Planning and Evaluation
(for PhD students only)

Introduction
This set of forms relates to the planning and evaluation interviews (held at least once a year) to help the supervisor and trainee research assistant work and plan effectively. With this aim in mind, NWO-I also provides a training taking charge of your PhD project during the trainee research assistant’s first year.

Planning and evaluation interviews in practice
A planning and evaluation interview is held between supervisor and trainee research assistant at least once a year.

There are two forms available for reporting on this annual planning and evaluation interview between supervisor and trainee research assistant (both should be used/filled in):

1. Evaluation form for the previous year:
   - used by the supervisor to evaluate the performance given and research results obtained in the previous year and following on from this;
   - to assess the trainee research assistant and agree on measures to be taken with regard to supervision and/or education and training.

2. Planning form for the coming year
   - provides the basis for discussing and drawing up a research plan for the coming year.

Throughout the entire period of employment, supervisor and trainee research assistant will hold a planning and evaluation interview at least three times (the first time at the end of the first year, the second time at the end of the second year and the last time at the end of the third/beginning of the fourth year). For junior scientist who enter their fourth year a paragraph is added about their future career perspective. You are asked to appraise the career paths open to a junior scientist, especially to make a clear statement about his or her chances of success in either an academic career or outside of academia. NWO-I wants to make sure that her junior scientists have a clear perspective on their capabilities and opportunities for a successful career.

You will find all the required interview forms (for each year) compiled here in this loose-leaf set. This makes it easier to consult plans and evaluations from previous years, in cases where this is needed by way of preparation for the next planning and evaluation interview.

What is the reason for planning and evaluation interviews between supervisor and trainee research assistant?
The planning and evaluation of doctoral research by the trainee research assistant and supervisor should be geared towards completing the research and obtaining a PhD within the set employment period of four years. During the period that a trainee research assistant works for NWO-I, priority is given to aspects of their education and training, which are highly relevant to their future performance in their later professional career. A goal-oriented and planned approach to work is one of these aspects.

According to labour-market data on people who obtained their PhD at NWO-I, completing your doctoral studies within four years considerably increases your chances of finding a job subsequently. In addition, our PhD students both present and past tell us that good supervision and the ability to work according to a plan during their PhD research are important factors (and ones which can and need to be worked on) to give PhD students a good start on the labour market. This view is echoed by organisations that employ doctoral graduates in physics.

Many trainee research assistants also indicate that they want to get into the good habit of taking a goal-oriented approach to their work and to learn how to adopt a planned work style. These are skills that will also be required of
them in any job they take after their time at NWO-I. **Planning and evaluation interviews and the training taking charge of your PhD project provide both supervisor and trainee research assistant with helpful tools for achieving these aims.**

These planning and evaluation interviews for trainee research assistants do not function in isolation. They form part of a more comprehensive series of measures decided upon by the Board of Directors in September 1995. Within this framework, both the educational and training programmes are geared towards equipping trainee research assistants with the highest level of knowledge and skills during their period at NWO-I. They also reinforce the role of the team leaders in supervising the trainee research assistants, not only during their research but also when applying for jobs after their time at NWO-I.

Also PhD's themselves invest in some of these trainings by applying for leave for certain non-obligatory trainings. Furthermore, NWO-I keeps a cooperative attitude towards possibilities or wishes with regard to career oriented measures that may occur in individual cases.

You may gain more information from the personnel officers at the NWO-I Institutes and P&O NWO-I.
Name of trainee research assistant: __________________________

Institute/research team: __________________________

Date of employment: __________________________

Thesis supervisor: __________________________

Date of birth: __________________________

Direct supervisor: __________________________

Date of interview: __________________________

Present at interview: __________________________

**EVALUATION**

1. What were the most important results of last year?

2. In which areas did the research activities depart from the planned schedule and/or did delays occur? Which activities proceeded more efficiently than planned?

3. What was the cause of the departure from schedule and/or delay and what was the response to this?
PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Describe as concretely as possible the areas in which the individual in question is in need of further development and/or the areas in which he/she has performed satisfactorily.

1. **Knowledge and skills**: depth, range, overview, orientation on the problem area, problem analysis, insight, ability to distinguish main issues from side issues, orientation towards other disciplines ....

2. **Planning and organisation**: setting effective goals, determining priorities and necessary action, indicating the time and resources needed to attain goals, monitoring progress, taking responsibility, investing energy in maintaining progress of activities, effective use of time available ....

3. **Written and verbal presentation**: structure and style of written material, formulating a message that is clear and to the point, tailoring material to suit audience, power of persuasion, maintaining central lines of argument, self-awareness ....

4. **Interpersonal skills**: leadership skills, giving direction and guidance to others, creating cooperative ventures in order to achieve a goal, convincing others of a point of view, motivating others to do something for you, taking initiative, seeking active consultation ....
WISHES WITH REGARD TO EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

NWO-I training, English spoken:  
□ Taking charge of Your PhD project (required)  
□ The art of presenting science  
The PhD student is required to invest  
□ The art of scientific writing  
leave for these career oriented  
□ How to get funded  
trainings, up to a maximum of 10  
□ Career planning  
days/80 hours per calendar year,  
with the exception of presenting and  
writing skill courses, conform UR  
appendix B.4

Professional training (including attendance at congresses):


COMMENTS OF RESEARCHER WITH REGARD TO EVALUATION OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND/OR NATURE/FREQUENCY OF SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Signature of thesis supervisor:  
Direct supervisor:  
Seen by junior scientist:
AIM OF THE RESEARCH IN THE COMING YEAR

1. What are the most important **milestones and results** in your research for the coming year?

2. What **activities** have to be carried out to this end, in what order and what is the **final date for their completion**?

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3. What obstructive/delaying factors are expected in the realisation of this schedule? (problems with equipment, delays in the delivery of the equipment, technical support, problems of a scientific nature, others?)

4. How will you anticipate or respond to such developments?

REPORT AND PROGRESS

1. Progress interviews planned on:

2. Nature and frequency of reporting by the trainee research assistant:

The following parties have reached agreement on this plan and its actions:

Thesis supervisor: Direct supervisor: Junior scientist:
Please return the original signed report to: P&O at the Institute or P&O NWO-I PO Box 3021 3502 GA UTRECHT

For further information, employees of institutes please contact your personnel officer. Other employees can contact: Ms. A. Bor, a.bor@nwo.nl, +31 30 600 12 37 or

①For more information, check our website https://www.nwo-i.nl
Go to NWO-I People to submit this form digitally!

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**Name of trainee research assistant:** ______________________  **Institute/research team:** ______________________

**Date of employment:** ______________________  **Thesis supervisor:** ______________________

**Date of birth:** ______________________  **Direct supervisor:** ______________________

**Date of interview:** ______________________  **Present at interview:** ______________________

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WISHES WITH REGARD TO EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

NWO-I-training, English spoken (please mark where appropriate)
- Taking charge of Your PhD project (required)
- The art of presenting science
- The art of scientific writing
- How to get funded
- Career planning

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CAREER PROSPECTS

1. What are the employee's career ambitions? In what direction would the employee like to develop his or her career after the appointment at NWO-I has ended?

2. What ideas does the manager have about the employee's future career?

3. What actions need to be taken in order to help secure a new job after the appointment at NWO-I has ended?

WISHES WITH REGARD TO EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

NWO-I-training, English spoken (please mark where appropriate)
The PhD student is required to invest leave for these career oriented trainings, up to a maximum of 10 days/80 hours per calendar year, with the exception of presenting and writing skill courses, conform UR appendix B.4

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