Your PhD @ ULB

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Website: https://www.ulb.be/en/becoming-a-researcher/phd
Email address: doctorat@ulb.be
> 2000 PhD candidates
≈ 250 theses defended per year
4-6 years
22 programmes

Our PhD programmes
Three words

RESEARCH    SERVICE TO SOCIETY    TRAINING

Research training through research
at the crossroads of the three missions of the University
Three actions

To train yourself
Acquire in-depth knowledge
Acquire new high-level scientific techniques and/or methodologies

To develop
Conceptualize and implement a research project
Build an international scientific network
Develop your present and future career

To share
Generate and share new knowledge
Write a dissertation or a set of articles whose level deserves publication
Roadmap

“Training” aspects

“Career” aspects

Administrative aspects
Roadmap

“Training” aspects

“Career” aspects

Administrative aspects
## Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doctoral training</th>
<th>PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Scientific and general training</td>
<td>• Scientific research work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research training certificate (60 credits)</td>
<td>• Writing and defense of the thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Doctoral degree (180 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A personalized program

- Modular
- Individual
- Previous experiences

High level training
Unique experience
Multiple trainings

- **Discipline-specific scientific training**
  (courses, seminars, conferences, summer schools, research stays abroad, etc.)

- **Scientific output**
  (articles, communications, posters, organization of conferences, etc.)

- **General/transversal training**
  (communication, languages, ethics and deontology, copyright and intellectual property, project management, team management, teaching, etc.)
Autonomy and supervision

- Continuous monitoring by a Permanent professor or researcher at ULB
- Exchange of knowledge/good practices
- Additional expertise which may be outside ULB
- Meet specialists from other FWB universities and networking activities with other PhD candidates
- Meet at least once a year
- Meet with the Supervisory committee
Mobility and multiculturality

**Multilingual international environment**
- 50% of international PhD candidates at ULB
- Working languages: English - French
- Language and communication training

**Foreign trip**
- Short stay: conference, seminar, summer school, ...
- Long stay: field research, research stay in a foreign laboratory, ...

**COTUTELLE**
- 2 universities
- 2 supervsors
- 2 diplomas
- 1 public defence
- 1 cotutelle agreement
- 12 months in each univ.
Roadmap

“Training” aspects

“Career” aspects

Administrative aspects
Professional experience

- Whether or not you are funded for your PhD!

Skills
- Development of scientific, technical and transversal skills
- Useful in and out of the scientific world

Professional project
- Think about your professional project from the start of your PhD!

→ Even if you have student status, the PhD candidate is not a student, but a professional engaged in a career in research and must be recognized as such!
Doing a PhD: asking yourself the right questions

Vais-je entamer un doctorat ? Cinq bonnes raisons pour poursuivre ou non son parcours universitaire par de la recherche

Une chronique de Philip Verwimp, Professeur en économie de développement à Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (ULB).

- Knowledge interests you deeply
  → CURiosity

- A desire to invest in knowledge
  → INVOLVEMENT (life balance!)

- Discipline, without short-term compensation
  → « MARATHON »

- To show creativity
  → RESILIENCE

- The attitude of cooperation
  → AUTONOMY

"C'est dommage, selon moi, un plus grand nombre de diplômés devrait considérer la possibilité d'entamer de la recherche sans s'inquiéter trop du marché de l'emploi!" (D.R.)
Funding your PhD thesis

Doctoral fellowship

including ONSS contribution

- Project submitted individually:
  aspirant FRS-FNRS, FRIA, FRESH, mini-ARC... (4 years)

- Commitment within a project of the laboratory / research center:
  ARC, EOS... (4 years)

- Commitment within a joint European doctoral programme:
  ITN... (3 or 4 years)

InfoFin
infofin.ulb.ac.be

Contract

- Assistantship: half-time research, half-time teaching support (6 years)

- Research contract with a company:
  Applied PhD - région Bxl-Capitale, doctorat en entreprise – région wallonne (4 years)

http://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/

Note: this slide represents the most classic possibilities
Multiple skills and opportunities

Various skills:
- Scientific & technical expertise
- Initiative & autonomy
- Critical thinking & creativity
- Team spirit
- Communication
- ...

Publications of the « Observatoire de la Recherche et des Carrières Scientifiques » (ORCS): Publications (frs-fnrs.be)
Roadmap

“Training” aspects → “Career” aspects → Administrative aspects
## Starting a PhD

### Supervisor and thesis subject

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To contact a definitive professor or researcher</th>
<th>To get a agreement-in-principle</th>
<th>To define together the research project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Relationship of 4 or 6 years!*

*At least one interview*

### Formalities (in parallel)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To apply for PhD admission</th>
<th>To apply for funding (watch out for deadlines!)</th>
<th>If cotutelle, to contact the Postgraduate unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*https://www.ulb.be/fr/deposer-votre-candidature/doctorat*

*cotutelle@ulb.be*

### Starting the thesis

*(at the beginning of the academic year)*
Supervisor and research team

http://difusion.ulb.ac.be

Be curious and contact the members of the research team!

http://cvchercheurs.ulb.ac.be/Site/repertoire.php

Faculties websites via https://www.ulb.be/
PhD journey at ULB

Year 1
- Supervisor + project
- Admission application
- Funding application
- Registration (835€ or 32€)
- PhD Charter (First meeting with the supervisory committee)
- Annual meeting with the supervisory meeting
- Re-enrolment (32€)

Year 2
- Intermediate evaluation (in front of the supervisory committee)
- Re-enrolment (32€)

Year 3
- Annual meeting with the supervisory meeting
- Re-enrolment (32€)
- Concrete reflection on the rest of the career

Year 4
- Submission of the thesis
- Private defence
- Public defence
- Applications for postdoctoral funding / Job search

Research activities, doctoral training and career development
Other meetings

Forum ON! (FR/EN)
Open to all, October 2022
http://www.ulb.be/forum-on/

« AvanThèse » workshop (FR only)
Is a PhD made for me (and vice versa)?
ULB Master students, November 2022
Website: https://www.ulb.be/en/becoming-a-researcher/phd

Email address: doctorat@ulb.be

And, of course, at the Research Department stand (Bât. K Hall) today!