

SMBWO: for quality in postdoctoral research

The Foundation for Biomedical Scientific Research Training (“SMBWO”) is the organization that certifies postdoctoral research training of biomedical scientific investigators in the Netherlands. In general, postdoctoral research training, including the academic PhD training, occurs within the Dutch universities, in part under the auspices of the respective scientific occupational “Societies” bundled in the “Federa” (the Dutch Federation of Biomedical Scientific Societies) and the Society for Biomedical Scientific Investigators (“VMWO”).

Since uniform criteria for postdoctoral research training are lacking, the mission of the SMBWO is to provide a safeguard for the quality of these training programmes. One aspect of this quality control relates to the implementation of unified requirements for certification and ultimately to formal recognition of the SMBWO postdoctoral research training programmes by the Dutch government.

These unified requirements are specified within the training for the biomedical disciplines, i.e. Epidemiology, Experimental Pathobiology, Pharmacology, Human Genetics, Immunology, Medical Physiology, Medical Microbiology, Parasitology, Toxicology, and Nutritional science.

SMBWO recognition applies internationally as a guarantee of compliance with the standards for a PhD training program to become an independent scientific researcher. Because of this, certified researchers have a better chance of getting a job: a growing number of organisations even ask explicitly for employees with a SMBWO-certificate.

Scientific Societies and Universities represented in SMBWO

Societies

[Dutch Federation of Biomedical Scientific Societies \(Federa\)](#)

[Society for Biomedical Scientific Investigators \(VMWO\)](#)

[Dutch Academy of Nutritional Sciences](#)

[Dutch Society for Human Genetics](#)

[Dutch Society for Epidemiology](#)

[Dutch Pharmacological Society](#)

[Dutch Society of Physiology](#)

[Dutch Society for Immunology](#)

[Dutch Society for Parasitology](#)

[Dutch Society for Pathology](#)

[Dutch Society of Toxicology](#)

[Dutch Society of Medical Microbiology](#)

Universities

[Erasmus University and ErasmusMC Rotterdam](#)

[Radboud University and UMC St. Radboud Nijmegen](#)

[University of Groningen and UMCG](#)

[Leiden University and LUMC](#)

[Maastricht University](#)

[Utrecht University and UMC Utrecht](#)

[University of Amsterdam and AMC](#)

[VU University and VUmc Amsterdam](#)

[Wageningen University & Research](#)

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