



UPCOMING DEFENSES

Jan 27

Defense Akash Swamy
Breach detection using diffuse reflectance spectroscopy during spinal screw placement



Jan 29

Defense T. Nguyen Minh
Crystallographic texture control in a non-oriented electrical steel by plastic deformation and recrystallization



Feb 04

Defense Lodewijk Huijgens
Hardware in the Loop Emulation of Ship Propulsion Systems at Model Scale



Feb 04

Defense Xiao Li
Development of an integrated analytical model to predict the wet collapse pressure of flexible risers



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb First Week

PICTURE A SCIENTIST
Online screening of the documentary 'Picture a Scientist' on female inclusion in man-dominated sciences. Find the trailer [here](#).

Feb First Week

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
Discussion session about women in science. More info coming soon!

Mar 18

RIDDERPRINT LUNCHLECTURE
All you need to know about thesis printing

UPDATE ON CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

In the last newsletter we published an article with the title: "Do you have an external contract?". In that article, we wanted to attract more attention and open up the discussion about the PhD extension issue caused by COVID-19, especially for the PhD groups who are self-funded or receive funding from third-party agencies. In response to that, we received several inquiries about how to apply for the extension if applicable. We discussed this on January 13, in a meeting with Hans Hellendoorn, the director of the 3mE graduate school.

Below you can find a short summary of what we have discussed and what progress was made.

Current situation

Based on the survey conducted by the PhD council last May, several PhDs had their concerns about an extension. 61% of the PhDs (90/148) had their milestones rescheduled or changed. Besides, 11% of the PhDs showed their concern about financial stability. It can be reasonably speculated that as the epidemic continues to spread, these issues may become more serious.

Special issues for the external PhDs

According to the funding source, the PhD community can be divided into three groups, *i.e.* employment contracts with TU Delft, funding from an external employer or a scholarship/self-funded. According to the **official figure**, the latter two groups account for 55% in the PhD community. They may face a more complex situation compared to the PhDs who are employed by the TU Delft:

1. The sources of their funding are diverse. Some well-funded third-party agencies may respond in a timely manner and provide helpful policies. However, at the same time, there will be students who cannot get sufficient help from their funding source.
2. Most of these PhDs do not have a legally protected contract with TU Delft. It is conceivable that the solution to their extension problem can only rely on the TU Delft or their funding source. What they can do on their own is very limited.

Suggested actions

To solve this problem, the faculty, the responsible department, supervisory team and the PhDs themselves all need to make a certain effort.

1. The first, and probably also the best solution, is that both the faculty/department and the supervisory time make sure the PhD candidate graduates in time.
2. Secondly, the faculty & department will do their best to timely inform the PhD candidate about the relevant extension policies.
3. Last, but not least, the PhD candidate should work hard to avoid a possible extension. Informing your supervisor about your well-being and personal situation is therefore of utmost importance.

The measures taken by TU Delft & 3mE

- The TU Delft earmarks 1.5 million euros for delayed researchers. This budget is already approved and will be divided among the faculties. The details about the official application procedure are still under discussion.
- After a discussion with the dean, we received some good news this week. The management team of 3mE has decided to provide at least €200 000 for the PhDs who may face an extension this year, 2021. Both PhDs employed by the TU Delft and PhDs receiving funding from outside the university, will have the opportunity to apply for this budget. Unfortunately, the official document is still not available. More details about the requirements and the application procedure will follow.

If you need help right now, please contact Mascha Toppenberg and ask her to report your situation to the responsible department. Please also feel free to contact us via PhDcouncil3me@tudelft.nl if you have any related concerns, expectations or suggestions on this topic.

TRAIL COURSES 2021

The Research school on Transport, Infrastructure and Logistics has published its course program for 2021. You can find their agenda, and more information, via this [link](#).

WORKING FROM HOME

Working from home has become the new standard, but how do you do that?

The [How to Guide](#) lists everything you need to know about working from home. If you would like to borrow resources for your home office, like an office chair or keyboard, please use [this form](#).

Any questions? Make a call through the [Selfservice portal](#).

CAREER AND COUNSELLING

Career and Counselling Services are always here for you! All workshops for January 2021 are now open for enrolment, you can find the schedule below. Due to Corona, all workshops and walk-in hours will still be held online.

Managing your career

- 1 February - Job search check in - We are in this search together.
- 4 February - Job search in The Netherlands - What matters when you are looking for a job in The Netherlands and how do employers recruit?
- 8 February - By business partner Netcompany - IT recruitment during Corona crisis, adapting to an online process
- 8 February - Job search check in - We are in this search together.
- 8 February - To PhD or not to PhD? - Thinking of continuing your academic career with a PhD? Join our interactive workshop to explore the information you need to gather to make an informed decision.
- 15 February - Job search check in - We are in this search together.
- 18 February - CV and Motivation letter - Feel confident about building your CV and motivation letters. You will get tips & tricks to write effective CV and motivation letters in the future.
- 22 February - Job search check in - We are in this search together.
- 25 February - LinkedIn for job search - We will look at what tools to use and how to maximise your chances of getting noticed on LinkedIn.

Awareness & Self Management

- 9 February - NL - Constructief denken bij faalangst en perfectionisme - In deze cursus krijg je inzicht in de onderliggende mechanismen van faalangst/perfectionisme in jouw (studie)leven en ga je opzoek naar mogelijkheden om hier iets in te veranderen. (vier bijeenkomsten)
- 11 February - NL - Constructief denken bij faalangst en perfectionisme - In deze cursus krijg je inzicht in de onderliggende mechanismen van faalangst/perfectionisme in jouw (studie)leven en ga je opzoek naar mogelijkheden om hier iets in te veranderen. (vier bijeenkomsten)
- 11 February - NL - Omgaan met overbelasting - In de haast van vandaag, denken we allemaal te veel. We zoeken teveel, willen teveel en vergeten om gewoon te zijn. (vier bijeenkomsten)
- 12 February - Coping with fear of failure - Workshop that gives you tools how to deal with fear of failure and perfectionism. (two meetings)
- 16 February - NL - Mindful omgaan met stress - Kom meer te weten over hoe je mindful kunt omgaan met stress.
- 17 February - Mindful coping with stress - Learn more about how to cope with stress in a mindful way.

You can subscribe via the Career & Counselling page on Coachview, which you can find [here](#).

CONSULTATION HOURS GRADUATESCHOOL

We have entered yet another lockdown and can imagine you have doubts about your PhD trajectory, the number of GS courses you still need to do or the credits you can receive for an online course.

Mascha will therefore be available for online consultation, every **Wednesday from 13.00 till 14.00 h**.

You can reach her via standard Skype: [graduateschool-3me](https://www.skype.com/people/graduateschool-3me).

or via Skype for Business: m.p.i.toppenberg@tudelft.nl.

Ordering pizza during a pandemic.



UP FOR A FRESH START? E-HEALTH

As the lockdown situation lingers on, we can imagine that some of you may feel lonely, or experience difficult thoughts and feelings due to the presence of the coronavirus. Or maybe you just want to pursue a more balanced lifestyle.

These are examples of programmes you can find in the e-Health from Gezondeboel for students and PhDs. The e-health tool is an online tool where you can start improving your mental wellbeing in a free, simple and anonymous way.

You can easily log in with your Net ID via this [link](#).

Here you will also find more information about the TU Delft psychologists and their contact details.

A WARM WELCOME TO...

Precision and Microsystems Engineering (PME)

Jelte van Til

Materials Science and Engineering (MSE)

Muhammad Yousaf

Process and Energy (P&E)

Marinus Stigter

Maritime and Transport Technology (MTT)

Xiaohuan Lyu

Sanne van Essen

Cigdem Karademir

Delft Center for Systems and Control (DCSC)

Eva Memmel

Cognitive Robotics (CoR)

Dennis Benders

Yujie Tang

Starting your PhD in times like these is hard, you don't get to meet your fellow colleagues, find your way around the faculty and experience the 3mE PhD culture. We are here to help, and so are your direct colleagues. Please contact us if you have any doubts, questions, or just like to connect.

We would like to ask all our members, as 'experienced' PhDs, to look out for your new colleagues. They may seek advice, help or guidance during their first few months. Please be there to assist where and when needed.

AS NEW MEMBERS OF OUR 3ME PHD COMMUNITY