

# Doctoral Education: Why it matters for Europe

By generating knowledge and scientific and technological breakthroughs, universities play a crucial role in advancing European societies.

**Doctoral education is an essential contributor, shaping the link between education, research and innovation, and impacting Europe's economic, scientific, technological and social development.**

At a time when the “European project” is under pressure, and digitalisation is transforming the way we work and live, doctoral education matters more than ever in safeguarding a progressive, inclusive society and making sure Europe is ready for a changing world.



## Harnessing Digitalisation

Doctoral education is at the forefront of Europe's digital transformation, not only in mobilising, training and raising awareness among digitally-minded researchers, but in promoting crucial Open Science policies and practices that will revolutionise Europe's scientific potential.

## Safeguarding Research Integrity

Doctoral education is at the centre of a global confrontation on ethical challenges that impact information, knowledge and research. Doctoral education preserves and develops a moral compass in Europe that is vital for strong research integrity in the Digital Age.

## Connecting Innovation and Society

Doctoral education is highlighted in the “Renewed EU Agenda for Higher Education” as a place where higher education, innovative research and society meet. It trains researchers capable of engaging with society and contributing innovative solutions to Europe's industry and other economic sectors.

## Fostering International Collaboration

Doctoral candidates connect universities and facilitate international collaboration. This talent pool is one of the foundations of Europe-driven inclusive cooperation within the European Higher Education and Research Areas, with the European Neighbourhood and the world.

*“Doctoral education is at the forefront of ensuring that Europe has the necessary skills to face a changing labour market, an active citizenship participating in diverse, mobile, digital and global societies, and the frontier knowledge and discoveries necessary for the continent's overall progress.”*

**Luke Georghiou**  
Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Manchester  
EUA-CDE Steering Committee Chair



**EUA**

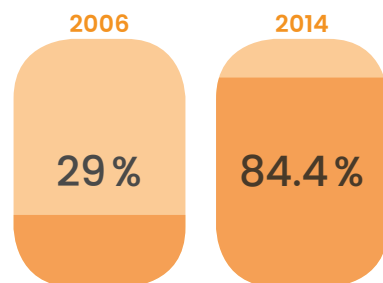
European University Association

# The EUA Council for Doctoral Education

The EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) is an integral part of the European University Association. It aims to strengthen the doctoral research capacity of European universities, allowing them to attract and shape talented early-stage researchers in a competitive and global environment. By promoting collaboration and exchange of good practices, it makes an important contribution to the development of doctoral education and research training in Europe.

Notably, EUA-CDE has guided a university-led reform process that has been marked by a Europe-wide exchange on policies and practices, fostering mutual learning and collaboration between higher education institutions from across the continent.

## Doctoral schools on the rise Percentage of European universities with doctoral schools:



(Source: EUA data)

## Key milestones in European doctoral education reform:

