

PhD Entry Survey – Academic Year 2026/27

Expectations, Motivations and Needs

Dear PhD Student,

this survey aims to understand the motivations, expectations, and needs with which you are starting your doctoral journey.

The information collected will help us better understand the expectations of new PhD students and guide the activities and initiatives of the Doctoral School.

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete.

*Mandatory questions

Section 1 – Profile

1. **PhD Programme?** (list)*
2. **Funded position?** (Yes/No)*
3. **Previous institution?** (University of Verona / Other Italian University / Foreign University)*

Section 2 – Motivations

1. What are the main reasons that led you to pursue a PhD programme?*

(Multiple answers possible, up to a maximum of three)

- ☐ Exploring a Scientific Topic
- ☐ Developing Research Skills
- ☐ Pursuing an Academic Career
- ☐ Pursuing a Career in Non-Academic Research
- ☐ Improving Career Prospects
- ☐ Personal interest
- ☐ Financial opportunity
- ☐ Opportunity to work in an international environment
- ☐ Recommendation or Encouragement from a Professor or Researcher
- ☐ Other

2. What are the main reasons that led you to pursue a PhD programme?* (Open-ended question, optional)

Section 3 – Knowledge of the PhD Programme

1. Before starting your PhD, were you able to easily access the following information regarding*

(Scale: 1 = Not at all / 10 = Completely)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Not sought
The organisation and activities of the programme	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The role and responsibilities of the supervisor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The role and responsibilities of the doctoral candidate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities for mobility and international experience	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opportunities for transferable skills training	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section 4 – International Experience

1. How important do you consider a period of study or research abroad during your PhD?*

(Scale: 1 = Not at all / 10 = Completely)

2. Which international activities would you be most interested in undertaking during your PhD?*

(Multiple answers possible, up to a maximum of three)

- ☐ Research stay at a foreign university or research centre
- ☐ Participation in international conferences
- ☐ Collaboration with international research groups
- ☐ International co-supervision/mentoring
- ☐ Participation in international networks or projects

Section 5 – Expectations Regarding Research

1. To what extent do you expect each of the following activities to characterise your PhD experience?*

(Scale: 1 = Not at all / 10 = Completely)

Aspect	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Working independently	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collaborating with other researchers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Participating in research projects	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Publishing scientific articles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Attending conferences	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Engaging in international activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing your own research line	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undertaking teaching support or tutoring activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section 6 – Expectations Regarding Supervision

1. To what extent do you expect your supervisor to*

(Scale: 1 = Not at all / 10 = Completely)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Share research objectives with you	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Be available for regular meetings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Provide feedback on your work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gradually foster your independence as a researcher	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I do not have sufficient information to answer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2. What level of autonomy do you expect to have in conducting your research?*

(Scale: 1 = I expect highly structured guidance / 10 = I expect to work predominantly independently)

Section 7 – Training and Skills Development

1. How important do you consider acquiring competencies in the following areas during your PhD?*

(Scale: 1 = Not at all / 10 = Completely)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Research methodology	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data analysis and statistics	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Academic writing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scientific publishing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Research data management	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Science communication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public engagement	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Project management	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grant writing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Digital and AI-related skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Transferable skills (e.g., public speaking, teamwork, problem solving)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Skills for careers outside academia	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section 8 – Expectations and Career Prospects

1. Which career path do you currently envisage after completing your PhD?*

(Multiple answers possible, up to a maximum of three)

- ☐ University/Academia
- ☐ Research institutions
- ☐ Public administration
- ☐ Industry/business sector
- ☐ Self-employment/professional practice

- ☐ Third sector/non-profit organisations
- ☐ International organisations
- ☐ I have not decided yet
- ☐ Other

2. Please specify (Open-ended question, optional)

3. What is your main expectation for your PhD experience? (Open-ended question, optional)