




PhD Research at Ghent University

Information for prospective PhD students

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Policy Affairs

National & International Research Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD Degree holders as key actors in knowledge economy• Increase number of PhD Degrees
Ghent University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More PhD students• More Graduates• Without loss of quality of research





Policy Affairs

Ghent University

- Research & Training
- Prepare PhD researchers not only for an academic career
- Supervision



Facts & Figures

PhD students
(20 September 2015)



- 4132
- 38% international
- 48% women



Facts & Figures

PhD Degrees Awarded
(during 2014-2015)



- 660
- 31% international
- 47% women

Certificates doctoral training
(2014-2015)

- 232
- 16% international
- 59% women





Facts & Figures

PhD Degrees Awarded

Dominant areas:

- Sciences
- Engineering
- Bioscience Engineering
- Health Sciences



Concepts & Key Actors

Doctorandus/a
Doctoraatsstudent

Doctoral/PhD
student/candidate

Someone currently pursuing a PhD

Promotor

Supervisor



Concepts & Key Actors

"Doing research"

- Researching (lab, library, archive)
- Learning (informal, doctoral training programme)
- Writing (reports, articles, abstracts, patents, dissertation, new project?)
- Traveling (to conferences, foreign labs)
- Listening & speaking (conferences, teaching)
- Counting (financial management)?
- Networking & meeting (dept meetings)





Concepts & Key Actors

Doctoraat(s)proefschrift (PhD or doctoral) dissertation

- Written evidence that the researcher (PhD student) has contributed independently to the development and extension of scientific knowledge
- Evidence that (s)he has the capacity to create new scientific knowledge on the basis of independent scientific research, which can lead to academic publications



Concepts & Key Actors

(Doctoraats)examen (Doctoral) Examination

- Neerleggen/indienen proefschrift
- (Doctoraats)verdediging
- Submission of the doctoral dissertation
- Meeting with members of examination committee
- Public (oral) defence



Concepts & Key Actors

(Doctoraats)diploma (PhD/Doctoral) Degree

Getuigschrift *Certificate doctoral training programme*
doctoraatsopleiding

Doctor PhD (doctorate) Degree holder
Doctoraatshouder
Gedoctoreerde

Someone who has obtained the doctoral degree, the highest possible academic degree in Flanders





Requirements



for scientific research



to start & to go on



Requirements

Degree

Ma or equivalent
Predocctoral training

Supervisor

Min. 1 professor @ Ghent
University who supports your
application and your research
proces + 1 xtra supervisor,
mentor or a Doctoral Advisory
Committee

Research topic

Realistic & challenging



Admission & Application

Application

- Ma Degree or equivalent
- Acceptance of candidacy by
Faculty

No deadline for application

Foreign Degree: 4-6 months application procedure

Exc. Fast track (with supervisor and funding)





Admission & Application

Letter of admission

Registration

- At the start (€ 445 in 2014-2015)
- Annual re-registration (€ 0 / progress report)
- For doctoral exam (€ 445 in 2014-2015)



Money Matters

Funding is **not required** to start
a PhD at Ghent University

Vs. Visa requirements &
Residence Permit



Money is **necessary** to work 3
to 6 yrs (average 5) full time on
your research!



Money Matters

Funding opportunities

- Assistantships
- Project funds
- Competitive doctoral
scholarships





Money Matters

Assistantships

- Job vacancy in a department
- Job application
- Employee at Ghent University
- 3 x 2 years
- 50% research + 50% teaching
- Requirements & deadlines are in the vacancy notice
- <http://www.ugent.be/nl/vacatures>
- <http://www.ugent.be/en/work>



Money Matters

Project funds

- Supervisor hires staff
- Employee at Ghent University or PhD grant holder
- Duration depends on project and on supervisor
- Not always PhD research obligation!
- Supervisor decides on requirements
- Website or departmental notice boards



Money Matters

Scholarships

- PhD candidate applies, together with supervisor
- Grant holder funding agency
- 2 x 2 years
- 100% research
- Funding agency decides on requirements and selection criteria (nationality, degree...)
- Calls announced online





Money Matters

Scholarships

- **Highly competitive selection!**
- Read calls carefully &
- Respect deadlines
- <http://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding>



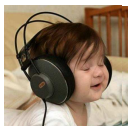
Money Matters

Agencies (scholarships / projects)

- Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds UGent
- FWO
- IWT
- VLIR-UOS
- Ask your supervisor, postdocs, PhD students
- <http://www.ugent.be/en/research/funding>



Next



You've been listening very carefully

Thank you!
You are a wonderful audience

And now





Next

Make sure that you really-really-really want to do a PhD

Talk to other researchers
Spend some time in the lab/library
Read some scientific articles

Start now



Next



Supervisor

Research topic

Decide which area of research you feel really **dedicated** to, or which topic/problem/question you want to pursue in greater details

Funding



Next



Find a **supervisor** who wants to coach your research and support your application

Supervisor

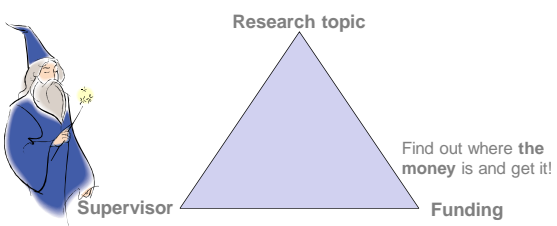
Research topic

Funding





Next




Research topic

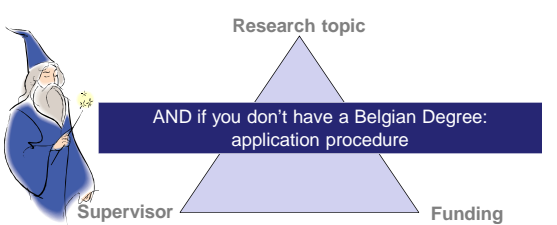
Supervisor

Funding

Find out where the money is and get it!



Next




Research topic

Supervisor

Funding


AND if you don't have a Belgian Degree:
application procedure



Next

Writing a project proposal?

Well-structured	content & visuals
Accessible	to scientists who are not an expert in your field
Ambilistic	ambitious and realistic
Context	supervisor and research team must suit the project
On time	respect the deadline
Complete	include all information and documents required



Next



- ❖ Don't give up
- ❖ Think about Plan B: funding, research topics, supervisors, departments, faculties
- ❖ Contact the Research Coordination Office for further information





Research Coordination Office
St-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, Ghent
aoc@ugent.be

<http://www.ugent.be/nl/onderzoek>
<http://www.ugent.be/en/research>
<http://www.ugent.be/doctoralschools>





