

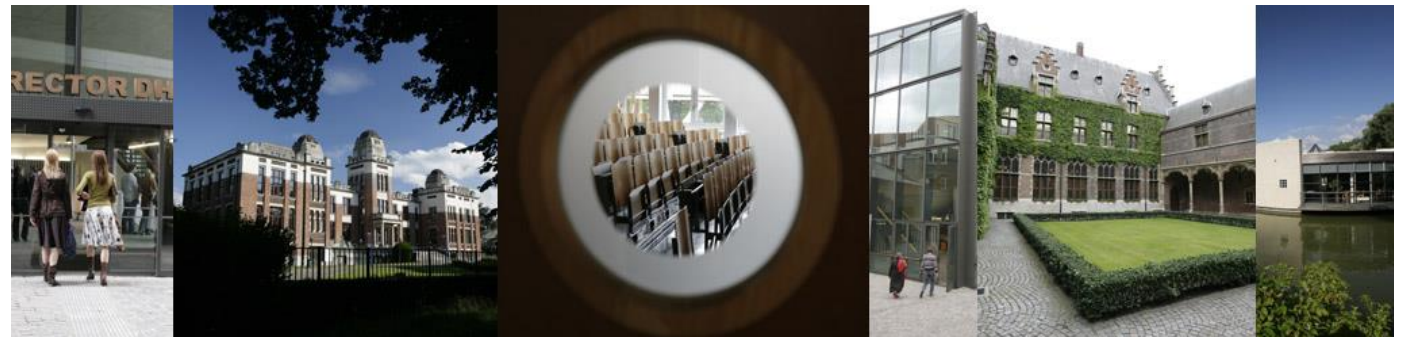


PhD research at the University of Antwerp

Prof. Serge Demeyer

Chair Antwerp Doctoral School (ADS)

October 2025





9 + 1
faculties

2 research
institutes

> 23 200
students

117 research
groups

> 5100 academic staff

2595 PhD enrolments!

Mission statement

Through its free and innovative research, student-centred academic education and societal engagement, the University of Antwerp aims to have a valuable impact on society and the use of scientific knowledge. In this way, UAntwerp aims to contribute to the further development of a sustainable world and a democratic and inclusive society, based on human rights.

The University of Antwerp understands its core tasks as follows:

- Academic teaching, focusing on the person as a whole
- Creative and innovative scientific research
- Service to society and engagement based on our own expertise
- Forward-thinking valorisation of knowledge, with sustainable solutions for humans and the world

The University of Antwerp is guided in these tasks by the following principles:

- Excellence emerging from a culture of quality, supported by a supportive environment
- Academic freedom based on scientific integrity
- Students as full and co-creating partners
- At home in the city, but with a view to the world
- Diversity as added value, inclusivity as the standard
- Active pluralism as a basis for dialogue
- Encouragement for collaboration and interdisciplinarity

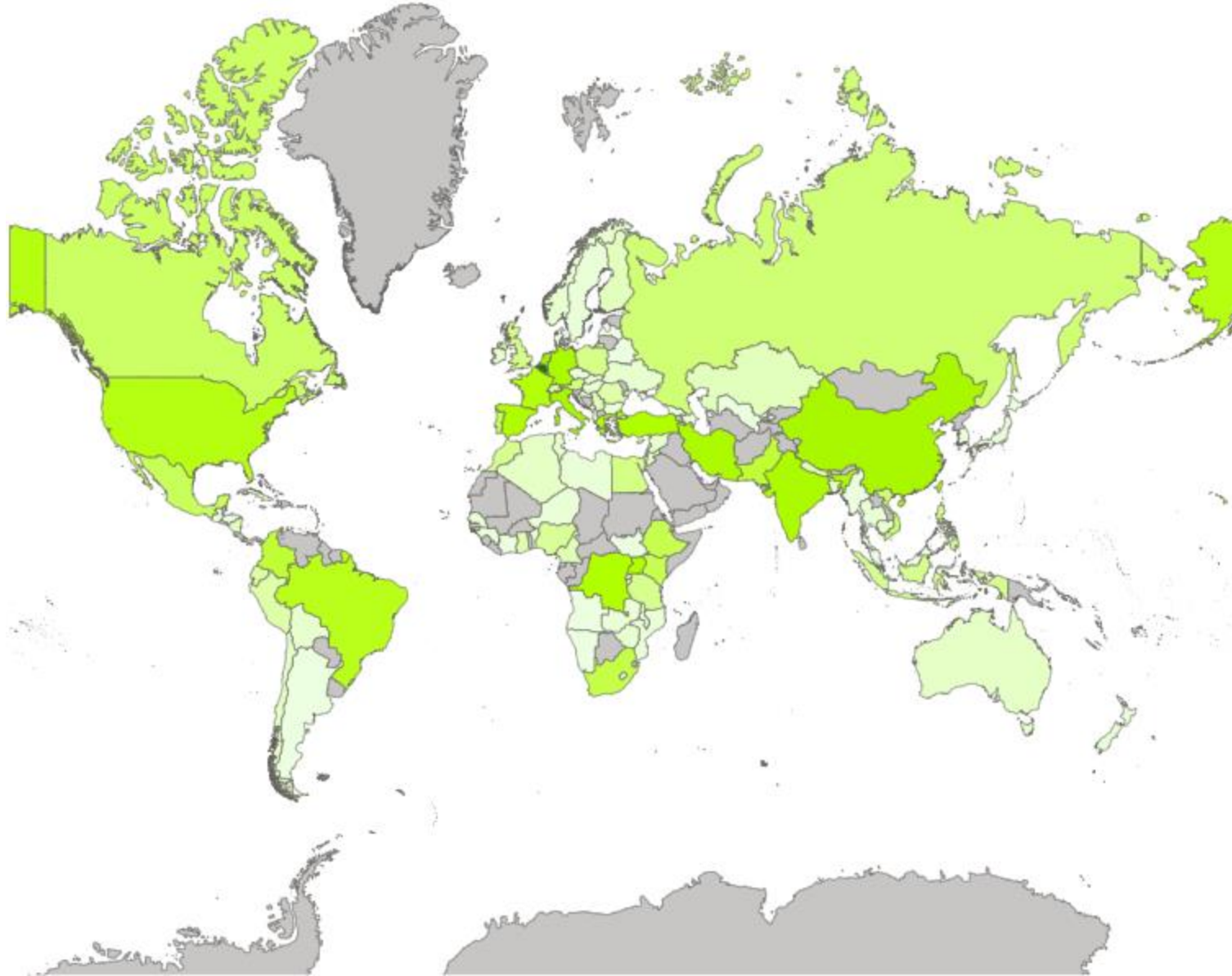
Academic teaching
– with a focus on the person as a whole

Creative and innovative
scientific research

Service to society and engagement
based on our own expertise

Forward-thinking
valorisation of knowledge

2595 PhD enrolments in 2024-2025: **47% international**



15 Research Centres of Excellence



Sustainable chemistry



Inequality



Digitalisation and Tax



Genomics in medicine



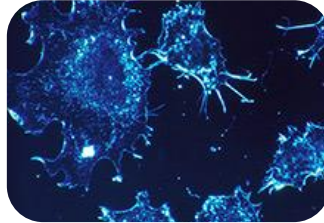
**Contaminants in human
and animal models**



Inflammatory Diseases



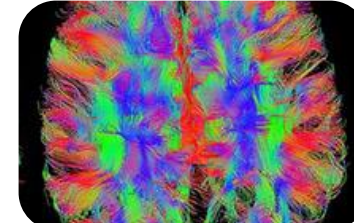
**Vaccine & Infectious
Diseases Excellence in
Antwerp**



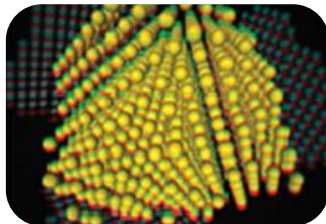
**Personalized & Precision
Oncology Network**



**(Dis)trust in Multi-level
governance**



**Multidimensional analysis
of the nervous system**



**Nanoscience from lab to
society**



Global change ecology



**Research Centre on
Representatives and
their communication**



Plasma



**Microbial systems
technology**

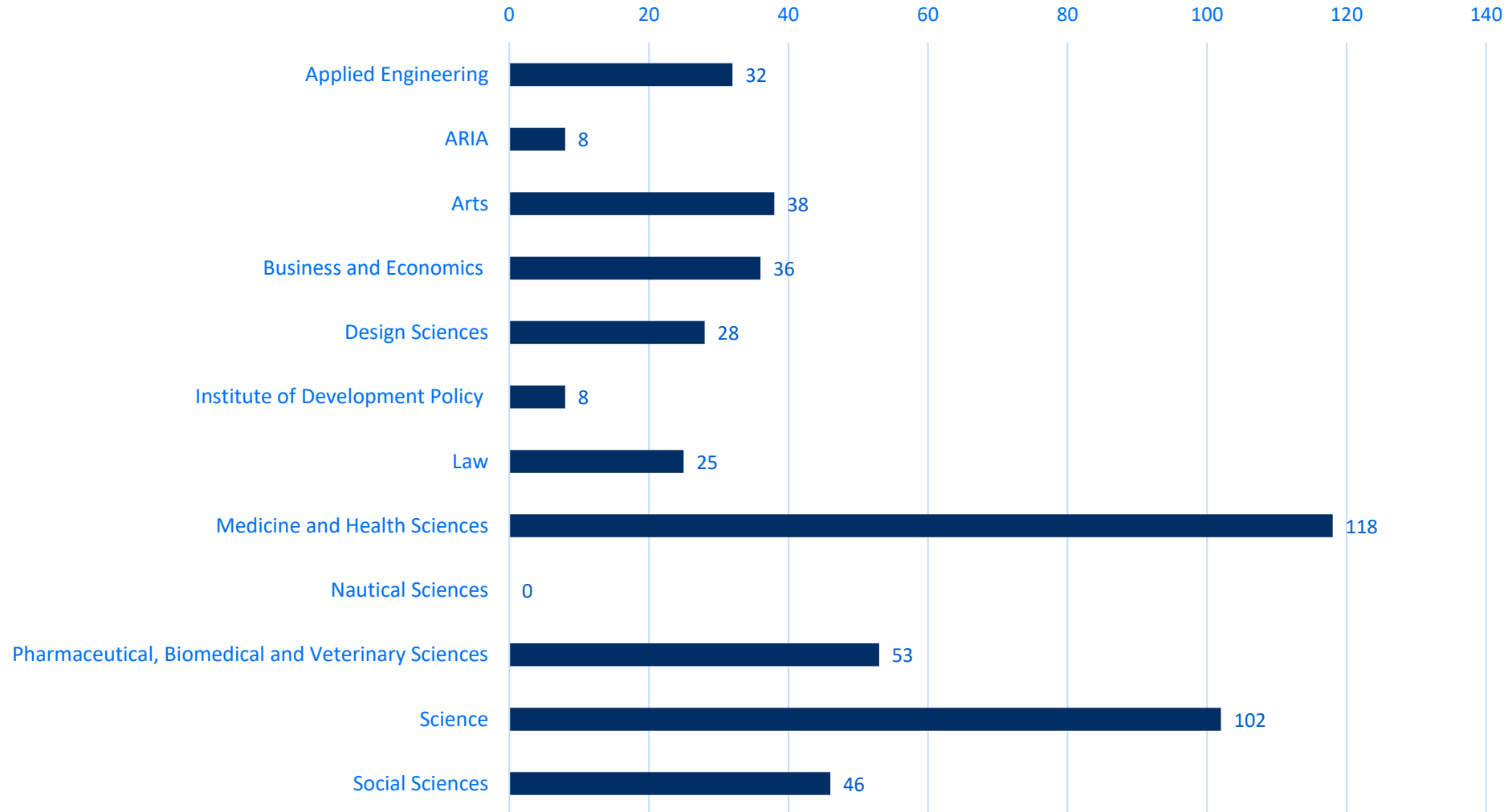
Valorisation @ UAntwerp

- Current > 230 active patent families (+/- 30 new patent families a year)
- 61 spin-offs founded (3 new spin-offs in 2024-2025)

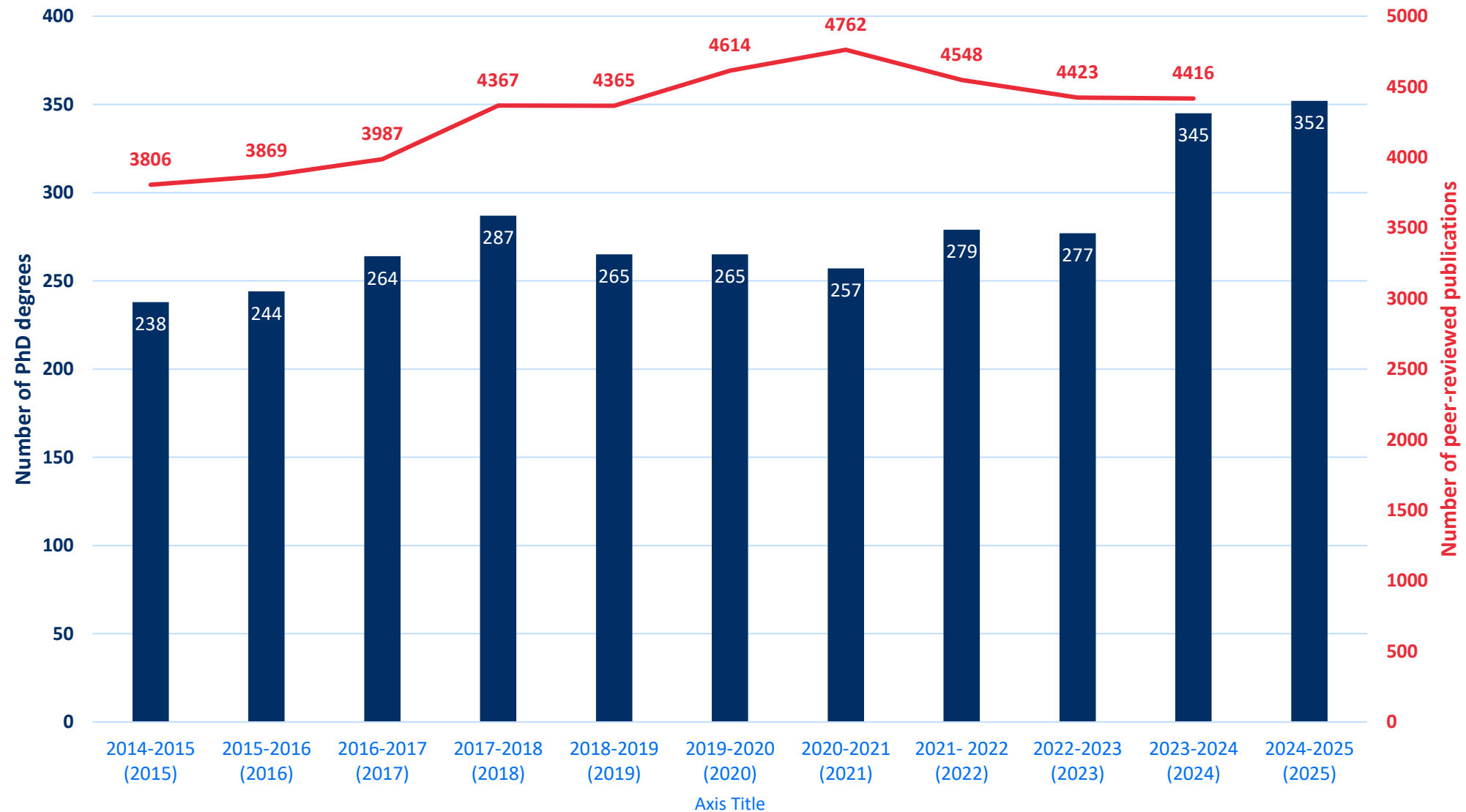


Doing a PhD at UAntwerp: facts & figures

PhDs started in 2024-2025 (n = 494)



Doing a PhD at UAntwerp: facts & figures



PhD research - It's about perception...



**What my friends
think I do**



**What my parents
think I do**



**What my boss thinks I
do**



What society thinks I do



What I think I do



What I actually do

What PhD researchers actually do...



What does it take to be a PhD researcher?

A passion for and **engagement** to research

The ambition to **excel**

Perseverance (4-6 years)

Transferable skills & **research** skills

Integration in your research group and the university

Profile yourself in the **international research community**

Visibility: Profile yourself internationally





Learning



IT



Self
management



Critical thinking

Transferable Skills



Communicating



Teamworking



Career management



Numeracy



Information
handling

Life after the PhD: future careers

DOCTORATEN +

Steeds meer studenten halen hun doctoraat: “Het is de sleutel tot meer kansen op werk en een hoger inkomen”

08-01-19, 06.00u - Eva Christiaens

Vlaamse doctoraatsstudenten brengen steeds meer hun project tot een goed einde. Vandaag dienen zeven op de tien hun proefschrift ook effectief in. Achttien jaar eerder slaagde nog minder dan de helft.

Het aantal doctoraatsstudenten is de laatste twintig jaar fors toegenomen. Maar ook hun slaagkansen blijven stijgen. Het aantal studenten dat na vier tot acht jaar de meet haalt, bedraagt volgens de meest recente cijfers 70,3 procent. Achttien jaar geleden lag dit nog op 46,7 procent. Dat blijkt uit gegevens van onderzoekscentrum Ecoom. Zij keken naar de resultaten van de doctoraatsstudenten die tussen de



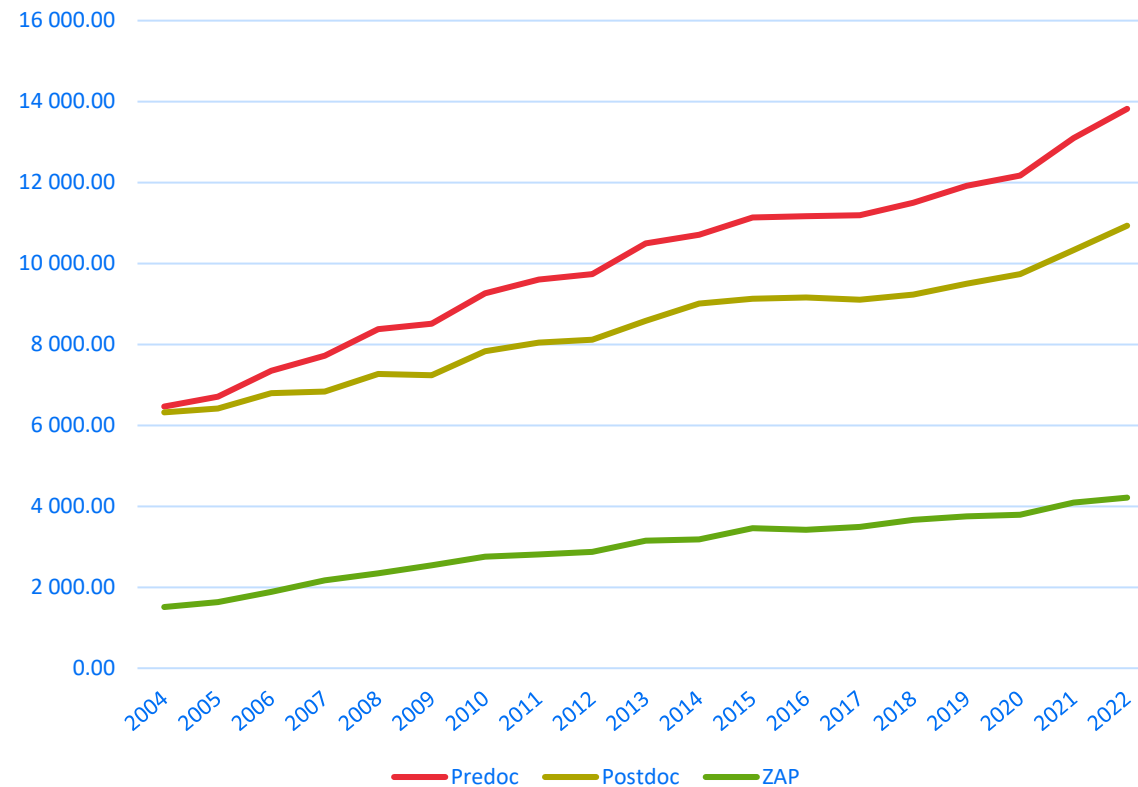
More and more researchers obtain a PhD: "A great knowledge potential on our labour market".

Flemish PhD researchers are increasingly bringing their project to a successful conclusion.

*Today **seven out of ten submit their dissertation successfully.** Eighteen years earlier, less than half succeeded.*

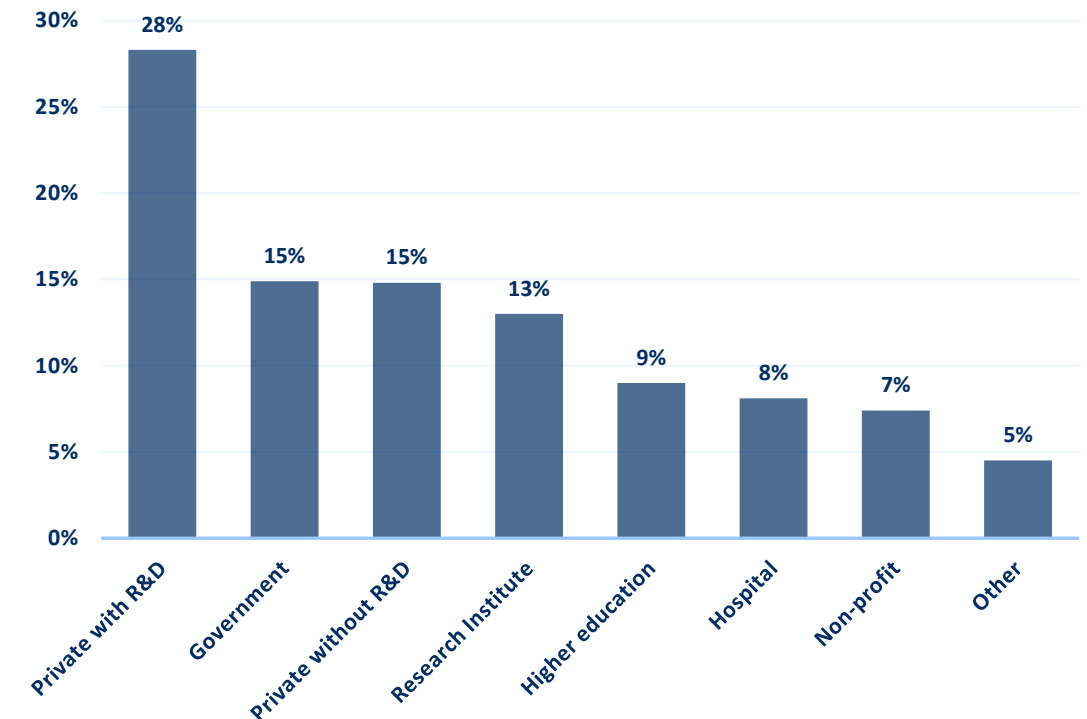
Life after the PhD: future careers

Evolution of the number of junior researchers, postdoctoral researchers and professors in full-time equivalents from 2004 to 2022



Source: Vlaams Indicatorenboek: 3.3.1 Evolutie van het aantal onderzoekers | Vlaams Indicatorenboek

Doctorate holders' first job per sector in the non-academic labour market, 2017 (N-1535)



Source: ECOOM Brief 42, March 2023 [mortier-a-levecque-k-wille-l-2023---de-tewerkstelling-van-doctoraathouders-de-niet-academische-sectoren-in-kaart-gebracht---in-ecoom-briefs-ndeg42-maart-2023.pdf](#)

Life after the PhD: future careers

Employment rate of doctorate holders: 91% = higher than bachelor and master degrees

PhD holders' analytical & innovative skills are highly wanted in companies & organisations

A private sector environment differs from an academic environment

Identify the **strengths and talents** that you could bring to a team and learn how to **communicate about** them

Source: *Doorstroom van doctoraathouders naar de arbeidsmarkt*, VRWI 2016 & K. Powell, 2018 [How to sail smoothly from academia to industry \(nature.com\)](https://www.nature.com/articles/190201a)



**KEEP
CALM
AND
FINISH
PhD**