the ASSR, confirming this.

TOEFL

Students are required to have a minimum score of either 213 according to the new notation on the computer-based test, or a minimum score of 550 according to the old notation. A score of 18 is expected on the other TOEFL components (listening, structure/writing, and reading). Candidates must arrange for an official copy of the results to be sent directly by the TOEFL institute to the ASSR.

For general information contact TOEFL at email: Toefl@ets.org or website: www.toefl.org

IELTS

The IELTS examination is organized by the British Council at least once a month upon request. Candidates are required to have a score of at least 6.5. Test scores should be sent directly by IELTS to the ASSR.

CAMBRIDGE

Candidates can also take one of the “English as a foreign language” exams of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate whose examinations are available in more than 150 countries. Candidates are required to have a minimum score of A+ for the first certificate in English exam; B+ for the certificate in advanced English, or B for the certificate of proficiency in English exam. Test scores should be sent directly to the ASSR.

Prof.dr.J.Grin

Scientific Director ASSR