



The PThU is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic theologian. We are offering a:

Tenure Track for the Position of University Lecturer in the Field of Diaconal Studies

(0.8 FTE, based in Groningen)

The Protestant Theological University (PThU) is a specialised university for the theological study of the Christian faith. The PThU stands for thorough and relevant theological education and research into developments in the Christian faith, the church and world Christianity.

Responsibilities:

During the Tenure Track period of five years, you will grow into the position of a University Lecturer, meaning:

- Developing, preparing and carrying out education at BA, MA and post-academic levels in the field of diaconal studies;
- Conducting and valorising scientific research in the field of diaconal studies, in accordance with the Head of Department;
- Contributing to the development of the PThU through participating in workgroups and committees;
- Being able to promote and develop the discipline of diaconal studies in conjunction with other members of the field.

Qualifications:

- PhD;
- Aspiring an academic career as demonstrated by scientific post-doc publications and a relevant research network, including but not limited to contributions to international conferences;
- In possession of teaching skills; preferably an experienced educator in possession of a teaching diploma (such as the Dutch Basis Kwalificatie Onderwijs);
- Demonstrably capable of valorising scientific insights, specifically those relating to contributions to the ecclesial missional-diaconal field of policy;
- A confessing member with experience in a protestant church, preferably within the Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PKN);
- A driven, highly skilled communicator who can leave a mark on the field.

Terms of Employment:

- The appointment is on the basis of 0.8 FTE (full-time equivalent);
- The appointment is for a period of five years (a Tenure Track period), with the prospect of a permanent appointment after these five years; the full-time monthly salary will start at €3,400 to €4,654 (salary scale 11), after which agreements will be made regarding advancement towards salary scale 12;
- The PThU focuses on talents by investing in personal and professional development;
- The appointment is based in Groningen but does entail occasional trips to Amsterdam;
- 70% of commuting expenses (2nd class public transport); 100% of work-related travel expenses (1st class public transport);
- Foreign candidates must be willing to move to the Netherlands (the Groningen area) and familiarize themselves with the Dutch language upon arrival.

More Information:

For more information pertaining to this vacancy, please visit the PThU website, which contains additional information.

Application Procedure:

For more information pertaining to the position, please contact the Chair of Practical Theology, Prof. Dr. H. P. De Roest (hpderoest@pthu.nl).

Application letters can be sent to Mr. Drs. D. J. de Boer (djdeboer@pthu.nl), attn. Prof. Dr. M. M. Jansen, head of the Appointments Advisory Committee no later than 22 October 2016. Applications must include a CV, a list of publications, and a summary of teaching experiences (and evaluations of teaching experiences, if possible), as well as a research proposal for the next three years. As part of the procedure, the Smaller Synod of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands will be asked to give their consent.

Job interviews will be held on 8 November 2016. As part of the interview, applicants will be asked to present a mini lecture.

Additional Information Regarding the Vacancy of University Lecturer in the Field of Diaconal Studies

1. In accordance with policy of the Practices research programme (which governs the research in diaconal studies) and the Chairs that organize the education within this programme, the qualifications of lecturers must extend beyond their own professional specialization. In other words, the preferred candidate for the position of university lecturer in the field of diaconal studies is a practical theologian (PhD) with a specialisation in diaconal studies.¹ In accordance with PThU policy, we are focusing on the rejuvenation and diversification of the research and teaching staff and are looking for people who offer a refreshing voice, particularly in the area of diaconal studies. Consequently, hiring a post-doc or equivalent for this position seems to be a logical choice, with whom agreements can then be made pertaining to tenure.² In all cases, a tenure track entails hard work and success pertaining to the acquisition and valorisation of funding from independent public organizations as well as project-based funding.

2. In the event that a PhD with a complete specialization in practical theology and diaconal studies cannot be found, the PThU is looking for someone specialised in theology and economics (poverty and wealth-related issues, prosperity and welfare); theology and sustainability; or theology and missional efforts for the 'less fortunate', in accordance with what was written in *Kerk 2025: Waar een Woord is, is een weg* [church publication].³ We would like to emphasize that this means that candidates who have a PhD in systematic theology or biblical theology and a specialisation in one of the aforementioned areas are considered eligible.

¹ A PhD is a standard requirement for the position of university lecturer at all universities.

² In other words, a candidate who may not meet all of the requirements for the position of university lecturer can grow towards it through means of agreements concerning research publications and teaching qualifications.

³ *Kerk 2025: Waar een Woord is, is een Weg* [Church 2025: Where There's a Word, There's a Way]. Page 5: The church helps me understand what a 'good life' means; a good life for me but also for society. [...] It gives me insight into the good life, for myself, for society and for all of creation. The church is sending me into the world to be a witness in word and deed and to put it into practice. Page 13: Diaconate, 'being church', means sharing of the gifts God has given us and doing so with a specific focus on the less fortunate. [...] Page 15: The local congregation will be given space and will be taxed as little as possible with rules that are not directly in service of the proclamation of the Gospel, community, diaconate and world missions.

3. Education and research in the field of diaconal studies are of great importance to the PThU. Regardless of how they will serve church and society in the future, the students that are schooled at the PThU benefit from thorough higher education on diaconal concepts and practices. Approximately 70% of students will reap the fruits of this education in their work as pastors, while 30% of students will do so in leadership positions within parachurch and social organisations.

4. All students at the PThU should come into contact with diaconal practice and its theory during the Master's phase of their education, but preferably already be exposed to this during the Bachelor's phase of their education. All of the education at the PThU is based on and stands in continual relation to research, which means that the new university lecturer needs to have knowledge of diaconal practices as well as a familiarity with the practical field.

5. The new university lecturer will be given a role within the new institutional internship during the MA-phase in Groningen, which has a focus on diaconal practice. A group that specializes in Communities and Care in Groningen provides a substantial base for education and research in the field of diaconal studies. No fewer than 127 congregations have already promised to cooperate with the Centre for Communities and Cultures, located in the same place and under the leadership of Prof. Dr. H. de Roest and Dr. M. Van der Meulen, providing an enormous amount of data for the new university lecturer (and potential extraordinary professors).