



OSAF: NATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL IN SUBATOMIC PHYSICS & OWC: NIKHEF'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Juan Rojo
(VU Amsterdam &
Nikhef Theory)

OSAF & DRSTP

- 📌 As a PhD candidate at Nikhef, you will be embedded in one of our **two graduate schools**: **OSAF** (for experimentally-oriented HEP/APP/GW research) or **DRSTP** (for theoretical physics)
- 📌 **OSAF** (**O**nderzoekschool **S**ubatomaire **F**ysica) is the Dutch national graduate Research School in Subatomic Physics (including gravitational waves)

<https://www.nikhef.nl/en/activities/research-school-subatomic-physics/>
- 📌 **DRSTP** is the **D**utch national **R**esearch **S**chool in **T**heoretical **P**hysics (covering particle physics but also cosmology, condensed matter, string theory etc)

<https://web.science.uu.nl/drstp/>
- 📌 The main goal of the OSAF and DRSTP graduate schools is to **support your PhD journey** by providing ample opportunities for **training, education, and mentorship**

OSAF STRUCTURE

Graduate school for **experimentally-oriented** PhD candidates carrying their research at Nikhef

- 📌 Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA)
- 📌 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)
- 📌 **NWO-I institute Nikhef**
- 📌 Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG)
- 📌 University of Maastricht (UM)
- 📌 Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (RU)
- 📌 University of Utrecht (UU)

Director: Stan Bentvelsen
Chair: **Juan Rojo** (VU)



*Around 150
PhD candidates*

DRSTP STRUCTURE

Graduate school for **theory-oriented** PhD candidates carrying their research at Nikhef

- 📌 Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA)
- 📌 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)
- 📌 Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG)
- 📌 Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (RU)
- 📌 University of Utrecht (UU)
- 📌 University of Leiden (UK)

Director: Rembert Duine (UU)
Chair: Daniel Baumann (UvA)



*Around 80 PhD
candidates*

NIKHEF'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE (OWC)

- 📌 The training, education, and mentorship activities at Nikhef are coordinated by the **Education Committee (Onderwijs Commissie)**
- 📌 An OWC-core group manages the **day-to-day operations** of the OWC, keeps track of **progress in action items**, and streamlines the **communication** with relevant stakeholders (e.g. university Graduate Schools)

- ☑ Stan Bentvelsen (Nikhef director)
- ☑ Anastasia Borchevsky (Groningen)
- ☑ Pieter van Braam van Vloten (Nikhef HR)
- ☑ Chris van den Broeck (Utrecht)
- ☑ Auke-Pieter Colijn (UvA/IHEF)
- ☑ Marcel Merk (Maastricht)
- ☑ Conor Mow-Lowry (VU)
- ☑ **Juan Rojo** (OWC Chair)

- 📌 Receives feedback from all the members of the OWC: O(30) permanent staff with *ius promovendi*
- 📌 Interacts with the **PhD council** members (your representatives!)

Feel free to contact us at any time for suggestions or requests concerning Nikhef educational and training activities!

OSAF LEARNING GOALS

- 📌 Function as **original and independent researcher**
- 📌 Place own work in theoretical context, integrate it in **broader area of research**
- 📌 Competent in **communicating** and discussing results in publications and seminars
- 📌 Be familiar with the **current results** in particle and astro-particle physics
- 📌 Be familiar with **current experimental techniques** in particle and astro-particle physics



Nikhef Topical Lectures

3 day short courses on specialised topics

September 2022

 05 Sep - 16 Sep [BND Graduate School 5-16 September 2022](#)

March 2022

 30 Mar - 01 Apr [Topical Lectures "Flavour Physics & CP Violation"](#)

October 2021

 18 Oct - 20 Oct [Topical Lectures "Cosmic Rays"](#)

April 2021

 14 Apr - 16 Apr [Topical Lectures "Signal Processing and Reconstruction" \(online\)](#)

December 2020

 07 Dec - 09 Dec [Topical Lectures "Statistics" \(online\)](#)

June 2020

 17 Jun - 19 Jun [Online Topical Lectures "Higgs Physics"](#)

<https://indico.nikhef.nl/category/16/>

BND School

2-week long yearly graduate school

[Quantum Field Theory](#)

3 Lectures: The topic will be introduced at a level understandable for the broad community the school represents.

[Quantum Chromo Dynamics](#)

3 Lectures: The topic will be introduced at a level understandable for the broad community the school represents.

[QFT/QCD Tutorial](#)

[Experimental tests of QCD](#)

4 Lectures

[Experiments with ultra-high cosmic rays and neutrinos](#)

3 Lectures

[BSM physics](#)

3 Lectures

[Experimental aspects of gravitational waves physics](#)

4 Lectures

[Gravitational waves theory](#)

6 Lectures

[Machine learning applied to physics](#)

4 Lectures

<https://indico.nikhef.nl/event/3109/program>

OSAF AND LOCAL GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- 📌 Nikhef's Graduate School provides education, training, and mentorship, but **does not grant PhDs**
- 📌 Hence all PhD candidates are expected to also enrol on the **local graduate schools** from the universities where they will obtain their PhD
- 📌 **Important:** local graduate schools may have additional requirements as compared to OSAF/DRSTP, make sure to check carefully what is expected from you as PhD candidate
- 📌 Example: PhD candidates from the VU should be registered in **Hora Finita**, which provides detailed checklist about documents/certificates that you need to provide
- 📌 Registration in **Nikhef's OSAF/DRSTP** and in your **local graduate school** are **independent processes**: please make sure you take care of both as soon as possible

make sure to touch base with your supervisor

OSAF AND LOCAL GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- Algemeen
- (Co)Promotoren
- Toelating
- TSP
- Manuscript
- Samenvattingen
- Promotiecommissie(boordeling)
- Cum laude
- Oppositie
- Plichtigheid
- Promotiechecklist
- Na promotie

<https://horafinita.vu.nl/>

- Some overlap with **OSAF intake documents**, e.g. **Training and Supervision Plan**
- Within the first few months, you should have handed in all documents
- Keep record **of certificates** (schools, teaching) since they may be required
- Then flurry of activity in the 4th year when preparing your PhD defence

check	omschrijving	verantwoordelijke
	Belofte wetenschappelijke integriteit	promovendus
	Projectbeschrijving invoeren	promovendus
	Promotie aanvragen	promovendus
	Controle op plagiaat	graduate school
	Portfolio goedgekeurd (indien ECTS verplichting)	promovendus
	Beoordeling manuscript door promotor	promotoren
	Beoordeling manuscript door beoordelingscommissie	promotiecommissie
	Beoogde promotiedatum vastleggen	promovendus
	Proefschrift indienen bij de bibliotheek van de universiteit	promovendus
	Titelblad indienen	promovendus
	Proefschrift beoordelen door Universiteitsbibliotheek	ub
	Definitieve promotiedatum / tijd / locatie vastleggen	promovendus
	Beoordeling titelblad	bureau pedel

THE C3 MENTORSHIP SCHEME

- 📌 As PhD candidate you will have a **supervisor** (*promotor*) and a **co-supervisor** (*co-promotor*)
- 📌 In The Netherlands, only Full Professors and experienced Associated Professors can **formally supervise PhD theses** (*ius promovendi*)
- 📌 An **independent mentor** (C3 member, from different research group) will be allocated to you. **C3 meetings** take place after 6, 12, 24, and 36 months the start of your PhD. In the first part of the meeting, you will discuss **separately with the C3 member**, with (co)-supervisors joining later
- 📌 You can always count on your C3 member to discuss, in a confidential manner, any **issue/concern/doubts** that you may have along your C3 trajectory
- 📌 You are expected to take a **proactive attitude** in scheduling timely your C3 meetings

Again, related mentorship schemes may be available from your local Graduate School

NIKHEF'S PHD COUNCIL

- 📌 Representatives of **Nikhef PhD candidates** (both NWO-I and university employees)
- 📌 Organization of social and career events (e.g. PhD day, Nikhef alumni working in industry, ...)

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Welcome

<https://barm.nikhef.nl/phdcouncil/>

If you are looking for a **PhD position at Nikhef**, please take a look [here](#).

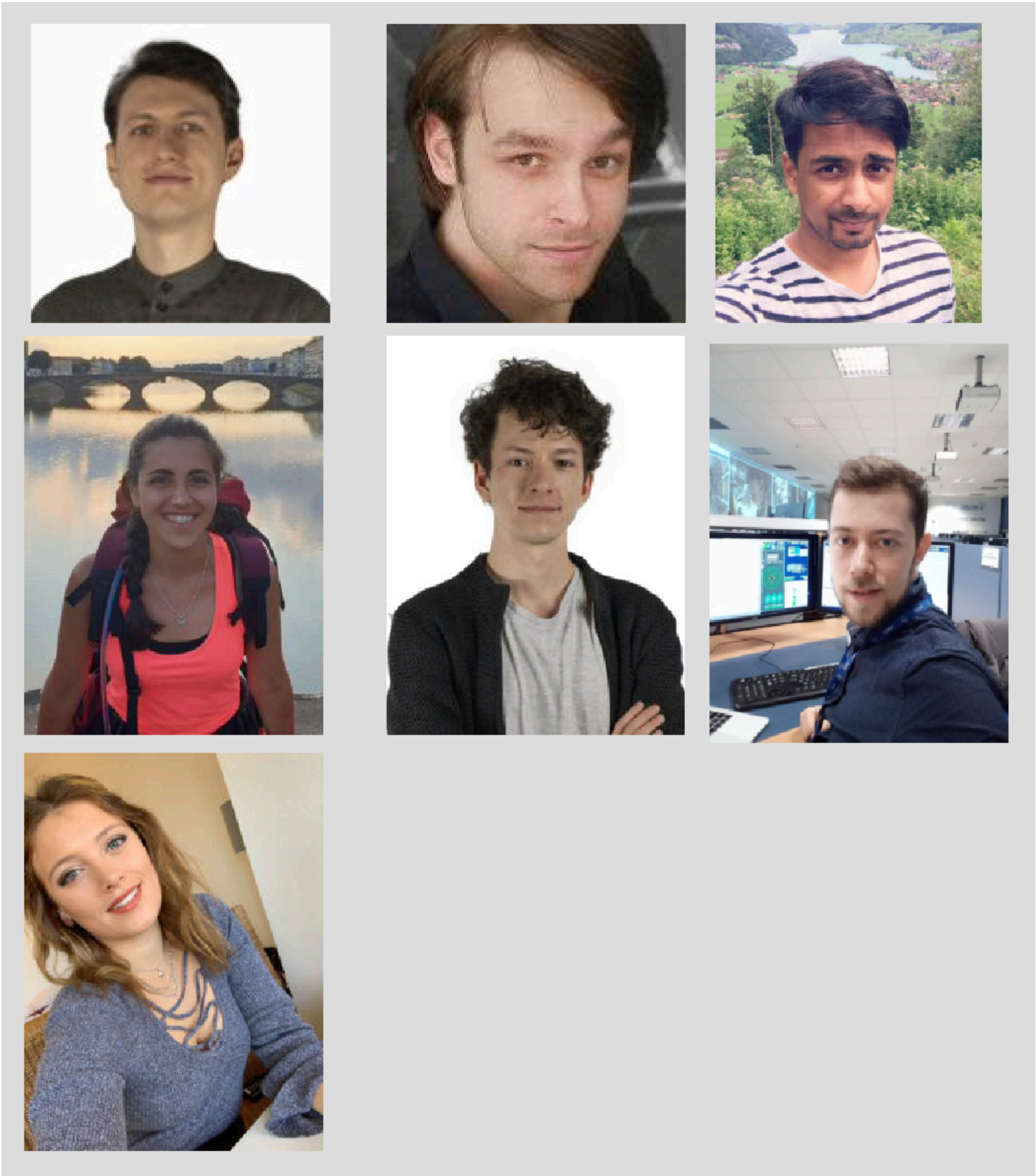


Welcome to the Nikhef PhD Council website!

We are some PhD students who aim to revive the PhD Council as a platform to deal with PhD-specific issues. Even though most of the crucial information exists in one place or another ([NWO-I](#), your affiliated university website, or at [Nikhef](#)), we aim to present the most important information in a centralised manner.

Disclaimer: although most of the information on this website is applicable to all Nikhef PhD students, it especially pertains to those employed by NWO-I. Different conditions may apply for students employed by other institutes or universities.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you have comments on this website, please contact us! We're available via email at phdcouncil@nikhef.nl and you can fill in a form [here](#) that supports anonymous entries. A short **intro document to Nikhef and its structure** can be found here: [English](#), [Dutch](#).



ACADEMIC SKILLS TRAINING

In addition to the scientific training provided by OSAF (graduate schools, Topical Lectures, colloquia, ...) you have also access to many opportunities for **academic skills training**

Nikhef Computing Course

- 📌 How to best utilise **Nikhef's computing resources**
- 📌 Includes training on **Research Data Management** and **Research Data Integrity**
- 📌 Also **C++ course** on offer

Nikhef

Soft skills training

- 📌 Taking charge of your PhD
- 📌 The art of scientific writing & presenting science
- 📌 Being succesful in academia
- 📌 Managing your workload

NWO / Universities

Scientific Integrity

- 📌 Researchers should work in an **open, safe and inclusive research culture** in which they can discuss the standards for good research practices and hold each other accountable
- 📌 The **Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity** expects honesty, scrupulousness, transparency, Independence, responsibility

NWO / Universities

TEACHING @ NIKHEF

- 📌 As a PhD candidate you are expected to devote $O(10\%)$ of your work time to **teaching** and **supervision**
- 📌 Typically as a teaching assistant (**TA**) in courses offered by the university where **you will receive your PhD**
- 📌 Note that in most cases this is a **formal requirement**: you cannot graduate unless you have complied with your teaching duties
- 📌 The rule of thumb is TAing 3 courses during the 4 years of your PhD, details depend on the university

Better to deal with your teaching duties sooner than later, so that you can focus on research and writing in the 3rd and 4th years

- 📌 You are also expected to **supervise bachelor and master student** projects, $O(1)$ per year

Make sure to make arrangements with your supervisor so that the workload remains manageable

- 📌 Again, make sure to verify what your university expects from you in terms of teaching requirements

FINAL CHECKLIST

- ☐ Are you enrolled in the **local graduate school** of your host university?
- ☐ Have you written and submitted your **Training and Supervision Plan** (both to Nikhef and local grad school?)
- ☐ Are you part of all relevant email lists e.g. promovendi@nikhef.nl?
- ☐ Do you know who are your *promotor* and *co-promotor* and have you been assigned a **C3 member**?
- ☐ Are you aware of the **teaching duties** that are expected from you as PhD candidate?
- ☐ Are you aware of the **compulsory training** that you need to follow as indicated from local graduate school?
- ☐ Have you been informed of the existence of the **PhD council** and what they can do to help you?

QUESTIONS?

Take-away message:

Take ownership and responsibility of your PhD: you are not a student anymore, you are now an **early-career researcher** on their way to become an **independent full-fledged scientist!**

We are here to assist you in this journey!