

## **Guidelines education plan CARIM**

As Part of the Training and Supervision Plan (TSP) PhD candidates in CARIM compose their personal education plan in consultation with their supervisors in TRACK.

**The education plan should be designed to facilitate the execution of the PhD project, to support the PhD candidate in his/her development as an independent researcher, and to prepare for his/her further career.** To assist in choosing courses and activities relevant to the PhD candidate's personal training a couple of questions need to be answered in TRACK (under "*skills and competencies*") prior to composing the education plan.

Next to a wide variety of theoretical and practical courses (organized by Maastricht University and the FHML: under "*Professional courses*") and courses dealing with specific cardiovascular topics (Courses organized by CARIM and by the Netherlands Heart Foundation: under "*Professional courses*"), education may also include the candidate's participation in scientific meetings, attending lectures, etc. (under "*Conferences and activities*") In addition, the PhD candidate has the opportunity to supplement the education plan by gaining experience in the teaching of bachelor students and by supervising Bachelor and Master Students during their internships (under: "*Teaching*").

**To qualify for thesis defence, the PhD candidate needs to earn 25 ECTS<sup>1</sup> points** in total (based on a 4-year PhD program). There is great flexibility in the way ECTS points can be earned, the only requirement being that CARIM demands that **each PhD candidate has to participate in at least 2 of the courses organized by CARIM.** None of the other courses are compulsory and one can also choose courses that are not listed in TRACK<sup>2</sup>. In this way the PhD candidate is able to design an education plan that fulfills his/her personal needs.

The 25 ECTS points can be earned in different domains, covering different competencies, that is, by:

- attending general and specific courses;
- attending (inter)national conferences or lectures, etc. (7 ECTS max);
- supervising interns (3 ECTS max);
- teaching (4 ECTS max).

As indicated above, to obtain a balanced (course) package over the 4-year PhD trajectory **a maximum has been set on the number of ECTS that can be earned in certain domains.** For most of the courses the load of the course (in ECTS or hours) is determined by the course organizers. Given that one ECTS equals 28 hours, the number of ECTS that can be earned with other activities amounts to:

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<sup>1</sup> ECTS: European Credit Transfer System. One ECTS point amounts to 28 hours (actual contact time plus time for preparation, etc).

<sup>2</sup> After consulting their supervisor, PhD candidates are allowed to attend courses that are not listed in section 2. However, financial support for these courses is not offered by UM/FHML or CARIM.

- Conferences – 0.3 ECTS per full day;
- Lectures – 1 ECTS per 15 lectures;
- Supervising – 1 ECTS for supervising a 4 months internship;
- Teaching – 2 ECTS for tutoring one group during an 8 week course.

It is recommended to follow courses that are relevant to the execution of the project as early as possible and to earn most of the 25 ECTS in the first 3 years of the PhD trajectory. Please, note that one is **not** able to earn ECTS by participating in regular lab-meetings and journal clubs as these are considered integral part of research activities.

At the start of the PhD trajectory it may be difficult to predict if and how much ECTS the PhD candidate will earn with teaching, supervision of interns, etc. Therefore, when drafting the personal education plan it is advisable to be careful in this respect and not to count too much on ECTS points earned in these domains. During the course of the PhD trajectory the candidate will gain more insight into his/her performance, possible gaps in knowledge, skills and competences, and future career perspectives. Accordingly, at the end of each year the Education plan can be adjusted to meet the candidate's needs.