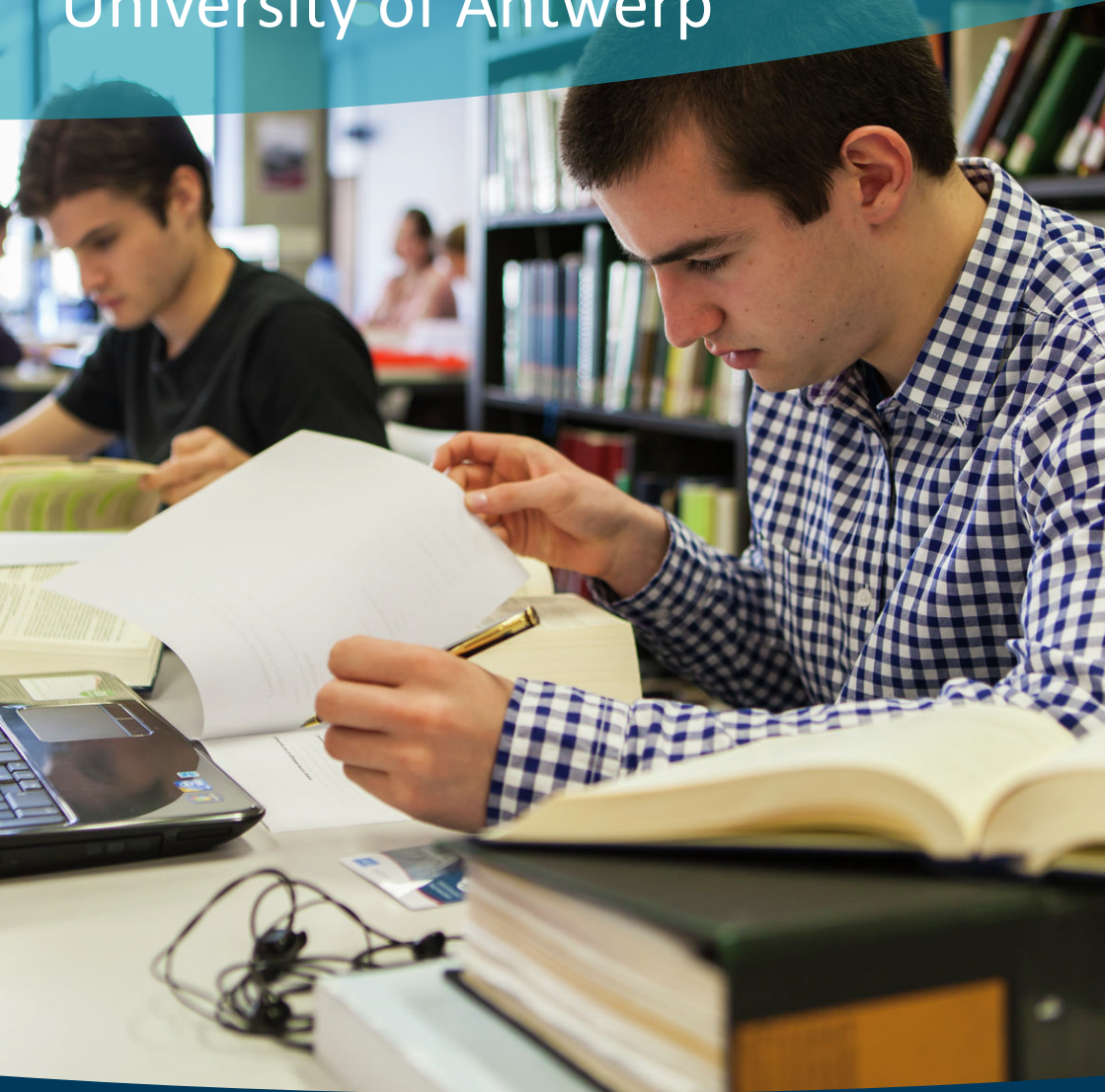


Doing a PhD at the University of Antwerp





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1. What does doing a PhD involve?

The PhD degree is the highest academic degree which you can obtain at a Flemish university, and it is the proof of the performance of independent, original scientific research. You write up the final result of this research in a dissertation (also known as a PhD thesis) and you must defend it before a jury. Individuals who do so successfully may use the title “doctor”. You cannot start a PhD without a distinct interest in scientific research, and the dedication to spend three to four years or longer working at the highest level in your area of study, thus contributing new insights to this field.

In appendix 1 you will find an overview of the different disciplines in which you can obtain a PhD at the University of Antwerp.

2. Why do a PhD?

For a long time, PhD study was considered as the solitary work which a researcher performed in a lab or library. Although this work is also part of a PhD, doctoral research is very dynamic. Via the PhD and the doctoral study programme you have the opportunity to share your research interest with other specialists, convey your passion for your subject to students, explore what your colleagues

are doing internationally, and obtain skills at a high level which will help you in all possible careers (language skills, communication skills, project management techniques and insights into managing or working in a team are just a few examples).

Moreover, it is no longer the case (and has not been for some time) that people with a PhD can only find a job in the academic world. It is true that the title ‘doctor’ is a necessity for those who aspire to a career at a university or another academic institution, in many cases, those who want to teach at a higher education college must also be able to present a PhD degree. In addition to higher education, a PhD is also highly valued in industry, because the degree shows your experience in conducting ‘independent’ scientific research. Moreover, increasing numbers of PhD students are finding their way into the service sector and ending up in all kinds of organisations. You will find a more extensive overview of the career prospects for PhD holders under point 5, “What happens after a PhD”.

From a societal point of view too, there is a benefit to young researchers doing a PhD. Innovation is one of the aspects which stimulates the economy and it is important in order to increase the competitive position of companies in an economy and society which are becoming incre-

asingly globalised. Thanks to the Lisbon treaties, a lot of attention has been focused on stimulating scientific research and innovation in recent years.

The University of Antwerp makes every effort to provide its PhD students with optimal support. Individuals starting a PhD will join one of the research teams, of which there are many at the university, and within this team, he/she can count on support from other researchers.

People who would like to do a PhD via the higher education colleges of the Antwerp University Association (AUHA) or via the research institutes which cooperate with the University of Antwerp are also welcome. Moreover, the University of Antwerp is the only Flemish university that has invested in its doctoral study programme since the beginning of the 1990s. Not only does this result in an extensive range of transferable skills - courses which PhD students can follow free of charge, but also in the fact that each PhD student can apply for €1.750 towards following courses, going to conferences, etc.

3. How do I start a PhD?

3.1. Admission

3.1.1. Conditions

Enrolling for the preparation of a PhD thesis is open to holders of a master's degree or equivalent. Candidates are required to hold one of the following:

- a master's degree awarded by a Flemish university;
- a 'long' master's degree awarded by a higher education college (higher education with two cycles);
- a degree in polytechnic civil engineering;
- a master's degree obtained at the Belgian Royal Military Academy.

You can also do a PhD if you hold a (master's) degree from abroad. Holding one of the above-mentioned degrees is a basic prerequisite to being accepted to do a PhD. The actual decision to admit a student is taken by the faculty in which you will do a PhD; on the basis of the project which you propose (it is best to put together this project with your

supervisor). For some categories of students, the faculty can choose whether to allow admission to depend on the successful completion of a preparatory programme within the discipline in which the candidate would like to do a PhD.

This applies to:

- students who would like to obtain a PhD in a different discipline to that of their master's degree;
- students with a master's degree for which the UA does not have teaching competence;
- students with a degree issued outside the Flemish Community.

You will find more information about this in the University of Antwerp central PhD rules and regulations, and also in the different additional faculty rules and regulations. You can consult all of these on the Antwerp Doctoral School website (www.uantwerpen.be/adse).

3.1.2. Procedure

Step 1: Find a supervisor

If you would like to start a PhD, first and foremost you must find a supervisor in the discipline in which you are considering doing a PhD. Together with this supervisor, you will then define the PhD topic. In certain cases, it is an advantage if you can present a well-considered proposal for a PhD subject. If you do not yet have a specific research topic, then

indicate what you are specifically interested in and find out about the possible subjects. Do not hesitate to go and see several potential supervisors, if you have not yet found a suitable subject and/or supervisor.

You will find an overview of the different research groups on the website of the Department of Research Affairs & Innovation: www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-and-innovation/research-overview

Also talk to other PhD students in the study area or research group in which you would like to do a PhD beforehand.

Step 2: Find financing

Also discuss any potentially available research and teaching assistant positions or opportunities for grants with the potential supervisor. Ask to what extent he/she is prepared to support your potential application for a grant, and how he/she estimates the chance of receiving a grant. You can also gather information about the grants that are available, the conditions and the procedure to follow. Don't forget that grant application procedures often take a few months to complete, so start in plenty of time.

You will find more information about the different financing channels and contact persons under point 4, "Financing".

Step 3: Contact the Student Administration

After you have taken the above-mentioned steps, you will need to submit an application form to the Student Administration before starting a PhD. The latter will pass the document on to the responsible faculty, which makes a decision on admission. After a positive decision, you will be invited to complete your enrolment procedure.

You will find the forms to start this procedure on the website of the Department of Research Affairs & Innovation: www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-and-innovation/phd/getting-started/registrars-office/. For any questions, you can contact the International Students Office: www.uantwerpen.be/en/education/admission-and-enrolment/helpdesk/: uahost.uantwerpen.be/helpdesk/ro_helpdesk/ phone number: 03/265.31.89

PhD students pay a tuition fee in the first year of enrolment and the year of the thesis defense. Yearly re-enrolment is obligatory, but is free of charge. You will find the latest information about tuition fees on the following website: www.uantwerpen.be/en/education/admission-and-enrolment/prepare/tuition-fees/.

3.2. The PhD process

3.2.1. Components of the PhD

Study work

Over a period of several years, you focus intensively on a specific subject within a certain field of study. Initially you go over what has already been published on your research topic. You try to add your own critical and creative input to this through intensive scholarly research, whereby you expose the core of the subject or problem in an academically responsible way.

This research work not only involves laboratory or field work and a thorough study of literature on the subject: doing a PhD usually also leads to the publication of academic articles and taking part in academic conferences, symposiums, seminars, etc. It is assumed that you are capable of planning, organising and dealing with all this without the support of a supervisor.

The doctoral study programme

Although the core of the PhD is the PhD thesis and the ultimate objective is its successful defence before a jury, at the University of Antwerp you are also obliged to complete a doctoral study programme. However, the doctoral study programme is not an 'extra' course that you need to follow. Flexibility is crucial and as

a PhD student you follow the path which is most suited to your PhD project. In order to help you in this, the University of Antwerp offers courses, workshops, guest lectures, events and other activities with the aim of both deepening and broadening your knowledge and skills.

As well as participating in the activities set up by the university, faculty or department, the PhD student can also take part in courses, study weeks, summer schools, conferences, etc. in Belgium and abroad on his/her own initiative. In order to encourage and support this initiative, PhD students on the PhD course can request an educational credit and an educational bonus which together amount to €1750.

Via the doctoral study programme, the Antwerp Doctoral School supports its PhD students during the PhD process wherever the PhD student, in consultation with his/her supervisor, considers it necessary. Moreover, the doctoral study programme offers better preparation for a (research) career within and outside the university.

For more information on the doctoral study programme, have a look at the Antwerp Doctoral School website (www.uantwerpen.be/adse) or contact the central points of contact who can be found on the website. In addition to the central points of contact,

each faculty and most departments also have a faculty/department academic coordinator and a faculty/department administrative coordinator. They are also found on the website of the Antwerp Doctoral School.

The PhD exam

You put the final results of your research into words in a PhD dissertation. This is an extensive academic report about the issue, the activities and the research results concerning the PhD subject. It is only when the final PhD thesis is 'admitted' or accepted by your PhD jury that the second part of the exam can follow: the public oral defence. Here you defend the working methods, results and potentially the position(s) which you postulate in your dissertation.

3.2.2. Support for the PhD

The research for the preparation of the PhD dissertation is performed under the supervision of a supervisor (if necessary assisted by a second supervisor). The supervisor is an important link in the support for PhD students.

It is very important to find a supervisor who stands behind your research, with whom you can discuss the entire research issue and who can make the necessary logistics available to you. Ensure good contact with your supervisor and make clear agreements on how you will work on your

research. The supervisor also signs a firm commitment to oversee the ‘smooth running’ of the PhD studies from the formal application until the student obtains his/her PhD.

In addition to the supervisor, each PhD student also has an individual doctoral committee, consisting of 3 to 4 people who will also help to support the PhD student during the PhD. They follow up the progress of your PhD on a yearly basis. Moreover, the committee is also the first contact point in the event of disputes with the supervisor.

3.3. Social and legal statute of a PhD student

Individuals who, as PhD students, benefit from a fellowship from the Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen (Research Foundation – Flanders, FWO for short) or a PhD grant from the Instituut voor de Aanmoediging van Innovatie door Wetenschap en Technologie in Vlaanderen (Institute for the Promotion of Innovation through Knowledge and Technology in Flanders or IWT for short), obtain a tax-exempt grant. You will find more information about this on these organisations’ websites (www.fwo.be and www.iwt.be).

If you have a research and teaching assistant position you are appointed as a temporary statutory staff mem-

ber. If you are appointed on a PhD fellowship funded by the Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds (Special research Fund, BOF for short) or to a research project, then you will preferably be appointed as a doctoral grantholder. In this case you receive a tax-exempt grant and the labour costs remain relatively low for the supervisor or the university. A doctoral grantholder is obliged to enrol for the PhD and dedicate himself/herself full-time to research for the preparation of a PhD thesis. Consequently this statute cannot be combined with another course or professional activity. Before the start of the grant you may only have performed work as an assistant or a similar staff member to a limited extent. Individuals who, for various reasons, are not eligible for this statute are given an employment contract as an academic staff member. The net income only differs very slightly and in principle the different statutes have no impact on your possibilities to do a PhD.

In any case, every PhD student who enrolls with the Student Administration will obtain a student card and enjoy a number of benefits linked to the card. Those who receive financing for PhD research also obtain staff member status but there are also variations:

- Appointment to a project: If possible, you are given the statute of a doctoral grantholder with a tax-exempt research grant;

if not, you will be an academic staff member with an employment contract. As a grantholder your 'labour costs' are a little lower for the university or your supervisor, and you don't have any income to indicate on your tax return.

- Appointment as an assistant: As an assistant, you are appointed as a temporary statutory staff member. Before the start of the second year of the fellowship you must submit a subject to be approved by the faculty board and you must also enrol as a PhD student. Under normal circumstances, the statute of assistant can be extended up to a maximum of six years.
- Doing a PhD with a personal research grant: If you have a grant from the FWO or IWT, for example, or research financing via institutions such as the IMEC (Inter-university Microelectronics Centre), VIB (The Flemish Institute for Biotechnology) or IBBT (Interdisciplinary Institute for Broadband Technology), then you are not a staff member, but you are paid directly via this institution. As an official employee of this type of institution, you do still have the same rights and social protection as an employee. PhD fellowships can also be awarded by the Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds (Special Research Fund - BOF). These fellowship holders

do have a staff file at the Personnel Department.

It is important, for each of these statutes, to differentiate between the application to receive financing for your PhD, and the administrative application to do a PhD. These two procedures are separate. So you can also perform PhD research without financing, be it immediately after your studies, or after several years of work experience, either combined with a job or not. In this case it is very important that you do not miss out the administrative step of your first enrolment and yearly reenrolment, because without the staff or student statute you are not insured, and you cannot obtain your PhD degree!

For more information you can consult pintra.uantwerpen.be if you are a staff member at the University of Antwerp.

3.4. Mobility

International experience is a crucial component of a career in research. Maintaining contacts with international colleagues and taking part in international conferences are part of this, but spending time abroad to perform research is a completely different experience. You can stay for a short period in a country where research material is available, where an expert in your area can provide

you with a useful contribution, or where there is a library containing a special collection which may be of interest to you. You can also stay at a university abroad for a longer period, allowing you to have a genuine opportunity to be immersed in another university environment and in a completely different culture. Not only do these types of experiences broaden your view of the world, they also challenge you to work even more independently, take initiatives, and question generally acceptable practices, habits or procedures in your work environment at home. International mobility for researchers has become a priority in research policy. As a researcher, there are many possibilities to spend time abroad for shorter or longer periods. In Flanders the FWO (Research Foundation – Flanders) provides financial support, not only for students to participate in conferences, but also for study

and training trips abroad. Within the EU's Seventh Framework Programme there are also possibilities to take part in the Marie Curie Actions as an "early stage researcher". Doctoral grantholders can also usually benefit from resources which allow them to be fully or partially reimbursed for expenses incurred on a research stay abroad.

If you perform at least six months of research at another university (within or outside Flanders) and are supported by a supervisor from the University of Antwerp and a supervisor from the other university, you have the possibility to obtain a combined or double degree. This means that after you have successfully taken the PhD examination at one institution, you will receive a PhD degree from both institutions. You will find more information about this on the website: www.uantwerpen.be/joint-phd.



4. Financing

During your PhD studies, ‘researching’ becomes your job; you complement this with the doctoral study programme where applicable, and prepare yourself to obtain one of the highest university degrees in the country. Completing a PhD often requires several years of research work and study work. Moreover, there are extra costs involved in studying for a PhD such as participating in conferences and symposiums in Belgium or abroad, preparing your dissertation for printing, etc.

This is why, for many candidates, finding financing is one of the prerequisites in order to start a PhD. This doesn’t mean that you ‘can’t’ do a PhD without financing. A number of young researchers, mainly in the medical and human sciences areas, even manage to combine a job outside the university with a successful PhD. The better your academic results, the greater chance you have at gaining financing for your PhD studies and the more easily you will find a supervisor. Degree classification results are particularly important: after all, the master’s dissertation which you complete is a first proof of independent and original research work. Candidates who do this well and show a lot of interest and dedication will find it easier to find a supervisor with whom they can perform PhD

research. Academic results are thus important. Don’t forget that your application for financing will also be assessed on other aspects, e.g. your motivation, the research subject chosen, and the suggested approach. Often the financing is not confirmed for the entire research period, but your research results are assessed in the interim and you must defend the continuation of your PhD each year or every two years. There are many sources of financing or financing channels to finance your PhD research period. In consultation with your supervisor, you determine which sources of financing you will apply for. Do bear in mind that there is often a higher number of applicants than places for the different financing possibilities.

Financing for the PhD takes the form of:

- a research and teaching assistant position - salaried assistant (AAP);
- a personal PhD fellowship (e.g. FWO fellow and similar fellowships, IWT grant for strategic basic research, umbrella grant from the Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds – BOF (Special Research Fund), specific funds which award grants);
- appointment to a research project which is requested by your supervisor and subsidised by internally awarded (BOF) or externally awarded (internatio-

nal, national, regional, local)
research funding;

Each of these statutes has a specific application procedure, a specific form of appointment (grant or employment contract) and a specific set of rules and regulations (conditions under which they are awarded, duration, etc.) A number of these statutes are specifically intended to allow an individual to prepare for a PhD, which means that they cannot be combined with another activity or study programme.

You can also find the information about financing on the website of the Department of Research Affairs & Innovation: www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-and-innovation/. In the text below you will find the relevant contact persons by topic.

4.1. Appointment to a university

It is possible to combine your PhD research with a research and teaching assistant position. You will then be a member of the Assisterend Academisch Personeel (Assisting Academic Personnel - AAP) at the university. As an assistant you support the Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel (Independent Academic Personnel or ZAP= the professors) in their work. Your task involves assistance with the academic teaching (= supporting and

supervising exercises, lab work, lessons), performing scholarly research and potentially setting up a scholarly service for the community. Sometimes this means seeking a balance between teaching tasks and time for your own research. However, this type of combination provides you with useful teaching experience. By giving exercises or practical lessons, you learn to convey academic content in a clear, structured manner to your students - an approach which will probably help you to better organise your research work. The communication with your students also teaches you how to give constructive feedback and will definitely help you to better word your own research arguments, or anticipate potential criticism. A research and teaching assistant position is an appointment for two years which can be extended twice. Assistants have the right to spend at least half of their working time on the preparation of the PhD thesis, via academic research or by following an academic study programme. As an assistant you receive a salary from the university; just like every wage earner, you pay taxes. All new recruits must be hired on the basis of an advertised vacancy for a role with well-defined contents. It is advisable to regularly find out from a potential supervisor or the department whether there will soon be vacancies.

4.2. Contractual appointment in the context of a research project

At the university, many research projects are performed with financial support from organisations such as FWO-Vlaanderen (Research Foundation - Flanders), IWT-Vlaanderen (Flanders Government agency for Innovation through Science and Technology), the Flemish Community, the provinces, the European Union, federal ministries, companies and private undertakings. The universities also award research projects to professors, after consulting the research board. Young researchers are usually employed for these types of projects. The research work which is performed in the context of this type of project usually leads to a PhD. Obtaining these types of projects requires initiative and persistent efforts from a supervisor. The financial resources can be used to hire PhD candidates.

The organizations below regularly have recurring calls for research projects:

- Bijzonder onderzoeksfonds (BOF – Special Research fund): two- to four-year projects, interdisciplinary PhD projects (grants), etc.
- Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO – Research Foundation): research projects Instituut voor de Aanmoediging

van Innovatie door Wetenschap en Technologie (IWT – Institute for the promotion and Innovation through Knowledge and Technology): different types of research programmes

- Flemish Community: different types of research assignments, e.g. Regional centres for policyrelevant research
- Federal ministries, including the Federale Overheidsdienst Wetenschapsbeleid (Federal Government Service for Research) which funds programmes such as the
- Federale InterUniversitaire Attractiepolen (Federal Inter-University Attraction Poles - IUAP)
- European Union (Framework programme and other programmes)
- Industrial research financing

In order to obtain an appointment to a research project, you can apply for a vacancy as an academic employee on a project that has already been awarded or you can check with a supervisor whether a project proposal can be worked out which, if need be, you can be appointed to when this project is awarded. You must bear in mind that the time between the latest submission deadline for the project request and the actual start date of an approved project can often be one year.

4.3. Personal fellowships and grants

4.3.1. Different fellowships can be obtained via Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO – Research Foundation)

Young university graduates (start of fellowship during the first five years after obtaining a master's degree, except if the candidate is younger than 31 at the start of the fellowship) can prepare a PhD at a Flemish university with the Fellowship grant (2 years, renewable once for period of two years, the grant amount targets the research and teaching assistant salary scale). These grants are subject to social security and exempt from personal income tax.

In order to narrow the gap between fundamental clinical research and clinical practice, specialists are encouraged to obtain a PhD. These fellowships, Clinical PhD grants, are aimed at doctors, veterinarians, dentists and pharmacists, recognised as specialists or family doctors, who are appointed full-time with a clinical task in an academic hospital linked to a university in the Flemish Community. During the two-year fellowship, the grant holders are given dispensation from their tasks in order to complete a PhD (fundamental clinical research).

The Special PhD grant is aimed at people working in scientific research

in a permanent position, in order to complete a PhD for a period of one year, and in order to do so, obtain a secondment or leave without pay (not a career break) of one year from his/her current employer. These grants are subject to social security and exempt from personal income tax. The grant covers the net pay which the employee renounces.

The annual latest submission deadline for these FWO fellowships is 1 February.

Contact: Greet Hellenbosch (Department of Research Affairs & Innovation, tel. 03/265.31.73, e-mail: greet.hellenbosch@uantwerpen.be).

4.3.2 The strategic research grants

from Instituut voor de Aanmoediging van Innovatie door Wetenschap en Technologie (IWT – Institute for the promotion and Innovation through Knowledge and Technology)

These grants are aimed at supporting PhD projects for research which, if it is successful, can lead to applications in industry and society in the long term. Currently these grants are only aimed at research with economically-focused applications (in several companies, business sectors, and future economic opportunities ('economic purpose')). It is expected that the grants will also be aimed at research with society-focused applications ('societal purpose'). The choice of PhD subject is up to the candidate,

supported by his/her supervisor.

These grants are open to holders of all types of master's degrees.

Other conditions for candidates are:

- the candidate has obtained a master's degree with at least a "distinction" or a similar mention.
- the candidate must have obtained the above-mentioned master's degree five years before the request for a grant at the earliest.
- the candidate is a citizen of a member state of the European Economic Area (i.e. EU + Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) or Switzerland.
- the candidate has performed fewer than 18 months of previous PhD worthy research at the start of the grant on the 1st of October.

This grant is awarded for a period of two years which can be extended once with a second term of two years. The grants are awarded in the second half of December. The start date is always the first day of a month between October and January of the same academic year. The Institute for the promotion and Innovation through Knowledge and Technology concludes an agreement with the grant holder and the university to which his/her academic supervisor belongs.

The annual period for the submission of applications for this grant is from

the 1st of August to the 15th of September. Candidates can be supported intensively.

Contact: Ann Aerts (Department of Research Affairs & Innovation, tel. 03/265.30.27, e-mail: annfb.aerts@uantwerpen.be).

4.3.3. The Baekeland programme (financing for PhDs in cooperation with industry)

This programme provides an annual budget for financing the PhDs of doctoral students whose research topic is introduced by one or more Flemish companies (main applicant). The university ensures that the topic is worthy of a PhD and ensures the quality of the research work. There are no limitations with regard to research topics or disciplines. All types of Flemish companies are eligible, so this also includes companies in the services sector. PhDs in both technological and nontechnological disciplines can be supported, as long as the PhD research strives towards an economic purpose, in other words is focused on economic added value in the company. One of the assessment criteria thus concerns the concrete possibilities to apply the results of the project in the company. In principle, the PhD student performs part of his/her work at the university and part at the company (can be arranged flexibly). Baekeland PhD students can be employed by the universities via an employment con-

tract (no grants) or by the company. People who already work in (Flemish) companies have the opportunity to do a PhD in cooperation with a Flemish university via the Baekeland programme.

There are two submission dates per year: one in March and one in September.

Contact: Bruno Hoste (Department of Research Affairs & Innovation, tel. 03/265.30.53, e-mail: bruno.hoste@uantwerpen.be).

4.3.4. Bijzonder onderzoeksfonds (BOF – Special Research fund)

Under certain circumstances, the University of Antwerp, funded by the Bijzonder onderzoeksfonds (BOF – Special Research fund), also awards umbrella grants to candidate FWO fellows and candidates for a IWT strategic research grant, to those who are not awarded a grant from the FWO or IWT respectively, in order to allow these candidates to span the period until the next selection for a potential fellowship, and to prepare themselves for the second application. An umbrella grant is a one-off grant which covers a period of up to 12 months. For candidate FWO fellows, in addition to a number of umbrella grants for 12 months, a

limited number of umbrella grant for 4 years are also available.

In each case, these candidates must have applied to the FWO or the IWT respectively for the first time, and the relevant supervisor must declare that he/she believes that the candidate has a favourable chance of success with the second application. Naturally the candidates must fulfil the conditions set out by the FWO or IWT respectively in order to be eligible for the obligatory second application. The following specific conditions also apply:

- for an FWO umbrella grant the candidates must be classified by the Expert panels at the FWO for the selection;
- for an IWT umbrella grant the candidates must achieve a candidate score of at least 15 in the evaluation carried out by the IWT evaluation board.

The potential candidates are contacted, via their supervisor, by the university administration itself, in other words this is not an open competition call, and so there is also no latest submission date for applications.

Contact: Anneleen Baerts (Department of Research Affairs & Innovation, tel. 03/265.30.10, email: bof@uantwerpen.be).



5. What happens after a PhD?

With your PhD and the skills you have gained, many options are open to you, both within and outside the academic world.

With your supervisor and your study group, discuss the opportunities to continue working at the university as a PhD assistant using the institution's own resources, or as a post-doctoral researcher on a research project or subsidised via a personal fellowship (FWO post-doctoral researcher or IWT research fellowship).

You can also apply to research institutes such as (a selection of the many examples):

- IMEC – Interuniversitair Micro-electronica Centrum: het Vlaamse onderzoekscentrum voor nano-elektronica en nanotechnologie (Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre: the Flemish Research Centre for Nanoelectronics and Nanotechnology - www.imec.be)
- VIB - het Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (The Flemish Institute for Biotechnology - www.vib.be/VIB/EN/)
- IBBT - Interdisciplinair Instituut voor Breedbandtechnologie (Interdisciplinary Institute for Broadband Technology - www.ibbt.be/en)

- VITO - Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek (Flemish Institute for Technological Research - www.vito.be/VITO/EN)
- INBO - het Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek (Research Institute for Nature and Forest - www.inbo.be/content/home_page_en.asp)
- ITG – Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (Institute of Tropical Medicine - www.itg.be)

Perhaps you decide to develop your research career abroad, or in any case you are prepared to work abroad as a researcher for a certain period of time. This type of international experience is important if you aspire to a long-term research career in Flanders. There are different possibilities in order to do this, mainly financed by foreign or internationally focused funds (Marie-Curie Fellowships from the EU, BAEF (Belgian American Education Foundation), NATO, NIH (National Institutes of Health), etc.).

According to the most recent survey on the careers of young researchers, there are only places for one in five PhD holders to become permanent staff in Flemish universities. About two in five young PhD graduates do continue their postdoctoral career in Flanders, either in the short or long term. These figures don't necessarily need to be viewed pessimistically.

Thanks to increasing mobility in the higher education landscape, there are more and more opportunities to develop international research careers.

Despite the possibility to remain at the university a little longer, many PhD graduates decide to move into industry. The limited career prospects as a university researcher play an important role in this. The need for long-term prospects, which imply stability and job security and a generally better overall salary are important factors. PhD degrees in

exact medical and applied sciences are particularly welcome in research departments of industrial companies. For doctors with a PhD in human sciences, it is perhaps a little harder, but the fact that the Flemish higher education colleges are becoming more academic means there is an increasing number of jobs for PhD holders in higher education. A large number also make careers for themselves in the service sector. At a regional level, in Flanders, federally and internationally, qualified (post)doctoral students are hired for both policy roles and other managerial positions.

6. Contact

If you have questions about doing a PhD at the University of Antwerp, you can always check the website of the Antwerp Doctoral School:

www.uantwerpen.be/adse.

6.1 The central points of contact

Nel Grillaert: day-to-day management and policy

Mail: nel.grillaert@uantwerpen.be

Tel. 03/265.30.37

Kristien Wijffels: progress reports about the doctoral study programme

Mail: kristien.wijffels@uantwerpen.be

Tel. 03/265.30.17

Sien Pinxteren: newsletter, SisA, website

Mail: sien.pinxteren@uantwerpen.be

Tel. 03/265.37.27

Kris De Clerck: courses

Mail: kris.declerck@uantwerpen.be

Tel. 03/265.31.18

Carolyn Smout: training credits and doctoral programme certificates

Mail: carolyn.smout@uantwerpen.be

Tel. 03/265.31.88

Joint PhDs: jointphd@uantwerpen.be

Location:

Antwerp Doctoral School

Campus Middelheim

Building A, Room A.212

Middelheimlaan 1

2020 Antwerp

6.2. The Antwerp Doctoral School tenured coordinators

Erik Matthysen: Sciences (chair of the ADS board)

Mail: erik.matthysen@uantwerpen.be

Tel. 03/265.34.64

Patricia Popelier: Social Sciences and Humanities (vice-chair of the ADS board)

Mail: patricia.popelier@uantwerpen.be

Tel. 03/265.58.46

John-Paul Bogers: Medical and Biomedical Sciences (vice-chair of the ADS board)

Mail: john-paul.bogers@uantwerpen.be

Tel. 03/265.36.25

6.3. The Academic coordinators of the Antwerp Doctoral School

Sciences

Erik Mathysen

erik.mathysen@uantwerpen.be

Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences

Koen Augustyns

koen.augustyns@uantwerpen.be

Medicine and Health Sciences

John-Paul Bogers

john-paul.bogers@uantwerpen.be

Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts

Henk de Smaele

henk.desmaele@uantwerpen.be

Arts

Jan Nuyts

jan.nuyts@uantwerpen.be

Nautical Sciences

Marc Vervoort

marc.vervoort@hzs.be

Design Sciences

Piet Lombaerde

piet.lombaerde@uantwerpen.be

Social Sciences

Heidi Vandebosch

heidi.vandebosch@uantwerpen.be

Law

Patricia Popelier

patricia.popelier@uantwerpen.be

Applied Economics

Jan Bouckaert

jan.bouckaert@uantwerpen.be

Development Management and Policy

Johan Bastiaensen

johan.bastiaensen@uantwerpen.be

Transport and Maritime Management Antwerp

Wout Dullaert

wout.dullaert@uantwerpen.be

Applied Engineering

Tom Breugelmans

tom.breugelmans@uantwerpen.be

Appendix 1: Overview PhD degrees at the University of Antwerp

Study area	PhD degree
Architecture	Doctor of Architecture Doctor of Interior Architecture Doctor of Urban Development and Country Planning Doctor of Conservation of Monuments and Landscapes
Audiovisual and visual arts	(see combined study areas)
Conservation and restoration	Doctor of Conservation and Restoration
Biomedical sciences	Doctor of Biomedical Sciences
Veterinary Sciences	Doctor of Veterinary Sciences
Pharmaceutical Sciences	Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
History	Doctor of History
Applied Engineering and Technology	Doctor of Applied Engineering
Medical Sciences	Doctor of Medical Sciences
Music and Performing Arts	see combined study areas
Nautical Sciences	Doctor of Nautical Sciences
Education sciences	Doctor of Education
Product Development	Doctor of Product Development

Study area	PhD degree
Political and Social Sciences	Doctor of Social Sciences Doctor of Social Sciences: Sociology Doctor of Social Sciences: Communication Studies Doctor of Social Sciences: Political Sciences Doctor of Social Sciences: Social work Doctor of Information and Library Science Doctor of Film Studies and Visual Culture
Law	Doctor of Law
Linguistics and Literature	Doctor of Linguistics and Literature Doctor of Literature Doctor of Linguistics Doctor of Theatre science and Intermediality Doctor of Translation Science
Applied Biology	Doctor of Bioscience Engineering
Applied Economics	Doctor of Applied Economics Doctor of Transport and Maritime Economics
Science	Doctor of Science Doctor of Science: Biochemistry and Biotechnology Doctor of Science: Biology Doctor of Science: Chemistry Doctor of Science: Physics Doctor of Science: Computer Science Doctor of Science: Mathematics
Philosophy	Doctor of Philosophy
Combined study areas	Doctor of Development Studies Doctor of Social and Economic Sciences Doctor of Environmental Science Doctor of Arts Doctor of Safety Sciences

