

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN TRANSLATION  
AND LANGUAGE SCIENCES  
2026-2027**



# What a doctorate entails

- **Intellectual curiosity and passion for knowledge**
- Becoming a researcher, not just a student: from a consumer of knowledge to a **creator of knowledge**
- **Real-world impact in different fields:** language policy, education, IA, NLP, intercultural communication, etc.
- **Professional opportunities:** higher education, research institutions, publishing, international organizations, tech companies, government, etc.
- **Global academic networks:** a passport to the international research community
- Training promotes **international mobility** and **interdisciplinary engagement**
- **Personal growth and resilience:** autonomy, critical thinking, time management, and perseverance

# The profession (I)

- **ACADEMIA. Example roles:** University Professor, Postdoctoral Researcher. **Key skills:** Original Research, Teaching, Publishing, Scholarly Debate, Critical Thinking, Communication. **Industry value:** Advancing disciplinary knowledge, Training future generations, Shaping academic discourse
- **LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY / AI / DATA SCIENCE. Example roles:** Machine Learning Scientist, Data Scientist (AI/Data), Software Engineer (NLP/ML), Research Scientist (Generative AI), Prompt Engineer, Linguistic AI Services, Language Data Engineer. **Key skills:** Computational Linguistics, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, AI, Data Analysis, Algorithm Development, Problem Solving, Prompt Engineering, Interdisciplinary Research. **Industry value:** Developing cutting-edge language technologies, Improving human-computer interaction, Driving innovation in AI
- **PUBLISHING & MEDIA. Example roles:** Lexicographer, Editor, Technical Writer, Content Strategist. **Key skills:** Lexicography, Editing, Technical Writing, Communication, Language Analysis. **Industry value:** Standardizing language, Facilitating information access, Enhancing communication quality

# The profession (II)

- **GOVERNMENT & POLICY.** **Example roles:** Language Consultant, Language Policy Administrator, Intelligence Analyst. **Key skills:** Language Analysis, Policy Development, Communication, Intercultural Understanding. **Industry value:** Informing language policy, Bridging communication gaps in public service, Contributing to national security
- **HEALTHCARE.** **Example roles:** Medical Interpreter, Communications Specialist. Language pathologies **Key skills:** Medical Interpreting, Communication, Cultural Sensitivity, **Industry value:** Ensuring effective patient-provider communication, Improving healthcare accessibility
- **EDUCATION (NON-ACADEMIC).** **Example roles:** Curriculum Developer, Assessment Specialist. **Key skills:** Language Pedagogy, Curriculum Development, Assessment, Communication, Intercultural Skills. **Industry value:** Enhancing language learning outcomes, Developing effective educational materials |
- **TRANSLATION.** **Example roles:** Terminology expert, Lexicographer, Cultural Mediator, Audiovisual Translation Consultant, Legal/Medical Translation Expert, Interpreter Trainer or Curriculum Developer, Academic Publishing Consultant, Innovation in Accessibility. **Key skills:** Critical thinking and problem-solving, Academic and technical writing, Advanced linguistic and intercultural competence. **Industry value:** Intersecting with technology, global communication, and data-driven decision-making

# General overview

- Aimed primarily at students trained in **language and/or translation**. Also in humanities, psychology, pedagogy or engineering
- Linked with the **four Master's programmes** of the UPF [Translation and Language Science Department's](#) : [Theoretical and Applied Linguistics](#), [Discourse Studies](#), [Translation Studies](#), [Translation Chinese-Spanish](#)
- **Interdisciplinary programme**, with multiple fields of research: Tr. Studies, Specialized Tr., Lit. Tr. & Reception Studies, Discourse Analysis, Language Acquisition, Language Learning, Lexicology & Lexicography, Terminology & Knowledge Management, Formal & Descriptive Linguistics, Computational Linguistics and Language Engineering, etc.
- Students from a **range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds**

# Predoctoral training: goals

- to master advanced **research techniques**
- to make **original research contributions**
- to develop careers as **autonomous researchers**
- to participate actively in **research groups**
- to carry out research to **various environments and projects**
- to optimise **dissemination and impact of research**
- to **critically assess research**
- to justify the **importance of research to non-experts**

# Programme

- **4-year programme** (full-time students) or 7 years (part-time students)
- **1 year extension**, if applicable
- **Doctoral training period** includes training activities (doctoral seminars) and specific research leading to the doctoral thesis
- **Academic advisor** will accompany the student throughout the whole PhD process
- **Research tutor(s)** will guide his/her research

## 1<sup>st</sup> year

- **Doctoral seminars** (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> terms)
- **Two subjects from MA courses** (compulsory for students not from coming from an MA program in Translation/Language Sciences)
- **Tutor assignment:** during first term. The supervisor may be the student's UPF sponsor. More than one supervisor is possible. Assigned by the Academic Committee.
- **Research plan** (research objectives and motivation; methodological apparatus, workplan)
- To be **publicly defended** in the first year (both for full-time and part-time students). Evaluation committee: **favourable** / conditional (to be revised in 3 months) / **unfavourable** (new plan in 6 months). 2 unfavourable reports imply dismissal from doctoral programme.
- **Activities document** (compulsory training, research plan & complementary activities) → annual evaluations. Access Campus Global, Doctorate Academic Secretary section > Activities Document and Research Plan > Access to the module

# Research plan: content and structure

- **Introduction**
  - Research problem or object of analysis
  - State of the art (or Literature review) and theoretical framework(s).
  - Research objectives
  - Research questions, hypotheses or assumptions
- **Research design and methods.**
  - Methodology
  - Tools and resources
  - Data management plan
- **Work plan**
  - Work packages
  - Timeline
- **References**

## 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> years

- **Monitoring:** follow-up and progress in the research plan // other activities (dissemination of research, participation in cooperative research, interaction with other researchers and research centers, attendance of conferences and seminars, etc.). Conducted by the Academic Committee at the end of each academic year
- **Documentation**
- "Research Plan: follow-up and update": prepared by student and validated by supervisor(s)
- Update of "Work plan": justification of modifications of research plan
- Educational activities: courses, conferences and workshops, research stays, etc.
- Report by the thesis supervisor/s: to be sent to the student's tutor

## 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> years

- **Training activities (validated by the thesis supervisor. PhD monitoring app.)**
- Research seminars: attendance and participation in DTCL research groups and other research centres
- Conferences: attendance and participation in conferences, symposia, workshops
- Course attendance: organised by CLIK (Center for Learning Innovation and Knowledge) and others
- Research stays
- Non-curricular work placements (with formal agreement signed by UPF)
- Scientific publications
- Teaching

## 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> years

- **Annual assessment:** positive, conditional positive, or negative. Conditional positive: 3 months to improve defects. Negative: 6 months to be reevaluated. A second negative evaluation implies dismissal from the doctoral programme
- **Evaluation criteria** (Academic Committee)
- Progress on the doctoral research: feasibility, fulfillment of plan research, justification of modifications
- Research-related activities: dissemination of research (publications, seminars etc.), research activities (participation in research projects, seminars and conferences etc.), research stays, degree of internationalization

# Dissertation

- Either a **monograph** or a [compendium of articles](#)
- **Submission of dissertation** to Department Secretary's Office for public display
- **Requirements** for the defence: favourable report by the supervisor(s), reasoned board proposal, two favourable external reports
- **Oral defence**
- **International mention.** At least three months of research outside of Spain, part of the thesis written and presented in English; two foreign expert doctors have assessed the dissertation; at least one foreign expert member of the thesis assessment board

# Stay(s) abroad

- One (or more than one) stay(s) abroad: 3 months in total
- Minimum length of each stay abroad: 1 month
- One or more than one institutions
- The stay(s) abroad must be previously approved by the Academic Committee of the Doctoral programme

# UPF DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES



Doctoral School  
(DS)



DS Board  
9 programmes



DTCL  
Programme



Academic  
Committee (CA)



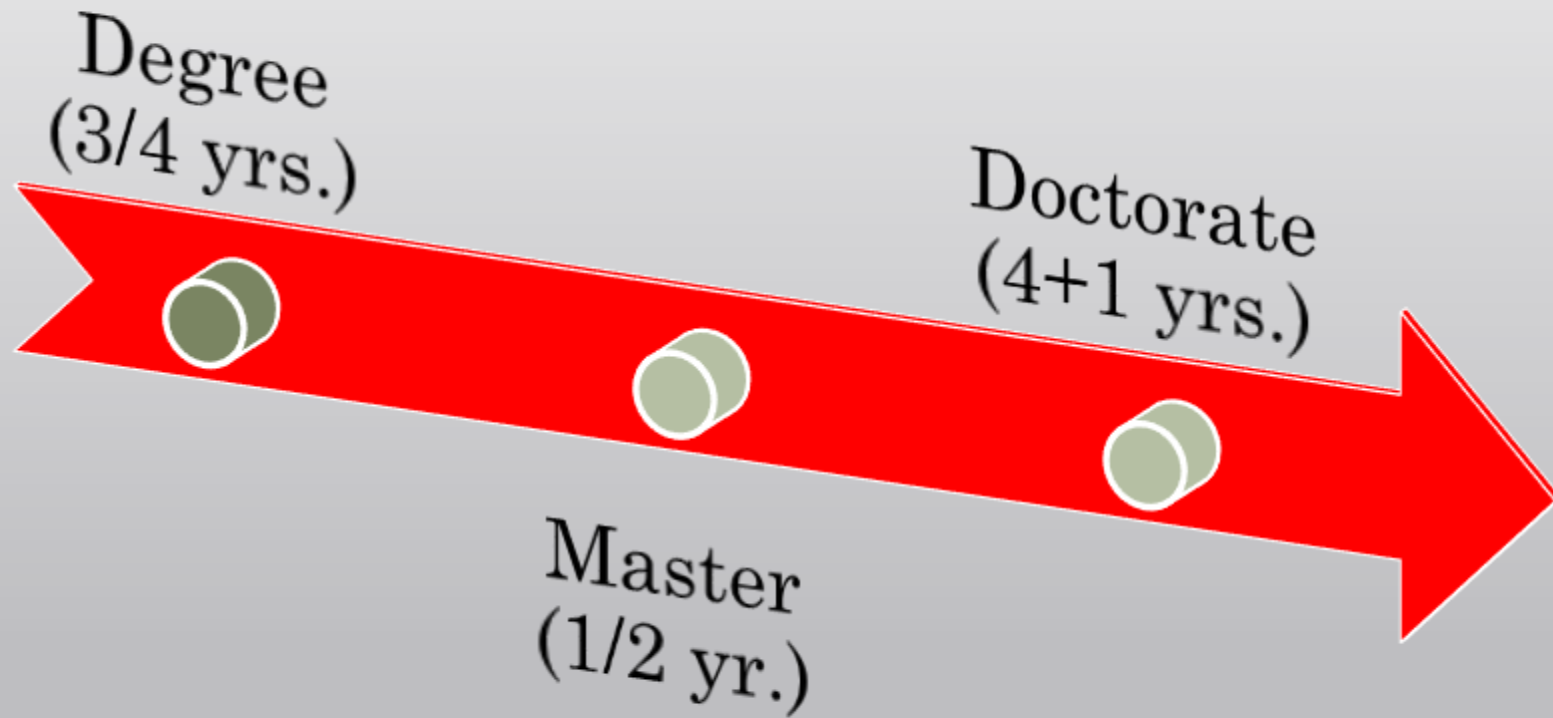
Cohort Tutors



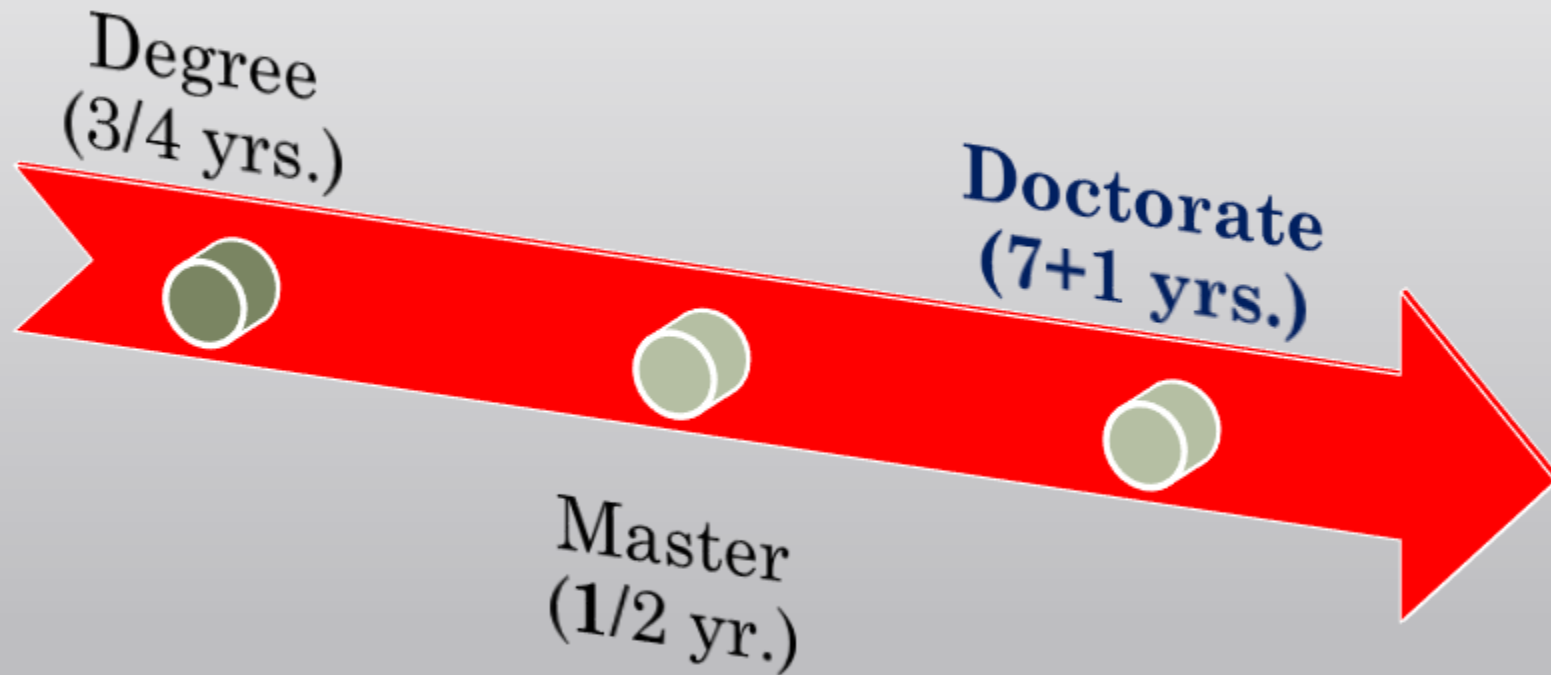
Supervisors



# Full-time



Part-time (Granted: work, health issues..)



# Research groups

## 10 RESEARCH GROUPS

- Translation: general and specialized and Discourse Studies (GEDIT)
- Literary translation and reception (TRILCAT)
- Lexicology and lexicography (INFOLEX\_IULA)
- Terminology and knowledge management (IULATERM\_IULA)
- Language learning (GRAEL)
- Language acquisition (ALLEN CAM\_UrLing)
- Prosodic and Gestural Studies (GREP\_UrLing)
- Formal, descriptive and variational linguistics (GLIF\_UrLing)
- Computational linguistics and linguistic theory (COLT)
- Grammar and Cognition Lab (GraC)

More information about [academic and research staff](#)

More information about [research groups](#)

# What is the supervisor's role?

## Vis-à-vis the student:

- Work with student through regular meetings (once a week/fortnight...).
- Include student in their research group activities.
- Plan ahead:
  - Type of PhD:
    - Conventional
    - As a compendium of publications
    - International mention (plan a stay abroad)
- Agree on attendance of conferences, seminars, publications etc.

## Vis-à-vis the programme:

- Read the information on the web (<https://www.upf.edu/web/phd-tradlangsci>).
- Annual evaluation on the application:
- When in doubt:
  1. Look at the website
  2. Contact the tutor (geraintpaul.rees@upf.edu)
  3. Contact the Secretary's office (doctorat.tcl@upf.edu)
  4. [DOCTOKit](#)
- Liaise with the tutor.
- Organize Research Project defence committee.
- Organize PhD defence committee.

# What is the tutor's role?

## Vis-à-vis the student:

- Intensive guidance throughout the first year.
  - Weekly Doctoral Seminar organization.
  - Administrative procedures.
- Academic follow-up throughout the degree
- Special needs or incidents.
- OK academic activities on TCSO interface (TCSO = doctoral thesis monitoring app).
- OK Thesis Proposal on TCSO interface.
- Liaise with the programme's Academic Committee (AC).

## Vis-à-vis the programme:

- Okay documentation on TCSO from supervisor and students.
- Specifically OK Thesis Proposal (under current regulations).
- Report to the AC on the students' annual progress.
- Report to the AC on the students' applications for:
  - **Extensions**
  - **Interruptions**
  - **Change to part-time**
  - **Changes in supervision**

# What are the **student's obligations**?

- To produce work of a sufficiently high quantity and quality conjunction the with supervisor.
- To join in any teamwork initiatives in their supervisor's research group.
- To take part in training activities throughout the year (attendance, presentation, etc.)
- To regularly record training activities on the TCSO interface and to submit the self-report in a timely manner.
- 1st year: Thesis Proposal
- 2nd, 3rd,4th years: Annual self-evaluatiion report uploaded on the TCSO interface:
  - Progress with the Thesis Proposal, changes, etc.
  - Summary of training activities.

# Activities

1. DTLC doctoral seminars : 1st and 2nd terms. Documents will be uploaded to AG.
2. UPF PhD School doctoral seminars of the (CLIKs): Nov. – June
3. Research Group Seminars (<https://www.upf.edu/en/web/traduccio/grupsderecerca>)
4. External seminars, workshops, conferences etc.
5. Learning Catalan (<https://www.upf.edu/web/learning-catalan/aprendre-catala>)
6. Other activities: 2 courses from the DTLC postgraduate degree

These activities must be recorded in TCSO

# Language policy

- **MULTILINGUAL APPROACH**
- **Active knowledge of EITHER English/Catalan/Spanish at C1 level**
- **Receptive knowledge of the other two languages**

# Tuition fees

- Doctorate students must register their Thesis Tutorial every academic year, including the academic year in which the thesis is deposited. **The price of the thesis tutorial is € 401,12.**
- **Administrative taxes: € 69,80**
- Students with a degree issued by a non-Spanish university and that has not received homologation must pay € 218,15 during the enrolment period.
- The cost of the dissertation rights is € 156,87.
- The cost of the doctorate diploma is € 218,15.

# Scholarships and Grants

## Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities

- Contracts for Doctoral Training (previously called FPI)
- Grant for university lecturers in training (FPU)

## Charities and Foundations

- La Caixa
- Fundación Carolina

## In-house grants from the DTCL

Many others...

- See [Scholarships and grants](#) (UPF webpage)
- See [Grants and fees for students](#) (Translation and Language Sciences Dept. webpage)

# Registration

## Next dates

- 06/06/2026 - 01/09/2026. Confirmation: 18/09/2026
- Grant for university lecturers in training (FPU)

## Documents:

- Endorsement letter by any member of the DTCL (UPF)
- Two recommendation letters
- Brief motivation letter that proves the candidate's capacity and interest in the research proposal
- Brief doctoral research proposal
- Curriculum vitae.
- Identity Card or Passport.

# Information

Check out our [website](#)

If in doubt, contact [doctorat.tcl@upf.edu](mailto:doctorat.tcl@upf.edu) (administration office) and/or  
[luis.pegenaute@upf.edu](mailto:luis.pegenaute@upf.edu) (head of the doctoral programme)  
[anna.tudela@upf.edu](mailto:anna.tudela@upf.edu) (cohort tutor)