

From 2004 to 2008 I performed my Bachelors Studies in Health Science, by studying Physiotherapy in Nijmegen at the 'Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen', The Netherlands. Towards the end of the studies I wrote my bachelor thesis about the communication with the Non-Dutch patients, and I tried to come up with easy solutions to optimize the care process for this specific patient group. My Master studies at the 'Radboud University' in Nijmegen started in 2008 and I graduated in 2012. I received my Master of Science title in Biomedical Sciences, with a Major in Clinical Human Movement Sciences. In 2011, during my masters' phase, I wrote a thesis about the effects of mirror therapy on the brain, pathways to the brain and the spinal cord among healthy participants and chronic stroke survivors.

I enjoyed my job as a physiotherapist, due to the process of curing patients from their physical problems. But sometimes I treated a patient, not knowing exactly why I had to choose a particular type of therapy. So I became interested in the theoretical background of the different treatments available, and decided to enroll in a master study that focused more on research. As other cultures have always interested me, I wanted to know what life was like on the other side of the border. I found a place for an internship to write my master thesis at the Otago University in New Zealand. I committed myself to research and got passionate about neurology-related human movement research. After a year of researching, working, and travelling, time had arrived to go back to The Netherlands, but I had the feeling there was more to explore. I had enjoyed the new environment in New Zealand so much that I had to leave The Netherlands again. I choose to continue working in the world of research and wished to work on a PhD project. When I found the "Moving Beyond" project, it immediately excited me. Having the possibility again to move countries, and it was neurology-oriented, about Parkinson's disease to be more specific. Parkinson's disease has played a role in my private life since I was little. I have always wanted to do more than just watch from the sideline what this disease does to patients. Participation in the Moving Beyond project is the perfect chance for me to develop myself into a better researcher, and to make a useful contribution to the diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson's disease.