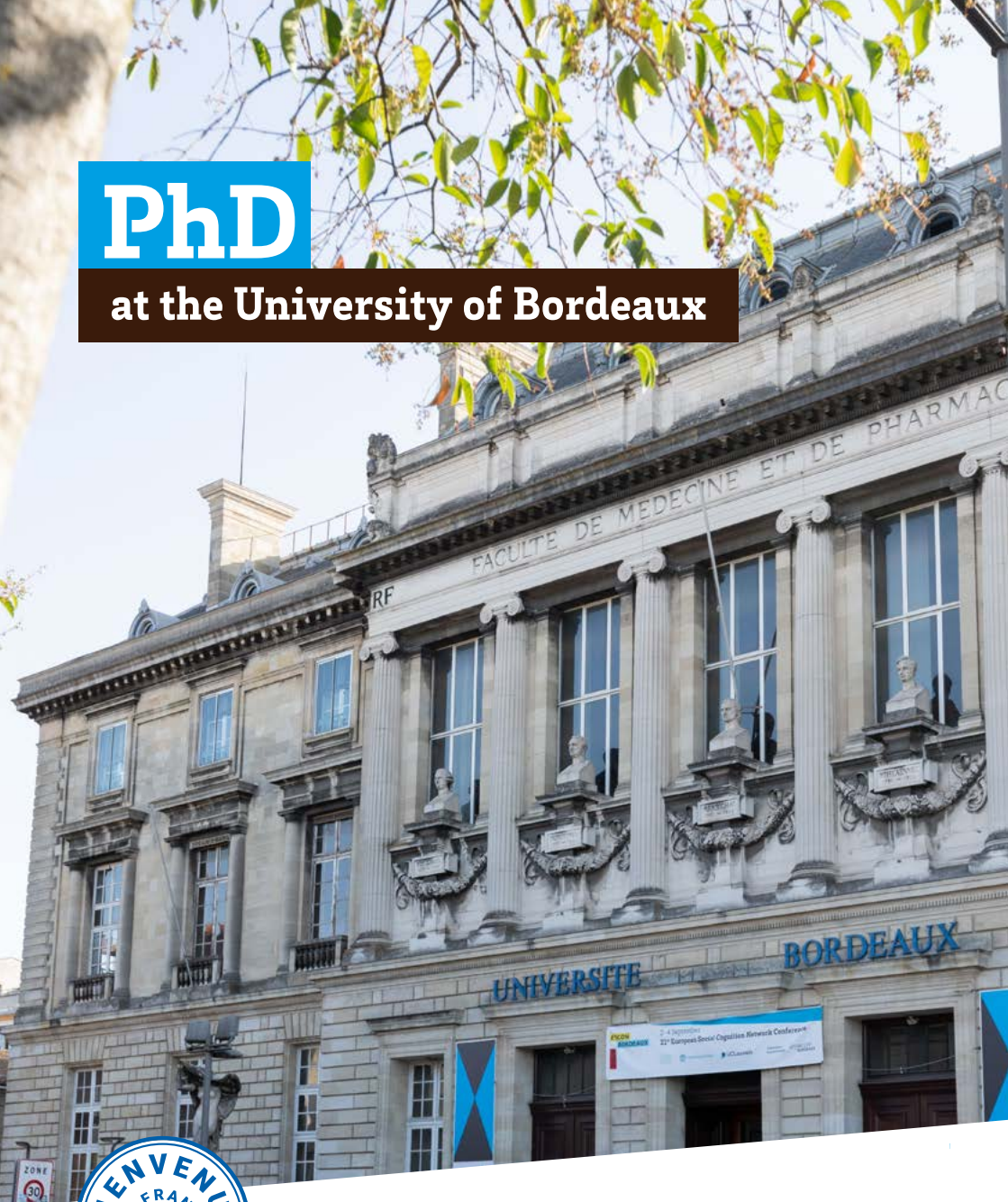


# PhD

## at the University of Bordeaux



université  
de **BORDEAUX**

# University of Bordeaux

  
**52,000**  
students

**2,000**  
PhD students  


## Multidisciplinary:

- > Sciences & Technology
- > Law, Political Science, Economic & Management
- > Health Sciences
- > Human Sciences

  
**7,200**  
international students

**700**  
partner universities  
based in over 80 countries worldwide  


  
**15+**  
Bordeaux Summer Schools per year

Member of the **ENLIGHT** European University alliance  
with 9 partner universities

**11**  
research departments covering all scientific disciplines

**80+**  
research units  


**7**  
Major Research Programs (interdisciplinary and international)

  
**22**  
international joint research laboratories

One of the **largest campus sites** in Europe

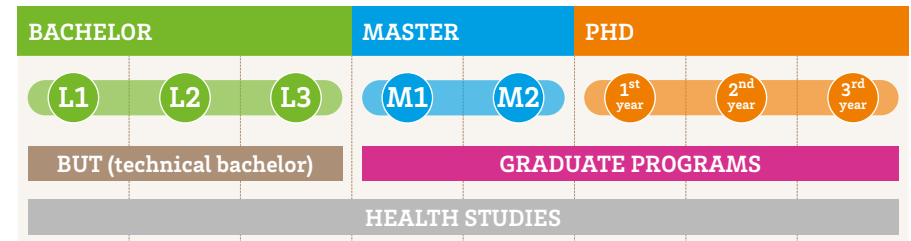
**31**  
university libraries with 5,000 reading places

  
**135**  
student associations

**28 ha**  
of sport facilities  


# Research in France

## The higher education system in France



## Research in France

France is one of the world's leading research countries and research is conducted in all disciplines.

The research policy in France is driven by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Public research bodies and institutions of higher education and research are under the supervision of the Ministry.

France's universities maintain 3,000 research units/laboratories. Research units can be jointly managed by a university and one or more national research institutes (CNRS, INRAE, Inserm, CEA, etc.)

## Research at the University of Bordeaux

With its academic research partners, the university encourages the development of research driven by curiosity, contributing to major discoveries in many fields of investigation. Together with society and the socio-economic world, it responds to contemporary problems by providing concrete solutions supported by scientific evidence.

## The French doctoral system

The PhD degree is the highest degree awarded by French higher education, recognised at the European and international levels.

PhD students are enrolled and trained within doctoral schools, following their Master's degree. They are trained for and by research within research teams.

A PhD is usually completed over a period of 3 years leading to one thesis defense. During the defense, the PhD students present their research work to a jury.

## More info

The university's scientific vision is driven by a policy of excellence. Learn more about its organization and its major commitments.

→ [u-bordeaux.fr/en/research](http://u-bordeaux.fr/en/research)



# The doctoral schools at the University of Bordeaux

PhD students at the University of Bordeaux enroll in one of the 8 doctoral schools that provide research-oriented training in a wide range of disciplines, both fundamental and applied. The doctoral schools are the essential focal point of the doctoral community. Their role is to:

- › gather research units and laboratories with the same scientific fields
- › oversee the recruitment of PhD students
- › monitor the quality of their research

## Chemical Sciences

- Organic chemistry
  - Polymers
  - Process engineering
  - Physical chemistry
  - Physical chemistry of condensed matter
  - Chemistry and technologies of living systems
  - Analytical and environmental chemistry
- [secretariat-edsc@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:secretariat-edsc@u-bordeaux.fr)

## Economic Sciences, Management and Demographics

- Economic sciences
  - Management sciences
  - Demographics
  - Economic sciences specialising in agronomy
  - Management sciences specialising in agronomy
  - Demographics specialising in agronomy
- [ed-ecoges@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:ed-ecoges@u-bordeaux.fr)

### More info

- › Research units
- › Doctoral schools' documents
- › Admission requirements



→ [doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en/before-phd/doctoral-schools](https://doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en/before-phd/doctoral-schools)

## Health and Life Sciences

- Biochemistry
  - Bioimaging
  - Bioinformatics
  - Cell biology and pathophysiology
  - Cancer biology
  - Genetics
  - Chemistry-Biology interface
  - Microbiology-Immunology
  - Microbiology-Immunology specialising in philosophy of science
  - Neuroscience
  - Nutrition
  - Oenology
  - Agricultural sciences
- [ed-svs@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:ed-svs@u-bordeaux.fr)

## Law

- Private law and crime science
  - Public law
  - History of law
  - Political science
- [ed-droit@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:ed-droit@u-bordeaux.fr)

## Mathematics and Computer Science

- Computer science
  - Applied mathematics and scientific computing
  - Pure mathematics
- [edmi@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:edmi@u-bordeaux.fr)



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## Physics and Engineering

- Astrophysics, plasmas, nuclear
  - Lasers, matter, nanosciences
  - Automation, production theory, signal and image processing, cognitive engineering
  - Electronics
  - Mechanics
- [edoc.spi@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:edoc.spi@u-bordeaux.fr)

## Sciences and Environments

- Biological anthropology
  - Biogeochemistry and ecosystems science
  - Evolutionary, functional and community ecology
  - Epistemology and history of science
  - Geochemistry and ecotoxicology
  - Environmental physics
  - Prehistory
  - Sedimentary geology, palaeoceanography and climatology
  - Agricultural and forestry science
- [edoc.se@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:edoc.se@u-bordeaux.fr)

## Society, Politics, Public Health

- Ethnology specialising in social and cultural anthropology
  - Language, Languages, Cultures, Society
  - Pharmacology specialising in pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacovigilance
  - Cognitive sciences and ergonomics (specialising in cognitive sciences/in ergonomics)
  - Public health (specialising in biostatistics/in epidemiology/in computer science and health/in health interventions and health economics)
  - Sociology
  - Psychology
  - Education and training sciences
  - Political science
  - Political science specialising in Political economy
  - Physical and sporting activity sciences and techniques (STAPS)
- [edsp2@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:edsp2@u-bordeaux.fr)

# How to apply for a PhD?

To apply for a PhD, you must hold a Master's degree or equivalent. Application requirements and procedures may vary from one doctoral school to another.

## 1 Learn more about PhD at the University of Bordeaux

- › Check the doctoral schools and the specialties
- › Check the prerequisites, funding, selection and admission procedures

## 2 Prepare your PhD project

Admission process may vary depending on the doctoral schools:

- › apply for a research topic from the doctoral school's list of topics (PhD positions with or without grant). The lists are published between March and June
- › identify a researcher who will become your future thesis supervisor and agree on a research topic before applying to the doctoral school

## 3 Selection process

- › Application on a research topic: examination, audition and selection by the doctoral school to award PhD positions
- › In the other cases, after the agreement of the thesis supervisor, the doctoral school assesses the application and issues an opinion

## 4 Finalize your enrollment

The registration fees amount to an average of 400€ per year, additional to the student life and campus fee which amounts to an average of 100€ per year.

### More info

- › Check the admission procedures for each doctoral school
- › Find all the steps to apply and enroll

→ [doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en/before-phd/apply-for-phd](https://doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en/before-phd/apply-for-phd)



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# Funding for your PhD

A PhD grant (3-year employment contract) is the preferred type of funding, but there are many other ways to fund a PhD. Some topics are offered with funding, but it may be up to the candidate to identify a potential source of funding.

The PhD grant is a fixed-term employment contract (CDD). It may be one of two types:

- › a public law contract, issued only by public higher education or research institutions
- › a private law contract, issued by private sector companies

Other sources of funding or scholarships exist: research institutes, public authorities, foundations, associations and foreign governments, etc.

A few examples of funding:

- › contracts for the doctoral schools' selection process for PhD positions funded by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research
- › funding for research contracts and targeted calls for applications
- › industrial conventions of training through research (CIFRE)
- › international grants
- › disability PhD grants

### More info

- › Check all the types of funding
- › Learn more about the prerequisites for each type of funding

→ [doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en/before-phd/apply-for-phd/phd-positions](https://doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en/before-phd/apply-for-phd/phd-positions)



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# The Graduate Research School

The University of Bordeaux's Graduate Research School is an establishment where training and research are closely linked. It coordinates the actions of the doctoral schools, and more generally the university's whole doctoral field.





It provides support services such as enrollment and thesis defense, training and professionalization process, international programs, scientific mediation, promotion and events, etc.

## Training during PhD

PhD students must attend training courses during their PhD. It aims to increase their employability and help them acquire the skills needed for their career pursuit.

In regards to the University of Bordeaux's commitment to scientific integrity, each PhD student receives training in ethics in research and scientific integrity.

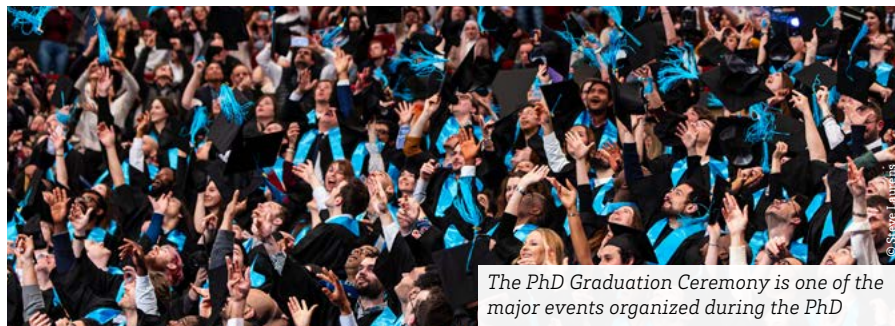
The university is also doing its utmost to be part of the process of making knowledge more accessible. Each PhD student receives training in the challenges of open science.

-  **2,000** PhD students
-  **50+** research specialties
-  **500** thesis defenses per year
-  **150** cotutelle doctoral programs (double degrees) per year

**More info**

- › Doctoral training catalogue
- › Training plan
- › Other institutions' training offer

[→ u-bordeaux.fr/en/during-phd/training-during-phd](https://u-bordeaux.fr/en/during-phd/training-during-phd)



The PhD Graduation Ceremony is one of the major events organized during the PhD

# How about an international joint PhD?

An international cotutelle doctoral program is a genuine partnership between two research teams in different countries.

## Choose the cotutelle doctoral program!

The cotutelle doctoral program enables your PhD to be jointly supervised by the University of Bordeaux and a university institution abroad, with a view to receiving a double degree.

A cotutelle offers you a number of advantages:

- › shared mobility between two countries
- › dual expertise in supervising your research
- › access to the disciplinary and cross-disciplinary facilities and training courses at both universities
- › acquisition and development of your skills
- › expansion of your international professional network

-  **2** research units (partnership)
-  **2** diplomas linked together
-  **1** thesis defense

**More info**

- › Prerequisites for a cotutelle PhD
- › All the steps to set up a cotutelle PhD

[→ u-bordeaux.fr/en/before-phd/apply-for-phd/cotutelle-cosupervision-label](https://u-bordeaux.fr/en/before-phd/apply-for-phd/cotutelle-cosupervision-label)



Scientific mission aboard an oceanographic vessel


# Career outcomes

A PhD is far more than just an academic diploma. It is the springboard to career opportunities, whether within or outside the academic world.


## University of Bordeaux 2020 PhD graduates' career path


247 out of 326 doctors responded to the survey, conducted from December, 2023 to June, 2024 (response rate: 76 %).


### On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023


 **90 %** of doctors were in employment (including post-doctorates)


### Among the respondents who were in work on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

 **63 %** were in a stable job (permanent contract, civil servant or professional, company directors)

 **97 %** were working as managers, executives or directors (in public or private sectors, professionals)

 **42 %** were working in the public sector (in France or abroad)

 **98 %** were working full-time

 **69 %** were working in France

 **30 %** were working in Nouvelle-Aquitaine

#### More info

Learn more about the career opportunities open to early-stage researchers.



→ [u-bordeaux.fr/en/after-phd/career-development](https://u-bordeaux.fr/en/after-phd/career-development)



## 5 reasons

### to join the University of Bordeaux

#### Cutting-edge research

The field of research is a driving force of the University of Bordeaux. The university boasts seven major research programmes in the domains of environmental sciences, neuroscience, public health, archaeological sciences, material and light sciences, and also behaviour, organisations and policy.

#### International recognition

The University of Bordeaux features in the following rankings:

- › n°184 in the QS World University Rankings: Europe 2025 (2024)
- › n°78 in the Times Higher Education Young University Ranking and 201-300 in their Impact Ranking (2024)
- › n° 201-300 in the Shanghai General Ranking (2024)

#### Highly qualified teaching staff

The university employs around 6,000 staff members, of which nearly 4,000 are academic and research staff, recognised for the quality of their scientific and teaching qualifications.

#### Open to the world

The University of Bordeaux holds numerous partnerships with international universities (over 1,000 cooperation agreements have been signed with over 500 establishments worldwide).

#### A wide range of services

The Welcome Center for International Researchers aims to welcome and integrate international PhD students and their families (administrative integration, help with settling in, socio-cultural integration). Language courses are on offer, especially for international PhD students who want to learn French. They can also have access to the student health centres (general medicine, psychological support, social aid) and the other student life services (events, culture, sport).



Bordeaux

## Come and join us in Bordeaux!



UNESCO World Heritage List



City of art and history



1 hour from the Atlantic ocean



Wine capital of the world



Dynamic economy

For more information

[doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en](http://doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/en)

 school/universite-de-bordeaux

 univbordeaux

 universitedebordeaux



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Graduate  
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de BORDEAUX