

Guidance for European Doctorates

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Research Office Graduate Education Team

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1. THE EUROPEAN DOCTORATE

The idea of a European Doctorate (European PhD or Doctor Europaeus/ Europaea) originated from an informal initiative in 1991 of the former Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences concerning requirements for the award of a 'Doctor Europaeus'. Several European Doctorates programmes are now offered by UK and other European universities, often in small consortia connected to Marie Curie Networks.

This document provides general guidance on the criteria for the European Doctorate and how a European Doctorate can be set up and awarded.

1.1 Criteria for the European Doctorate

The four criteria proposed by the Confederation of EU Rectors' Conference (now EUA ¹) are quoted below and underpin the European Doctorate, which is based on agreement between the institutions involved, on their own terms, but complying with the four criteria for a European Doctorate.

"1. The PhD thesis defence will be accorded² if at least two professors ³ from two higher education institutions of two European countries, other than the one where the thesis is defended, have given their review of the manuscript;

2. At least one member of the jury should come from a higher education institution in another European country, other than the one, where the thesis is defended;

3. A part of the defence must take place in one of the official languages, other than the one(s) of the country, where the thesis is defended;

4. The thesis must partly have been prepared as a result of a research period of at least one trimester ⁴ spent in another European Country." ⁵

2. SETTING UP A EUROPEAN DOCTORATE

2.1 Model

There is no definitive model for a European Doctorate; however the advice from Southampton is to work with an existing European partnership such as Marie Curie networks, work with people who are known and quality assured. There is no upper limit but 8 partners seems quite a manageable number.

¹ <http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=280>

² 'accorded' should be understood here to mean 'recognised'

³ 'Professors' should be understood here in its "European" sense to refer to all members of academic staff and not just to those who bear the title Professor in the UK system.

⁴ 'Trimester' should be understood to mean either 'term' or an equivalent period of three months even if it involves time outside that of official university terms or semesters.

⁵ Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society Final Report, European University Association

- a) A Manchester model is EXPERT: European Excellence in Process Engineering Research Training⁶. This is a Manchester led, single University programme, with 8 PhDs to be examined according to the 4 criteria and provided with the Diploma if successful.
- b) Links to other Marie Curie Programmes linked with Manchester, with planned European Doctorates
- MAGMANET: ⁷European Doctorate in Molecular Magnetism, Lead University is University of Modena
 - AQUATRAN: Marie Curie training network:⁸ Established specifically to develop a better understanding of the behaviour and environmental impact, including human health, of geogenic elements, in groundwater and soils in the European Union. Dr David Polya, School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences
- c) Links to other university programmes with European Doctorates:
- Cambridge: European Doctoral Group in Economics, EDGE⁹;
 - Southampton: Sound and Vibration Studies¹⁰
 - Strasbourg Doctoral College¹¹
 - Duesto: Peace and Conflict Studies¹²
 - Venice: Social History of Europe¹³
 - LSE European Doctoral Programme (EDP)¹⁴; Rome:
 - European PhD on Social Representations and Communication¹⁵

2.2 Recruitment

Students are recruited onto the PhD programme at the partner universities and are given the option to undertake training within the partner universities. Each Doctorate is awarded by the student's university and the students and the supervisor must make arrangements for the supervision and examination to meet the criteria laid down by the Confederation of EU Rectors' Conference. Paperwork showing that the right procedures have taken place must be provided after the PhD is awarded and then a European Doctorate Certificate/Diploma is awarded, by the lead University, the wording is agreed by the consortium and the management is agreed by the consortium. The PhD complies with the regulations of the student's home University.

3. MAKING THE AWARD

3.1 Thesis

When the thesis has reached the final draft, the applicant applies for the European Doctorate Certificate and plans the PhD defense in a way which complies both with the local rules for the award of the PhD title and with the

⁶ http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP6_PROJ&ACTION=D&DOC=4&CAT=PROJ&QUERY=1187274498867&RCN=73380

⁷ http://www.magmanet-eu.net/index.php?/modelling_magnetism.html

⁸ <http://www.AquaTRAIN.eu/>; <http://www.seaes.manchester.ac.uk/staff/David.Polya>

⁹ <http://www.edge-page.net/>

¹⁰ <http://www.isvr.soton.ac.uk/edsvs/doctorate.htm>

¹¹ http://edc.u-strasbg.fr/edc/about/index_eng.html#doctorat

¹² <http://www.humanitariannet.deusto.es/EuropeanDoctorates/peace/contact.asp>

¹³ <http://venus.unive.it/eurodoct/index.php>

¹⁴ <http://www.edp-site.net/>

¹⁵ <http://www.euophd.net/>

four criteria laid down by the "Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences" necessary for the award of the ED certificate.

3.2 European Doctorate Certificate

A European Doctorate Certificate is awarded when the student:

- has passed courses and undertaken research in at least two Member States of the European Union
- has been examined in the final examinations by professors from universities of at least two Member States of the European Union
- has met the four criteria laid down by the "Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences"

3.3 Responsibility

The procedures for the European Doctorate Certificate are the responsibility of the coordinator of the programme. This certificate confirms that the four criterion for a European Doctorate have been met by the student. The lead University will have responsibility for creating the European Doctorate Certificate.

4. EUROPEAN DOCTORATE PROPOSALS

- a) All proposals, which include the opportunities for students to attain a European Doctorate, should show a clear reference to the four criteria;
- b) All proposals should acknowledge the general principals and requirements within the European Charter for Researchers¹⁶ "The Charter is a set of general principals and requirements which specifies the roles, responsibilities and entitlements of researchers as well as of employers and/or funders of research. The aim of the Charter is to ensure that the nature of the relationship between researchers and employers or funders is conducive to successful performance in generating, transferring, sharing and disseminating knowledge and technical development, and to the career development of researchers. The Charter also recognizes the value of all forms of mobility as a means for enhancing the professional development of researchers."
- c) Successful proposals should be copied to the Faculty Graduate Office to ensure that the administration of students wishing to attain a European Doctorate is consistent, effective and meets requirements.

¹⁶ The European Charter for Researchers. The Code of conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers
<http://www.europa.eu.int/eracareers/europeancharter>