

### **Older adults: Which factors drive effective training of standing balance?**

‘Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam’ ([www.vu.nl](http://www.vu.nl)) is one of the leading institutions for higher education in Europe and aims to be inspiring, innovative, and committed to societal welfare. It has teaching facilities for 25,000 students. The Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences ([www.fgb.vu.nl](http://www.fgb.vu.nl)) is unique in the wide field of behavioural and health sciences for combining the disciplines of psychology, education sciences and human movement sciences. The faculty contributes to a better understanding of the way in which behaviour and movement are caused and can be influenced so as to promote physical and mental health and improve performance. The department of human movement sciences has a strong research track record with respect to the biophysics of human movement and applies this expertise in the context of sports and health care.

The Department of Human Movement Sciences, VU University Amsterdam, is offering a three-year PhD studentship within the neuromechanics section. The PhD student will perform a study on long-term balance training in older adults, to assess the psychological, neurophysiological and biomechanical correlates of improved balance performance. In addition, we will study generalisation of training effects to daily-life motor tasks, such as walking. This project will contribute to optimisation of standing balance training, to achieve more effective fall prevention in elderly and potentially in patients with movement disorders. The project is funded by the European commission and it is carried out within the framework of the Initial Training Network “Keep Control”. Add website if available

#### **Requirements**

- A completed MSc degree in the field of movement science, biomedical engineering, or related fields;
- Strong skills in biomechanics and/or neurophysiology;
- Good social skills and experience in working with human participants;
- Good software programming skills (MatLab);
- Good command of the English Language and good English writing skills;
- Good communication skills and ability to work in a multidisciplinary and international team.

For additional information please contact:  
prof.dr. Jaap van Dieën  
e-mail: [j.van.dieen@vu.nl](mailto:j.van.dieen@vu.nl)

## General eligibility criteria

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- Researchers may be of any nationality.
- Researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment.
- Applicants should have less than 4 years of postgraduate research experience

## Applications

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For more information and to upload your application (CV, letter of interest and contact information for potential references) visit [www.keep-control.eu](http://www.keep-control.eu).

Deadline for application: June 30, 2017