

State International Doctorate

Our University deliver a State Doctorate, similar to former "Doctorat d'Etat", that existed in France, and still in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Belgium...

History

The doctorate (Latin: doctor, "teacher," from doctum, "[that which is] taught," past participle of (docere), "to teach") appeared in medieval Europe as a license to teach Latin: (licentia docendi) at a medieval university.[1]

Its roots can be traced to the early church when the term "doctor" referred to the Apostles, church fathers, and other Christian authorities who taught and interpreted the Bible.[1] The right to grant a (licentia docendi) was originally reserved to the Catholic church, which required the applicant to pass a test, to take an oath of allegiance, and pay a fee. The Third Council of the Lateran of 1179 guaranteed the access—by that time largely free of charge—of all able applicants, who were, however, still tested for aptitude by the ecclesiastic scholastic.[2]

This right remained a bone of contention between the church authorities and the slowly emancipating universities, but was granted by the pope to the University of Paris in 1213 where it became a universal license to teach (licentia ubique docendi).[2] However, while the licentia continued to hold a higher prestige than the bachelor's degree (Baccalaureus), it was ultimately reduced to an intermediate step to the Magister and doctorate, both of which now became the exclusive qualification for teaching.[2] At the university, doctoral training was a form of apprenticeship to a guild.

The traditional term of study before new teachers were admitted to the guild of "Masters of Arts" was seven years, which was the same as the term of apprenticeship for other occupations. Originally the terms "master" and "doctor" were synonymous, but over time the doctorate came to be regarded as a higher qualification than the master's degree. A hypothesis by George Makdisi that the doctorate has its origins in the Islamic (Ijazah), a reversal of Makdisi's earlier view that saw both systems as being of "the most fundamental difference", [3] has been rejected by Tony Huff as unsubstantiated.[4] It is not until recently that universities began to accept female students into their doctorate programs.

In the year 1785, Complutense University became the first university to grant a doctorate to a female student, María Isidra de Guzmán y de la Cerda.[5] In comparison, the University of Oxford did not accept female scholars until the year 1920,[6] and the University of Cambridge did not grant a Ph.D. to a female student

until the year 1926.[7] The usage and meaning of the doctorate has changed over time, and it has also been subject to regional variations. For instance, until the early 20th century few academic staff or professors in English-speaking universities held doctorates, except for very senior scholars and those in holy orders. After that time the German practice of requiring prospective lecturers to have completed a research doctorate became widespread. Additionally, universities' shifts to research-oriented education increased the importance of the doctorate. Today, such a doctorate is generally a prerequisite for pursuing an academic career, although not everyone who receives a research doctorate becomes an academic by profession.

The older-style doctorates (now usually called (higher doctorates in the United Kingdom) take much longer to complete, since candidates must show themselves to be leading experts in their subjects. These doctorates are now less common in some countries, and are often awarded *honoris causa*. The habilitation is still used for academic recruitment purposes in many countries within the EU, and involves either a new long thesis (a second book) or a portfolio of research publications. The habilitation demonstrates independent and thorough research, experience in teaching and lecturing, and, more recently, the ability to generate funding within the area of research. The "habilitation" is regarded as a senior post-doctoral qualification, many years after the research doctorate, and can be necessary for a *Privatdozent* (in Germany) or professor position.

A similar system traditionally holds in Russia. Already in the Russian Empire the academic degree doctor of the sciences (*doktor nauk*) marked the highest academic degree which can be achieved by an examination. This system was generally adopted by the USSR/Russia and many post-Soviet countries. A lower degree, candidate [doctor] of the sciences (*kandidat nauk*), is, roughly, the Russian equivalent to the research doctorate in most other countries.

1. Verger, J. (1999), "Doctor, doctoratus", *Lexikon des Mittelalters* 3, Stuttgart: J.B. Metzler, pp. 1155–1156

2. Verger, J. (1999), "Licentia", *Lexikon des Mittelalters* 5, Stuttgart: J.B. Metzler, pp. 1957–1958

3. Makdisi, George (1970). "Madrasa and University in the Middle Ages". *Studia Islamica* (32): 255–264 (260). doi:10.2307/1595223. "Perhaps the most fundamental difference between the two systems is embodied in their systems of certification; namely, in medieval Europe, the (*licentia docendi*), or license to teach; in medieval Islam, the (*ijaza*), or authorization."

4. Huff, Toby E. (2007). *The rise of early modern science : Islam, China, and the West* (2. ed., repr. ed.). Cambridge [u.a.]: Cambridge University Press. p. 155. ISBN 0521529948. "It remains the case that no equivalent of the bachelor's degree, the (*licentia docendi*), or higher

degrees ever emerged in the medieval or early modern Islamic (madrasas)."

5.Historia de la Universidad. Universidad de Alcalá. 2011.

6."Women at Oxford - University of Oxford". Ox.ac.uk. 1947-09-30. Retrieved 2013-07-02.

7."YEGS Hall of Fame :: Young Exceptionally Gifted Students". Yegs.org. 2002-04-07. Retrieved 2013-07-02.

The State Doctorate

In France (later), Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria..., the doctorate (doctorat) is always (or was) a research-only degree. It is a national degree and its requirements are fixed by an official text of the minister of higher education and research. Except for a very small number of private institutions, only public institutions of higher education and research can award the doctorate.

It can be awarded in any field of study. The master's degree is a prerequisite for pursuing a doctoral program. The official normal duration of the doctoral work is three years. The redaction of a comprehensive thesis constitutes the bulk of the doctorate's work. While the length of the thesis varies according to the discipline, it is rarely less than 150 pages, and often substantially more. There are ~15000 new matriculations for the doctoral program every year and ~10000 doctorates awarded.

Doctoral candidates can apply for a three-year fellowship, the most well known being the allocation de recherche du ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche (4000 granted every years, gross salary of 19,740 euros in December 2012). During the preparation of the doctorate, the candidate has had, since 2002, to follow a limited number of courses, but there is no written examination for the doctorate.

The candidate has to write an extensive thesis which is read by two external reviewers designated by the head of the institution. According to the reports of the reviewer, the head of the institution decides whether the candidate can defend his thesis or not. The members of the jury are designated by the head of the institution and must be composed of external and

internal academics. The supervisor of the candidate is generally a member of the jury, as well as the reviewers of the thesis. The maximum number of members in the jury is 8. The defense lasts generally 45 minutes in scientific fields and are followed by 1h – 2h30 of questions from the jury or other doctors present in the assistance. Defense and questions are public. At the end of the series of questions, the jury deliberates in private for 20–30 min and comes back to declare the candidate admitted or "postponed". "Postponement" is very rare.

The admission of the candidate is generally followed by a distinction: "honourable", which is not highly considered, "very honourable", which is the usual distinction, and "very honourable with the congratulation of the jury" (Très honorable avec félicitations). Because there exist no national criteria for the award of this last distinction, many institutions have decided not to award it. New regulations concerning this distinction were set in 2006. Many institutions have decided not to award any distinction, as it is now permitted by the law.

Confusingly the title of doctor (docteur) is used only by the medical and pharmaceutical practitioners who hold not a doctorate but a doctor's state diploma (diplôme d'État de docteur), which is a first-degree and professional doctorate obtained after at least 9 years of studies. As they do not pursue research studies, they are not awarded a doctorate.

Before 1984 three research doctorates existed : the state doctorate (doctorat d'État, the old doctorate introduced in 1808), the third cycle doctorate (doctorat de troisième cycle), created in 1954 and shorter than the state doctorate, and the diploma of doctor-engineer (diplôme de docteur-ingénieur), created in 1923, for technical research. Since 1984, there is only one type of doctoral degree, simply called "doctorate" (Doctorat). A special diploma has been created called the "accreditation to supervise research" (habilitation à diriger des recherches), which is a professional qualification to supervise doctoral work. (This diploma is similar in spirit to the older state doctorate, and the requirements for obtaining it are similar to those necessary to obtain tenure in other systems.) Before only professors or senior full researchers of similar rank were normally authorized to supervise a doctoral candidate's work. Now the habilitation is a prerequisite to the title of professor in university (Professeur des Universités) and to the

title of Research Director (Directeur de recherche) in national public research agency such as CNRS, INRIA, or INRA.

The State Doctorate

The *State Doctorate* is an important grade for lecturers or associated professors to become professors

The candidate to the *State Doctorate* must have wrote and published three scientific books in his research area, and have organized, directed and published three international conferences.

The scientific board of the University proposes to a collegial group of professors (from two contries and three universities) an evaluation of a new dissertation written by the candidate (200 pages).

The scientific board and the evaluation thesis commitee decide to graduate or not the candidate.