

Self Assessment - To be or not to be a doctoral candidate

Why do I want to do a doctorate?

- I am fascinated by science.
- I want to learn more about my field of research.
- I find it interesting to delve deeper into scientific research.
- Scientific research is fun.
- I intend to pursue a career in academia or research.

- A doctorate is common in my discipline (eg. chemistry, biology).
- I hope to find a better job with a higher income.
- My family expects me to do a doctorate.
- I would like to enjoy university life a bit longer.
- I have no other choice or way of making a living.

➔ You should seriously reconsider your choice to pursue a doctorate if you can confirm most of the questions in the second half positively.

Requirements for a doctorate

Formal

- I have the grades and language skills as required by the respective FU faculty's doctoral regulations.
- I already have been offered a doctorate position.
- I have obtained financial support for my doctoral studies.

Personal

- I pursue my work with perseverance and tenacity..
- I handle setbacks well and take criticism while still being able to motivate myself.
- I can set my own time schedule and stick to it with intrinsic self discipline.
- I have strong writing skills.
- I am ready to spend 3 or more years doing research on one topic.

Private

- I have a stable personal life and my partner or my family support my wish to do a doctorate.
- I am aware of the fact that doing a doctorate will have constraints on my leisure-time and activities with my family.
- I can take stress mentally and physically.

➔ For a doctorate, you should agree with most of these statements.

Which type of doctorate suits you?

	<i>Doctoral education in a doctoral program</i>	<i>Independent Research under Supervision ("Apprenticeship Model")</i>
	I would like to be thematically integrated into a doctoral or research program.	I would like to choose my research topic on my own.
	I am interested in the accompanying course program to diversify my disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge and skills.	I can take courses on an individual basis if required.
	I would like to take key skills courses	I have no interest in key skills qualifications.
	I would prefer having more than one supervisor eg. by a supervisory team.	One supervisor for my doctoral project would be sufficient for me.
	I would like a supervisory agreement with my	I would feel too restrained by a supervisory

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supervisory team.		agreement.
I want to finish my doctorate in three years and am convinced that I can achieve my goal.		I would like to set the time frame for my doctoral project individually.
I can put additional time and work in research stays abroad, giving talks, taking courses and publishing articles.		I would like to concentrate on my research.
I look forward to regular exchange with my colleagues.		I can find feedback when I need it.