

## ULiège preparatory PhD project CertifiCate



### PhD Preparation

Has your intellectual curiosity got the better of you ? Do you have what it takes to be a successful researcher ? Can your passion for a research topic lead to a tangible thesis and a sustainable career path ? The decision to embark on a PhD should not be taken lightly and it can be overwhelming to consider all the important factors needed to pursue the degree with success. Since 2011, the University of Liège has biannually offered a 3 month preparatory programme, in French and in English for students looking to “test drive” a PhD. Under the guidance of an academic supervisor, students benefit from the scientific infrastructure of the university’s laboratories and research units. A well-written and well-prepared doctoral project is important for eligibility to a doctoral programme. The resources and skills offered through the certificate give students an edge in their candidacy when applying, allowing them to embark on their studies with confidence and attain greater success throughout the degree.



### Supervision

Under the personalized guidance of a supervisor, participants work closely with a permanent member of the scientific or academic faculty, whom they will have identified ahead of time. This academic supervisor allows them to explore first-hand the university environment and culture, helping them to prepare a strong doctoral project.

► A facilitation team of university administrators and experts will help participants with their career development focusing on information literacy, scientific literature and documentary research methods in addition to project management, communication and networking skills, project funding and time management skills.



### Programme

The curriculum will help participants identify a research topic and develop a suitable research proposal for third level studies. There are two phases of the programme:

► **Phase I : Interdisciplinary modules and individual competencies.** For the first three weeks, participants explore the various aspects of the doctoral programme and learn about the occupation of a researcher. Facilitated class sessions focus on acquiring the skills needed to successfully navigate the different stages of research, writing and publishing. In this first phase, participants will also begin to build a relationship within their host research unit under the guidance of their supervisor.

► **Phase II : Research unit placement.** For the ensuing 9 weeks, participants will work closely with their supervisor in the host research unit to define, plan and write their doctoral project. During this time, they will complete research and put into practice the competencies acquired in Phase I, giving them hands on experience as a university researcher. Once the project has been perfected, students will present it before a university jury, giving them the opportunity to fine tune their research project prior to submitting a formal application for a PhD program.



## Admission

Admission to this certificate is open to:

- ▶ All graduates holding a Masters degree from ULiège or another accredited institution of higher education who are considering pursuing a doctoral programme and are interested in the occupation of a researcher;
- ▶ All candidates who have applied for a PhD grant who are able to present their research project and develop their competencies, regardless of whether their funding requests are approved;
- ▶ All active professionals who have successfully completed a graduate degree and would like to begin a PhD in a field related to their current profession.



## Application requirements

### ▶ Documentation

1. Applicants must provide formal documentation authenticating the possibility of pursuing doctoral studies within the system in which they graduated.
2. Applicants must identify and be accepted by a supervisor who is a faculty member of the University of Liège in order to be considered for the certificate.

### ▶ Language

Participants must have appropriate command of the language in which the session is being hosted- French or English.

### ▶ Cost

The registration fee for the certificate is €835. After successful completion of the certificate, if a participant is granted subsequent admission to a doctoral program at the University of Liège, the registration fee for the doctorate will be reduced accordingly.

- ▶ **Financial aid** : Applicants may apply for a financial aid grant to cover relocation & registration expenses. Requests will be reviewed internally and assessed according to need and merit.



## Evaluation and recognition

The University of Liège issues a certificate equivalent to 15 credits /ECTS upon successful completion of the coursework. Evaluation is based on seminar participation, active involvement in the research unit and research project and a passing grade from the jury on the project presentation. **Please note that completion of the programme and awarding of the certificate is not sufficient for direct admission to the doctoral programme.**

## ▶ Contact

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