

FRAMEWORK FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING*

Since the introduction of the *Décret Paysage*, doctoral training has been an obligatory part of the PhD studies. A default number of 60 educational credits has been awarded to it. Furthermore, encouraging continuing professional development for researchers is one of the actions of the [HRS4R – HR Excellence in Research](#) initiative, to which ULiège has been committed since 2011.

The Doctoral College, to which the PhD candidate belongs, establishes the doctoral training program and determines the candidate's progress and success in obtaining the expected credits for it.

The doctoral training program has three main objectives:

- To confer specialized skills related to the candidate's research area (Thematic Disciplinary Training).
- To improve the future employability of the PhD candidate (Generic Skills Training).
- To disseminate relevant research results via science communication (Scientific Production)

It cannot consist of more than 50% of regularly taught courses.

Postgraduate courses are organized by one or several Graduate School(s) (F.R.S - FNRS Thematic Doctoral School). It is up to the Doctoral College to examine the relevance of training program(s) that are organized in another context (International Doctoral Schools, etc.).

Doctoral candidates who hold a Master's degree with advanced specialisation in the same field are entitled to have a maximum of 30 credits validated for learning activities (Article 3, §4 of the General Regulations for Doctoral Studies pursuant to Article 71, §2 of the Paysage Decree).

This document is based on the lowest common denominator among all Doctoral Colleges. Every College specifies its own framework in relation to its research area and makes it available to the PhD candidates (see the internal regulations of the colleges on this subject relating to Article 3§3 of the general regulations for doctoral studies)..

The credits are awarded on a default basis. Therefore, the details of credits no longer appear on the Research training certificate. However, in *myULg*, credits registration is still necessary in order to enable the Doctoral College to check that the total of 60 credits has been reached. Obviously, the content of doctoral education is more important than the detailed computation of the numbers of credits.

In accordance with the decision of the ULiège Board of Directors on 18/09/2024, a [training programme](#) is now mandatory for scientific staff taking up their positions from the start of the 2025-2026 academic year. With regard to doctoral candidates, the Doctoral Colleges retain the authority to decide on any adjustments for doctoral candidates with specific profiles (joint supervision, clinical activity, etc.). In addition, exemptions may be granted to individuals who have previously completed equivalent training.

THEMATIC DISCIPLINARY TRAINING
Minimum 15 credits

Courses and seminars organized in the framework of one or several F.R.S - FNRS Thematic Doctoral School(s) or accepted by the Doctoral College :

- One-day seminar (passive attendance) 1 credit/day
 - Specialized course 1 to 5 credits*
- *To be determined - depending on the duration (1 credit/day) and/or the evaluation process if one exists

GENERIC SKILLS TRAINING
Minimum 10 credits

- Missions abroad (min. 2 weeks) 5 to 10 credits all in all
 - Training session related to the research profession or encouraging post-thesis thinking 1 credit / day
- Examples :
- **Compulsory** (unless adapted by the doctoral college as specified on page 1 of this document): Pars-en-thèse seminar (including onboarding session), training in ethics and scientific integrity, training in sustainable development;
 - From skills assessment to professional project; Project management for PhD candidate ;
 - Statistics ;
 - Intellectual property, creation of spin-offs, etc.
- Outreach communication :
- Example :
- Participation to « Ma thèse en 180 secondes/My thesis in 180 seconds », to the *Printemps des sciences* ... 2 to 3 credits*
- Active involvement within the Phd Candidates Network (RED) 2 to 5 credits*
 - Organization of a scientific event (symposium, etc.) 3 to 5 credits*
 - Didactic support :
 - Supervision of undergraduate thesis ;
 - Practical works (Master's degree level) , etc. Max 6 credits all in all
 - ...
 - *To be determined - depending on the duration (1 credit/day) and/or the importance of the PhD candidate's involvement.

SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION
Minimum 25 credits

Examples :

- At least one article published in an international journal with reading committee* 5 to 10 credits/ article**
- * If the reading committee's decision is still awaited, the Doctoral College will evaluate if the article is publishable.
- ** Depending of the nature of the publication, the role of sole author or co-author
- Active participation to minimum two international meetings which at least one outside Belgium : scientific poster or oral communication 3 to 5 credits / congress
 - At least three conferences or presentations in front of a specialized audience (PhD candidates' day, Department seminar, etc.) with the exception of presentation in front of the thesis committee and the thesis defense. 3 credits/conf.
 - Patent application 4 to 10 credits
 - ...