PhD at the URV

Much more than an introduction into research
The University

URV

Location

Doctoral programmes

Arts and humanities

Sciences

Social and legal sciences

Health sciences

Engineering

Options for completing a doctoral programme

Options for completing a doctoral programme

Training plan for doctoral students

Grants for doctoral students at the URV
The Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV) is based in the province of Tarragona on the Mediterranean coast and surrounded by areas of great natural beauty: the Costa Daurada (the Golden Coast), the Terres de l’Ebre, the Priorat, etc.

The URV is a modern public higher education institution with a proud and widely recognized track record in providing teaching and research. It is a university with a strong commitment to find solutions to the challenges facing society through the generation of knowledge and the provision of education that produces highly trained and discerning professionals and citizens.

Highly devoted to regional development and the promotion of activities which benefit the socioeconomic environment, the URV works in partnership with companies, research institutes, innovation centers and hospitals to achieve an interaction that can benefit doctoral research and the whole of society.
ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Anthropology and Communication

Programme coordinator | Dr Dolors Comas d'Argemir Cendra  phd.anco@urv.cat

The doctoral programme in Anthropology and Communication provides training in fields related to the increasingly evident intersections between these two disciplines. Issues such as transnationality, gender, health, risk, and social movements have always been and will continue to be approached from multidisciplinary perspectives. This provides added value thanks to the confluence of theories and methods such as ethnography, cinematography, videography and phonography. Students on this doctoral programme will receive training that will enable them to do the following: work in the organization of public institutions (hospitals, town halls, administrative bodies, etc.); provide advisory and consultancy services in social science fields; plan, write, execute and evaluate communication and action plans aimed at social, health and cultural transformation; and write strategic diagnostic studies on the influence of media and social networks in areas such as politics, health, social movements, tourism, business; etc.

For further information, visit: http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7701/index/

City, Territory and Sustainable Planning

Programme coordinator | Dr Manuela Brunet India  phd.ctips@urv.cat

The interuniversity doctoral programme in City, Territory and Sustainable Planning offers intensive specialization in territorial themes from a multidisciplinary perspective that is essential both for analysing the environment and for undertaking territorial and urban planning. The main aim of the programme is to produce researchers and professionals who are equipped to provide universities, research centres and the institutions responsible for territories with new concepts, new analytical tools and methods, and innovative solutions for meeting the challenges of territorial and city sustainability and improving the quality of life of the population.

For further information, visit: http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7724/index/

Classical Archaeology

Programme coordinator | Dr Joaquín Ruiz de Arbulo Bayona  phd.arclas@urv.cat

The interuniversity doctoral programme in Classical Archaeology focuses on historical research of the ancient world to train PhD students through the study of the following: cultural materials and archaeological remains; artistic, settlement and occupational forms of landscape; ancient sciences; textual, numismatic and epigraphical sources; experimental sciences such as paleoenvironmental analysis, environmental archaeology and archeometry; artistic production in antiquity, architecture; urban phenomena; and new information technologies (ICT) applied to classical archaeology. Students on the doctoral programme in Classical Archaeology will receive training that will enable them to take part in national or international university teaching and research projects; work as curators of museums or as archaeologists for local corporations or regional archaeology services; or to conduct other professional activities in the fields of archaeology and historical heritage.

For further information, visit: http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7715/index/
The doctoral programme in Cognitive Science and Language is organized jointly by the URV, the University of Barcelona and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. It focuses mainly on the perception and acquisition of language, the syntactic and semantic processing of speech, the relationship between semantics and cognition, the logical structure of language and the epistemological and conceptual foundations of its study, and the computational analysis of language. Students on the programme will be trained and prepared for teaching and research in the fields of cognitive sciences, neuropsychological evaluation, psycholinguistic evaluation, the evaluation of cognitive and language development, and knowledge engineering. The interdisciplinary training provided by the programme enables graduates to become competent professionals that will be in demand in fields such as information technology, cultural management, publishing, public administration and journalism, and other communication sciences.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7721/index/

The aim of the doctoral programme in Humanistic Studies is to train high-level researchers in basic and applied research in the field of human sciences. We understand Humanistic Studies to mean the analysis of the multiple ways in which people from any historical period or corner of the world have evolved over time. This implies, briefly, the documenting of human experience, since human beings have employed philosophy, literature, religion, art, music, history and language to understand and record our world.

The programme intends doctoral students to acquire and develop broad and thorough competences in the analytical and methodological techniques that will enable them to conduct quality research. Training on the programme focuses on the existing lines of research conducted by groups linked to the Faculty of Arts in collaboration with groups and departments from other national and international universities.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7708/index/

The aim of the doctoral programme in Quaternary and Prehistory is to train doctoral students in advanced, quality research so that they may acquire intensive specialization in paleoecology, human evolution and behaviour, strengthen their ability to develop research projects, acquire competence in archaeological management, and build strategies for disseminating and communicating science. Opportunities for mobility provide an important added value for the doctoral training in this programme. Study visits are available at various universities or institutions in Portugal (Universidade de Trás-Os-Montes e Alto Douro, Instituto Politécnico de Tomar); Italy (Università Degli Studi di Ferrara), France (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle; Ateliers Daynès), the United Kingdom (the British Museum), Georgia (the National Museum of Tbilisi); Spain (Museo de la Evolución Humana; Centro Nacional de Investigación en Evolución Humana; and Schola Didáctica Activa, S.L.).

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7704/index/
Chemical Science and Technology

Programme coordinator | Dr Rosa Caballol Lorenzo  
(phd.ctq@urv.cat)

This doctoral programme provides intensive specialization in key lines of research in present-day chemistry, including molecular modelling; synthesis design for various types of molecular, solid or polymeric materials; homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis; advanced structural characterization methods; computational chemistry; advanced analytical techniques; chromatography and chemometrics. All these lines of research are conducted in research groups of the highest scientific level at the URV or the Catalan Institute for Chemical Research (ICIQ). They also offer doctoral students the possibility to conduct international mobility through numerous collaborations, thus enabling them to obtain the International Doctorate Mention.

For further information, visit:  
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7703/index/

Oenology and Biotechnology

Programme coordinator | Dr Mª Jesús Torija Martínez  
(phd.enobio@urv.cat)

This doctoral programme offers researchers training in the fields of Oenology and Biotechnology, in order to enable them to conduct an original research project and complete a doctoral thesis. The lines of research included in this programme cover numerous areas related to Oenology and Biotechnology, including oenological and microbial food biotechnology, food and wine technology, food quality analysis and control, mycology and environmental microbiology. As part of this doctoral programme, students carry out research projects in basic and applied science that respond to the needs of the wine, food and biotechnology sectors.

For further information, visit:  
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7707/index/
3. SOCIAL AND LEGAL SCIENCES
Economics and Business

Programme coordinator | Dr Agustí Segarra Blasco  phd.econbus@urv.cat

The main aim of this doctoral programme is to train doctoral students to become professionals in advanced, high-quality research in the social sciences in general as well as in specialized subjects in the fields of economics and business. The programme focuses on academic aspects (such as research methods and the preparation of publications in impact journals, etc.) and the acquisition of professional competences (such as planning and managing projects, working autonomously and in teams in international and multidisciplinary contexts, integrating knowledge, dealing with complexity and making judgments based on limited information, criticism and the intellectual defence of solutions, etc.). It aims to enable doctoral students to develop their professional careers in academia, industry, banking or administration.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7706/index/

Educational Technology

Programme coordinator | Dr Mercè Gisbert Cervera  phd.te@urv.cat

This interuniversity doctoral programme in Educational Technology focuses on the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) applied to educational processes in formal, non-formal and informal education environments. The programme can be taken largely online, though it is recommended that students make study visits to the URV, especially in the final year, in order to complete their research and present their doctoral thesis. The main aims of the programme are to expand students’ ability to acquire intensive specialization in the various areas of the lines of research, foster their initiative in developing their own research projects, and extend the scope of their professional activity by designing and developing educational research projects and processes based on the application of ICT.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7718/index/

Gender Studies: Culture, Societies and Policies

Programme coordinator | Dr Iolanda Tortajada Gimenez  phd.gen@urv.cat

The aim of the doctoral programme in Gender Studies: Culture, Societies and Policies is to train excellent PhD students in the fields of feminism, women and gender using cross- and interdisciplinary approaches in various study and research areas. The programme is endorsed by the Interuniversity Women and Gender Studies Institute (iiEDG) and coordinated and run by the University of Barcelona, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the University of Girona, Rovira i Virgili University and the University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia. The research that drives the programme is divided into the following eight areas of scientific and social importance: territory and migration, work, identities and rights, social movements and gender policies, patriarchal violence, education, health and communication. These eight lines bring the gender dimension into scientific analysis and are supported by experts from recognized research groups who lead competitive projects and collaborate with national and international university teaching and research networks.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7723/index/
Law

Programme coordinator | Dr Antonio María Jordà Fernández  phd.dret@urv.cat

The fundamental aim of the doctoral programme in Law is to enable students to obtain the highest university qualification by conducting a doctoral thesis on any area of law, especially business law and contracting, environmental law, administrative law and criminal justice. Students on the programme will acquire the ability to identify and successfully resolve any kind of legal problem, gain additional merits for participating in various types of public competitions for Spanish civil service positions, and be able to demonstrate they have the knowledge required to gain employment in the fields of technical and legal advice; mediation, conciliation and arbitration; the legal resolution of conflicts; and specialized teaching and research at universities and other research centres.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7705/index/

Social Work

Programme coordinator | Dr Carmina Puig Cruells  phd.ts@urv.cat

The aim of the inter-university doctoral programme in Social Work is to promote quality and innovation in research in the field of social work and social services. The programme focuses on training teachers, researchers and professionals who wish to further investigate lines of research currently being conducted in the field of social work and social services. It also focuses on developing students’ critical knowledge of current social realities. The conceptualization of social work, social services and social intervention is conducted from an inter- and cross-disciplinary perspective that comprises a broad, holistic vision of the current reality of social work and its internationally recognized academic and professional discipline. Collaboration with several European and Latin American universities offers students the opportunity to participate in fully integrated programmes in which to conduct their research.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7725/index/

Tourism and Leisure

Programme coordinator | Dr Salvador Anton Clavé  phd.turis@urv.cat

The main aim of the doctoral programme in Tourism and Leisure is to train students to become researchers and professionals who are able to provide academic organizations and tourist and leisure destinations and corporations with new concepts, new tools of analysis, and new and innovative solutions so as to meet the demands of an economic activity that, like few others, is exposed to fierce competition and has a key effect on the social and cultural sustainability of many regions and cities, both locally and globally. This innovative proposal aims to satisfy the demand for advanced academic analysis from the productive, social, regional and personal perspectives in a key economic sector for contemporary societies. It also aims to promote the changes needed to create a true research-based knowledge economy with enriching ideas that provide new perspectives on important social issues.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7714/index/
4. HEALTH SCIENCES
Biomedicine

Programme coordinator | Dr Francesc Sureda Batlle | phd.biomed@urv.cat

The aim of the doctoral programme in Biomedicine is to train future health professionals to be aware of the fundamental role of research and the scientific method in their future work. The doctoral programme ensures that students acquire the knowledge and technical skills required for research, that they understand the mechanisms and procedures required for managing research, and that they are able to apply these procedures reliably in their professional practice in disciplines related to health care and public health, such as medicine, nutrition and dietetics, surgery, epidemiology, pharmacy, health education, biochemistry, microbiology, analytics, toxicology, nursing, medical physics, and physiotherapy, etc.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7702/index/

Health, Psychology and Psychiatry

Programme coordinator | Dr M. Teresa Colomina Fosch | phd.sapp@urv.cat

The interuniversity doctoral programme in Health, Psychology and Psychiatry brings together various disciplines to provide a broad overview of basic and applied processes in psychology, psychiatry and health sciences. The programme also encourages convergence and exchanges between disciplines in order to promote better understanding of the problems faced and promotes a network of multidisciplinary scientific contacts that contribute to the better professional development of our graduates. The main aim of the programme is to provide a multidisciplinary framework that will help train doctoral students better in various fields of health, psychology and psychiatry. As the programme focuses on specific fields related to health in general and mental health in particular, it brings together specialists in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, health sciences, neuroscience, neuroendocrinology, neurotoxicology, psychopharmacology and neurorehabilitation.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7712/index/

Neuroscience

Programme coordinator | Dr Mª Ángel Lanuza Escolano | phd.neuro@urv.cat

The interuniversity doctoral programme in Neuroscience brings together neuroscientists from five universities (the University of Castilla-La Mancha, the University of A Coruña, the Universidad Pablo de Olavide, the University of the Basque Country/EHU, and the URV) with the aim of attaining a critical mass that will enable it to achieve its objectives. The aim of the programme is to enhance Neuroscience by attracting and incorporating students and providing them with the training, research experience and tutoring they need to become leaders in research and education. Neuroscience research is interdisciplinary, and this doctoral programme covers almost every area of expertise in the field, offering tremendous opportunities thanks to the variety and quality of the research groups involved and the importance of their international contacts.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7717/index/
Nursing and Health

Programme coordinator | Dr Carme Ferré Grau  

The doctoral programme in Nursing and Health is the result of a joint commitment by the URV and the University of Barcelona to future training and research in the fields of nursing and healthcare. The aim of the programme is to train researchers at various levels in the fields of nursing and healthcare in order to enhance the quality of research and the transfer of knowledge. The profound changes taking place in society and healthcare mean that the healthcare needs of the population are being rapidly transformed. This doctoral programme responds to the need for professionals with new analytical, problem-detecting and decision-making skills in healthcare management in the fields of nursing and public health.

For further information, visit:  
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7722/index/

Nutrigenomics and Personalised Nutrition

Programme coordinator | Dr Manuel Suárez Recio  

The doctoral programme in Nutrigenomics and Personalised Nutrition offers specialised training to enable professionals to conduct research in the most advanced and innovative aspects of nutrition. Special attention is paid to molecular nutrition and new technologies such as transcriptomics, epigenomics, proteomics, metabolomics and the concept of systems biology. Training in these areas is essential for new professionals in the field of nutrition, who also need to understand concepts related to food safety, food quality and nutritional value, as well as functional foods and their impact on health.

For further information, visit:  
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7719/index/

Nutrition and Metabolism

Programme coordinator | Dr Manuel Suárez Recio  

Nutrition is one of the pillars of health and development, and optimal nutrition is one of the main challenges of the twenty-first century. The exponential growth in the food market and public health concerns have led to major investments in this sector by food industries and research centres.

There is an important need in our society for professionals with knowledge in the fields of nutrition and metabolism. This doctoral programme aims to provide society with PhD graduates who have knowledge and experience in understanding, investigating and applying how nutrients interact with the metabolism and influence its functioning and health.

For further information, visit:  
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7711/index/
Computer Science and Mathematics of Security

Programme coordinator | Dr Aïda Valls Mateu

The aim of this doctoral programme is to train highly qualified researchers able to undertake research and innovation in the fields of computer systems and mathematics. In the field of computer systems, doctoral students will encounter lines of work related to the design and development of new computational models, problem-solving algorithms, intelligent systems, systems for ensuring the security, integrity and privacy of data, and designs for computers and telematic services. In the field of mathematics, doctoral students will specialize in the study and development of mathematical methods and models aimed at solving new challenges to security in computer systems and the study of graphs, flow charts and algebraic and enumerative combinatorics. The programme trains professionals to lead research groups and provides industries with PhD graduates who will enable them to develop in accordance with the growing demand for more complex IT and technological services.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7709/index/

Fluid Mechanics

Programme coordinator | Dr Francisco Huera Huarte

The inter-university doctoral programme in Fluid Mechanics brings together a sufficiently large multidisciplinary team for the effective study of a wide spectrum of fluid dynamics problems and initiating collaboration with industries on strategic matters in the medium to long term. The programme includes knowledge organization and transmission activities conducted in coordination with the research and development activities. The aim is to train students to become scientists and technologists able to promote collaboration between universities and industry and to attract scientists from related fields in order to form interdisciplinary groups for undertaking new programmes of knowledge creation and collaboration with industry.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7720/index/

Nanoscience, Materials and Chemical Engineering

Programme coordinator | Dr Alex Fragoso Sierra

The aim of this doctoral programme is to provide future professionals with a strong sense of innovation in the specialized fields of Nanotechnology, Materials and Chemical Engineering who are especially oriented towards conducting research in public institutions or industry. Lines of research include all aspects of nanoscience and nanotechnology, materials science, catalysis and all areas of chemical engineering, including process and product engineering, transportation phenomena, environmental science, biotechnology and food technology. The programme strengthens students’ research capabilities through advanced practice by means of a research project while stressing the importance of disseminating and publishing results and promoting mobility and academic exchanges.

For further information, visit:
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7710/index/
Technologies for Nanosystems, Bioengineering and Energy

Programme coordinator | Dr Josep Ferré Borrull  
phd.tnbe@urv.cat

The main aim of this doctoral programme is to train highly qualified researchers in the field of technologies applied to nanosystems, bioengineering and energy. In the field of energy, doctoral students can focus on designing architectures for managing electrical energy generated by renewable sources, managing and efficiently distributing electrical energy in cars, and controlling and analysing the non-linear dynamics of commutated converters. In the field of nanosystems, doctoral students will be provided with research training in the manufacture of photonic devices based on porous micro- and nanostructures and organic materials, the design and modelling of nanoelectronic and photonic devices, high-frequency electronic systems, and organic solar cells. In the field of bioengineering, specialization will be provided in micro- and nanosystems for chemical and biological detection, the applications of biological nanosensors, and signal processing in metabolomic environments.

For further information, visit:  
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7713/index/

Thermodynamic Fluid Engineering

Programme coordinator | Dr Alberto Coronas Salcedo  
phd.itf@urv.cat

The aim of this doctoral programme is to provide future professionals with a strong sense of innovation in the specialized fields of Nanotechnology, Materials and Chemical Engineering who are especially oriented towards conducting research in public institutions or industry. The lines of research include all aspects of nanoscience and nanotechnology, materials science, catalysis and all areas of chemical engineering, including process and product engineering, transportation phenomena, environmental science, biotechnology and food technology. The programme strengthens students’ research capabilities through advanced practice by means of a research project while stressing the importance of disseminating and publishing results and promoting mobility and academic exchanges.

For further information, visit:  
http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/prospective-students/courses/7716/index/
The URV offers doctoral students a series of optional training activities aimed at improving their research and professional profiles. These activities range from training in teaching innovations, research and knowledge transfer, the tools and resources for conducting research and disseminating scientific results, and the development of personal and collaborative competences.

### Cotutelle of doctoral theses

Doctoral theses may be supervised by two or more professors from two or more universities, one of which will be the URV and the other from outside Spain. In this way, by defending their thesis just once, the candidate may obtain the corresponding official PhD diploma from each of the two universities. The URV currently has cotutelle agreements with numerous universities in Europe, Latin America and Asia. These are administered by the Postgraduate and Doctoral School (EPD).

### Industrial Doctorate

The Industrial Doctorates Plan is a Government of Catalonia initiative in collaboration with universities that aims to contribute to the competitiveness and internationalization of companies in Catalonia and place doctoral students in companies where they can develop R&D&I projects.

http://doctoratsindustrials.gencat.cat/en/

The Government of Spain also offers this type of aid via the State Programme for the Promotion of Talent and Employability in R&D&I run by the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness (www.mineco.gob.es).

### International Mention

By conducting research stays outside Spain during their period of training, doctoral students may apply for the International Doctorate Mention. If the doctoral student satisfies the requirements (visit: http://www.doctor.urv.cat/en/phd-students/writing-thesis/mencio/), the international mention certifies that he/she has acquired skills and abilities that are highly sought by employers.
GRANTS FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS AT THE URV


There is a variety of grants and contracts for predoctoral researchers in training. The main types are:

Martí-Franquès Research Fellowship Programme (PMF)

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili, in collaboration with the research institutions affiliated to the Campus of International Excellence of Southern Catalonia (CEICS), runs the Martí-Franquès Research Fellowship Programme, a public-private cooperation designed to attract highly talented doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers to work on exciting research projects.


Grants for the recruitment of early-stage research staff (FI)

Via its Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR), the autonomous government of Catalonia provides grants to universities, research centres and hospital foundations to promote research of quality and incorporate new research staff into research groups that are conducting a funded research and development project.


Grants for university teacher training (FPU)

The Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECD) offers predoctoral grants for University graduates who are completing doctoral theses at Spanish universities. These grants support research training on doctoral programmes leading to the award of a PhD and the acquisition of university teaching competences in any area of scientific knowledge and enable grant holders to gain employment in the Spanish system of higher education and scientific research.


Predoctoral grants for the training of doctoral students (FPI)

These grants, awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), are intended to support the training of doctoral students by financing predoctoral employment contracts so that researchers in training can conduct doctoral theses associated with research projects funded by grants for R & D projects from subprogrammes of the State Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation 2017-2020.

http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.dbc68b34d1ccbd5d52fe-b801432ea0/?vgnextoid=9b6552ab4a7e5f10vgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD&lang_choosen=en

Fundación Carolina doctoral grant

The Fundación Carolina offers several types of grants, including ones intended to help lecturers from Latin American universities who are members of the Fundación Carolina to obtain a PhD.

https://www.fundacioncarolina.es/formacion/presentacion/

Future researchers - URV

The URV, in conjunction with the Social Council, offers grants to encourage students who are interested in research and have good academic records to undertake a doctoral degree.

The grant covers the cost of academic tuition for the first academic year of the doctoral degree and the two subsequent academic years (to be taken consecutively) provided that the beneficiary passes the annual doctoral programme evaluation.


Grants for jointly supervised doctoral programmes - URV

These grants are for doctoral students on jointly supervised doctoral programmes. The grants cover the cost of academic tuition for the first academic year of the doctoral degree and may be extended for the two subsequent academic years (if taken consecutively) provided that the beneficiary passes the annual doctoral programme evaluation.


Santander Research Iberoamerica Scholarships

The Santander Research Iberoamerica Scholarships are intended to promote the mobility and exchange of young professors, researchers and doctoral students between Ibero-American universities. This is necessary for fostering the development of a socially responsible Ibero-American area of knowledge.
