



A PHD, AN INTERESTING NEXT STEP?



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

R&D DEPARTMENT

VICE-RECTORATE RESEARCH

CONTENT

- What is a PhD?
- Reasons for pursuing a PhD
- Requirements
- Preparing a research plan
- Funding for your PhD
- Support once you've started?
- Useful links

WHAT IS A PHD?

- Highest academic degree attainable
 - *after completion you are awarded a doctoral degree in a specific scientific field* <https://www.vub.be/phd#phd>
- 4 to 6 years
- PhD = Philosophiae Doctor (= Doctor of Philosophy)



WHY WOULD YOU AIM FOR A PHD?

- Like to immerse yourself in scientific questions?
- Want to develop yourself as a versatile researcher?
- Is the development of new knowledge and innovative ideas your cup of tea?
- Do you like to present your work at international scientific conferences?
- Do you like to work independently?
- Aspire a career in research, in- or outside academia?



REQUIREMENTS

- Eligible Master degree
 - Check the PhD regulations of the respective faculties for more information (!)
- Interest in research is a given
- Supervisor(s) are obligatory
- Research plan provides focus
- Funding
- Passion for research and dedication to complete your research project

PREPARATION

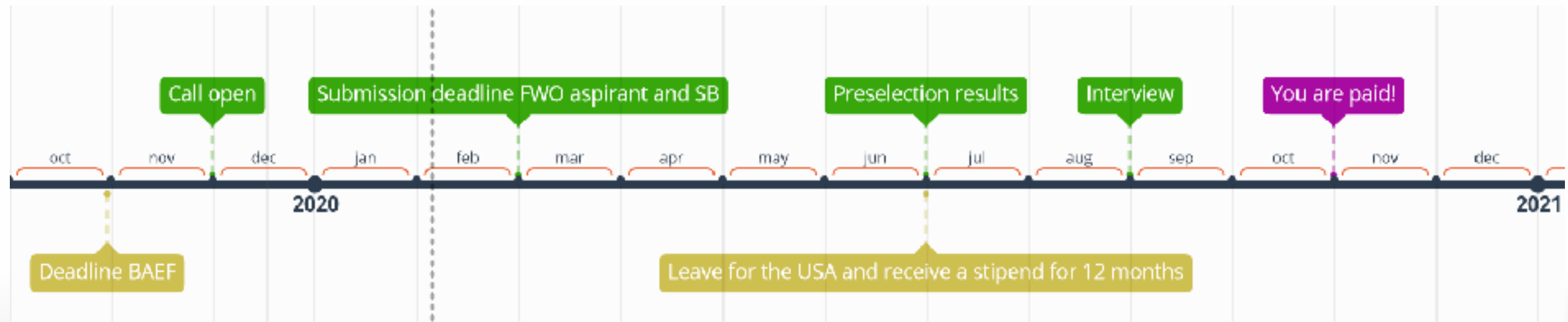
- Search and identify a topic that you like to engage with
you will be 'married' to the topic of your PhD for the next 4 to 6 years
- Find and engage with a promotor
don't be afraid to ask a professor or consult a teaching assistant for advice
- Identify the right funding channel
your promotor/supervisor can help you with this
- Be aware of deadlines and the time between applying for funding and the actual start!
- Act now on your personal track record!
pump up your grades, invest in your master dissertation, follow extra-curricular research workshops, apply for student-researcher internship, apply for prizes, think about publishing and presenting your research, check possibilities for mobility (international – interinstitutional ...)

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

- As part of its Equality Action Plan, the VUB seeks to make the PhD trajectory as inclusive and diverse as possible.
- Passionate and excellent students that experience familial/financial situations that hinder them in writing a PhD research proposal can apply for a 30 day writing grant.
- Priority will be given to VUB students that recognize themselves in the following profile: you (or your (grand)parents) have a migration background; your family or financial situation hinders you to free up time to write a PhD research proposal; you belong to the P-70 percentile of your BA.
- More info? The call will be forwarded to the faculties.

FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

- PhD scholarship or as PhD researcher employed on a project that is led by a promotor-spokesperson
- **FWO**, Innoviris, VLAIO (TechTransfer), FNRS, **BAEF**, ...
- Contact RGO@vub.be or consult [R&D intranet Sharepoint](#) (intranet for researchers)



USEFUL LINKS

- How to do a PhD @VUB: <https://www.vub.be/en/phd#phd>
- Regulations: <https://student.vub.be/en/regulations-and-forms#research>
- Doctoral training program: <https://student.vub.be/en/phd/doctoral-training#training-programme>
- Tips to prepare yourself:
 - [Twenty things I wish I'd known when I started my PhD](#)
 - Talk to PhD's, PostDocs, teaching assistants and professors!
 - Network during (inter)faculty events such as lectures, science bars, ... or university sponsored events by the science outreach office (pro tip: usually there's free food!)

