



Lunch discussion:

“Internationalization for PhDs at the UT”

PhD Network University of Twente (P-NUT)



Program:

12.35-12.40: Introduction

12.40-13.30: Survey results & discussion

Featuring:

- Anke Kohl (Executive Board Office)
- Bauke Visser / Irma Damhuis (Office Foreign Employees PA&O)
- Ilse Schenk (Nuffic/ERA-MORE)
- Ineke Baas (Faculty Club Foundation)
- Karin Paardenkooper (International Office)

13.30-13.45: Questions / Remarks (about PhD)



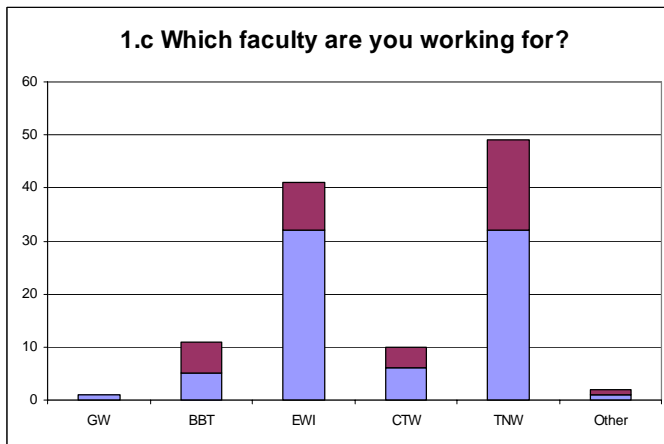
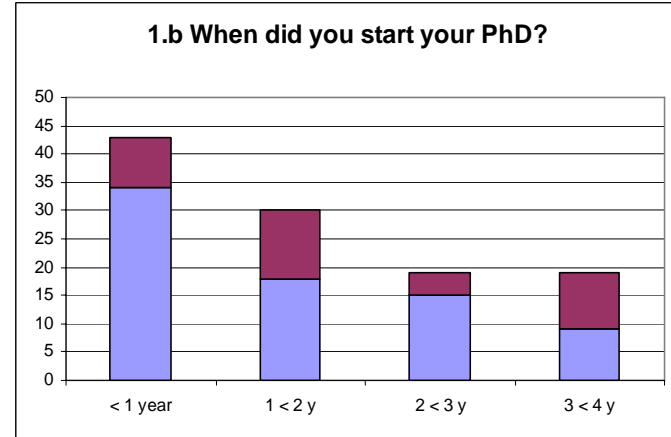
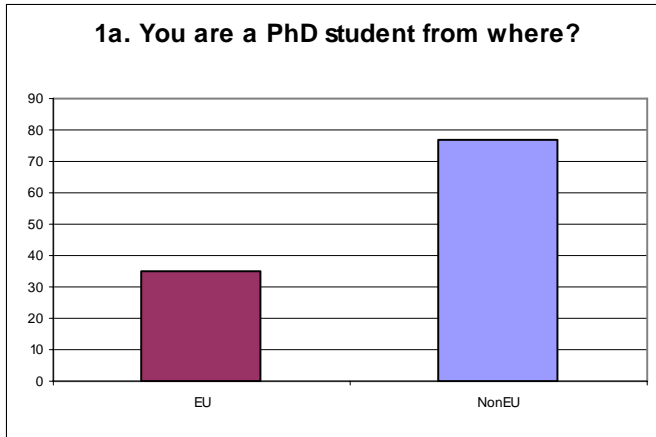
“General survey for International PhDs students at the UT”

Maryana Escalante Marun (PhD TNW)

Erhan Bat (PhD EWI)

Major areas addressed in the survey

1. Yourself
2. Immigration procedures 
3. Partner (if applicable) 
4. Language 
5. Arriving to The Netherlands
6. Social activities 
7. General information 



Observations:

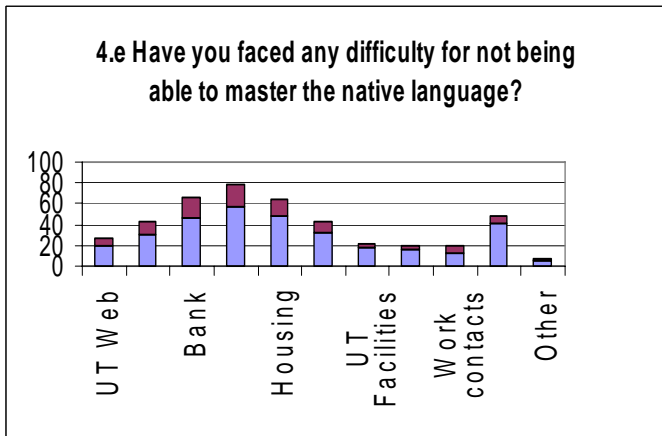
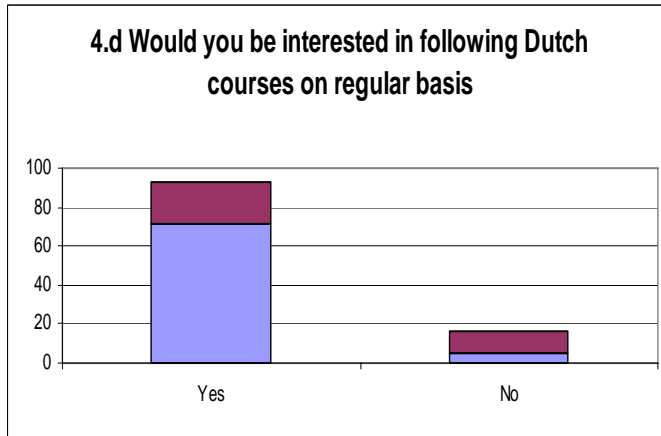
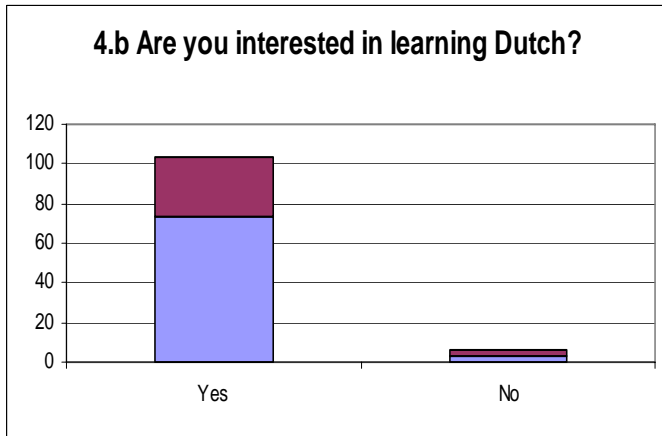
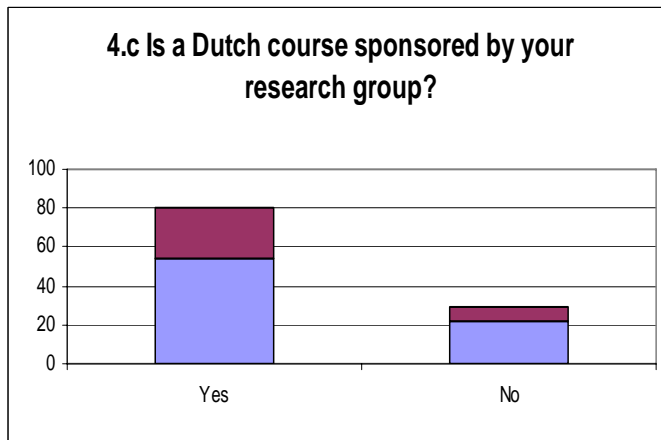
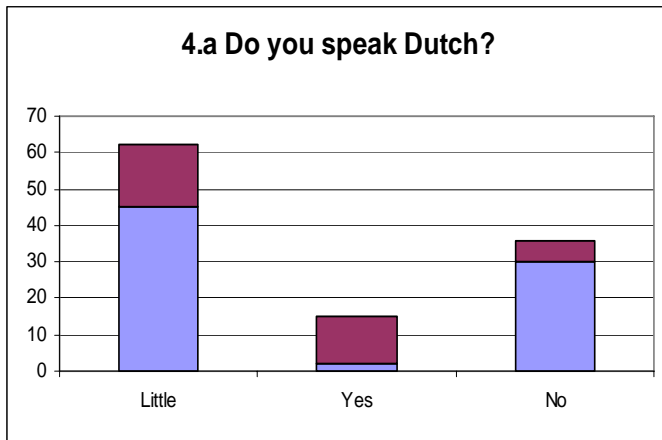
- About 120 PhDs student answered the survey
- Number of non-EU PhDs students has increased in the last years
- Higher responses from TNW and EWI

Principal problems

1. Language
 - Measures taken
 - Still to be solved

2. Immigration procedure / Partner
 - Measures taken
 - Still to be solved

3. Integration
 - Measures taken
 - Still to be solved



Observations:

- Only 12% of international PhDs speak Dutch.
- 20% of PhDs students do not have a Dutch course sponsored

- Measures taken:

“P-NUT brought up the inequalities in the possibility to follow Dutch courses to the University Board. The University Board has now formally decided that Dutch courses will be free for all PhDs”

Language Coordination Centre

<http://www.utwente.nl/p-nut/For%20Non-Dutch/>

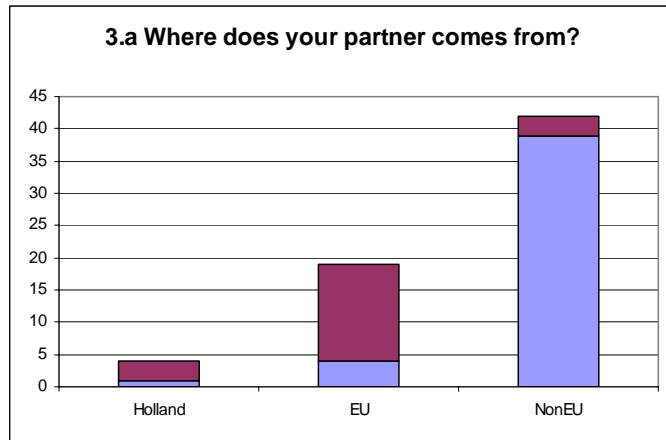
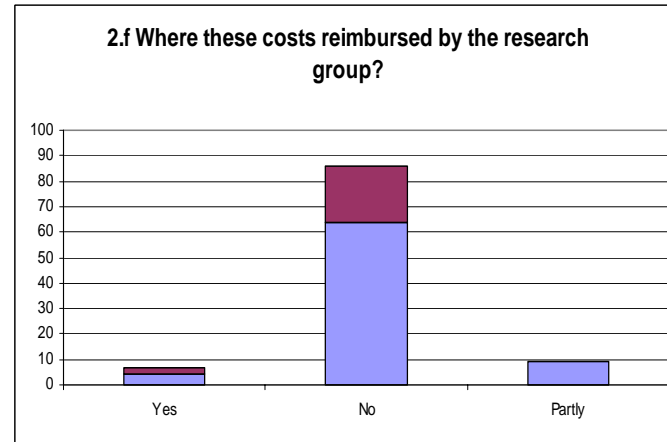
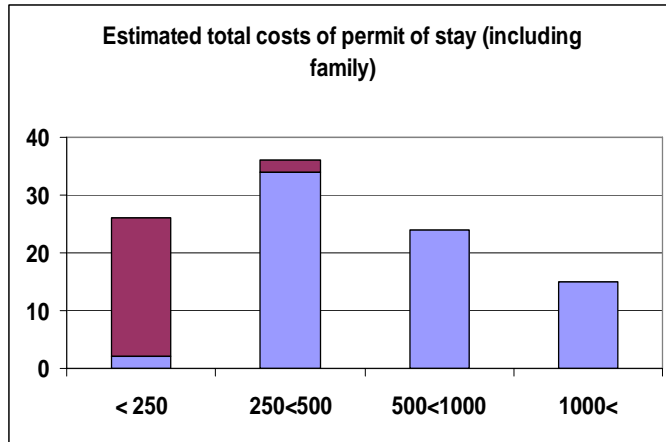
- Still to be sorted out:

When? How? Etc...

Discussion

Is learning Dutch needed for international PhDs to feel home/socialize?

- *“Lack of command in Dutch language makes it difficult to mingle with my Dutch colleagues”*
- *“Group has to be sufficiently foreign to allow integration, otherwise there are always two groups ‘Dutch people’ and ‘foreign people’ ”*
- *“We (me and other foreign colleagues which I talked to) faced problems in getting proper medical assistance". " Medical problems were very hard to explain when they do not master English language”*
- *“I believe that the newsletter should either be in English to accommodate the international students or it should be sent to only Dutch speaking students ”*

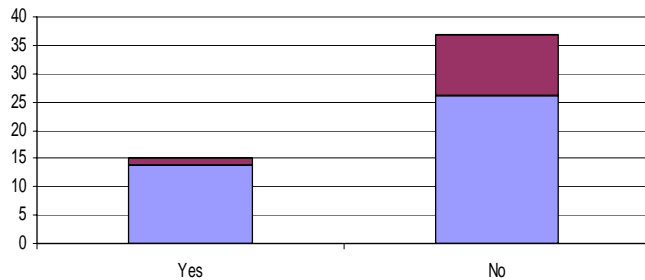


Observations:

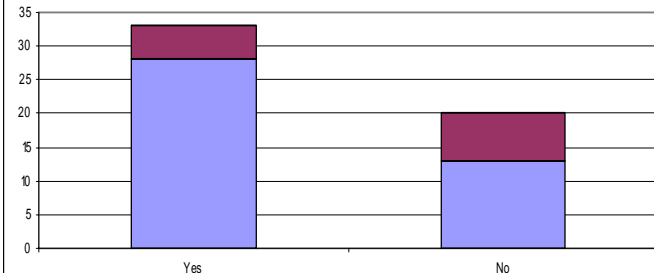
- **Costs for Non-EU PhDs (and family) are very high**
- **These costs are not reimbursed by the UT**

Immigration / (Partner)

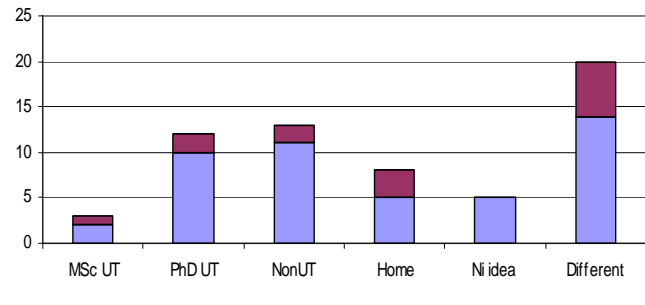
3.c Have you had problems with the immigrations procedures of your partner?



3.f Would he/she be interested in joining an integration course to Dutch culture/language?



3.d If your partner joined or will join you at the UT, he/she will do:



Observations:

- 70% of the cases the immigration procedure for partner went smoothly.
- 60 % partners would like to join the ROC course
- It is more expensive for Non-EU to do masters studies

- Measures taken:

“P-NUT has asked the University Board for lower tuition fees for partners of international PhDs. Unfortunately, at the University of Twente a lower tuition fee for the partner of a PhD is and will not be possible. Only if a person fulfills certain requirements, he/she may qualify for lowering of the tuition fee. See <http://www.utwente.nl/en/education/finance/>.”

<http://www.utwente.nl/p-nut/For%20Non-Dutch/>

('Office for Foreign Employees')

('ERA-MORE')

International Office has published an “International Student Handbook”

P-NUT will publish a new edition PhD guide "Doing your PhD in Twente"

- Still to be sorted out:

Integration course

Costs

Discussion

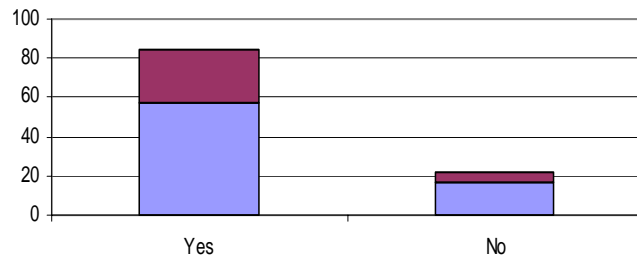
What kind of problems are faced while applying for a residence permit?

- *“They lost my documents I had to apply 2 times for residence permit during last year”.*
- *“My name was wrongly written in the residence permit card”*

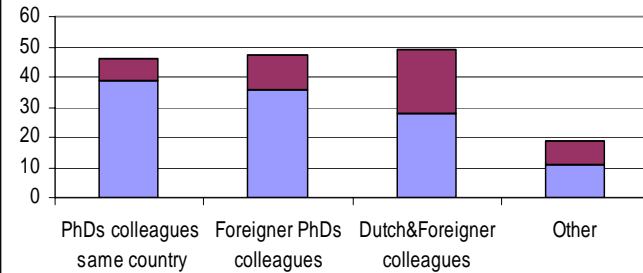
What are the consequences of bringing a partner for international PhDs?

- *“1.5 years to register my marriage”*
- *“She could not get admission in Integration course (ROC) as we have temporary residence permit”*
- *“Foreseeable problems are high tuition fees for master programs, finding a job, and high fees for Dutch courses”*

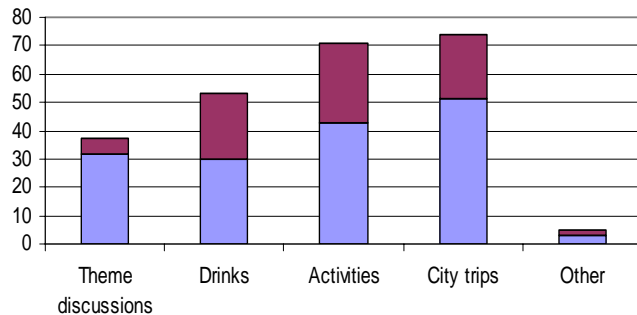
6.a Do you feel integrated in your research group and within this university?



6.b From which background do most of your social contacts come from?

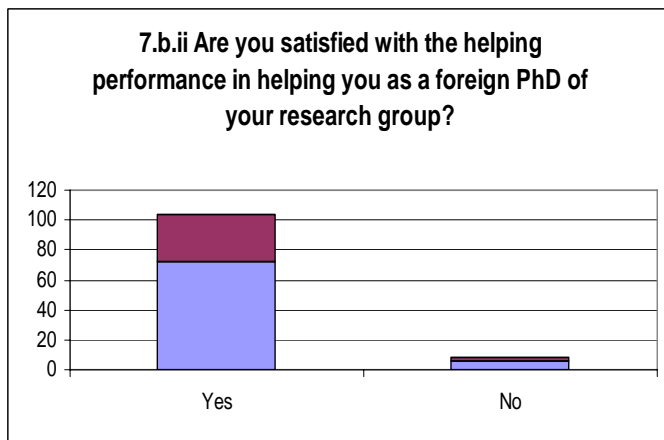
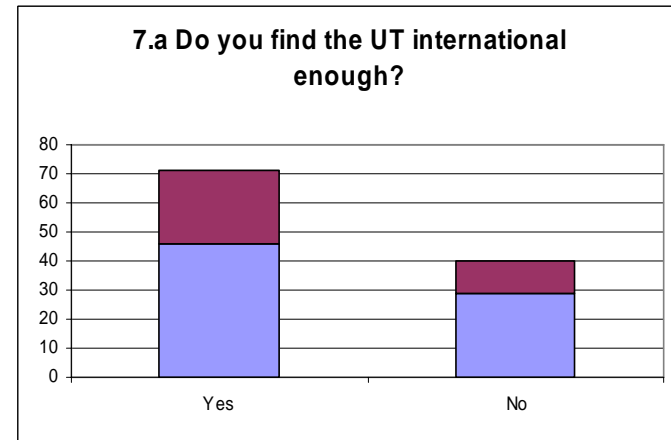
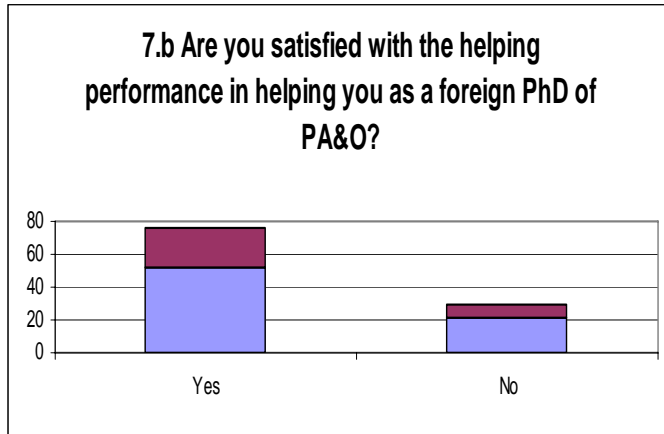


4.d What kind of activities do you like to attend?



Observations:

- About 80% of the PhDs feel integrated.
- Social contacts from different nationalities.
- PhDs are willing to attend diverse social activities



Observations:

- **75 % are satisfied with PAO**
- **95 % are satisfied with support from group. Major help from Secretary!!**
- **63 % find the UT international**

- Measures taken:

“P-NUT cooperates with the Faculty Club Foundation on Internationalization”:

- Internationalization get-togethers will take place every last Tuesday of the month, from about 17.00 o'clock in the Blomzaal of the Faculty Club.
- Special get-togethers will take place as ‘nationality events’ of specific nationality groups, such as the Chinese, Turkish, Indian, Pakistani, etc.
- P-NUT theme-lunches

<http://www.utwente.nl/p-nut/EVENTS/>

('Agenda')

P-NUT will publish a new edition PhD guide "Doing your PhD in Twente"

- Still to be sorted out:

Which information on website/brochure?

Discussion

What can be done to make international PhDs more integrated to their group/university/society?

- *“Especially social courses, student clubs do not have English version usually”*
- *“You can organize some cultural programs for each country as an event in the university this shall enable the Dutch students to know more about the culture and us about their culture. This can become a way to exchange views and ideas between different nationals”*

Discussion

What kind of information should be provided to international PhDs and how?

Do you find UT international enough?



Questions / Remarks

(Anything..)



Questions / Remarks

Ilse Schenk (Nuffic/ERA-MORE)



University of Twente
The Netherlands

Thanks for your input!