

STRUCTURE OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Doctoral studies are based on an individual research project and directed by the supervisor of the dissertation. You will be supervised by professors and experts of international renown.

It is possible to do doctoral research in a wide range of subjects throughout the different Faculties at UNIGE, which provide an international and competitive environment for your research.

Doctoral schools

UNIGE has also developed doctoral schools, often in partnership with other universities in the region. They offer doctoral students supplementary training and research opportunities.

The activities available foster the development of disciplinary, methodological and cross-disciplinary skills, as well as other competencies which are essential to researchers' professional training.

Participation in a doctoral school programme is not compulsory and is not required to obtain the doctorate.

Length of study

The duration of doctoral studies is 6 to 10 semesters.

Discipline and language

All the disciplines taught at the University of Geneva offer a doctoral degree. The doctoral student can choose the language in which s/he wishes to write the dissertation, with the agreement of his/her supervisor.

Contact

International Affairs
University of Geneva
Bd du Pont-d'Arve 40
CH - 1211 Geneva 4
www.unige.ch/phd

How to apply

Important deadline

Applications for enrolment, including additional documentation required for online enrolment, must be mailed by **the end of April** at the latest to the Admission Office.

Procedure of admission

Find and contact a professor to supervise the dissertation or apply for one of the assistantship positions advertised on the UNIGE website.

Apply online through the UNIGE website once the professor has been contacted.

To be eligible for doctoral studies, candidates must:

- meet the enrolment conditions of UNIGE
- hold a Master's degree or equivalent diploma which is recognised by UNIGE

Submit your doctoral proposal to the professor and get her/his written agreement. The proposal must also be submitted to the Faculty's College of professors for final agreement.

Complete the application for enrolment and submit your complete dossier to the Students' Administrative Space.

N. B. The procedure may **differ** depending on the faculty concerned.

JOINT DOCTORAL DEGREE

The joint doctoral degree allows a doctoral candidate to earn a degree from two separate institutions by defending one single dissertation.

The dissertation is supervised by two thesis directors, one from each institution, which thereby undertake to award a single doctoral degree on the basis of one dissertation. The diploma so awarded indicates that it has been granted as a double doctorate by «The partner institution» and the UNIGE.

FUNDING

Assistantship positions

The Faculties offer paid assistantship positions. Doctoral candidates may apply if their dissertation projects correspond to the discipline for which a position is offered.

Excellence Fellowships

Candidates who are recipients of a scholarship or grant offered by an external organisation may qualify for simplified enrolment through the International Affairs Office and may be exempted from certain fees.

Swiss Government Scholarships

The Confederation offers university research scholarships and artistic scholarships to foreign students.

Prizes-Grants-Subsidies

The University has a number of permanent funds which are used to give prizes or grants, or to provide various types of subsidies (research, travel, conferences, publications, SNSF, EU, etc.).

Other sources of funding

Much of the funding for university research comes from resources outside of the University's basic budget. Researchers at the University of Geneva receive more than 130 million francs per year, through highly competitive grant application processes, from the Swiss National Science Foundation, the European Union, special national and international programmes, foundations and research-allocated resources which are managed by the University.

AFTER A PHD

After completing the dissertation, doctoral students may continue their research as postdoc researchers. In addition, some may take up intermediary posts (maître d'enseignement et de recherche, maître-assistant or premier assistant), which can lead to professorial posts (such as assistant professor or full professor).



DOCTORAL DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA



UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

UNIGE AT A GLANCE

A leading institution characterised by its openness to the world, the University of Geneva (UNIGE) is Switzerland's third largest university with 17'000 students of more than 150 different nationalities. UNIGE is a global university: about 40% of students, 60% of academic staff and 67% of doctoral students come from abroad.

UNIGE is composed of nine faculties (Science, Medicine, Humanities, Social Sciences, Economics and Management, Law, Psychology and educational sciences, Theology, Translation and interpreting) and fourteen Interfaculty Centres (Informatics, Genetics, Global Studies Institute, ...). In addition, various multidisciplinary research projects are in progress at UNIGE (for example, in the areas of neuroscience, the affective sciences, the environment), which reflect the wide scope of its activities.

An institution open to the world's elite

UNIGE constantly works to establish and expand relations internationally. As a result of these efforts, the university is able to recruit top-level scientists and educators, thereby attracting the best and brightest students. Also thanks to these efforts, UNIGE has hosted several Nobel laureates and recipients of other distinguished prizes, as students, researchers and/or professors including:

- Maurice Allais, Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 1988
- Martin Rodbelle, Nobel Prize in Medicine 1994
- Alan Jay Heeger, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2000
- Kofi Annan, Nobel Peace Prize 2001
- Stanislav Smirnov, Fields Medal (mathematics) 2010

Strong ties with international community

Geneva is one of the most active centers for multilateral diplomacy and global governance. UNIGE is fully integrated in this international landscape and plays a major role as an essential and respected partner to the «International Geneva». The many close ties that exist with governmental and non-governmental international organizations have proven to be both an invaluable asset and a distinguishing feature of our university. UNIGE has established several collaborative agreements with major international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the UNDP, the ICRC, and CERN, among others.



Networks and Partnerships

The University of Geneva has numerous collaborative links with universities around the world, in the form of interpersonal collaborations, bilateral agreements or University networks. Exchange and research collaboration with top-level foreign institutions are promoted through strategic partnerships. These selected partnerships include the establishment of joint funds to provide seed funding for collaborative initiatives with institutions such as Princeton University, the University of Sydney, Yonsei University and the G3 alliance of francophone universities (UNIGE, UdeM and ULB). These collaborative efforts provide UNIGE researchers access to an international network of top-level research in all academic areas.

UNIGE also is a member of prestigious academic networks such as the League of European Research Universities (LERU), which unites the 20 best research universities in Europe, or the Coimbra Group, an association of long-established European multidisciplinary universities of high international standards.

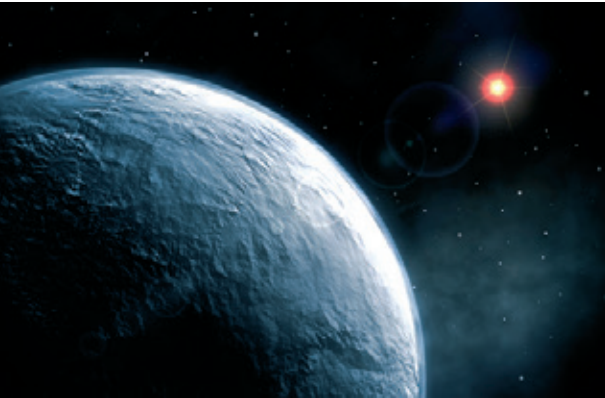
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE: WHY DO A PHD AT UNIGE?

Among 20'000 universities in the world, the UNIGE is:

- A top-ranked university: UNIGE stands out as one of the 100 best universities in the world (Shanghai - ARWU 2015) and is ranked 33rd in the world for the natural sciences and the mathematics
- The best French-speaking comprehensive university
- Dedicated to thinking, teaching and research

Competitive research funding and world-class research findings

- Lead or co-lead eight National Centres of Competence in Research: Frontiers in Genetics, MaNEP, Affective Sciences, Chemical Biology, LIVES – Overcoming vulnerability, The synaptic bases of mental disease, SwissMAP - The Mathematics of Physics and Planets
- Major developments in the sciences: the discovery of extrasolar planets, major contributions in the field of quantum physics



- 850 research projects which have received highly competitive funding
- Scientific collaborative research projects with 110 countries
- More than 4000 publications in scientific journals per year
- 20% of the University of Geneva's publications fall in the top 10% most cited of their discipline, showing the high impact of the research conducted.

Cutting-edge research infrastructures

- High performance computing used to tackle some of the world's most complex scientific challenges.
- A multilingual research environment.
- A unique facility dedicated to brain and behavioural studies.
- A Centre for Biomedical Imaging equipped with some of the most powerful Magnetic Resonance Imaging systems in Europe capable of revealing not just the anatomy but the in-vivo metabolism.



- A centre for the development of the biotechnology sector: the Biotech Campus. (The EPFL and UNIGE will occupy 15,000 m2 of the Sécheron site. Half of this surface area will be occupied by the Wyss Institute for Bio- and Neuro-Engineering, the other half by research groups from the EPFL and UNIGE.)
- A privileged connection with the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN); frequent collaborations with institutions such as the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, the European Southern Observatory (a European organization for research in astronomy), the European Space Agency and NASA.



- Active participation in cutting-edge EU FET flagship projects 'Graphene' and 'Human Brain' (neurosciences). The latter had led to the establishment of an institute for molecular imaging in collaboration with the HUG (Geneva University Hospitals).
- Participation in more than 250 FP7 projects, including 20 coordinations and 36 prestigious ERC Grants, and about 60 participations in Horizon 2020 projects of which approximately ten ERC Grants (2016).
- Laboratory positions guaranteed for doctoral students in Science. All doctoral students in Science and Medicine are given paid assistantship positions.
- More than 5 million documents through the Geneva Library Network, 30,000 electronic magazines and an extraordinary collection of archives.

European Research Programmes

UNIGE actively participates in the European research programmes, particularly the EU Framework Programmes for Research (FP7, Horizon 2020), which offer a wide range of funding opportunities through collaborative projects, individual ERC excellence grants and Marie Skłodowska-Curie networks and post-doc fellowships. UNIGE is also involved in 50 COST networks and research projects.

Other openings for doctoral studies are provided by the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) and the European Space Agency (ESA). UNIGE also maintains close working ties with the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) as well as many other European/international research and innovation programmes (IMI-Innovative Medicines Initiative, NIH-National Institutes of Health, INTERREG-European Territorial Cooperation, etc.).