WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

Earth System Sciences

Life after graduation



Check for more info
BSc: **wur.eu/bsw**
MSc: **wur.eu/mee**

Future job possibilities

The BSc and MSc Earth System Sciences offer a wide variety of possibilities in the job market (Figure 1). Most of the graduates end up in the Engineering and Consultancy sector, where they work on projects and provide advice to commissioners based on their area of expertise. Additionally, a large share of alumni works in the Research sector (University & Research Institute). These are mostly graduates who start their careers by doing a PhD.

Some alumni end up working for the government. This sector can be subdivided into the Central Government, with organizations such as Rijkswaterstaat and the water boards, and the Non Central Government, for example local municipalities. A smaller portion of alumni works in the Industry sector, for instance at water utilities, weather forecasting companies or energy companies.

Lastly, a few graduates start working for a Non-Governmental organization (NGO). These are non-profit organizations that aim to achieve a specific social, societal or scientific goal with the help of donations and without making profit.

Curious to explore some options? Take a look at the booklet!

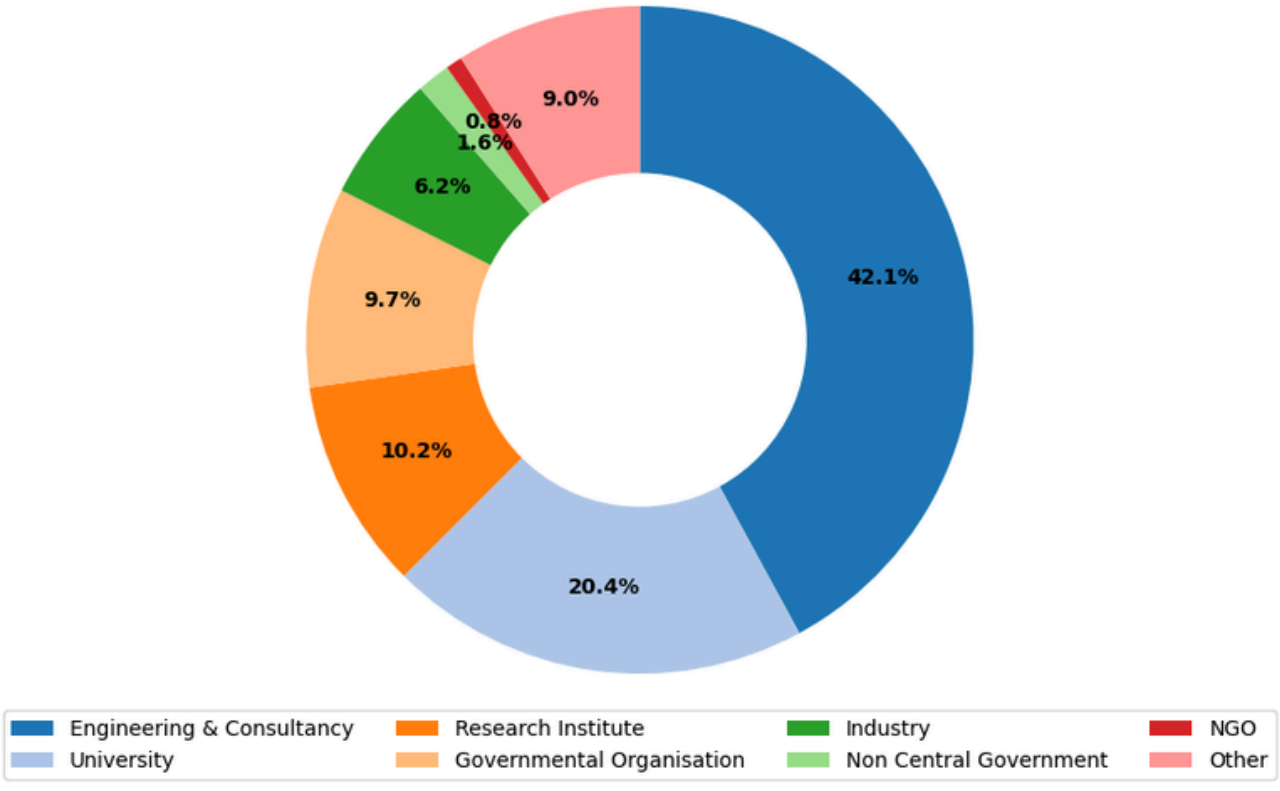
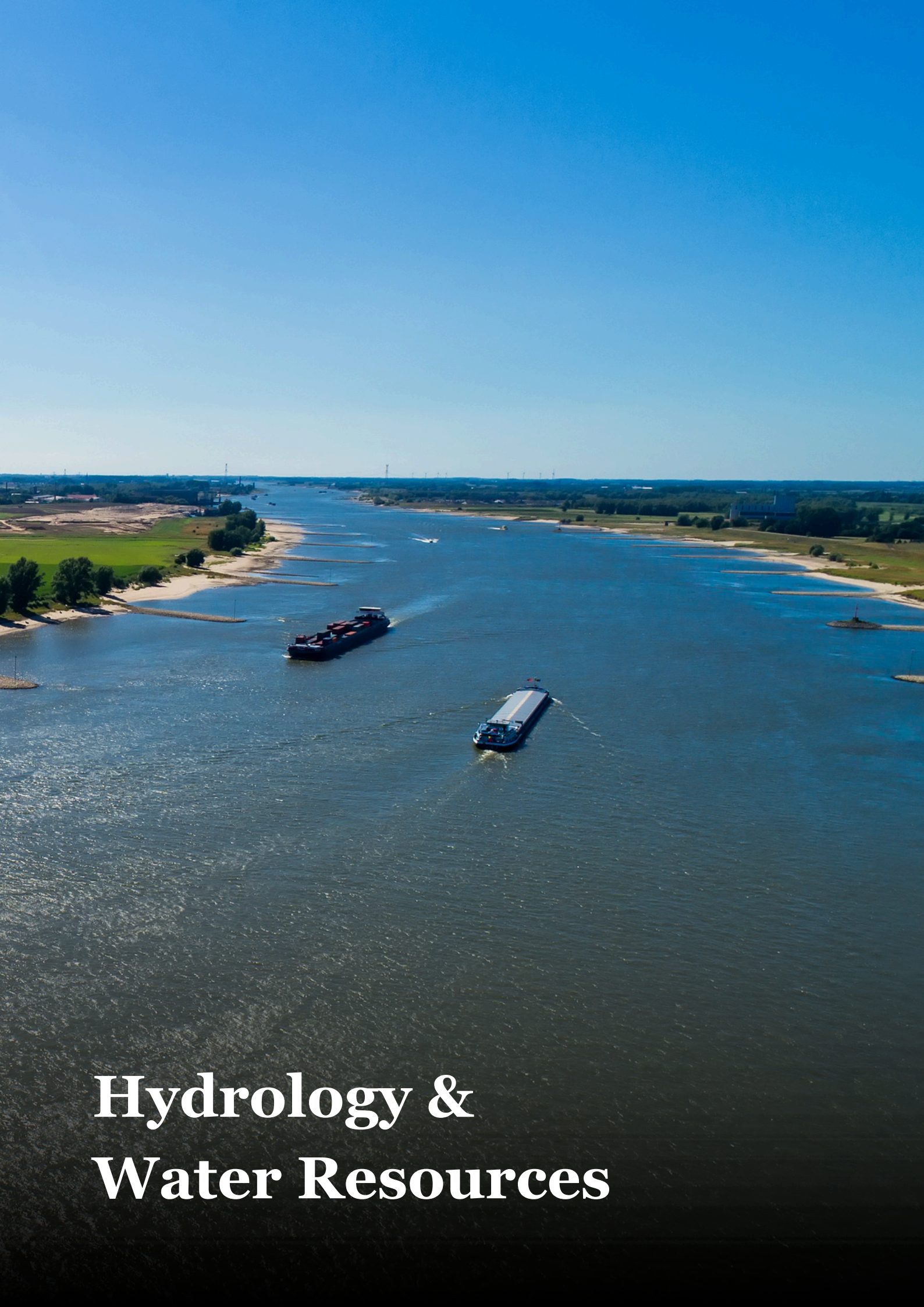


Figure 1 Sector of the first job of Earth System Sciences alumni



Hydrology & Water Resources

Merel Verbeek



River Hydraulics Consultant

Rijkswaterstaat

Hi, my name is Merel Verbeek and currently I'm a River Hydraulics Consultant at Rijkswaterstaat. Before starting this job, I did an internship at the Port of Rotterdam, where I measured and modelled water and salt distribution at bifurcations (channel junctions) in the port area. After that, I completed a PhD in Civil Engineering at TU Delft. During my PhD research, I investigated the flow effects of tidal energy farms in coastal areas through fieldwork, laboratory experiments, and computer modelling, working with a fantastic group of partners.

Within my position, I provide advice on hydraulic aspects related to the maintenance of the River Rhine on behalf of the river authority, Rijkswaterstaat. It's a broad role that involves frequent collaboration with colleagues within the organization, as well as with engineering firms and research institutes.

My work primarily focuses on identifying potential future challenges to the safe functioning of the river and developing projects with engineering firms to address these issues. These projects include monitoring campaigns, designing dredging operations or other river management measures, and modelling river characteristics under various conditions. Another important aspect of my role is evaluating proposed interventions in the Rhine area — submitted by both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders — for compliance with environmental legislation.



Tom Barendse



Hydrogeologist

Aquaquest Limited, Zambia

My name is Tom Barendse and I am currently the project hydrogeologist at Aquaquest Limited, a water resources consultancy company based in Lusaka, Zambia. After graduating from Wageningen University, I was initially looking for a position in my home country, Uganda. However, during my search, I came into contact with another Wageningen University graduate who was working in Uganda and he knew of an open position at Aquaquest. I also followed the Young Experts Programme (YEP) for the first two years and can highly recommend this programme for any Wageningen graduate in the water, agrifood and energy sectors who are interested in working outside of the Netherlands.

My role currently involves a wide range of tasks such as; the management of various projects, training of staff, overall management of the company, proposal and report writing, communication with clients and quality control. Aquaquest specializes in a wide range of water related services, including hydrogeological surveys, surface water hydrology, drilling and test pumping supervision, water supply development, installation of hydrometric and meteorological instruments, “WASH and baseline surveys” (about water, sanitation and hygiene) and GIS related projects.







Bart Kemp



Surface Water Modeller

Haskoning

If you had asked me during my studies what I thought my job would look like, I would have had difficulty answering it. Even after graduation, I was still unsure about the next step. Eventually, I landed at Haskoning, a company that looked promising, because of the wide variety of possibilities.

And two years in, I can say: it turned out to be a great choice. I'm still in the same position, still happy, and still discovering new opportunities within my job. Most importantly, my work allows me to contribute to society in a tangible way—by helping create safer and more liveable environments.

My role focuses on delivering tools and information that support decision-making for clients and colleagues. This includes building and improving hydraulic and hydrologic models, analysing data, and visualizing results for varying audiences. The work ranges from desk-based modelling to field visits, from writing reports to discussions with local operational managers and sessions with residents. It's a dynamic mix of technical depth and real-world engagement.



Zina Janssen



Consultant Operational Water Management and Water Data Scientist

Nelen & Schuurmans

Hi, I'm Zina and after graduating, I started working at HydroLogic after my internship in a role focused on business development. Although I enjoyed the work, I missed the more technical side of hydrology. A former study friend mentioned that Nelen & Schuurmans had an opening. I already knew the company had a great atmosphere.

Today, I work as a Consultant Operational Water Management and Water Data Scientist at Nelen & Schuurmans. I help water boards develop and maintain the technical systems that support them in automatically manage their water systems. A concrete example is ensuring that pumps switch on automatically when there is cheap energy available and when model forecasts predict rising water levels. My work ranges from maintaining and connecting data sources, to integrating hydrological and optimisation models, to building interactive dashboards that give insight into how the systems are performing.





Gijs van Kempen



Project Manager Urban Development

Aveco de Bondt

Hi, my name is Gijs van Kempen and I currently work as a Project Manager Urban Development at Aveco de Bondt. After graduating, I had the opportunity to publish my MSc thesis, which was a great way to conclude my academic journey. At the same time, I was doing my graduation internship at Arcadis, where I was introduced to the world of commercial consultancy.

That environment was very different from university life: the pace, variety and real-world challenges really appealed to me. From there, I moved into urban water, where I spent five years at Arcadis as a specialist and project leader, working on inspiring projects at the interface of urban water, civil engineering and area development.

Since the beginning of this year, I've started at Aveco de Bondt. I work on the design of public space and the challenges that come with dense urban areas. As a project manager, I manage planning, scope and finances, work closely with a strong complementary team, and act as the main point of contact for clients. What I enjoy most is being at the crossroads of area development and urban water, applying my hydrology background while fully embracing my passion for project management.



Josco van Duren



Advisor Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage

IF Technology

Hi, I'm Josco van Duren and I'm a senior advisor/project manager aquifer thermal energy storage (ATES) and aquathermia at IF Technology. I started working at IF Technology as a geohydrologist. Afterwards, I discovered I am more of a generalist and switched to the advisor/project manager role within our company.

In my current position, I help clients develop and maintain alternative methods for heating and cooling their buildings. We are involved from the design phase until the operational phase of such projects. As an advisor, I am responsible for client contact, project budget, planning, and team management for these projects.



Marthe Wassink



PhD Candidate Sediment Dynamics

Delft University of Technology

My name is Marthe, and I am currently doing a PhD at the TU Delft about sediment dynamics in the Wadden Sea. My research focuses on the intertidal area, and whether it can keep pace with sea level rise.

During my master Earth & Environment (renamed to Earth System Sciences), I did an internship about groundwater trends at a drinking water company, and for my thesis I investigated extreme glacier melt in Switzerland. As you can see, my PhD project is on a completely different topic!

After graduating, I knew I wanted to do something with research, and something related to water, nature and the effects of climate change. I applied for multiple jobs: at a research institute about groundwater, a PhD about mountain hydrology, and then I found this PhD position in Delft. It was a bit outside my scope, but I decided to try and I got the position :)

Doing a PhD means (in my case) reading scientific literature, data analysis in python, and setting up model simulations. Compared to a master thesis, a PhD is much bigger, and in a way calmer because there is more time to learn and explore, but also scarier because you are more in charge of the direction of your project.



Kees van de Veen

Micha Veenendaal



Consultant Water Management

Hydrologic

Hi, I'm Micha and I currently work as a consultant in water management at HydroLogic, a Dutch consultancy company that combines water expertise with innovative ICT solutions to help water managers address challenges related to climate change, such as drought, extreme rainfall, and flooding.

I joined HydroLogic in a relatively organic way. During my Master's programme in Earth and Environment at Wageningen University, I explored potential internship opportunities and ended up at HydroLogic. My graduation internship focused on the application of the hydrological model Ribasim to the Dutch main water system. After completing my internship, I transitioned directly into my current position.

In my work, I am involved in a wide range of projects focused on analysing water systems at both regional and national scales. Many of these projects involve the use of hydrological and hydraulic models, combined with data analysis, to assess system behaviour under various conditions. I currently work on projects including model development, data validation, flood modelling, and operational projects focused on decision-making frameworks for extreme weather events. In addition, I am seconded at Waterschap Hollandse Delta, where I support the hydrologists at the waterboard on a broad range of water-related questions within the water board's management area.



Ruben Imhoff



Hydrometeorologist

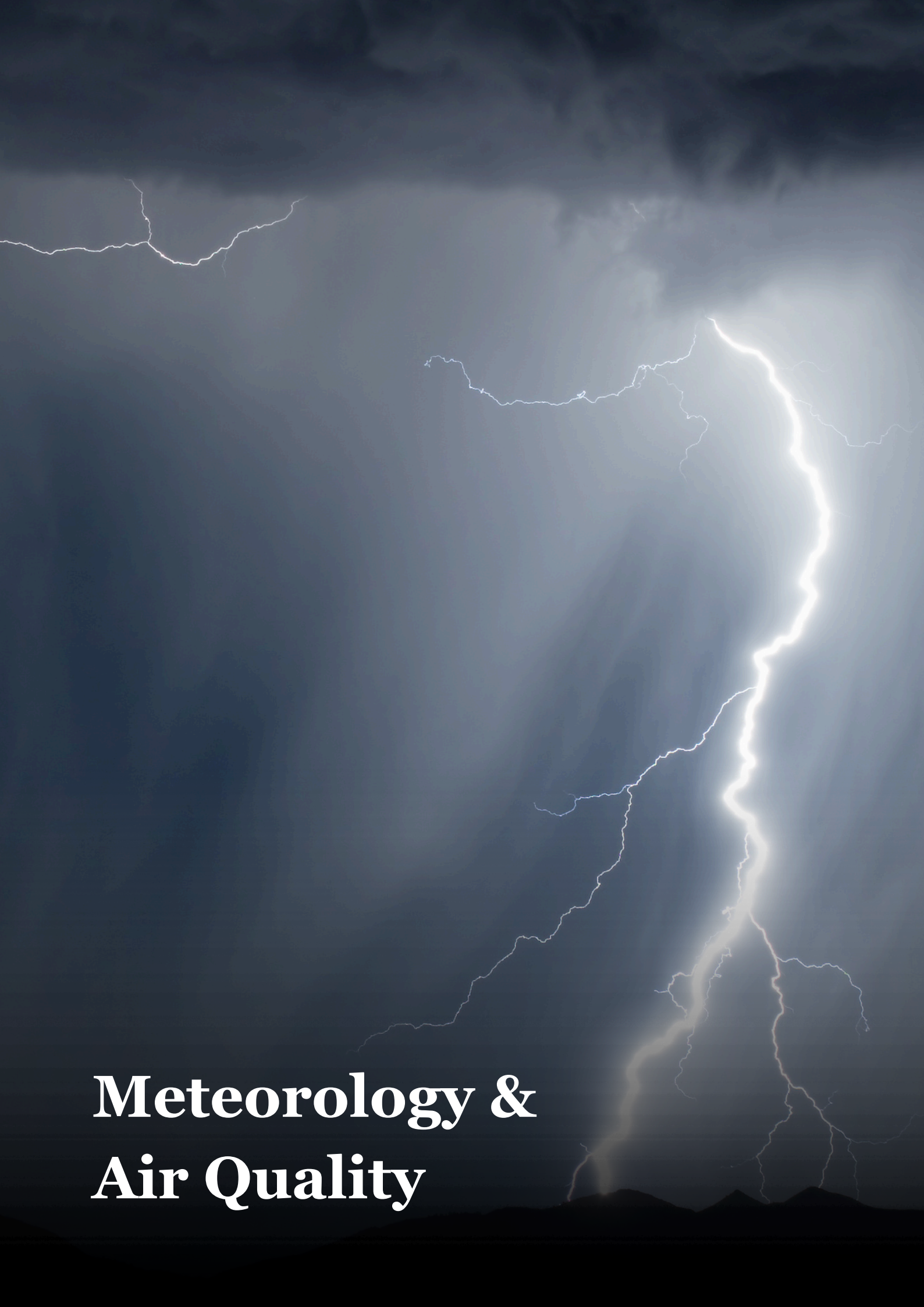
Deltares

Hi, my name is Ruben Imhoff and I work as a hydrometeorological researcher and advisor at research institute Deltares. After finishing my BSc and MSc, I started a PhD in Wageningen in collaboration with Deltares. In my PhD, I worked on so-called rainfall nowcasting methods in which we used weather radars to create short-term rainfall forecasts (like the rain radar and Buienradar that you are used to seeing) and tested that for flood forecasting. The step towards a position at Deltares was a logical fit after that.

In my current work, I focus within the operational water management and early warning team of Deltares on flood forecasting systems worldwide. We develop computational forecasting system platforms for almost all scales, from urban areas like Singapore and Dutch polders, to all river systems in Australia. Together with partners from universities, consultants and international networks like the World Meteorological Organization, we do research and explore how we can further innovate these forecasting methods. This combination of research and application for many areas worldwide is very exciting.

With my background, I often provide the link from meteorological information to flood information, which I think is a great position to be in. The Earth System Sciences background has also helped me in this position, because it has given me a background in both hydrology and meteorology, and the interactions between those two fields, which is quite unique knowledge.





Meteorology & Air Quality

Stefan van der Grift



Meteorological Officer

Royal Netherlands Air Force

Hi, I'm Stefan van der Grift and after my studies in Wageningen with a bachelor's degree in Soil, Water, Atmosphere and a master in Earth & Environment (which together have been renamed to Earth System Sciences) with the Hydrology and Water Resources specialization, I started my working career as a hydrological consultant at ATKB. Currently, I serve as a meteorologist at Royal Netherlands Air Force.

As a military meteorologist at Royal Netherlands Air Force, I am working at the Joint Meteorological Group, whose mission it is to provide worldwide and 24/7 customer-oriented meteorological and space weather products and services. In this way, we contribute to the safety and effectiveness of our armed forces and its partners. We provide meteorological products depending on the wishes of the customers, such as specific weather forecasts.



Manou Spoor



Air Quality Specialist

Buro Blauw

Hi, I'm Manou and after graduating from the MSc Earth and Environment (renamed to Earth System Sciences) at Wageningen University, I started working at Buro Blauw Luchtkwaliteit, an environmental consultancy specialized in air quality research. I first came into contact with the company during my studies while exploring organizations on Career Platform working on air quality. The initial connection led to an internship, and later to my current position as Air Quality Specialist.

At Buro Blauw, I work on a wide range of projects related to industrial emissions and air quality in urban environments. This can involve studying the impact of new infrastructure developments, evaluating air purification technologies near highways, or assessing dust deposition from industrial activities. Next to this consultancy role, I coordinate field measurement campaigns, making sure the logistics and data collection run smoothly, and I analyse the results using, for example, Python to support environmental assessments and policy advice.

What I enjoy most about my job is the variety, combining detailed data analysis with hands-on work in the field, visiting companies, and understanding how different industrial processes influence local air quality. This mix of scientific work and real-world engagement keeps the job dynamic and meaningful!



Mirjam Tijhuis



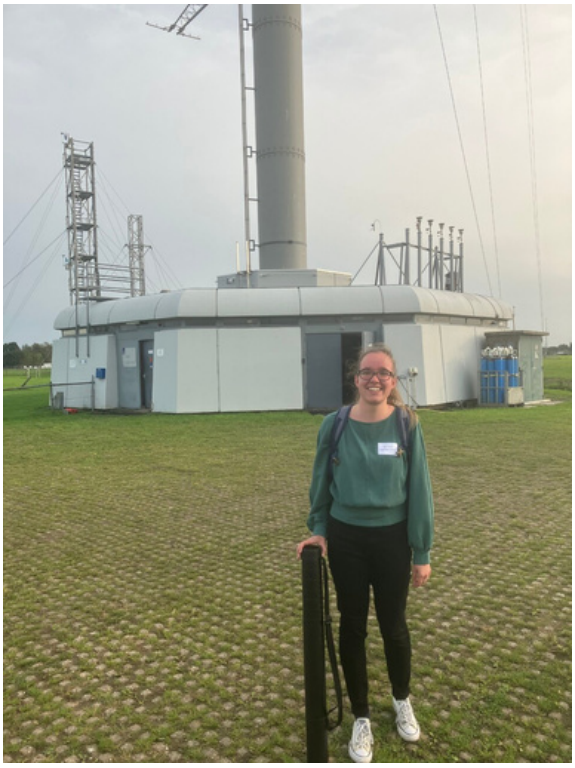
PhD Candidate Cloud-Radiation Interactions

Wageningen University & Research

Hi, I'm Mirjam and I currently work as a PhD candidate at the Meteorology and Air quality (MAQ) group at Wageningen University and Research. Soon, I will start as a postdoc in the same group.

During my master, I followed the research master cluster, during which you get to write a proposal for a PhD. Every year, the graduate school for the environmental sciences of WUR (WIMEK) provides funding for a couple of proposals from master students, and I was lucky enough to get one of the available grants in my year. So, my PhD is basically a continuation of my master thesis!

On a daily basis, I perform and analyse atmospheric simulations to better understand the interactions between radiation and clouds and the performance of atmospheric models. Although I spend most of my time on my own work, we have regular formal and informal meetings to discuss work with each other. In addition, I have spent some time during my PhD on teaching the course Boundary Layer Meteorology, we go to symposia, and once or twice a year to an international conference.



Mike Budde



North Sea Meteorologist

KNMI

My name is Mike Budde, and I work as a meteorologist at KNMI. As a meteorologist I provide weather forecasts for general aviation and for clients operating on and above the North Sea, for example ships and helicopters. Besides that, I am also responsible for warning of our clients when we expected dangerous weather conditions.

After graduating, I started my career at the Joint Meteorological Group (JMG), where I was responsible for producing forecasts for clients such as the navy and air force. After two years, I got the opportunity to switch to KNMI.



Marte Hofsteenge

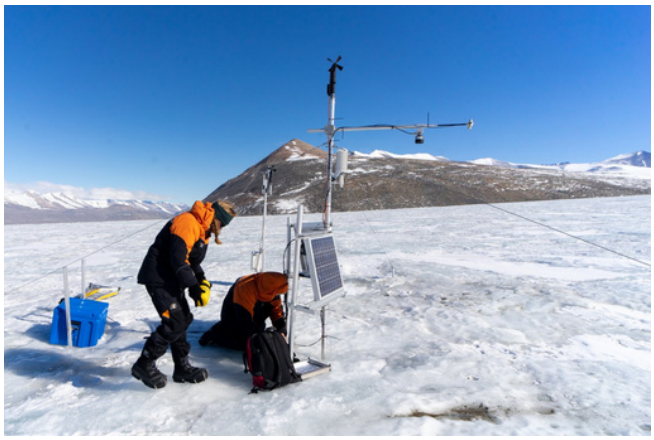


Polar Climate Modeller

Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research Utrecht (IMAU)

Hi, I'm Marte and I'm a polar climate modeller at IMAU (Utrecht University), where I study the climate and mass balance of the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets. I chose to study in Wageningen because I wanted to learn about meteorology, and I became interested in the polar regions during my bachelor's when I went on exchange to Svalbard. During those months in the Arctic, I caught the "polar bug," as many do. While during my bachelor's I didn't see myself doing a PhD, I really enjoyed my research projects in my master's and wanted to learn more about the polar regions through research.

After my studies, I looked for a PhD project in polar meteorology in Europe, but instead came across an exciting opportunity in New Zealand and got the position. Moving to the other side of the world was a big step, but the project that was focused on a polar desert in Antarctica was really interesting and also gave me the chance to do fieldwork there. After finishing my PhD, I returned to the Netherlands and started a postdoc at IMAU, which allowed me to continue in polar research while being closer to home.



In my current role, I run regional climate model simulations and analyse the output to study future melt of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. I also supervise students and interns, collaborate with researchers across Europe, and ensure our simulations are up-to-date and manage data sharing with other users.



Annika Gaiser

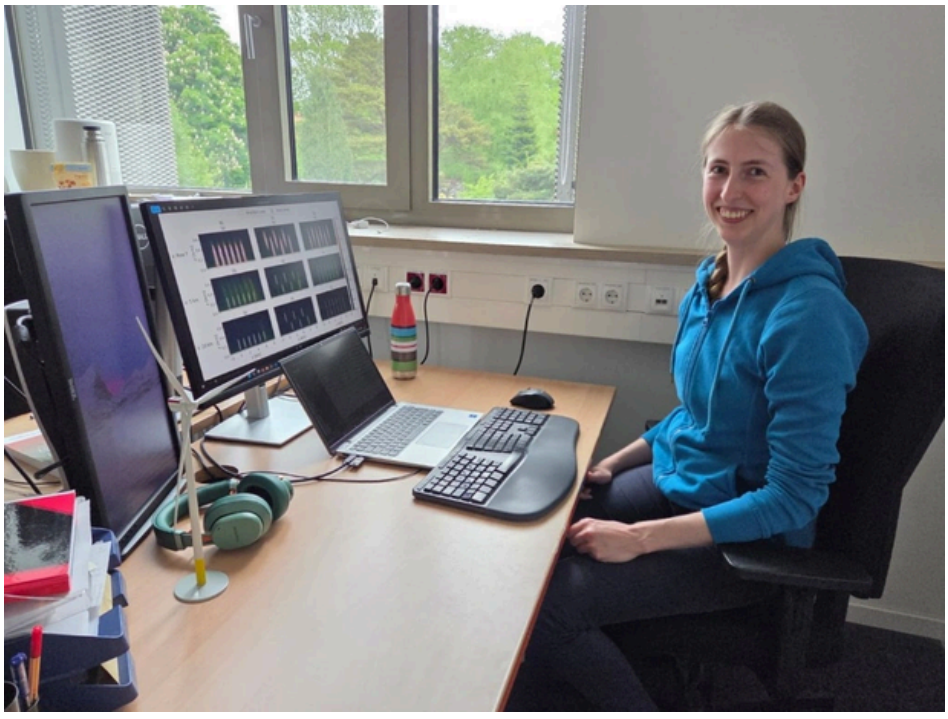


PhD Candidate Wind Energy Meteorology

ForWind

Hi, I'm Annika Gaiser and I am currently doing a PhD at the University of Oldenburg - ForWind in Germany. After graduating in 2023 with the MSc Earth & Environment with the specialisation of Meteorology & Air Quality, I wanted to continue doing research in the field of wind energy meteorology. The advertisement for my PhD position sounded like the perfect combination of all my interests and I am still very happy with my choice.

My research focuses on understanding atmospheric processes downstream of large offshore wind farms for different wind farm setups and operation strategies. Since my research is simulation-based, I mostly work on my laptop. Still, when my colleagues need help in the wind tunnel or with field measurements I sometimes get to do more hands-on work. As part of my position, I also help with teaching and supervise students. Next to my daily work, I travel a few times per year to conferences, workshops or project meetings where I get to connect with researchers of different institutes.



Michiel de Bode



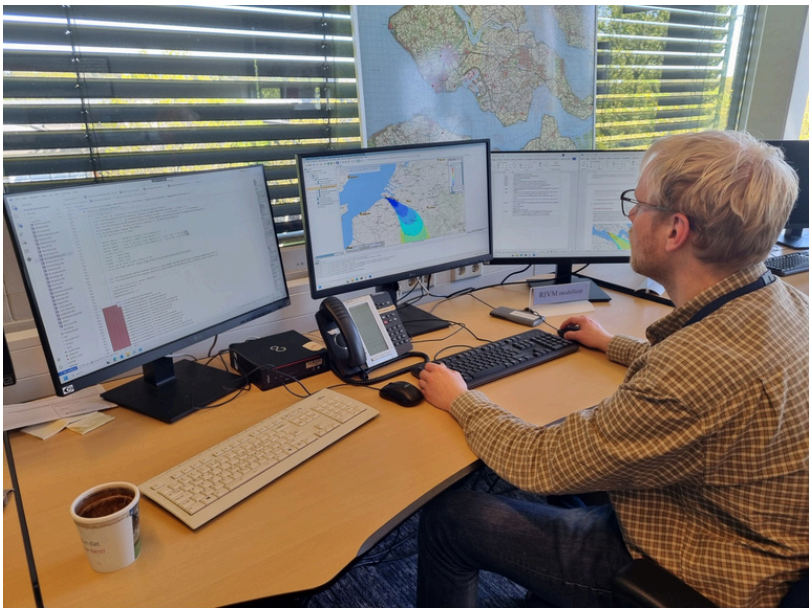
Atmospheric Dispersion Modeller

RIVM

Hi, my name is Michiel de Bode and currently I'm a dispersion modeller of hazardous materials and the maintainer of the model used for this at the RIVM (Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment).

In my current position, I work on the atmospheric transfer model NPK-puff, which is used for dispersion of hazardous material in emergency (preparedness) situations, where the main focus is radioactive materials. I currently have to maintain and improve the model by fixing bugs and security issues, and including new scientific insights on atmospheric dispersion.

My career path had some nice twists since finishing my master's. First, I got a PhD in southern France and after that I came back to the Netherlands to start working at the RIVM, where there were more jobs than people to fill those positions. They let me study to become a radiation expert at the Dutch level of "Coördinerend Deskundige".





Roosmarijn Knol



Meteorologist

NOS & Infoplaza

Hi, my name is Roosmarijn Knol and I'm currently working as a meteorologist for two different companies. Half of the time I work for Infoplaza (known for the brands Weeronline, Weerplaza and Buienalarm) and the other half for the NOS (Dutch broadcasting organisation). I found my job already during my studies, when a friend told me about a vacancy for a junior meteorologist at Weeronline. I applied and got the job with two other students. In the beginning I worked during the weekends and got training from other meteorologists. I gradually learned how to interpret meteorological data and translate that into a forecast. After I graduated I started working full-time and got extra training to present on some regional television stations. About 1.5 year later one of the weather presenters on national television announced that he was leaving and there appeared a vacancy. After a selection procedure, I became the new weather presenter.



In both positions I'm making weather forecasts, but the form and audiences are different. At the NOS I'm presenting on television and radio. It's a large audience and I talk about the weather for the coming days in the entire country, Europe and even other parts of the world. At Infoplaza I'm making forecasts for companies and events on a smaller scale, sometimes at a very specific location. Think about the impact of the weather on train tracks, festivals or harbours.



Brian Verhoeven



Wildfire researcher and advisor

Netherlands Institute for Public Safety (NIPV)

Hi everybody! My name is Brian Verhoeven, and I work as a wildfire researcher and advisor at the Netherlands Institute for Public Safety (NIPV). In addition, I lead the Dutch fire service's team of fire behaviour analysts, supporting wildfire preparedness and response.

My career started with a strong interest in wildfires during my MSc Earth & Environment. At the time, there were limited opportunities to specialise in wildfires, so I created my own path. I spent a lot of my free time studying the topic, did a capita selecta, completed a wildfire-focused thesis, and built connections with wildfire specialists within the Catalan fire and rescue service.



After graduating, I had the opportunity to live and work in Catalonia for several months. Training alongside experienced wildfire professionals taught me a lot about fire behaviour, suppression strategies and working in an operational environment in general. Simultaneously, I was able to give back to them with my own meteorological expertise. This experience proved to be a turning point in my career.

The knowledge and network I developed eventually led to an opportunity at NIPV, where I started as a (junior) researcher. Over time, my role expanded into a combination of research, education and operational support. Today, I also provide training or presentations and most importantly analyse fire danger conditions and wildfire incidents to improve safety and operational effectiveness, supporting the emergency response during major wildfire evens like this Spring and Summer in The Netherlands or other fires abroad.





Soil Geography & Earth Surface Dynamics

Lenka Danilovic



PhD Candidate Landscape Dynamics

Wageningen University & Research

Hi, my name is Lenka Danilovic and I am a PhD student at the Soil Geography and Landscape group at Wageningen University. After completing both the BSc Soil, Water, Atmosphere and MSc Earth and Environment (renamed to Earth System Sciences) at WUR I wanted to continue working here.



My interest has always lied between hydrology and geomorphology. For my PhD, I chose to study how sediments move and form landscape as a result of long term interaction between humans and nature in northern coastal Peru. I wrote a proposal as a part of the Research Master Cluster course that then received a grant from WUR's graduate school WIMEK. Although my main job is doing research (fieldwork, labwork, data analysis and writing), my daily tasks can consist of teaching, reading papers, bug-fixing or taking a course. On the one hand, this versatile work makes it hard to balance my overall PhD track, but on the other hand it makes it exciting and flexible.

Joshua Leusink



Junior Advisor (Agro)water and Soil, Trainee

Aequator Groen + Ruimte,
Nationaal Bodem- en Watertraineeship

Hi, I'm Joshua and my current function is junior advisor (agro)water and soil at the company Aequator Groen + Ruimte. This is an expertise and consultancy firm in the agricultural sector. We often work together with farmers, waterboards, provinces, ministries and private companies. In the teams water, soil and Nature and agriculture we try to work on the main goal of Aequator, to improve the vitality and sustainability of the rural area.

I currently work on a secondment for the Waterschap Rijn en IJssel in the Achterhoek and across the border in Germany. I am involved in the project "Elke druppel de grond in" (every droplet into the soil), which focuses on drought mitigation, water retention, and knowledge sharing. This project follows a bottom-up approach, where farmers and landowners are closely involved. We learn from their experiences with drought through informal "kitchen table conversations," where we discuss their land while reviewing a hand-out with soil and water analyses. These analyses include soil maps, current and natural water systems, and potential measures to reduce drought.

We also visit fields to carry out soil drillings and assess soil properties. Based on this, we advise on measures such as installing weirs to improve water retention. In addition, my work includes analysing groundwater data (partly from our own piezometers), updating soil maps, and reporting findings to clients. Overall, my role combines both desk-based and fieldwork.



Next to my work I also take part at the Nationaal Bodem- en Watertraineeship. For Dutch speaking students this is a nice traineeship next to your first job. In this traineeship you built a decent network, work on professional and personal growth through schooling and work for three different firms on a project.

Mariana Silvestre



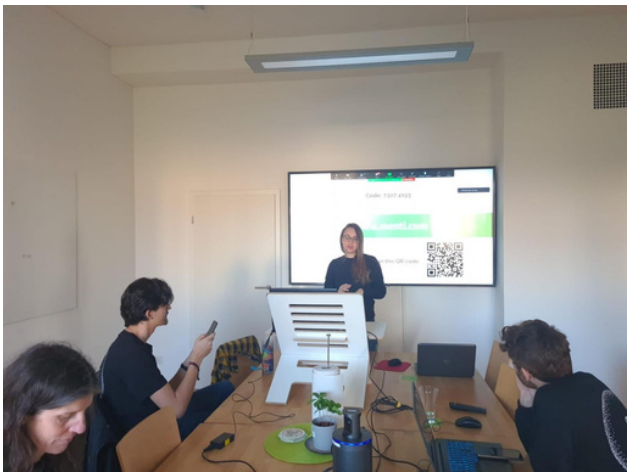
Remote Sensing Data Scientist

Space4Good

Hi, I'm Mariana and I currently work as a remote sensing data scientist at Space4Good, where I use satellite data, machine learning, and geospatial analytics to support environmental and humanitarian projects around the world. My path started during my thesis, where I explored wildfire dynamics using remote sensing. That experience confirmed how much I wanted to work at the intersection of environmental challenges and geospatial technologies. With that in mind, I searched for an internship that combined both areas and found exactly that at Space4Good. After completing my internship, I was offered a full-time position, and I've been part of the team ever since.



In my role, I spend most of my time working with satellite imagery to monitor forests, detect environmental changes, and develop models that help partners make better decisions. This includes processing data from sensors like Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2, Landsat and private ones, building machine-learning models for deforestation or fire detection, creating geospatial dashboards, and collaborating with NGOs, governments, and project developers. I also help design data pipelines and contribute to R&D by testing new algorithms or exploring emerging remote-sensing techniques.





Nardo van Haren



Soil Advisor

Omgevingsdienst Rivierenland

Hi, I'm Nardo and I currently work as soil advisor at the Environmental Service (Omgevingsdienst) Rivierenland. During my master Earth & Environment (renamed to Earth System Sciences) I focussed on the Water Quality track and I did the minor Education for the course Geography. Teaching was great, but I wanted more life experience, so I did my internship at Research Institute Deltares on a project about the Phorsphorous binding capabilities of Iron to prevent algea blooms. Although I enjoyed the project and learned a lot, Deltares & research wasn't for me, so at the end I declined the offer to start working at Deltares and started orienting myself on the job market.

I started to work for RPS as a soil & watersoil advisor. Here I drew GIS maps, directed the soil & watersoil (bagger) research and wrote research reports. After working there for 1.5 – 2 years, I saw a job application for soil adviser at the Environmental Service Rivierenland. I applied and got accepted. At the Environmental Service I process Environmentally Harmful Activity (Milieubelastende Activiteiten) and asses those same reports I once wrote at RPS. I look at maps and read through reports to see if certain activities are allowed.



Arvid de Rijck



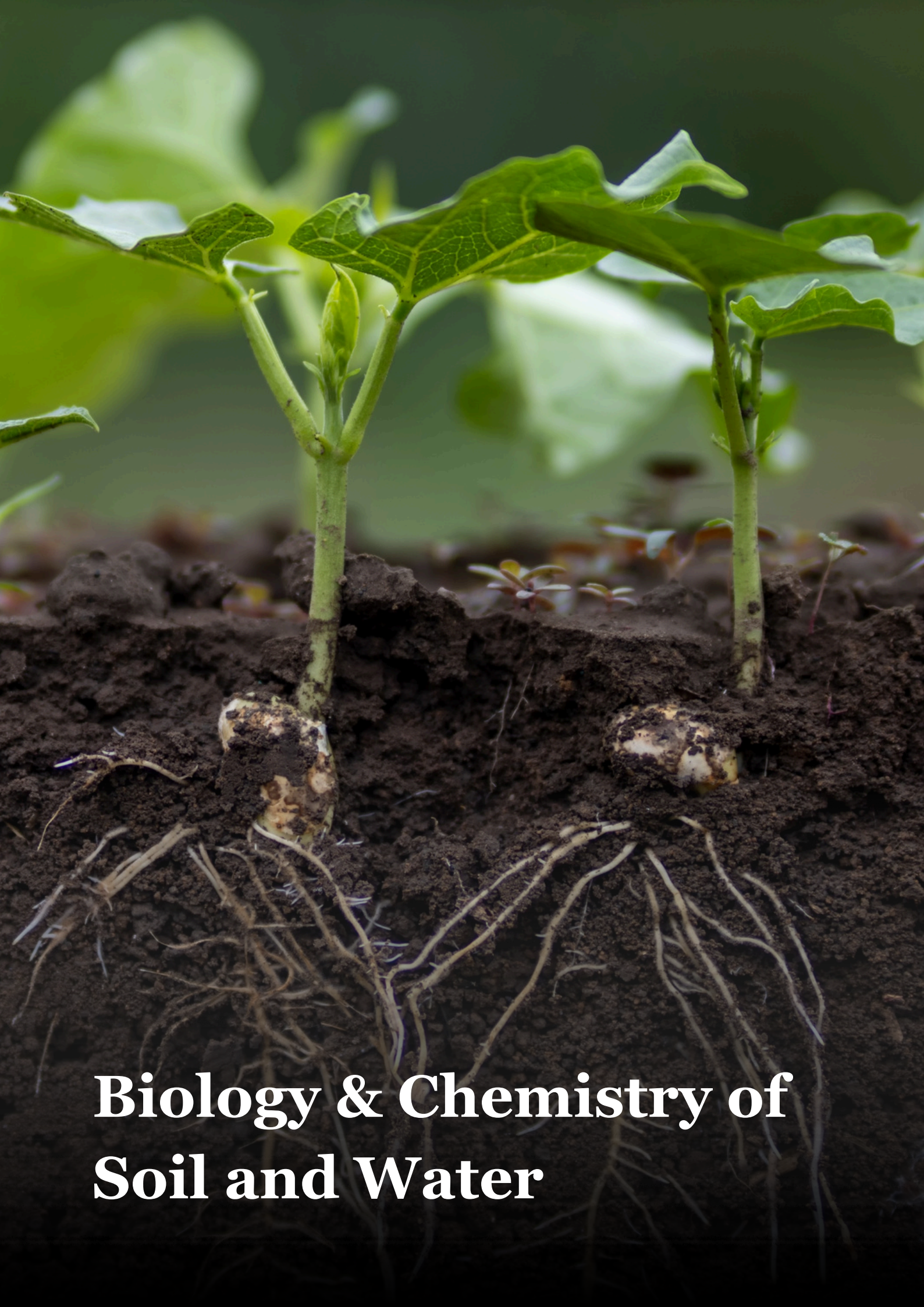
Project Manager Soil Policy

Witteveen + Bos

My name is Arvid de Rijck. Currently, I work as a project manager for ‘Conditioning Studies’ at the consultancy company Witteveen+Bos. Before, I worked as an environmental soil consultant and later on technical soil and remediation project. Compared to those jobs, I am now more involved in soil-policy related projects.

My role as a project manager has evolved over the past six years towards coordinating various 'conditioning studies'. This includes studies related to ecology, soil, groundwater, hydrology, geophysics, archaeology, and unexploded ordnance (ammunition). Within these projects I lead a team of colleagues, guiding them as they conduct technical researches. I am responsible for interpreting their results and translating them into potential project designs.





Biology & Chemistry of Soil and Water

Ilona van der Kroef



Consultant Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Site Management

TAUW Nederland

My name is Ilona van der Kroef, and I am a consultant and project manager on hazardous waste and contaminated sites at TAUW, a European environmental consultancy firm. As part of completing my BSc in Environmental Sciences and MSc in Earth and Environment (now renamed to Earth System Sciences) with the Soil Geography and Earth Surface Dynamics specialization at Wageningen University, I have completed my MSc thesis at Kansas State University and an internship at the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Research (ZALF) in Germany.

While my initial career goal was to continue in research, my path led elsewhere, namely to TAUW as a junior soil consultant. After 1.5 years, I moved into the role that truly suited me: supporting developing countries on their journey toward environmentally sound management of heavily impacted sites and hazardous waste, at both site and national levels. My projects have ranged from assessing and remediating legacy sites contaminated with persistent organic pollutants in the Balkans, to developing hazardous waste management strategies in 12 countries in the Caribbean.Clients include international organizations such as the UNDP, and UNIDO.





Koen Kaffener



Policy Officer Water Quality

Ministry for Infrastructure and
Water Management

Hi, my name is Koen Kaffener and I'm a policy officer for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. After I graduated, I selected for the National Water Traineeship, which I combined with a job at the ministry. Four days a week, I worked for the Ministry and every Friday I had training courses and project for the traineeship.

In my current position, my work focusses on the area of the IJsselmeer. With research and large scale projects (maybe you know Marker Wadden) we try to improve the ecological water quality and ensure the freshwater supply for the coming decades. That is challenging with climatic changes and all the social-economic interests.



Anna Adriani



Project Leader Team Innovation

Stichting Wij.land

Hi, I'm Anna and I'm the project leader of the Team innovation at Wij.land. Early in my study, I was quickly inspired by soil, permaculture and environmental and cultural geography. I explored the potential of place-based solutions for sustainable food production and nature restoration that suited the local cultural and environmental conditions during my study, but it was harder to find a match in the job market. While working as an applied researcher on soil and nutrient management, I found myself searching for work that fit more closely with that holistic and practical vision in my head.

My search led me to Wij.land, a Dutch NGO working directly with dairy farmers and stakeholders in the western peat meadows. Here, I work primarily on two aspects: bridging the gap between practice and research and developing practice-based models and tools. I interface with researchers and farmers to make sure practical challenges are being addressed in research, impact can be measured in practice, and that new research outcomes are communicated to farmers in an understandable and applicable way. Thanks to my broad educational background, I can interface on my specialties surrounding soil, nutrients and emissions, but also more broadly on topics like biodiversity and water quality. In addition, I work with colleagues and partners on developing holistic models and decision-making tools – both on the modelling side and the usage side – aiding farmers, stakeholders and regional groups in making informed land management decisions. I also contribute to other activities like curriculum development, guiding regional processes and innovative farm-based pilots.



Wij.land

Jur van Wijk



Data Scientist

Noria Sustainable Innovation

Hi, I'm Jur and I'm currently working as a data scientist at a tech scale-up called Noria Sustainable Innovators in Delft. Our company monitors, removes and analyses plastic waste in urban waters. I found this company via my internship, where I did the final part of my master. After this internship, we talked about possibilities for work, after which I started as a data scientist.

My daily work consist of maintaining and managing the monitoring tasks of the company, where we monitor the plastic waste in urban waters with cameras, GPS tracers, build dashboards and analyse the captured waste. So the main focus is on programming, modelling and managing projects. But since we are still a small scale up (+-10 persons), you are also involved in the field work and other parts of the company.



Michelangelo Vuono



Agronomist

Inalca

Hi, I'm Michelangelo and I'm an agronomist. My career path started with a Bachelor's in Agricultural Technologies in Bologna, followed by the MSc Earth and Environment (renamed to MSc Earth System Sciences) at Wageningen University. During my master, I had the possibility to complete both internship and thesis abroad as part of Erasmus programmes. I did my internship in University of Naples for six months where we ended up publishing a paper on soil health, while my thesis was done in Nestlé R&D in Lausanne, mainly working in the lab on soil bacteria oxidizing methane.

As I mentioned, I'm currently working as an Agronomist at Inalca (Cremonini Group) in Modena, where I support the management of large-scale agricultural systems across Italy (3000+ ha between Veneto, Lombardia and Emilia Romagna). I work on crop planning and agricultural budgeting, coordinate fertilization strategies, and manage experimental fields. I also collaborate with external partners, overseeing logistics and supply chains while keeping sustainability and economic viability aligned.



Vivien Bernard



PhD Candidate Riverine Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)

My name is Vivien Bernhard and I'm a second-year PhD student at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). I did my internship here and was able to stay and start my PhD immediately after. My PhD is embedded into a bigger project called AGRIO, where we collaborate with two other research centres – the Alfred-Wegener-Institute and Hereon.

In this project, we investigate the greenhouse gas emissions of the Elbe from the lower river through the estuary all the way to the North Sea, how they differ between these locations, and how they are affected by anthropogenic influences and climate change. While my colleagues from the other institutes build and run models and do a lot of monitoring, I'm responsible for performing experiments. For this I take sediment samples (like in the photo), bring them back to the lab, and incubate them under various conditions that we might not currently find in the field. My results provide data for the models that could predict how the river might change in the future and what that would mean for the greenhouse gas emissions from the system.



So far, my day-to-day life in my PhD isn't wildly different from when I did my MSc thesis – which is great, since I did my thesis and thought "I'd love to keep doing this!" Even my topic is similar since I still look at greenhouse gases, only the focus keeps shifting and expanding. I no longer exclusively look at freshwater and methane, but also saltwater, CO2, and N2O. I wanted to do a PhD since my Bachelor studies and my thesis only confirmed it.

Bas Nelemans



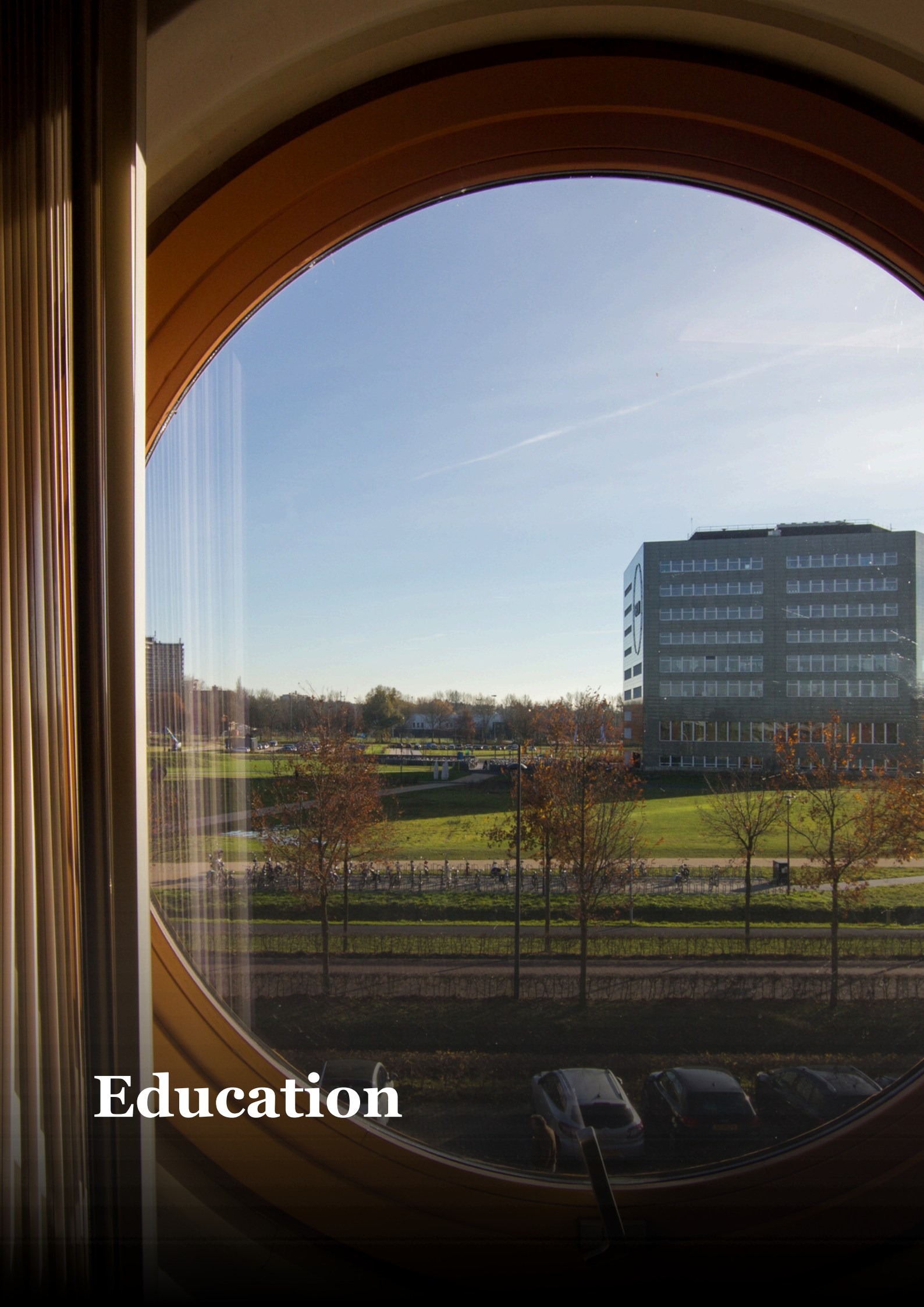
Groundwater Specialist

Province of North Brabant

Hi! My name is Bas Nelemans. I graduated with the specialization in Biology and Chemistry of Soil & Water, Earth and Environment (renamed to Earth System Sciences). I always enjoyed my time in Wageningen, both the Bachelor and Master. I currently work as a Monitoring & Data Coordinator within the Water & Soil policy program of the Province of North Brabant.

In this role, I coordinate groundwater monitoring (chemistry, quantity, and nature related) and other data and monitoring activities for our team. I also have an advisory role between policy and data/information, where I (along with my colleagues) try to better substantiate policy with quantitative, factual information and solutions such as dashboarding. In my work, I enjoy collaborating with many different organizations and people at various levels (from practical field work to national projects) and having the opportunity to develop new solutions. It's very helpful that, thanks to my studies, I can easily understand both the (sometimes complex) aspects of water & soil and therefore contribute to better policy.





Education

Inge Beukema



Project Leader

IVN Natuureducatie

Hi, my name is Inge Beukema and I am a project leader at IVN Natuureducatie (Insitute for Nature Education). After graduating, I began my career as a maritime meteorologist. Due to company merges, I also started forecasting Dutch weather. While I enjoyed my work, I began to feel ready for a change. But what role or career would suit me?

During my studies, I discovered that I enjoyed working with young people. I completed the Education minor and obtained my teaching degree. Although I knew I didn't want to become a full-time teacher, I was certain I wanted to do something in education, which led me to my current role.

At IVN, I lead various projects aimed at reconnecting people with nature and encouraging them to care for their environment. My work mainly focuses on young people and the recreation sector. Climate change and climate adaptation are increasingly important topics that I care about. My background in meteorology and hydrology helps me explain why taking action is so important. For example, recently I discussed the topic climate adaptation with youngsters, supporting their school project to redesign their schoolyard. While in another project, we guide recreational entrepreneurs in adopting nature-inclusive practices — helping them improve their surroundings and create better nature experiences for their guests.



IVN Natuureducatie

Jelle Leeuw



Geography Teacher

Thorbecke Scholengemeenschap

My name is Jelle Leeuw and I am currently working as a secondary school teacher in geography (and a bit of physics) at Thorbecke Scholengemeenschap in Zwolle.

I mostly teach pupils between 14 and 18 years old and I guide them to their final exams before they fly out for higher education. As a student I quickly knew that transferring my enthusiasm for the subject was what I loved to do. Then, in education, there are still a lot of options though: secondary school, university of applied sciences, or maybe even stay at the Wageningen University. It is a rewarding job when you remember how much fun you had when learning. By the way, sometimes the worst students become the best teachers 😉



Sanne Andes – van Mispelaar



Physics Teacher

Ichthus College Veenendaal

Hi, my name is Sanne and I work as a physics teacher. Already in high school, I was interested in both technical studies and teaching. I really enjoyed studying in Wageningen, especially being outdoors and courses like mathematics. During my minor in Education, I obtained my teaching qualification for physics in the lower years of Dutch secondary education.

After teaching for a year, I decided to continue my studies and returned to Wageningen for my master's, which I combined with a master's program at Radboud University Nijmegen to become fully qualified to teach all secondary school levels. Although my first year in the classroom was challenging (including the classic flying paper airplanes), I missed working with students and being a teacher.

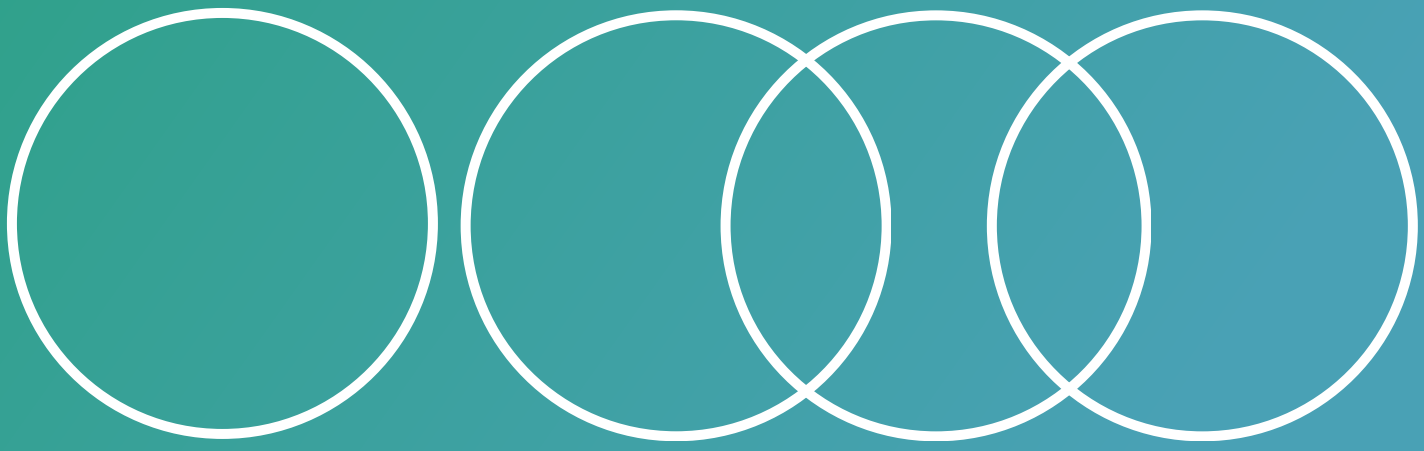
I now teach at a secondary school in my own city, just a 15-minute bike ride away. After a few years, teaching has become easier and even more enjoyable, and I find my work very meaningful. In addition to physics, I teach delta technology as part of NLT (Nature, Life and Technology), and I sometimes go to Switzerland with students for research projects. The picture was taken there by a student, during a break with my colleagues. In those moments, I clearly see the connection with my time at Wageningen.





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Amber Smid (research, text and design)

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Life after graduation

Explore future job possibilities

Earth System Sciences graduates are in high demand because of their in-depth knowledge and technican skills. Will you become a developer of the next generation climate models, a water manager who combats drought and forecasts floods, an advisor who helps farmers improve soil biodiversity, a scientist who examines satellite data to measure air pollution from space, a professional who works on nature-based solutions for sustainable land use, an expert who assesses the water quality in nature areas, a teacher of physics, geography or mathematics, or something else?

This booklet highlights a selection of career possibilities across the different fields within the BSc and MSc Earth System Sciences: hydrology, meteorology, geology, education, water quality, air quality and soil quality. These examples offer just a glimpse of paths graduates can take, as there are many more!









Bachelor Earth System Sciences
wur.eu/bsw

Master Earth System Sciences
wur.eu/mee