Procedure for self-funded PhD applications at IMOB

This procedure details the necessary steps for unadvertised, open applications to do a PhD at the Transportation Research Institute (IMOB) of Hasselt University.

If IMOB agrees to accept the PhD student, a supervisor/promoter will be appointed. If the PhD is completed successfully, the student will receive a PhD degree from Hasselt University in the field of Transportation Sciences. The possibility of a dual PhD can also be discussed, e.g. if the student has a promoter at another university.

An open application means that no funding can be provided by IMOB. Accepted students will have to be self-funding or will have to look for external sources for funding (e.g. Scholarship from the Belgian Technical Cooperation, Science without Borders, HEC Pakistan, VLIR-UOS,...).

1. Conditions of admission and application procedure

Conditions of admission:

1/ Diploma requirements:
All applicants should hold at least a university degree or a diploma of higher education equivalent to an academic master's degree in a relevant discipline. Applicants need to have an average grade of minimum 70% in their master's degree before they can be considered for a self-funded PhD position.

2/ Language requirements:
Sufficient knowledge of English is required and is to be certified by one of the below mentioned tests. Native speakers or holders of a degree, obtained in the English language are exempt from these tests:
   a) a TOEFL-score report (paper based: score 550 or more, computer based: score 213 or more, internet base: score 79-80);
   b) IELTS-certificate (min. overall band score 6.0);
   c) For citizens of China: APS certificate.

Application procedure:

Send the below-mentioned required documents (in hard copy) by post to:
Hasselt University
Transportation Research Institute (IMOB)
Attn. Nadine Smeyers
Wetenschapspark 5 bus 6
3590 Diepenbeek
BELGIUM

Required Documents:

1. Topic and a short description of your proposed research (max. 1 A4 page)
2. Updated Curriculum Vitae
3. Legalised bachelor and master diplomas and corresponding academic transcripts*
4. Electronic copy of Identity card OR Passport
5. Motivation Letter (written by the candidate)
6. Proof of English proficiency (IELTS/TOEFL test results)

* these degrees and transcripts should bear the original stamp and signature of the issuing university or should be legalized by an official notary. A colour copy is not accepted.
2. First contact with IMOB

If your application is found relevant, a (virtual) meeting can be set up with an advisor/expert from IMOB for further evaluation.

What we are looking for:
- students with an excellent academic record
- who are highly motivated
- who are interested in doing research linked to IMOB’s field of expertise (related to transportation/traffic safety)

3. Writing a detailed proposal

A template is available for writing your detailed PhD proposal. The proposal is max. 10 pages long (excluding title page, table of contents and references). The proposal includes your research objectives and approach and a detailed work plan.

4. Presenting the proposal

After submitting a detailed proposal in consultation with your advisor at IMOB a presentation of the proposal will be organised. This presentation can be done virtually, e.g. via Skype. A panel of experts will review the presentation and proposal and will decide if the candidate is accepted as a PhD student at IMOB.