

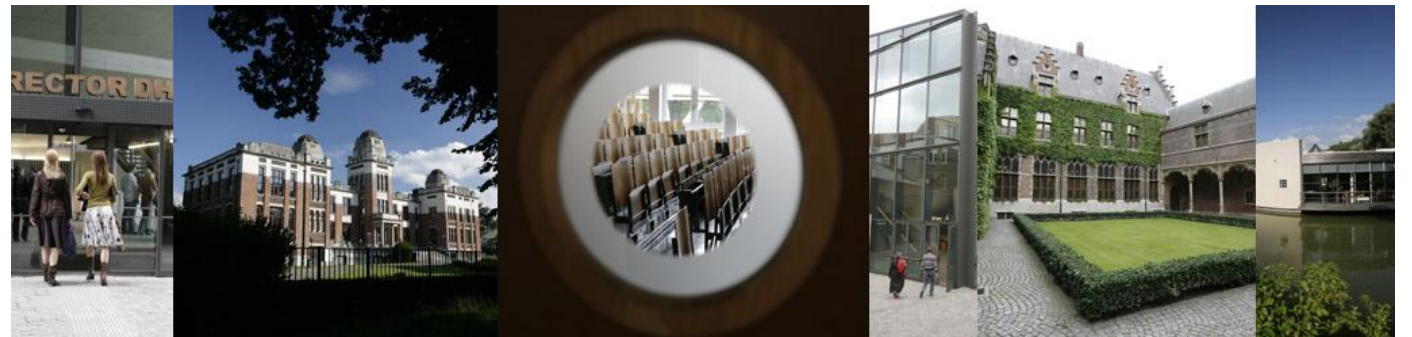


PhD research at the University of Antwerp

Prof. Philippe Meers

Chair Antwerp Doctoral School (ADS)

October 2024



Mission of the University of Antwerp

The core tasks of the University of Antwerp are:

- **Creative and innovative scientific research**
 - It stimulates both **basic and applied research**, and **valorisation**
- **Academic teaching – with a focus on the person as a whole**
 - Graduate, postgraduate and PhD level
 - Education firmly rooted in **scientific research**
- **Service to society and engagement based on our own expertise**
 - Encouragement of the **societal debate**
 - Great importance attached to the **scientific and social services** that its staff and students provide to **society**
- **Forward-thinking valorisation of knowledge**
 - **Sustainable solutions** for humans and the world

University of Antwerp: facts & figures

UAntwerp has...

- **4 campuses, 9 faculties, 1 associate faculty and 2 research institutes**
- **Education**
 - 32 bachelor, 80 master, 18 advanced master and 24 postgraduate programmes
 - > 23 000 students
- **Research**
 - 117 research groups
 - > 5100 academic staff (918 professors & 77 lecturers (ZAP+OP); 501 assistants (AAP); 3639 researchers (BAP))
 - **2530 PhD enrolments in 2023-2024**

2530 PhD enrolments in 2023-2024: 46% international



A differently coloured bubble for each country of origin, bubble size ~ number of PhD researchers

15 Research Centres of Excellence



Sustainable chemistry



Inequality



Digitalisation and Tax



Genomics in medicine



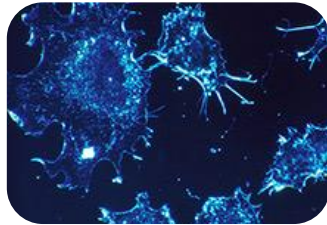
Contaminants in human and animal models



Inflammatory Diseases



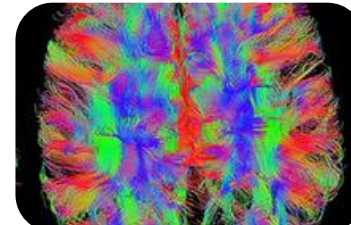
Vaccine & Infectious Diseases Excellence in Antwerp



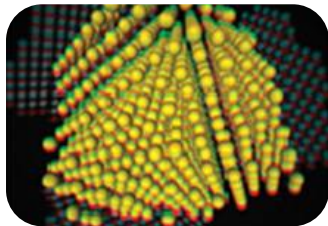
Personalized & Precision Oncology Network



(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

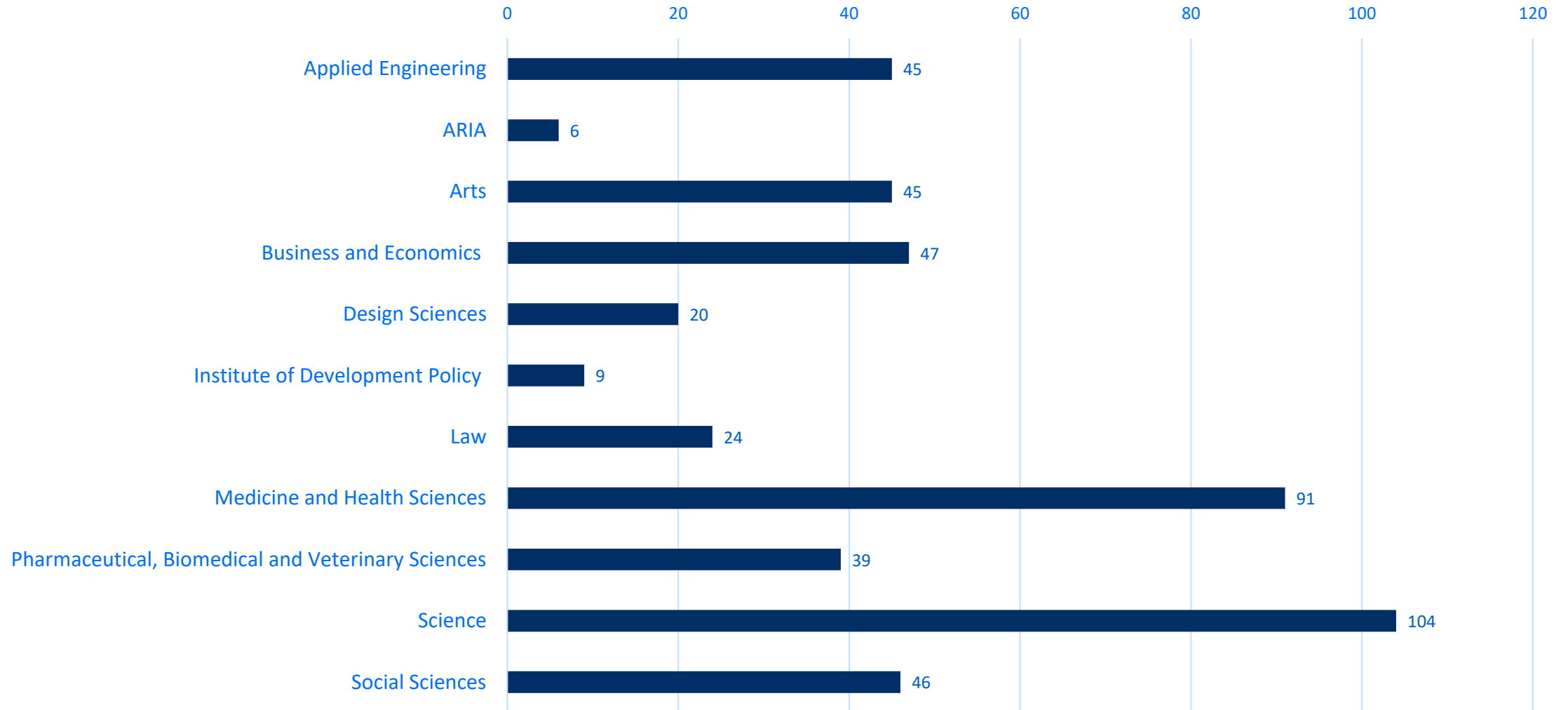
Valorisation @ UAntwerp

- Current > 200 active patent families (30 new patent families a year)
- 58 spin-offs founded (5 new spin-offs in 2023)

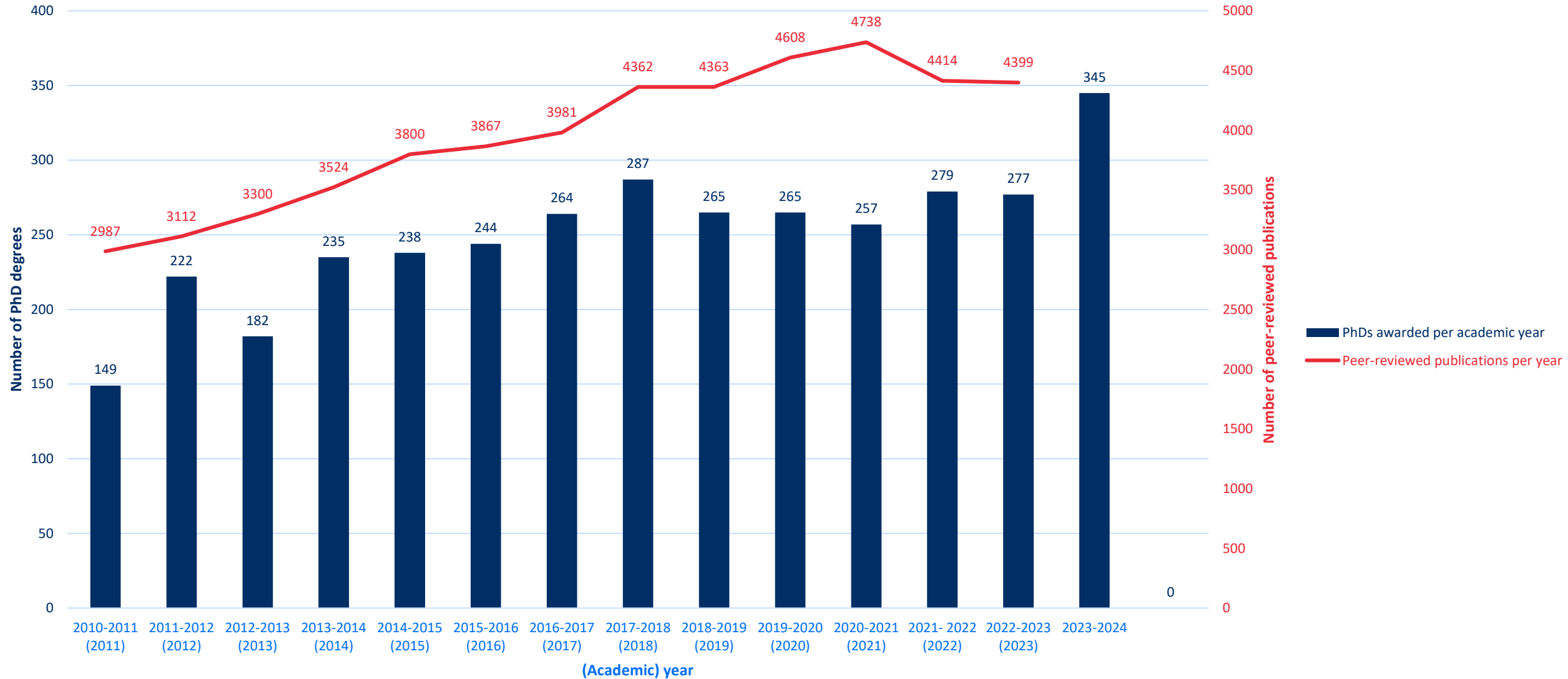


Doing a PhD at UAntwerp: facts & figures

PhDs started in 2023-2024 (N=476)



Doing a PhD at UAntwerp: facts & figures



PhD research - It's about perception...



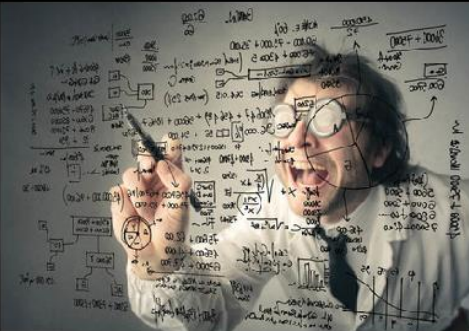
What my friends think I do



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**



Learning



IT



Self management



Critical thinking



Communicating

Transferable Skills



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



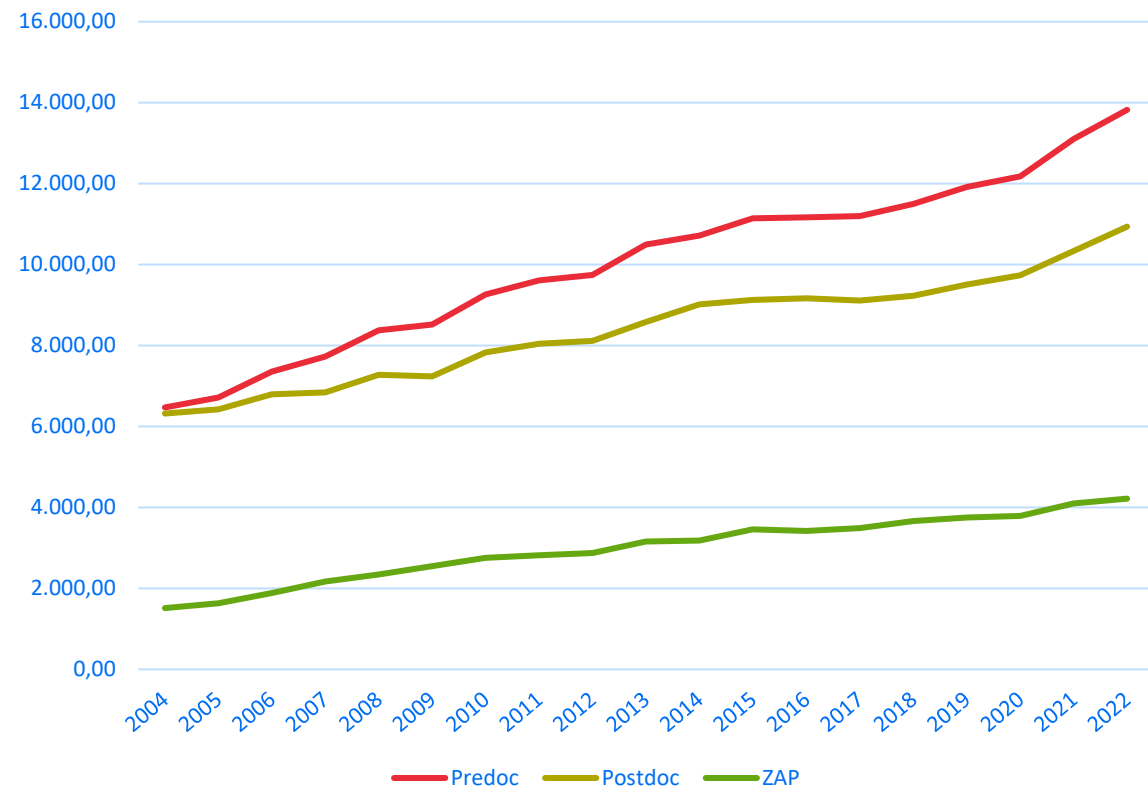
More and more students obtain a PhD: "A great knowledge potential on our labour market".

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

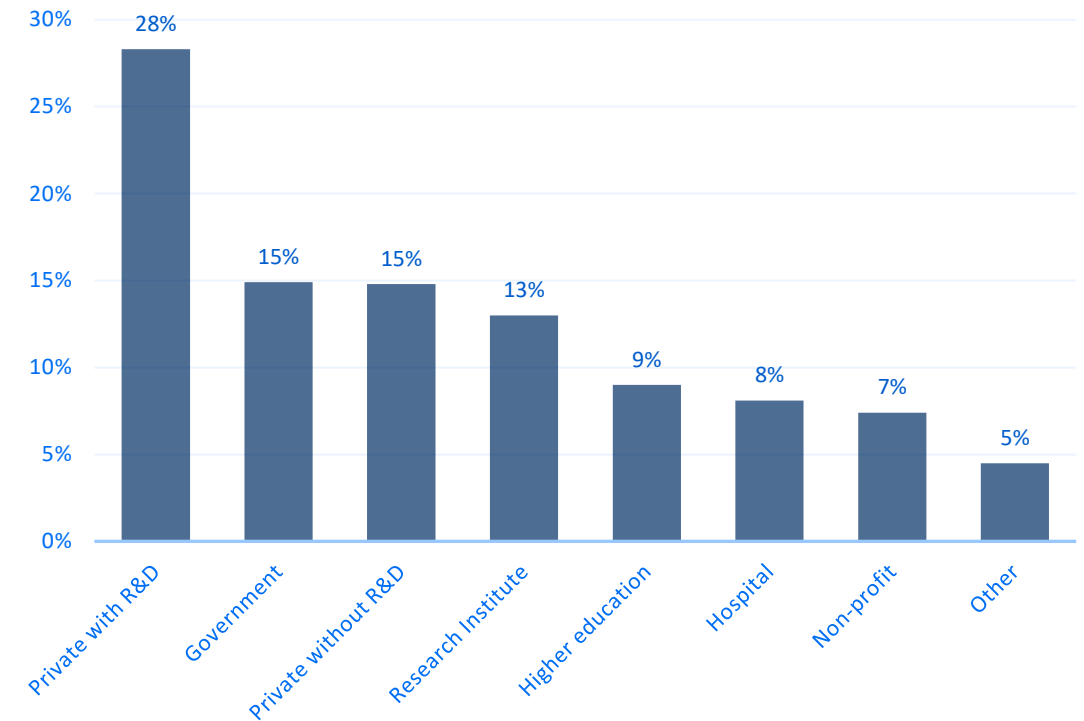
*Today **seven out of ten submit their dissertation successfully.** Eighteen years earlier, less than half succeeded.*

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



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

PhDs' 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/138051a)



**KEEP
CALM
AND
FINISH
PhD**

