**Assignment AGEM PhD candidate course 2026**

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| *The Amsterdam Gastroenterology Endocrinology Metabolism (AGEM) research institute unites the research at both locations of the Amsterdam UMC involved at the intersection of nutrition, microbiology, digestion, endocrinology and metabolism. Together we aim to make an important contribution to improve gastrointestinal, endocrine and metabolic health and reduce the burden of diseases. To achieve this goal, it is pivotal to work together with researchers from various disciplines.*  *You have been allocated to a group with various disciplines (see email for your group allocation). A mentor has been assigned to your group (see group allocation). This mentor will be available for questions by email. On Monday morning, February 2nd, time is scheduled to meet with your mentor in person. If you want to make use of this opportunity, please reach out to your assigned mentor ahead of time to plan in a meeting.*  *In this assignment you have to write a project proposal with your group. The aim is to exploit the multidisciplinary expertise within AGEM, and ideally even within your group, to tackle a very specific problem of your choice to eventually improve gastrointestinal, endocrine and/or metabolic health.*  *Use a maximum of 1500 words in total. The goal is to write a concise and convincing proposal.*  *Relevance, originality and feasibility are important in all grant applications, but here also synergy is a critical aspect that will be judged.*  *One proposal will be selected to be funded (5000 euro), provided that your supervisors approve.*  ***You have to send your proposal to*** [***agem@amsterdamumc.nl***](mailto:agem@amsterdamumc.nl) ***on Monday February 2nd before 18:00hrs. On Wednesday February 4th all groups have to pitch their proposal in maximal 5 minutes using ppt slides.  You have to send your pitch ppt slides to*** [***agem@amsterdamumc.nl***](mailto:agem@amsterdamumc.nl) ***on Tuesday February 3rd before 12:00hrs.*** |

**Learning objectives:**From this assignment and the pitch workshop you should learn:

1. to write a concise and convincing proposal.
2. to think outside of your own area of expertise and work together with researchers from different disciplines.
3. to write a proposal that fits within an indicated (limited) budget.
4. to pitch your proposal in a clear and attractive manner (pitch workshop).

**Proposal (Use a maximum of 1500 words in total)**

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| **Title:** |
| Names: *Give your names.* |
| Summary: *Give a general summary of the project using a maximum of 400 words.* |
| **Background:** *Give a short background related to the proposal and formulate a hypothesis. This is the section where you provide info on the relevance, formulate a specific problem that will be overcome if the project is successful and give information why this team and this moment are ideal to do this. Pilot data can be included here as this helps to answer these questions or to convince reviewers of the feasibility.* |
| **Objectives:** *State the specific aims of the project*. |
| **Approach:** *How are you going to set up the experiments (M&M) and give an overview of the expected results.* |
| **Budget:** *Give an overview of the costs of M&M used (max. 5000 euros).* |
| **Expected project outcome:** *Address the following items: How does it have impact on AGEM in general, on the interactions between G, E and/or M and what is the societal challenge.* |
| **Milestones and deliverables:** *Create a small GANTT chart and describe the main deliverables.* |