



**PhD Research at
Ghent University**

Information for prospective PhD students

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Policy Affairs

National & International Research Policy

- PhD Degree holders as key actors in knowledge economy
- Increase number of PhD Degrees
- More PhD students
- More Graduates
- Without loss of quality of research

Ghent University



Policy Affairs

Ghent University

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



Facts & Figures

PhD students
(31 December 2013)

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



Facts & Figures

PhD Degrees Awarded (during 2013)

- 553
- 26% international
- 46% women
- 185

Certificates doctoral training (during 2013)

- 185
- 18% international
- 57% women



Facts & Figures

PhD Degrees Awarded
(during 2013)

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





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



Concepts & Key Actors

(Doctoraats)examen (Doctoral) Examination

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



Concepts & Key Actors

(Doctoraats)diploma (PhD/Doctoral) Degree

Getuigschrift
doctoraatsopleiding Certificate doctoral
training programme

Doctor
Doctoraatshouder
Gedoctorreerde
PhD (doctorate) Degree
holder

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
Predoctoral training

Supervisor

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

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



Money Matters

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

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>



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

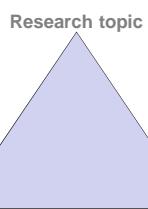
Start now



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

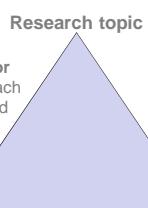


Next



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

Supervisor



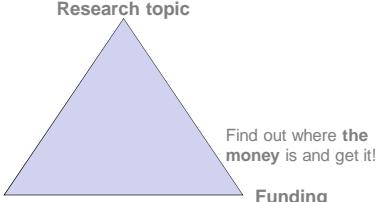
Funding



Next



Supervisor



Research topic

Funding

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



UNIVERSITEIT GENT

Next



Supervisor



Research topic

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



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>

