

CEG Writing papers during your PhD

Technical University of Delft | Civil Engineering and Geosciences

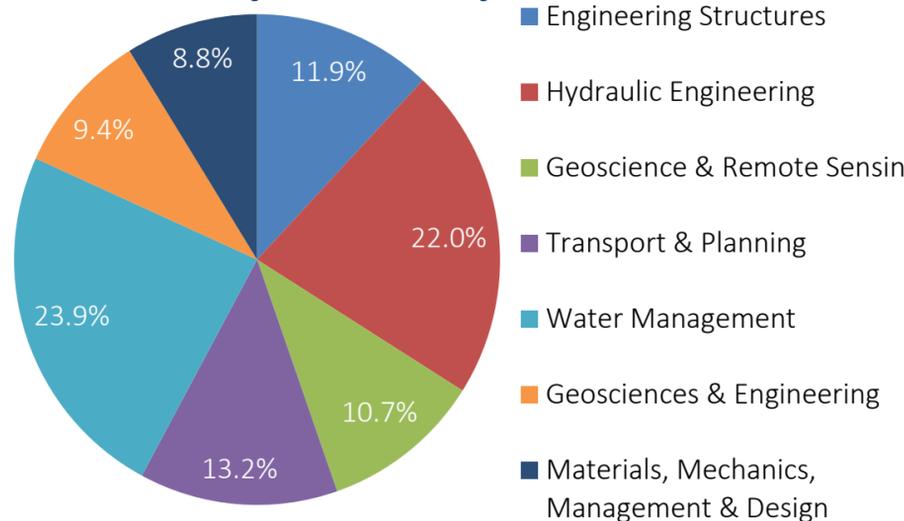
Description of the survey:

Scientific publications are a key component of science and an important part of your PhD trajectory. TUD does not have a ruling, for instance, on the number of publications "required" to complete the PhD and the supervisors in our Faculty have different opinions on this. As Faculty Graduate School we encourage you and the supervising team to make clear agreements on this topic during the GONOGO Meeting and report them in the relevant form. Finalizing a publication, however, is a time-consuming operation and might cause delays in your promotion. With this form we would like to know more about your experience and opinion on the issue of publications.

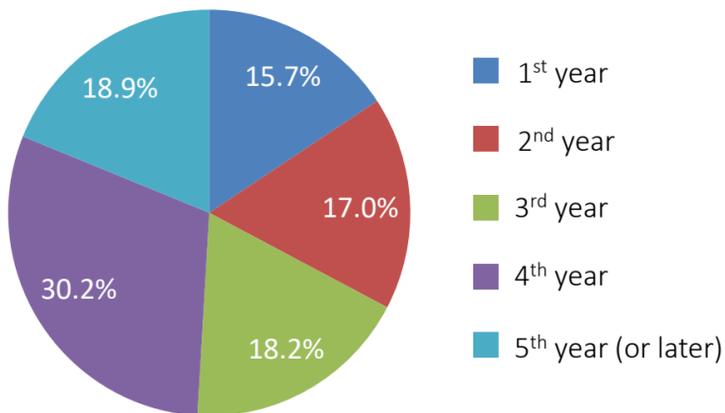
May 2022
CiTG PhD Council

General information:

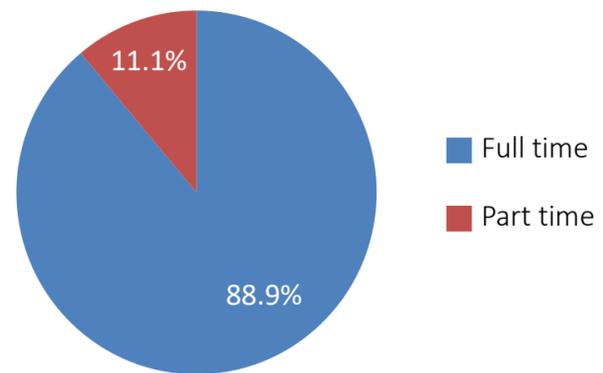
160 participants



Year of PhD:

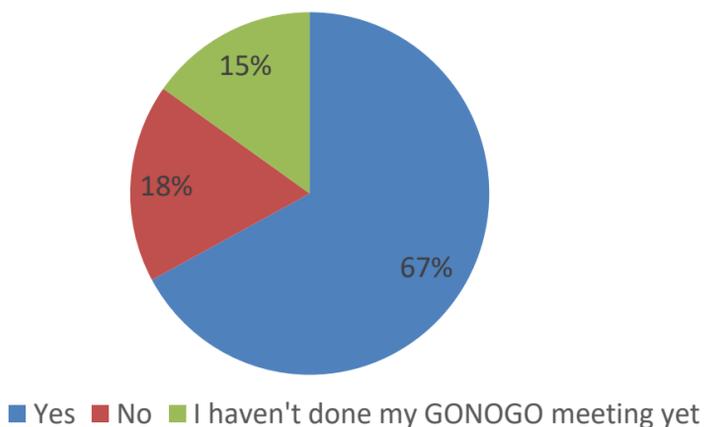


What is the duration of your PhD contract?

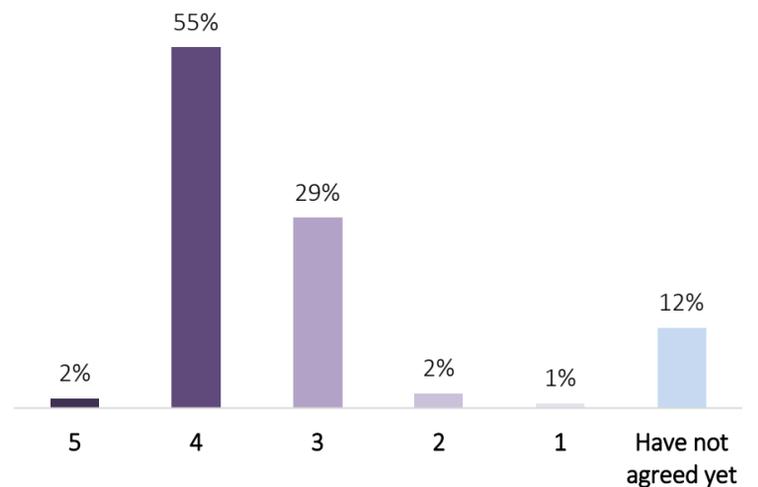


Agreements during the GONOGO Meeting

Was the issue of publications explicitly addressed during the GONOGO meeting?



How many publications did you agree to write?

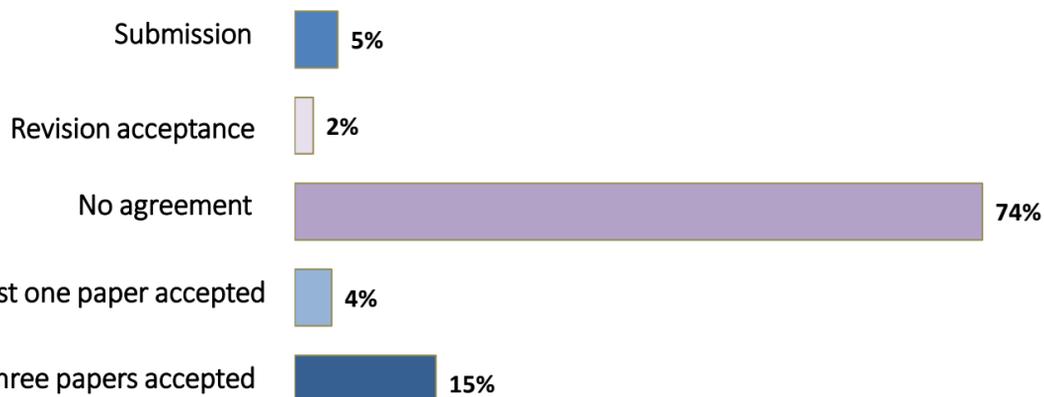


Did you agree on the topics of the different papers?

YES: 73%

NO: 27%

Did you specify in your GONOGO agreement the stage at which publications should count?



Did you agree on the timing of the different papers?

YES: 51%

NO: 49%

- 🔥 "When the daily supervisor is on a tenure track, he/she has to publish journal papers as a requirement, and this workload is inevitably partly taken by PhDs."
- 🔥 "The 2 months deadline to assess the dissertation draft is not usually respected, which is the "golden" reason for delay."
- 🔥 "Setting publications as goals for the PhD journey transforms the quest for acquiring/generating knowledge to the quest of more publications."
- 🔥 "Giving a template to a PhD candidate, limits their options. By following it many (extremely many) receive their PhD diploma without ever becoming doctors in philosophy."

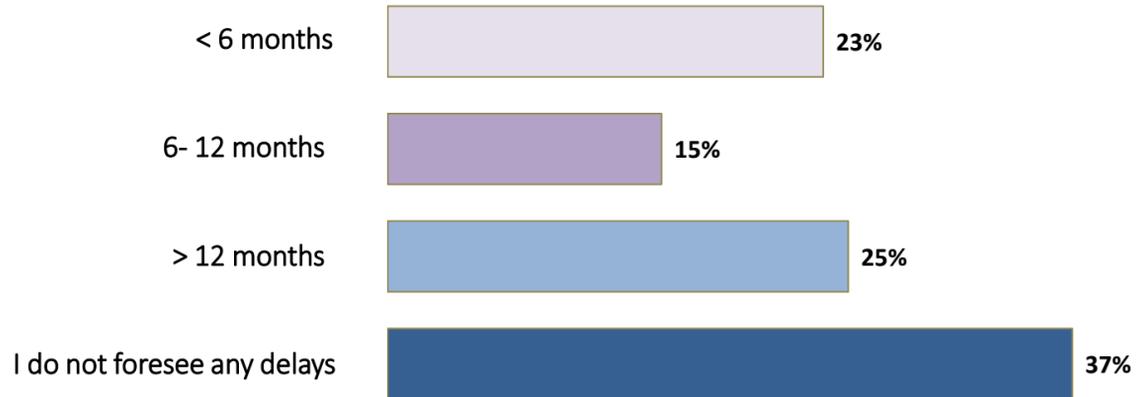
Your current situation

Are you roughly on track with respect to the publications you planned?

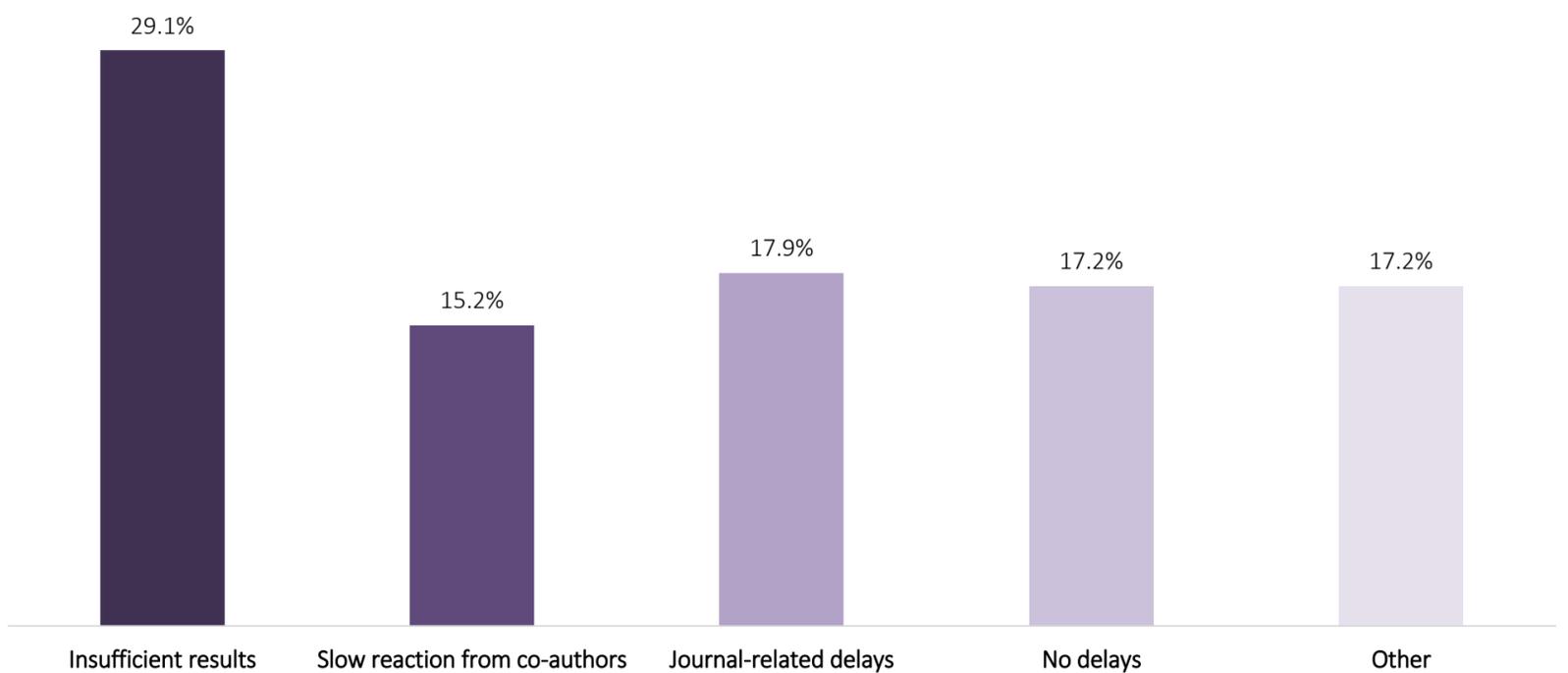
YES: 44%

NO: 56%

If you are running behind schedule, can you quantify the paper-related impact? How big is the delay you expect to have in your promotion compared to the foreseen period?



What is the main reason for the delay in your publications?



- ✦ "Delays on co-authors from supervisors and Professor of TU-Delft must be shorten. I can wait almost 2 months to get a reply. If papers are so important, then the staff should have a define time to read papers."
- ✦ "TU Delft should start it's own open access journal."
- ✦ "If a student has to discover all methods from scratch, then having 3-4 papers in 4 years becomes increasingly difficult."
- ✦ "If you want to switch to industry, then papers must be a nice thing to have, but they are most likely not helping in the selection process, for instance."
- ✦ "Predatory publishing practices create PhD candidates who do not actually conduct research on their own topic, but rather work as researchers in alignment with the research agenda of their supervisors."
- ✦ "This questionnaire focuses too much on quantity, it's also about quality of paper, which journal & paper length."
- ✦ "The publication process helped me to shape my research."