



Guide to a Doctorate in France

<https://guide-doctorat.fr/english>





About the *Guide to a Doctorate in France*

- ❖ **Goal: the best reference source** to present among others the conditions, procedures, practices and advice relating to the organisation of the doctoral experience in France. This guide allows the readers to navigate between proper and improper practices regularly highlighted by both associations ANDès and CJC.
- ❖ **Derived from the 23 factsheets of *Le Doctorat à la Loupe* (“Doctorate under the Magnifying Glass”):**
 - « Before », « During », « After the doctorate »;
 - **good practices** carried out or to be undertaken;
 - **with references to the legal system** (ca. 100 sources);
 - inserts about « Improper practices ».
- ❖ **Targeting** all the actors of the doctorate, mainly:
 - doctoral candidates and doctors having defended their doctorate en France;
 - people planning to prepare a doctorate in France;
 - doctoral supervisors;
 - research units, doctoral schools and doctoral colleges;
 - funders, evaluation bodies;
 - present and potential recruiters of doctorate holders;
 - political decision-makers.

Dedicated website: <https://guide-doctorat.fr>



The story of the “Guide to a Doctorate in France”

- ❖ Common brainstorming of both associations:
 - **ANDès, French National Association of Doctorate Holders**, created in 1970, gathers the doctorate holders whatever the field, generation and position;
 - **CJC, French Confederation of Early-stage Researchers**, assembles the associations of doctoral candidates and doctorate holders under non-permanent status.
- ❖ 2009: **Moral and financial support by the Ministry in charge of Higher education and Research.**
- ❖ Since 2009, participation of about one hundred volunteers (doctoral candidates and doctorate holders), with different research fields, ages, working experiences and places all around France.
- ❖ 2013-2017, **progressive publication¹** of the worksheets.
- ❖ In 2018, **update of the factsheets** to take into account the regulatory modifications relating to the doctorate.
- ❖ In 2020, **publication of the French *Guide du Doctorat*** (paper and electronic versions).
- ❖ In 2022, **publication of the *Guide to a Doctorate in France*** (electronic version).

¹ *Le Doctorat à la Loupe, le nouveau rendez-vous mensuel des acteurs du doctorat*, 16 janvier 2013.

For whom? For which purpose?

- ❖ **doctoral candidates and supervisors:** procedures before, during and after the doctorate
- ❖ **research units:** integration of doctoral candidates
- ❖ **doctorat schools and doctoral colleges:** self-assessment process
- ❖ **HCERES:** assessment of doctoral schools
- ❖ **employers:** human resource management, expertise upgrade
- ❖ **associations of early stage researchers:** publication of practical worksheets

To spread good practices:

- ❖ publication of the *Guide du Doctorat*: licence Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND 4.0, non commercial and reuse without modifications;
- ❖ free flyers¹;
- ❖ invite ANDès and CJC for national or local presentations!

¹ <https://guide-doctorat.fr/diffuser>



The 23 chapters of the *Guide to a Doctorate in France*

Before the doctorate

1. Challenges and actors of the doctoral programme
2. Motivations: from idea to project
3. Elaboration of a doctoral project
4. Funding plan of the doctoral project
5. Validation and selection of doctoral projects
6. Publication and dissemination of the doctoral project
7. Doctoral candidate recruitment procedure
8. Finalisation of recruitment

During the doctorate

9. Integration of new doctoral candidates
10. Launch of the doctoral project
11. Supervision and monitoring of the doctoral project
12. Continuing professional education for doctoral candidates

13. Activities beyond research during doctorate
14. Duration of doctoral project and possible extension
15. Conflict management during the doctorate
16. Intellectual property and ethics
17. Representation of doctoral candidates
18. Thesis writing and defence
19. Conclusion of the doctoral period
20. Premature termination of doctorate
21. Skills developed during the doctorate

After the doctorate

22. Tracking the career development of doctorate holders
23. Careers of doctorate holders

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