TWENTE GRADUATE SCHOOL

TWENTE GRADUATE SCHOOL OFFERS HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES BASED ON SUBJECTS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE UNIVERSITY’S RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND TAUGHT AND SUPERVISED BY EXPERT RESEARCHERS FROM THESE SAME INSTITUTES. IT OFFERS AN INCREASING VARIETY OF INTEGRATED MASTER’S AND PHD PROGRAMMES FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE KEEN TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

THE 3TU.CENTRE FOR ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY
The 3TU.Centre for Ethics and Technology (3TU.Ethics) was founded in 2007 by the board of the federation of the three technical universities in the Netherlands (Delft, Eindhoven, and Twente) to study ethical issues in the development, use and regulation of technology.

Societal problems, such as an ageing population, the issues of sustainability, energy efficiency and water safety, healthcare, and changing demands in the built environment, play an important role with respect to the 3TU. Ethics research agenda. Addressing these issues with modern technology (including, for example, telecare and other ICT developments) requires good conduct and a value-oriented approach when designing and using these technologies.

Therefore, there is a natural connection between research on ethics, societal relevance and technology.

The Centre currently has sixty senior and junior researchers as members, which makes 3TU.Ethics the major research centre worldwide addressing societally relevant and philosophically challenging issues at the interface between ethics and technology.

For more information on the Centre, see www.ethicsandtechnology.eu

TGS PROGRAMMES
TGS programmes are set up in collaboration between the university’s faculties and research institutes. Their broad selection of compulsory, discipline related and elective courses enable students to specialize in a research area they are interested in while broadening their perspective on the societal context of technology and research. All these aspects are integrated into the Twente Graduate School, which aims to be a springboard for research talent.
The PhD programme in Ethics and Technology offers specialized training in the area of ethics and technology, leading to a PhD degree. Some of the central research questions in the PhD programme are:

- How can we see to it that newly emerging and converging technologies and infrastructures express our considered moral judgments and widely endorsed public values?
- How can we assess our technology in the light of public moral values, such as sustainability, user autonomy, safety, privacy, accountability, democracy and quality of life?
- What role should public actors play in decision making concerning technological risks in design?
- And how are our norms and values themselves affected by technological developments?

Research themes include
- the requirements for responsible innovation,
- the possibility of value-sensitive design,
- ethical parallel research (ethical investigations in close collaboration with technological development programmes),
- ethical technology assessment,
- the ethics of technological risks, and
- the anthropology and ethics of human-technology relations.

Technologies covered include information and communication technology, biomedical technology, nanotechnology, industrial design, environmental technology, architecture and urban planning, neuro- and cognitive technology, military technology, and others.

The programme is offered by 3TU.Ethics, in collaboration with the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics of Oxford University, the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Practical Ethics in Australia, as well as the Philosophy Unit at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden. PhD students in the programme have the opportunity to spend part of their PhD studies at one of these three institutions.
Most students enter a four-year version of the PhD programme (‘four-year PhD students’). Those who have completed the ethics track in the PSTS Master’s programme can opt for a three-year programme (‘2+3 PhD students’, as they take two years of PSTS and three years of PhD studies).

Three-year programme (‘2+3 PhD students’): This programme consists of two years of Master’s studies in PSTS, including the ‘Ethics and Technology’ track, and three years of PhD studies. Preparation for the PhD phase takes place within the ‘Ethics and Technology’ track, in which students perform all preparatory course work and write a combined Master’s thesis and PhD thesis proposal. The subsequent three-year PhD phase contains no further course requirements from the Ethics and Technology programme.

Four-year programme: Students take 25 European Credits (EC) of courses in the first year and work on a thesis proposal that should be completed by the end of the first year. In many cases, they will also be expected to have completed a chapter or partial chapter of the PhD thesis.

Five courses (= 25 EC) have to be chosen from the following list:
- Assessment of emerging technologies
- Technology and the Quality of Life
- Philosophical Anthropology and Human-Technology Relations
- Law and Morality (offered by Delft University of Technology)
- Design for Values (offered by Delft University of Technology)
- Environmental Ethics (offered by Eindhoven University of Technology)
- Philosophy of Risk (offered by Eindhoven University of Technology)

At least one course has to be taken from each department (Twente, Delft, Eindhoven).

In addition, one of the courses can be swapped, upon approval, with a course from the curriculum of the Dutch Research School in Philosophy.

Students who have completed courses in ethics and technology at the graduate level can ask for an exemption that waives some or all course requirements in the four-year programme.

RELATED UT MASTER’S PROGRAMMES
The Master’s programme is open to all students holding a Bachelor’s degree (or who have an equivalent qualification) in: (Applied) Natural Sciences, Engineering Science, Social Science, or Philosophy. The programme is also open to students from any other discipline, with an emphasis on the exact natural sciences, or social sciences or technology and a focus on the application of technology in a particular professional area or on technical interventions in social systems. More information on admission to the Master’s in PSTS is found at www.utwente.nl/master/psts
In 2012, I completed my PhD at the Department of Philosophy, University of Twente. My decision to conduct my doctoral research at the University of Twente (and, indeed, in the Netherlands) was quite unusual and risky, since a majority of prospective PhD students in the field would not consider universities outside the U.S. and the U.K., and I had to leave my job in Hong Kong to relocate to the Netherlands. At that time, however, there was no other university offering an opportunity to conduct research on the philosophy and ethics of technology, and I was fascinated by various topics in this field. I therefore decided to move to the Netherlands and complete my PhD at the University of Twente, and I am glad I made this decision.

My PhD dissertation examines questions concerning the relationship between information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the good life. More specifically, I developed an approach for the normative analysis of ICTs that takes the popular discourse seriously. I also suggested that our value judgements about the merits of ICTs are based on our understanding of the subject. For example, I attempted to analyse the criticisms of anonymity on the internet from the point of view of an autonomous, rational subject, who is self-determining and self-responsible; after all, if anonymity on the internet allows individuals to escape from their responsibility, how can this be good from such an understanding of the subject?

I have learned a lot during my PhD study. While the department focuses on the philosophy and ethics of technology, it has a good mix of researchers in different philosophical traditions. Furthermore, the department provides a very supportive environment for PhD students.

I am currently a Research Fellow at the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society and Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University at Oxford, where I am working on the ethical and political issues related to Climate Engineering.
ARE YOU CURRENTLY A BACHELOR’S STUDENT?

- You have already obtained your Bachelor’s degree
- Two-year programme with discipline related courses, 120 credits
- Opportunity to start integrated MSc/PhD programme in second year
- PhD research
  - Deepening, broadening, academic skills and career development courses, 30 credits

If you currently are a Bachelor’s student or have recently obtained your Bachelor’s degree, and are interested in pursuing a PhD through one of the integrated research programmes TGS offers, have a look at the Master’s programmes involved.

To be admitted to a Twente Graduate School programme, you must have achieved excellent results in your Bachelor’s degree and have good research skills. You must also have gained admission to a relevant Master’s programme. The Twente Graduate School programmes are specifically geared towards research. Talented students can write their PhD proposal as part of their Master’s degree programme. For more information about the Master’s programmes, the admission requirements, and the tuition fee have a look at: www.utwente.nl/master

ARE YOU CURRENTLY A MASTER’S STUDENT?

- You have already obtained your Master’s degree
- PhD research
  - Deepening, broadening, academic skills and career development courses, 30 credits

After successfully attaining a Master’s degree, you may enter a Twente Graduate School programme in the PhD phase. PhD candidates may either apply for a PhD position available within one of the research groups or obtain their own funding.

VACANCIES

Unlike in many other countries, most PhD students in the Netherlands are paid employees, often working directly for the university. Research projects are defined by the head of the research group, who then recruits graduate students to carry out project research. If a PhD position is offered in a research field of your choice, you are kindly invited to apply to such a vacancy. Vacancies for PhD positions at the University of Twente, including those connected to Twente Graduate School, are published on the vacancies website www.utwente.nl/vacancies
OWN FUNDING
You may also enter a Twente Graduate School programme as PhD student with your own funding or with an international scholarship. In that case, research projects are initiated on the basis of proposals submitted by graduate students as part of their application procedure. A professor in a relevant field has to express interest in the candidate and the proposed line of research. Before a proposed research plan is taken into consideration, it must be clear that the candidate plans to submit an application for a secured funding scholarship. Please note that the University of Twente is not in a position to offer fellowships or similar funding for PhD students, other than the vacancies mentioned above.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
If you would like more information about Twente Graduate School, please go to the TGS website: www.utwente.nl/tgs

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