

## To be or not to be a doctoral candidate Self-assessment

### 1. 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 (e.g. 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.

### 2. 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.

## What is my path to a doctoral degree? Doctorate types in comparison

Doctorate in a Doctoral Program	Individual Doctorate
Application to a doctoral degree program	Search for an appropriate supervisor
Dissertation project within the thematic spectrum of the doctoral program	Greater freedom as far as the choice of dissertation topic is concerned
Course program designed in accordance with the research objectives of the program to strengthen and deepen disciplinary knowledge as well as professional and transferable skills	Participation on an individual basis in courses and colloquia organized by department/ research group
Dissertation supervision by supervisory team	Supervision by a university professor (Doktorvater/Doktormutter); team supervision is still an exception
Generally an interdisciplinary working environment	Generally a discipline-based working environment
Formalized supervisory agreement that lays down the rights and duties of doctoral candidates and members of the supervisory team	Generally a letter of acceptance from the supervising professor (Betreuungsusage) for the application for the admission to do a doctorate at the respective department
Duration of the doctorate corresponds to the program membership and generally amounts to three years (+ one year in case of family responsibilities).	Duration of the doctorate is laid down in the doctorate regulations of the department (standard processing time [Regelbearbeitungszeit]; four years until the conclusion of the dissertation process). It can be prolonged (also repeatedly) with the consent of the supervisor and the doctoral committee.
Systematic preparation for the conference participation and generally obligatory lectures and poster presentations during the doctorate in the program	Lectures/presentations at international and national conferences can be freely chosen and agreed on between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor
Doctoral program organizes scientific exchange among doctoral candidates as well as with external partners by inviting guests, through research stays abroad and by providing extensive meeting and workshop program.	Integration into the scientific community and relevant networks mainly by the supervising professor; exchange with other doctoral candidates generally on one's own initiative