

# Being a Ph.D. Student

Historically, the holder of a doctorate degree is a person qualified to produce innovative ideas and disseminate these as well as those of his or her colleagues.

A doctorate degree entails a professional experience of 3 years involving a research proposal which leads to the writing and oral defense of a paper called a “doctoral thesis”.

While writing a doctoral thesis, the Ph.D. student carries out research supervised by a recognised researcher or thesis supervisor (usually a professor or person qualified to supervise research).

As research necessarily involves innovation, the chosen topic will be one that has either not been studied previously or insufficiently so. Such work may not lead to results which are immediately applicable to business or industry. Similarly, during the 3 years of the doctoral thesis, the original aims of the proposal may have to be adapted following your initial observations. What is important is that the Ph.D. student will have properly conducted such research to bring about fresh knowledge and new thinking on the subject.

The aim is for the thesis to be read by the greatest number of people so that it will contribute to greater scientific development and discussion in the particular area chosen, and ideally, lead to results offering the added value of being applicable for industry and society. Success will be ensured by scientific recognition (in the form of publications or patent registration, for example) before and after the final Ph.D. viva examination.