



# PhD Research at Ghent University

## Information for prospective PhD students

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

National & International  
Research Policy

- PhD Degree holders as key actors in knowledge economy
- Increase number of PhD Degrees

Ghent University

- 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



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## Facts & Figures

PhD students  
(20 September 2015)



- 4132
- 38% international
- 48% women



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## Facts & Figures

PhD Degrees Awarded  
(during 2014-2015)



- 660
- 31% international
- 47% women

Certificates doctoral training  
(2014-2015)

- 232
- 16% international
- 59% women



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



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## 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



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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 + 1 xtra supervisor, mentor or a Doctoral Advisory Committee

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



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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>
- <http://www.ugent.be/en/work>



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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>



## 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

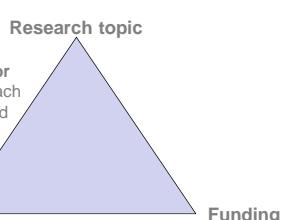


## Next



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

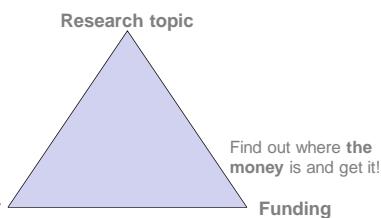
Supervisor



Next



## Supervisor




 UNIVERSITEIT  
GENT

Next



## Supervisor



 UNIVERSITEIT  
AMSTERDAM

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



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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/doctoralschools>



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