

# Rethinking assessment to support transdisciplinary student learning

## Aim & Relevance

The goal of the PhD project is to develop an **assessment framework** that aligns with the core characteristics of **transdisciplinary learning**. Its unpredictability, uncertainty, boundary-crossing nature, emphasis on collaboration, and focus on actionable solutions requires a rethinking of both assessment practices and the concept of assessment quality, calling for a **paradigm shift**. With more knowledge about the **why, what and how**, it is possible to steer the learning process of the students towards the transdisciplinary learning which it aims at.



**ASSESSMENT**  
TRANSDISCIPLINARY  
LEARNING

actionable knowledge  
personal learning goals  
programmatic assessment boundary crossing  
unpredictable  
dialogue based why assessment as learning  
external stakeholders  
**transdisciplinary learning**  
how cooperation and collaboration  
assessment feedback learning surprises  
what wicked problems complexity  
relational integrative

## Set up of the research

Educational design research is adopted as the overarching methodological approach, to answer the following question:

**What design considerations can support a paradigm shift that enables educators to assess learning processes characterized by unpredictability?**

To investigate this, the study draws on a combination of methods, including a literature review, semi-structured interviews, co-creation sessions, and surveys.

## Questions for teachers

Are you involved in a transdisciplinary course?

- ✓ What are the **key challenges and opportunities** you experience when it comes to assessment of transdisciplinary learning?
- ✓ What **needs** do you have regarding an assessment framework for transdisciplinary learning?



## PhD-team:

**Anke Swanenberg**, Judith Gulikers, Yvette Baggen, Perry den Brok  
Contact: ([Anke.Swanenberg@wur.nl](mailto:Anke.Swanenberg@wur.nl))