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Pay, promotions, and performance

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Is writing a dissertation a job or is it education? Some confusion can arise from the contemporary English title: PhD-student. For me personally, some confusion surely existed, but for my compassionate environment of family and friends the misunderstanding was often even more profound. Throughout the period people asked me how I was doing in school, what grade I hoped to get for my undergraduate thesis and even concerns were raised about how I financed my studies. I tried to reassure them that although it is a learning process, being a PhD-student is a regular paying job. And it definitely included periods that felt like work.

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Marco van Herpen

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