

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

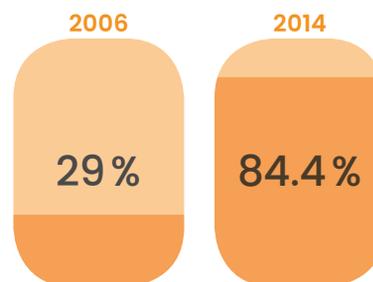
European University Association

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:

