



## PhD Research at Ghent University

Information for prospective PhD students

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Doctoral Schools Coordination Unit  
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### Content

- Policy Affairs
- Facts & Figures
- Concepts & Key Actors
- Requirements
- Admission & Application
- Money Matters
- Next



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### Policy Affairs

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



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## Policy Affairs

Ghent University

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



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## Facts & Figures

PhD students   
(31 December 2013)

- Ca. 3,900
- 35% international
- 48% women



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## Facts & Figures

PhD Degrees Awarded  
(during 2013)

- 553 
- 26% international
- 46% women

Certificates doctoral  
training (during 2013)

- 185
- 18% international
- 57% women



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## Facts & Figures

PhD Degrees Awarded  
(during 2013)

Dominant areas:

- Sciences
- Engineering
- Bioscience Engineering
- Health Sciences



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## Concepts & Key Actors

Doctorandus/a  
Doctoraatsstudent

Doctoral/PhD  
student/candidate

Someone currently pursuing a PhD

Promotor

Supervisor



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## 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) – listening and speaking
- Counting (financial management)?
- Networking & meeting (dept meetings)



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### Concepts & Key Actors

Doctoraat(sproefschrift) (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



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### Concepts & Key Actors

(Doctoraats)examen (Doctoral) Examination

- Neerleggen/indienen • Submission of the  
proefschrift doctoral dissertation
- (Doctoraats)verdediging • Public (oral) defence



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### Concepts & Key Actors

(Doctoraats)diploma (PhD/Doctoral) Degree

Getuigschrift Certificate doctoral  
doctoraatsopleiding training programme

Doctor PhD (doctorate) Degree  
Doctoraatshouder holder  
Gedoctoreerde

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



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## Requirements



for scientific research



to start & to go on




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## Requirements

Degree

Ma or equivalent  
*Predoctoral training*

Supervisor

Min. 1 professor @ Ghent  
University who supports  
your application and your  
research proces

Research topic

Realistic & challenging




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## 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)




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## Admission & Application

Letter of admission

Registration

- At the start (+/- € 290)
- Annual re-registration (€ 0 / progress report)
- For doctoral exam (+/- € 290)



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## 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!



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## Money Matters

Funding opportunities

- Assistantships
- Project funds
- Competitive doctoral scholarships



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### 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>



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### 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



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### 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



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## Money Matters

### Scholarships

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



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## 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>



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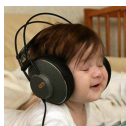
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## Next



You've been listening very carefully

Thank you!  
You are a wonderful audience

And now



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## 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



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## 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



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## Next



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

Supervisor

Research topic

Funding



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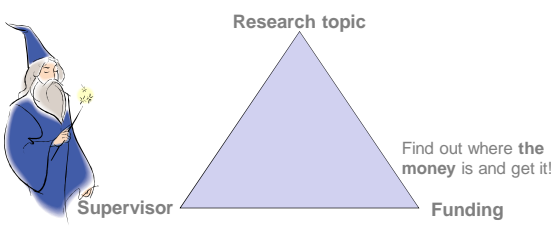
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**Next**




Research topic

Supervisor

Funding

Find out where the **money** is and get it!



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**Next**




Research topic

Supervisor

Funding

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



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**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     |



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## Next



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



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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/doctorschools>



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