

Start your **PhD** at the University of Antwerp and shape the future!



Are you...

- passionate about research and eager to develop new knowledge?
- interested in sharpening your skills to become a broadly trained professional?
- keen on working in an inspiring, internationally oriented environment with leading academics?

Then pursuing a PhD might be for you!



University
of Antwerp

What is a PhD?

'PhD' refers to 'Doctor of Philosophy' and is the highest university degree. A PhD degree can only be obtained after successfully defending your PhD thesis publicly before a jury, and is the ultimate proof of independent, original scientific research.

The University of Antwerp offers **a wide variety of different PhD programmes** across all faculties and several research centres.

The **Antwerp Doctoral School (ADS)** helps PhD researchers complete their PhD successfully and prepare for their future career inside or outside academia.

Which faculties offer PhD degree titles?

The University of Antwerp offers different PhD degree titles in each of their faculties and institutes:

- Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts (ARIA)
- Faculty of Applied Engineering
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Business and Economics
- Faculty of Design Sciences
- Institute of Development Policy (IOB)
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Associated Faculty of Nautical Sciences
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Social Sciences



A clear overview of all different PhD degree titles can be found in the general PhD regulations towards the end:

www.uantwerpen.be/regulations-ads

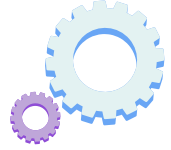


It is even possible to combine two existing qualifications on this list to form a combined title for the degree of doctor. This is called an interdisciplinary PhD and can only be granted if the research clearly combines different study areas.

How to start a PhD?

All candidate PhD researchers have to submit an application file with supporting documents via Mobility Online to the Registrar's Office. In order to fill in your application file and start your PhD, you will need:

- a master's degree or a diploma that is equal;
- a research topic/area;
- at least one supervisor;
- funding (or your own financial means).



www.uantwerpen.be/admission-phd



Supervisor(s)

When you have determined your research domain and faculty of interest, you need to find one or more (maximum four) supervisor(s) at our university. At least one supervisor must be a member of the senior academic staff (ZAP). To find a suitable supervisor you can use the overview of the different research units or the 'Find an expert' search tool. Your supervisor(s) will then also be able to support you in your search for funding.

More information on the PhD procedure can be found on our website and in the PhD regulations:

www.uantwerpen.be/phd-procedure
www.uantwerpen.be/regulations-ads



Funding

There are different types of funding:

1. a graduate teaching and research assistant (with an employment contract)
2. a PhD fellow (with a personal grant)
3. a PhD researcher in a research project
4. self-funded

Each of the first three types has a specific application procedure to obtain the funding, a specific form of appointment (fellowship or employment contract at the University of Antwerp, in addition to your enrolment as a PhD student) and a specific set of regulations (conditions under which they are awarded, duration, renewal, etc.). Bear in mind that there are often more applicants than positions for the various funding options, which implies that PhD funding is usually granted on a competitive basis. Often, funding is not approved at once for the entire research period. Instead, your research results are periodically assessed and you must substantiate the continuation of your PhD every year or every two years.

You might also find a PhD vacancy of your interest on the university jobsite (search for predoctoral vacancies aimed at academic staff).

www.uantwerpen.be/en/jobs/vacancies/academic-staff



Enrolment

After your application for the PhD has been approved by your faculty, the Registrar's Office will inform you to enrol as a PhD student. A tuition fee is only required in the first year of enrolment and in the academic year of the PhD defence. However, you have to re-enrol each academic year.



Blansfloer, Educational Sciences, PhD researcher

"When I first enrolled in my PhD programme, I did so with a healthy dose of anxiety; I was excited to dive into the research, but navigating the logistics (securing funding, applying to present at conferences, navigating the publishing process) filled me with dread. Now, three years later, those anxieties have largely proven to be unfounded. Mostly because for all those questions I had there was always someone happy to help; a colleague, my supervisors, staff at my faculty or at ADS; all wonderfully engaged people ready to figure out any doubt and question with you. Being able to now also help other PhDs navigate the logistics of a doctoral programme is one of the things I am perhaps most proud of."



How to develop your skills during your PhD trajectory?

There is more to a PhD than you might think!

On the one hand, you will be **conducting research** and developing research expertise, gaining teaching experience, writing your thesis and presenting it to a jury.

On the other hand, the University of Antwerp encourages reflection, insight and self-development and supports its doctoral researchers in **developing a wide range of competences** so they can become versatile professionals.

For that purpose, as a PhD researcher you will automatically follow the **doctoral study programme**. This programme can be tailored to your individual needs, and focuses both on **research skills and transferable skills** (= skills that can be transferred from one professional challenge to another), to increase your **career potential** inside and outside academia. It is compulsory but flexible. This means that you can choose your own activities within the doctoral study programme like following courses, attending conferences, presenting, supervising bachelor/master dissertations and many more. Valid activities can be found in the faculty PhD regulations.

The **Antwerp Doctoral School offers free courses** as well as inter-university training initiatives. To finance part of the doctoral study programme, each PhD researcher receives an **educational credit**.



Christine, Science, PhD researcher

“Doing my own research and managing my own project is hard, especially in the beginning. But isn't it exciting as well. My learning curve during a PhD is very steep, concerning my research but also other skills. I took ADS courses on project management and writing and I can implement the lessons I learned there both in my research and my personal life. Through the ADS doctoral day and courses, I met other starting PhDs and the support we give each other by sharing and helping is very valuable to me. We are here to learn, and we must never forget to enjoy the ride!”



Interested in a PhD in a broader (inter)national context?

If you are eager to conduct extensive research at multiple universities and to receive a diploma from all universities involved, a **joint PhD** might be for you:

www.uantwerpen.be/joint-phd



Nurefşan, Design Science, joint PhD researcher

"If you are an international student like me, you can register at the University of Antwerp with a scholarship or funding from your home country. You also have the option to apply for a joint PhD program, allowing you to continue your doctoral studies both in your home university and at the University of Antwerp, ultimately earning a joint diploma."



New in Antwerp?

- Download our **Practical guide for international researchers** for an overview of all practicalities regarding life in Antwerp (Belgium)

www.uantwerpen.be/international-researchers



- Get to know your fellow international students and staff members at the informal activities hosted by **MONDO**

www.uantwerpen.be/mondo



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