

Engaged to Science

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Ph.D. or D.Phil—Doctor of Philosophy is an advanced academic or professional degree awarded by universities in many countries throughout the world; it is a requirement for a career as a university professor or researcher in most fields.

How to become a Ph.D.

The term doctorate comes from the Latin docere, meaning “to teach”, shortened from the full Latin title licentia docendi, which means “teaching license”. In different countries Ph.D. has international equivalent degrees, like: Doutorado, Доктор, Tohtori, Doctorat, Doktor, Dottorato di ricerca, Doctorado, Doctorate, Doktoras, Doctor, Кандидат наук, Tien si. The Ph.D. program is for all those with a master’s degree or an equivalent qualification, carrying out independent research work under supervision, with a rich history of graduated education (publications, exam results, achievements, etc.) and with successfully passed entrance exams.

Probably, the only real challenge for getting a Ph.D. degree is the Ph.D. thesis. It represents a substantial work. A thesis is a research report that concerns a problem or series of problems in some area of research.

This treatise consists of points like:

- Introducing the research topic
- Reviewing relevant literature
- Explaining how the research has been designed and why the research methods being used have been chosen
- Outlining the findings
- Analyzing the findings and discussing them in the context of the literature review
- Conclusion.

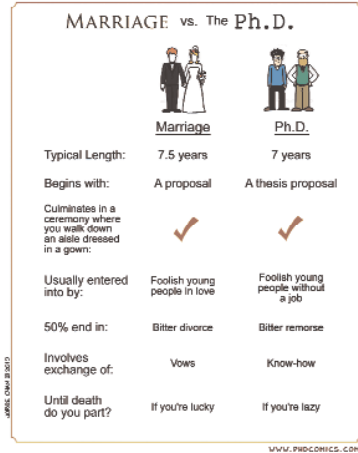




What do Ph.D. students do?

Participants of a doctoral degree program are likely to explore literature, discuss with experts, gather and process data, reflect and organize their thoughts, take notes, perform experiments, analyze data, observe cases and as a junior researcher, they should follow the ethical principals specified by their particular field of science. Ph.D. attendants might also be obligated to give lectures or seminars about the research, participate in conferences locally or abroad to interact with other specialists; write activity reports detailing one's latest results, prepare articles for publication in a peer-reviewed journal appropriate to their particular field of research, attend compulsory classes according to the course schedule, take examinations. To deepen their knowledge, they may follow courses including both interdisciplinary and specialized thematic discipline course blocks, actively participate in Doctoral School activities and in activities organized by Doctoral Programs (including doctoral seminars), follow summer schools, and go for study visits to other institutions.

Other faculty's obligation might also include organizing seminars or conferences,



editing collections of papers by others. In addition, the Doctoral Program may require getting involved in the overall management of the faculty by looking into funding opportunities, preparing proposals, supporting visitors or other researchers, setting up infrastructure, making publicity for faculty activities, initiating collaborations, etc.

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Currently, Magdalena Maciejowska is in a course of Ph.D. studies in the Department of Dental Anatomy, Medical University of Wrocław/Poland. She is doing research in the field of Gerodontology and Oral Medicine. Dr. Maciejowska is the Secretary General of Young Dentists Worldwide and an Honorary life member of SSS Iasi, Romania.

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