 **Research Plan**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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| --- | --- |
| **PhD candidate** |  |
| First name  |  |
| Last name  |  |
| E-mail: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Promotor** |  |
| First name  |  |
| Last name  |  |
| E-mail: |  |

**Faculty**

[ ]  Law and Criminology

[ ]  Economic and Social Sciences and Solvay Business School

[ ]  Psychology and Educational Sciences

[ ]  Arts and Philosophy

[ ]  Sciences and (bio-)Science Engineering

[ ]  Medicine and Pharmacy

[ ]  Engineering

[ ]  Physical Education and Physiotherapy

**Department or Research group**

**Doctoral School**

[ ]  DSh (Human Sciences)

[ ]  NSE (Natural Sciences and (Bioscience) Engineering)

[ ]  LSM (Life Sciences and Medicine)

**Doctoral degree to be obtained:** (see [annex](https://www.vub.be/en/studying-vub/practical-info-for-students/regulations-and-insurance/regulations#paragraph--id--71069) to the Central PhD regulations for full list of titles):

In case of an interdisciplinary doctorate, please specify the domains:

**Joint or double PhD**

Add your partner institution if applicable

**Supervisor(s)** duplicate this box if necessary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First name: |  |
| Last name: |  |
| Faculty: |  |
| E-mail: |  |

**Academic year of first enrolment**

Yyyy-yyyy

**Target date or academic year of public defense**

Dd/mm/yyyy or yyyy-yyyy

**RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

*In case you have an approved research proposal by FWO or another funding agency, you can hand in that proposal instead of this template.*

**Title of the PhD Research**

Add the provisional title of your PhD research

**Abstract**

Provide an abstract of the research proposal (max 250 words)

The abstract of a PhD research plan should serve as a concise summary of the key elements of your proposed research. It should provide an overview of what the research aims to achieve, the methodology used, and the potential significance of the study.

Here are the essential components to include in an abstract for a PhD research plan:

-Research Context and Background

-Research Problem or Research Questions

-Research Objectives or Goals

-Methodology or Approach

-Anticipated Results and Impact.

**Rationale and positioning with regard to the state-of-the-art**

Elaborate on the scientific motivation for your doctoral research based on scientific knowledge gaps, and the issues that you want to solve with your research project. Position your research in relation to the international state of the art and ongoing research. (min 500 words and min 10 references correctly cited in the text)

**Scientific research goals**

Describe explicitly the scientific objective(s) and the research objectives and/or hypotheses. Explain whether and how the research is specifically challenging and inventive, also with reference to the innovative aspects of the envisaged results. Discuss in detail the (partial) results that you aim to achieve, such as specific knowledge and academic breakthroughs (max 500 words)

**Research methodology and work plan**

Elaborate the different envisaged steps (experiments/activities) in your research for at least the first year (if possible for the entire PhD term), and motivate your strategic choices with the aim of reaching the objectives. Use a table or graphic representation of the planned course of activities (timing work packages, milestones, critical path). (min 500 words)

**PhD advisory committee**

The PhD advisory committee consists of the supervisors and **at least one other member preferably outside of the research groups of the supervisors** (they can be from the VUB or another institute)[[1]](#footnote-2). In case you have one supervisor, you need to invite at least two other members to the advisory committee. The composition is done in consultation between the supervisor/supervisory team and the doctoral researcher. All members need to have a PhD, but exceptions are possible (for example a medical doctor with a lot of expertise in a specific research domain). The committee meets at least once a year to discuss your PhD progress.

Please add the name(s) and **their affiliation (Institute, department/research group)** of all member(s) of your advisory committee.

This information needs to be completed by the first progress report at the latest, please specify here at least the domains of expertise you are looking for.

**Publication strategy**

Detail the number and type of publications you are aiming for (e.g. number of articles in an international peer-reviewed journal or published book/manuscript), and to what extent other researchers will be involved in them. For doctoral researchers of the Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School this is an obligatory field. For doctoral researchers of the Faculty of Physical Education and Physiotherapy the provisional titles, authors and journals should be specified. For all other faculties this is optional.

**Ethics**

Are you obliged to ask for an ethical approval at the competent ethics committee? Have you obtained ethical approval yet? If you are obliged but have not yet obtained approval, please add the commission you will be submitting it to and the time frame you are aiming at.

Please do take into account that even when there is no obligation with regard to the research itself, for the publication of the results an approval may still be necessary.

**DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME**

**Compulsory Introduction Package**

Please be aware that every PhD candidate (even those candidates that are exempt of the doctoral training program) needs to complete the [PhD Introduction Package](https://vub.sharepoint.com/sites/PUB_PhD/SitePages/PhD-Introduction-Days-%26-The.aspx) which includes:

* The PhD Introduction e-learning
* The Research Data Management – track (e-learning)
* The Ethics & Scientific Integrity – track (e-learning + 2 sessions of the Ethics week)

Keep in mind that you need to fulfill the compulsory doctoral training programme: 30 credits of which 5 credits for each of the following quadrants in the [PhD Portfolio](https://vub.sharepoint.com/sites/PUB_PhD/SitePages/PhD-Portfolio.aspx): (1) research output (including research papers and presentations); (2) teaching and societal outreach (including supervision of BA/MA thesis); (3) domain-specific skills training (i.e. following specialist courses, workshops and summer schools, etc.) and (4) transferable skills training (including organization of events and taking part in working groups). You can use up to 4 wildcard-credits to fill gaps in these quadrants. Use the [credit table](https://vub.sharepoint.com/sites/PUB_PhD/Lists/Test%20formulieren%20PhD/DispForm.aspx?ID=6&e=6msHPV)to find out what activities will earn you credits in your PhD Portfolio and plan some of these trainings ahead (in preparation of writing your first article for example, or your first presentation on a conference…) in consultation with your supervisor(s). Check upcoming seminars/training on [wearephd.vub.be](https://wearephd.vub.be/).

**Teaching**

Indicate if you are involved in teaching courses to BA/MA students and elaborate in case there is agreement on the specific courses/exercises.

**Doctoral training**

Indicate the training that would be useful to take in the first year (e.g. summer schools, methodological courses, in/outside VUB).

1. Please check the latest version of the Central PhD Regulations for all conditions and timeline on [Regulations | Vrije Universiteit Brussel (vub.be)](https://www.vub.be/en/studying-vub/practical-info-for-students/regulations-and-insurance/regulations#paragraph--id--71069) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)