

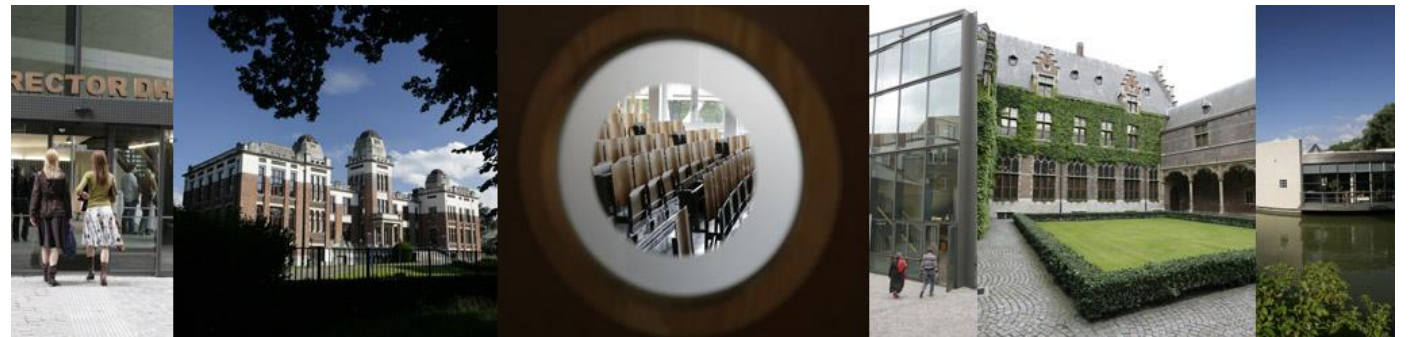


PhD research at the University of Antwerp

Prof. Philippe Meers

Chair Antwerp Doctoral School (ADS)

16.03.2023



Mission of the University of Antwerp

As all Flemish universities, we have a **threefold mission**:

- **Scientific research**

- *The University of Antwerp conducts **creative and innovative scientific research** which strives for **international excellence**. It stimulates both **basic and applied research** and their **valorisation**.*

- **Academic education**

- Graduate, postgraduate and PhD level
- Education firmly rooted in scientific research

- **Service to society**

- *The University of Antwerp encourages **societal debate** and attaches great importance to the **scientific and social services** that its staff and students provide to **society**.*

University of Antwerp: facts & figures

UAntwerp has...

- **4 campuses, 9 faculties and 2 research institutes**
- **Education**
 - 34 bachelor, 84 master, 17 advanced master and 20 postgraduate programmes
 - > 21 000 students (17.5% international) (April 2022)
- **Research**
 - 167 research groups
 - > 4800 academic staff (812 professors & lecturers (ZAP+OP); 336 assistants (AAP); 3734 researchers (BAP)) (April 2022)
 - **2338 PhD researchers in 2021-2022 (46% international)**

15 Research Centres of Excellence



Sustainable chemistry



Inequality



Digitalisation and Tax



Genomics in medicine



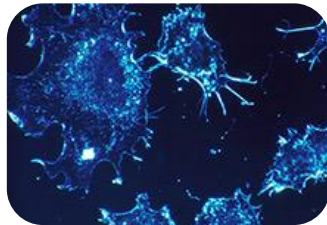
Environmental pollution in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems



Inflammatory Diseases



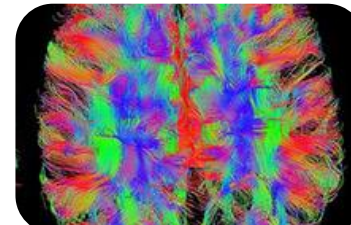
Vaccine & Infectious Diseases



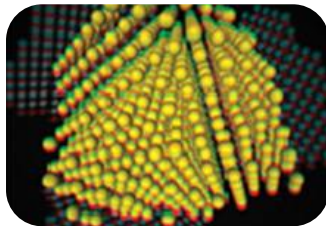
Oncology



(Dis)trust in Multi-level governance



Multidimensional analysis of the nervous system



Nanoscience



Global change ecology



Political representation & intermediary actors



Plasma





Microbial systems technology

Valorisation @ UAntwerp

- Current > 180 active patent families (30 new patent families a year)
- 48 spin-offs founded (6 new spin-offs in 2021)



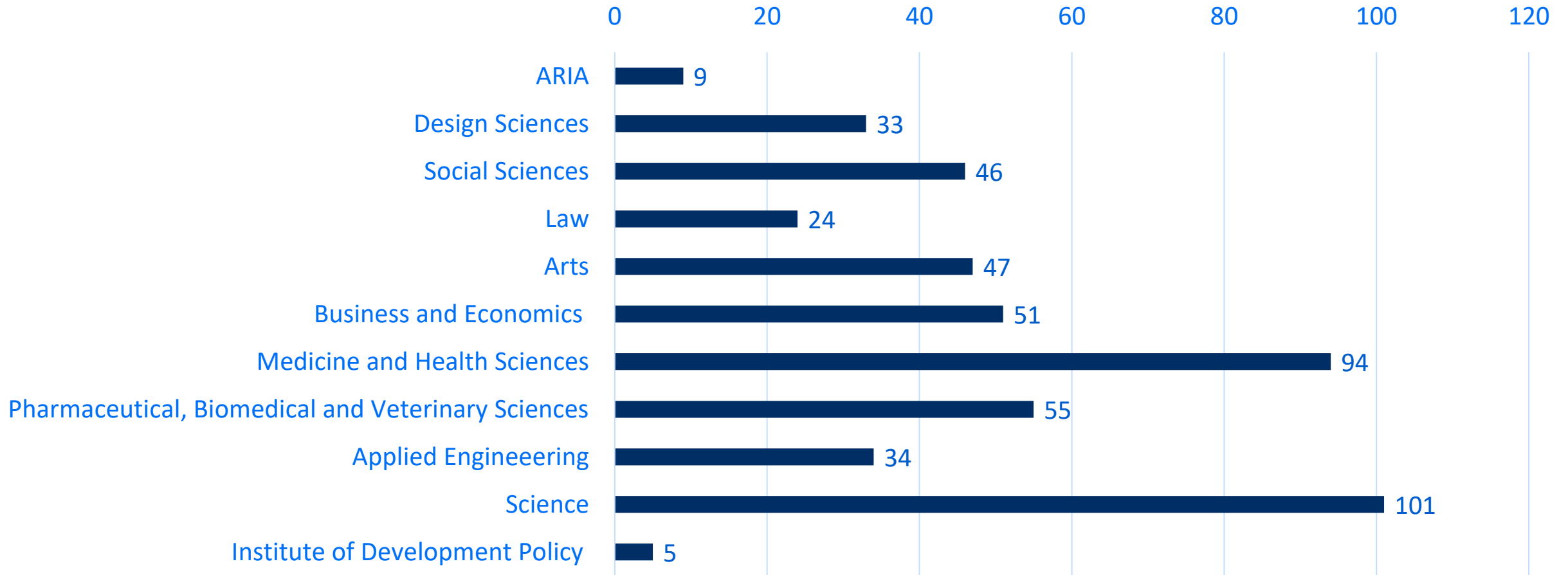
Valorisation @ UAntwerp

Dive-into-Projects	
 <p>DIVE INTO PROJECTS</p>	<p>Are you looking for information, advice or support on Research & Proposal Writing?</p> <p>What are the different steps involved in project writing and how can I find funds for my project? Dive-into-Projects includes basic training on research and proposal writing, as well as specific courses, workshops and guidance (Deep Dive-into-Projects).</p>
Dive-into-Business	
 <p>DIVE INTO BUSINESS</p>	<p>Are you looking for information, advice or support on Business & Valorisation?</p> <p>This pillar focuses on the links between research and business. Dive-into-Business informs you about spin-offs, contract negotiations, funding for business collaborations and intellectual property rights. Through the Deep Dive-into-Business, you learn more about the valorisation process and discover how your idea can grow into a business.</p>

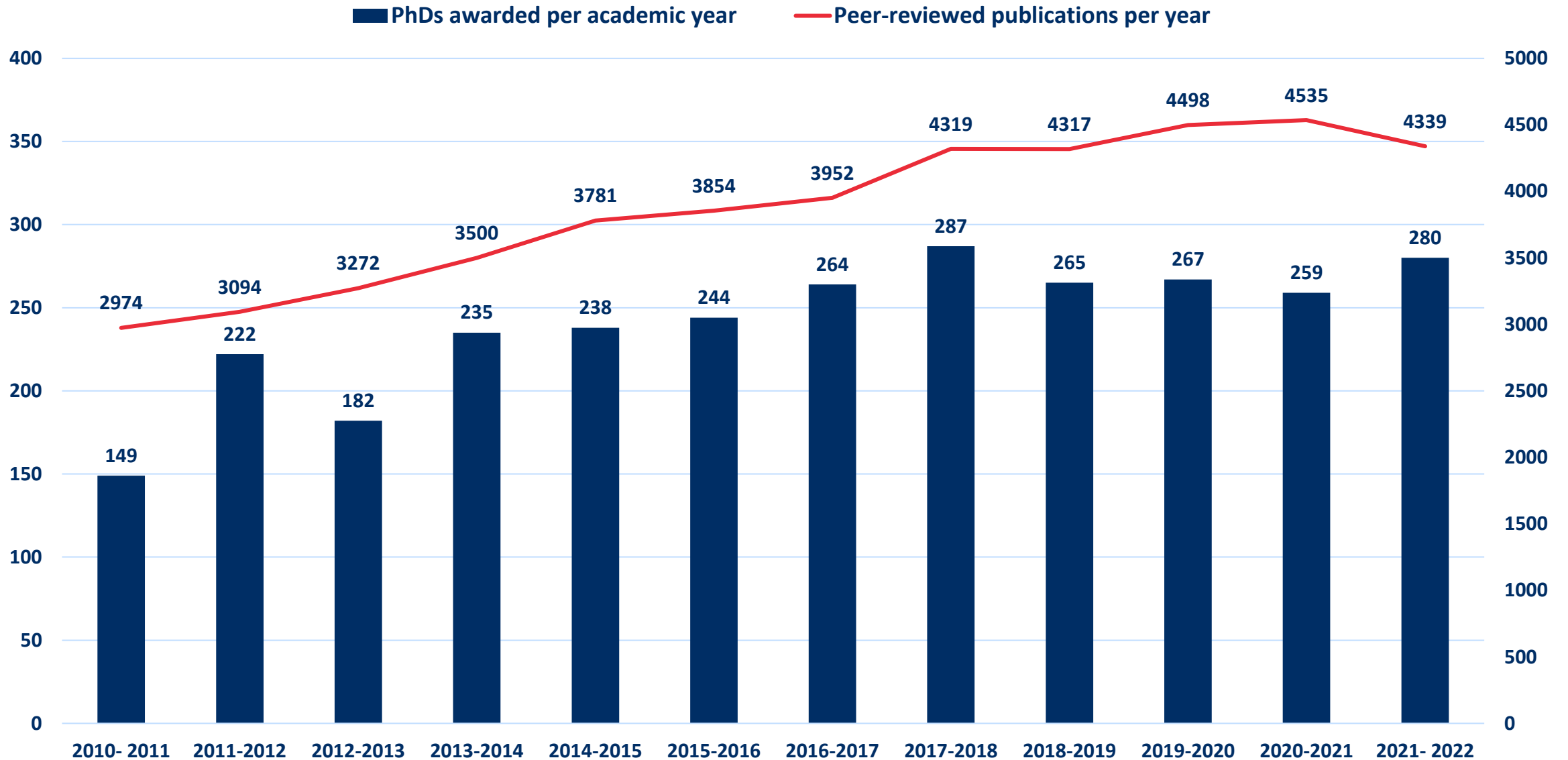
More information in the session on associations, courses and initiatives - Department Research, Innovation & Valorisation Antwerp

Doing a PhD at UAntwerp: facts & figures

PhDs started in 2021-2022 (N=499)



Doing a PhD at UAntwerp: facts & figures



PhD - It's about perception...

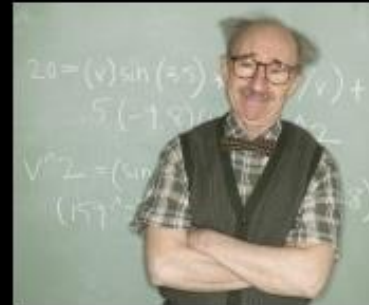
PhD Student



What my friends think I do.



What my parents think I do.



What society think I do.



What my supervisor thinks I do.

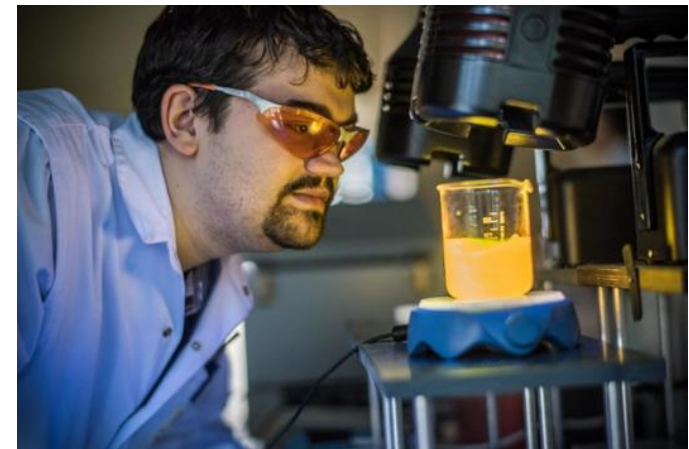


What I think I do.



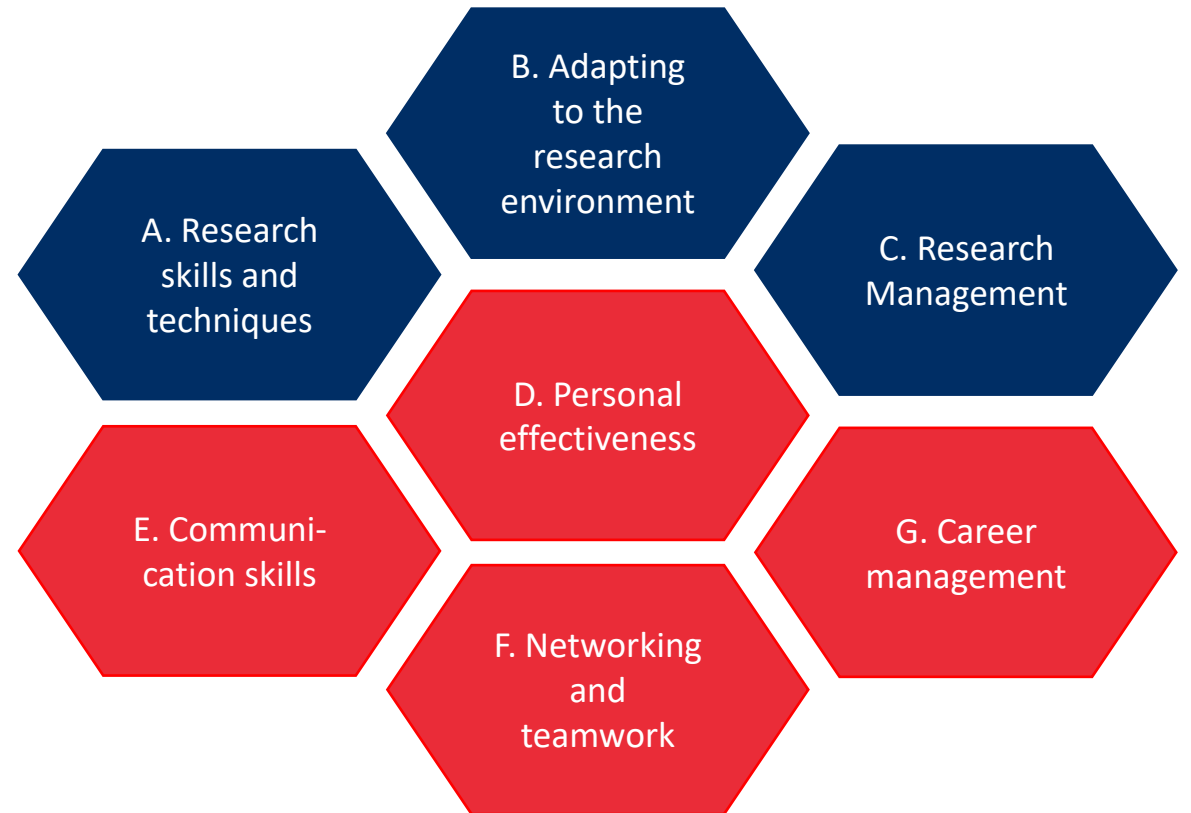
What I actually do.

What PhD researchers actually do...



Doing a PhD at UAntwerp: doctoral research & education

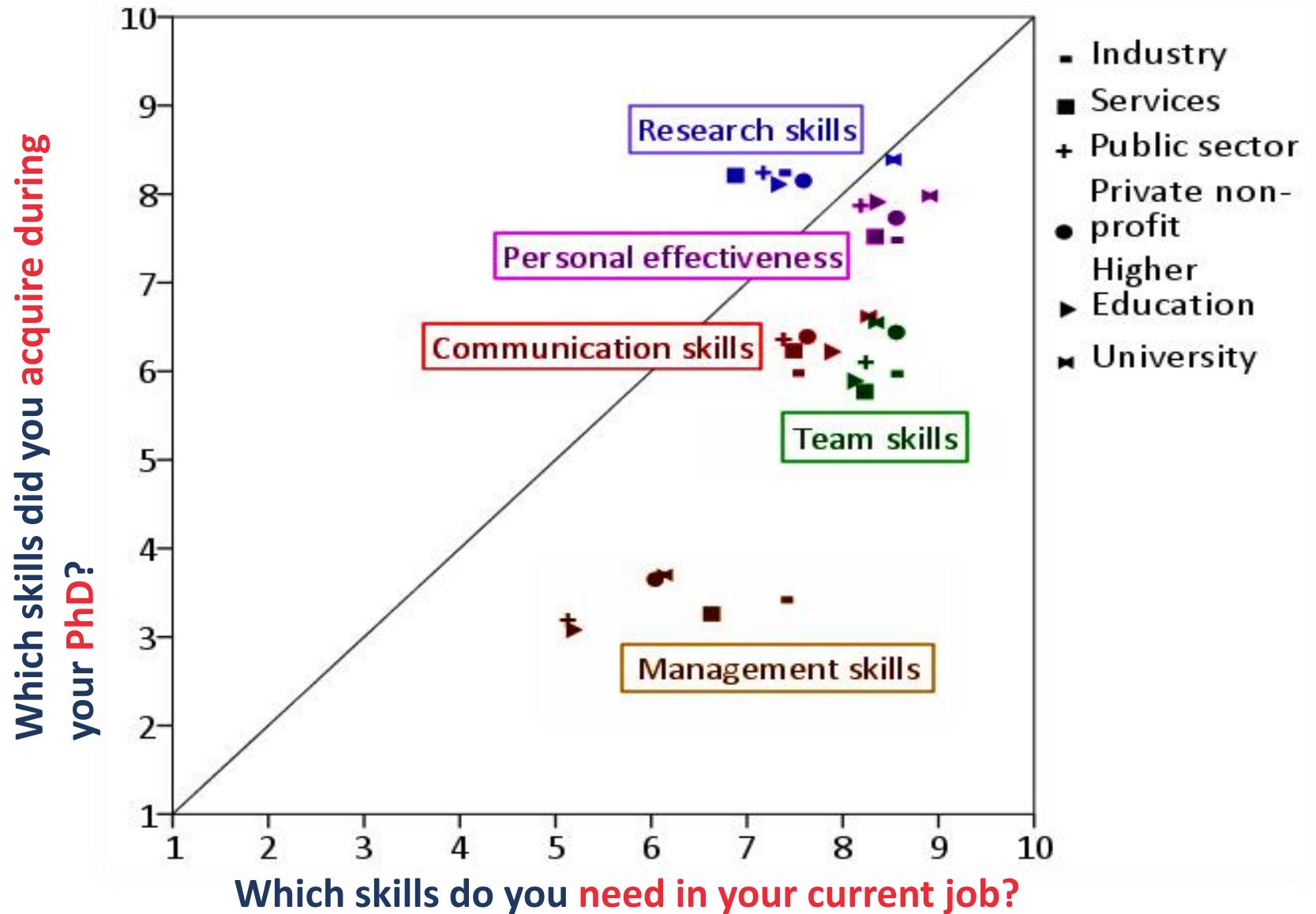
- **Doing research** under the supervision of a supervisor and an individual PhD commission in one of the research groups at the university
- Participating in the **university's doctoral educational programme** which focuses on **training in seven competences**



More information in the next session:

"Doctoral education @UAntwerp"

Skills needed vs skills acquired





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



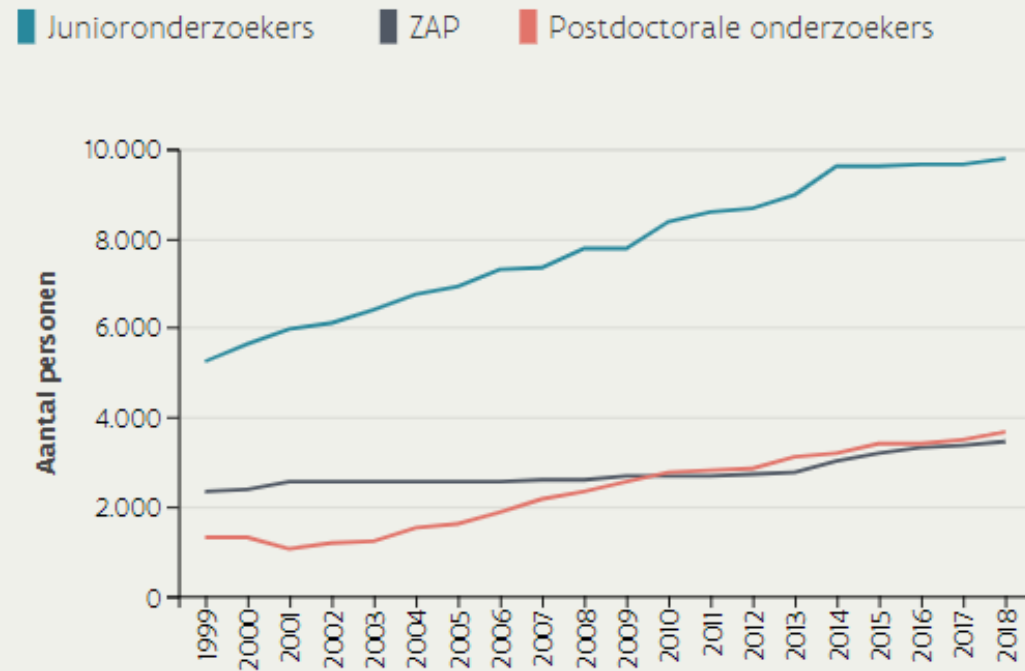
More and more students obtain a PhD: "A great knowledge potential on our labour market".

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

Figuur 1. Evolutie van het Aantal Junior-onderzoekers, Postdoctorale Onderzoekers en ZAP'ers in Voltijdse Eenheden, 1999-2018



Evolution of the number of junior researchers, postdoctoral researchers and professors in full-time equivalents

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 \neq an academic environment

Source: *Doorstroom van doctoraathouders naar de arbeidsmarkt*, VRWI 2016

What does it take to be a PhD researcher?

A passion for and engagement to research

The ambition to **excel**

Perseverance (4-6 years)

Integration in your research group and the university

Profile yourself in the **international research community**



**KEEP
CALM
AND
FINISH
PhD**

