

Survey On Doctoral Mobility Procedures, Criteria and Opportunities at CHARM-EU Universities

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your contribution is highly appreciated and essential to developing a shared, evidence-informed understanding of doctoral mobility across CHARM-EU partner universities.

The survey aims to (1) map existing doctoral mobility opportunities, funding schemes, recognition practices and support mechanisms at institutional and national levels, and (2) identify financial, academic, administrative, cultural and regulatory factors that enable or hinder the mobility of doctoral researchers, with particular attention to mobility within the CHARM-EU alliance.

The survey is addressed to heads and coordinators of Doctoral /Graduate Schools, colleagues working in International Relations and Mobility Offices (IROs), and research or academic support units involved in doctoral mobility. It has been designed to be as focused and pragmatic as possible, while still capturing meaningful institutional differences, thus completion is expected to take approximately 20-30 minutes.

All responses will be treated confidentially and will contribute to the further development and improvement of doctoral mobility initiatives within CHARM-EU.

DATA PROTECTION:

1. Data joint controllers

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2. Purpose

Gather information about the doctoral mobility systems and procedures of the CHARM-EU

Alliance member universities.

3. Rights

Right of access, right to rectification, right to erase your data, right to object, right to request data portability and restriction of processing.

4. Additional information

For further information, you can read the following privacy statement: <https://bit.ly/4py1Oil>

If you have any comments on the survey, please contact charmobility@rk.elte.hu

We appreciate your thoughtful input and thank you in advance for your contribution!

Sincerely,
The CHARM-EU Team

PART A – Mapping existing doctoral mobility practices

Institutional context

1. Name of institution
 - ☐ University of Barcelona
 - ☐ Trinity College Dublin
 - ☐ Utrecht University
 - ☐ Eötvös Loránd University
 - ☐ University of Montpellier
 - ☐ Åbo Akademi University
 - ☐ Julius-Maximilians University of Würzburg
 - ☐ Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences
 - ☐ University of Bergen
2. Respondent role (select all that apply)
 - ☐ Doctoral / Graduate School
 - ☐ International Relations Office
 - ☐ Faculty / Department administration
 - ☐ Central management / leadership
 - ☐ Other: _____
3. Your level of responsibility related to doctoral mobility
 - ☐ Strategic / policy level
 - ☐ Operational / administrative level
 - ☐ Advisory / coordination role
 - ☐ Limited / indirect involvement

Doctoral education features influencing mobility

4. Which of the below options best describes the dominant model for doctoral programmes at your institution? (select all that apply)
 - ☐ Individual research-based doctorate (no or minimal coursework)
 - ☐ Structured doctoral programme with mandatory coursework
 - ☐ Doctoral school-based programmes with transversal skills training

- ☐ Joint or inter-institutional doctoral programmes
- ☐ Cotutelle-based doctoral programmes
- ☐ Mixed models (please specify): _____

5. To what extent does the structure of doctoral programmes influence access to doctoral mobility opportunities?
- ☐ Strongly influences eligibility
 - ☐ Moderately influences eligibility
 - ☐ Slightly influences eligibility
 - ☐ Does not influence eligibility
 - ☐ Not sure
6. What is the predominant legal status of doctoral researchers at your institution? (select all that apply)
- ☐ Student status
 - ☐ Employee / staff status
 - ☐ Dual status (student and employee)
 - ☐ Status varies by funding source or faculty
 - ☐ Other (please specify): _____
7. Which formal roles do doctoral researchers typically hold at your institution? (select all that apply)
- ☐ No formal role beyond doctoral enrolment
 - ☐ Teaching responsibilities
 - ☐ Research assistant or project-based roles
 - ☐ Administrative or service roles
 - ☐ Other (please specify): _____
8. To what extent do these formal roles influence the feasibility of undertaking doctoral mobility?
- ☐ Strongly limit mobility
 - ☐ Moderately limit mobility
 - ☐ Slightly limit mobility
 - ☐ Slightly support mobility
 - ☐ Moderately support mobility
 - ☐ Strongly support mobility
 - ☐ Not applicable
9. Are there informal or "hidden" expectations that affect doctoral researchers' ability to undertake mobility?
- ☐ No
 - ☐ Not sure
 - ☐ If yes, please briefly describe (e.g. expected physical presence, continuity of teaching, lab responsibilities):
10. Is doctoral mobility actively encouraged?
- ☐ Yes, strongly
 - ☐ Yes, to some extent
 - ☐ Neutral

- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Not at all

11. Do doctoral programmes include formal curricular requirements related to mobility activities?

- ☐ Yes, mandatory
- ☐ Yes, optional
- ☐ No
- ☐ Varies by programme

12. Which international activities are formally required within doctoral programmes? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Research stay abroad
- ☐ Cotutelle or joint supervision
- ☐ Participation in international doctoral courses or summer schools
- ☐ Conference participation abroad
- ☐ International publications
- ☐ Participation in international research projects
- ☐ None formally required

13. Do these curricular requirements facilitate access to doctoral mobility funding?

- ☐ Yes, clearly
- ☐ To some extent
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

14. Are informal practices used to substitute for formal curricular requirements (e.g. supervisor agreements, ad hoc approvals)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Types of doctoral mobility supported and funding opportunities

15. Which types of doctoral mobility are formally supported at your institution? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Short-term physical mobility (up to 1 month)
- ☐ Medium-term physical mobility (1-3 months)
- ☐ Long-term physical mobility (more than 3 months)
- ☐ Blended mobility (physical + virtual, e.g. BIPs)
- ☐ Virtual exchange only
- ☐ Cotutelle / joint doctorate arrangements
- ☐ Conference participation abroad
- ☐ Research stays / lab visits
- ☐ Summer schools / doctoral courses abroad
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

16. Which mobility options are most frequently used by doctoral researchers? (select maximum 3)

- ☐ Short-term physical mobility (up to 1 month)
- ☐ Medium-term physical mobility (1-3 months)

- ☐ Long-term physical mobility (more than 3 months)
- ☐ Blended mobility (physical + virtual, e.g. BIPs)
- ☐ Virtual exchange only
- ☐ Cotutelle / joint doctorate arrangements
- ☐ Conference participation abroad
- ☐ Research stays / lab visits
- ☐ Summer schools / doctoral courses abroad

17. What funding sources are available to support doctoral mobility? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Erasmus+ Student Mobility for Studies (SMS) short-term doctoral mobility
- ☐ Erasmus+ Student Mobility for Studies (SMS) long-term mobility
- ☐ Erasmus+ Student Mobility for Traineeships (SMP)
- ☐ Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training (STT)
- ☐ Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching (SMT)
- ☐ Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)
- ☐ Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM)
- ☐ National doctoral mobility grants
- ☐ Institutional / university level schemes
- ☐ Faculty / departmental travel grants
- ☐ Individual research or mobility budget formally allocated to doctoral researchers
- ☐ Research project-based mobility (e.g. MSCA, COST)
- ☐ External foundations
- ☐ Self-funded mobility
- ☐ No dedicated funding available
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

18. Are institutional funds available to complement Erasmus+ grants?

- ☐ Yes, systematically
- ☐ Yes, occasionally / case-by-case
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

19. Are doctoral researchers allowed to combine multiple funding sources for mobility?

- ☐ Yes, without restrictions
- ☐ Yes, with restrictions
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

20. In your view, are available funds sufficient to meet doctoral mobility needs?

- ☐ Fully sufficient
- ☐ Mostly sufficient
- ☐ Partly sufficient
- ☐ Largely insufficient
- ☐ Not assessable

21. Overall, how well aligned are doctoral education structures at your institution with available doctoral mobility funding schemes?

- ☐ Very well aligned
- ☐ Mostly aligned
- ☐ Partly aligned

- ☐ Poorly aligned
- ☐ Not assessable

Academic recognition

22. Which international activities are formally recognised within doctoral programmes? (select all that apply)
- ☐ Short-term physical mobility (up to 1 month)
 - ☐ Medium-term physical mobility (1-3 months)
 - ☐ Long-term physical mobility (more than 3 months)
 - ☐ Blended mobility (physical + virtual, e.g. BIPs)
 - ☐ Virtual exchange only
 - ☐ Cotutelle / joint doctorate arrangements
 - ☐ Conference participation abroad
 - ☐ Research stays / lab visits
 - ☐ Summer schools / doctoral courses abroad
 - ☐ Other (please specify): _____
 - ☐ None formally recognised
23. How is doctoral mobility recognised at your institution? (select all that apply)
- ☐ ECTS credits
 - ☐ Recognition as part of doctoral training requirements
 - ☐ Recognition as a research output / thesis chapter
 - ☐ Informal recognition only
 - ☐ No formal recognition
24. Is the use of ECTS at doctoral level possible for mobility?
- ☐ Yes, commonly used
 - ☐ Yes, but rarely used
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not applicable
25. Are learning agreements / equivalent tools used for doctoral mobility?
- ☐ Yes, adapted to research mobility
 - ☐ Yes, but designed mainly for taught programmes
 - ☐ No formal tools used

Administrative organisation, support and monitoring

26. Which units are involved in managing doctoral mobility? (select all that apply)
- ☐ Doctoral / Graduate School
 - ☐ International Relations Office
 - ☐ Research Office
 - ☐ Faculties / departments
 - ☐ Supervisors only
 - ☐ Other (please specify): _____
27. Are there clear procedures for outgoing doctoral mobility?
- ☐ Yes, well documented
 - ☐ Yes, but fragmented

- ☐ Mostly informal
- ☐ No

28. Are there dedicated support services for doctoral researchers? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Predeparture guidance
- ☐ Visa / insurance support
- ☐ Academic recognition support
- ☐ Housing support
- ☐ Family-related support
- ☐ Psychological / wellbeing support
- ☐ None specific to doctoral level

29. Can your institution track doctoral mobility numbers?

- ☐ Yes, systematically
- ☐ Partly / estimates only
- ☐ No

30. Which types of mobility are included in monitoring? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Short-term physical mobility (up to 1 month)
- ☐ Medium-term physical mobility (1-3 months)
- ☐ Long-term physical mobility (more than 3 months)
- ☐ Blended mobility (physical + virtual, e.g. BIPs)
- ☐ Virtual exchange only
- ☐ Cotutelle / joint doctorate arrangements
- ☐ Conference participation abroad
- ☐ Research stays / lab visits
- ☐ Summer schools / doctoral courses abroad
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ None monitored

PART B – Evaluation of factors supporting or hindering doctoral mobility

For each statement, please indicate to what extent it **supports or hinders** doctoral mobility at your institution.

Scale:

- 1 = Strongly hinders mobility
- 2 = Moderately hinders mobility
- 3 = Slightly hinders mobility
- 4 = Slightly supports mobility
- 5 = Moderately supports mobility
- 6 = Strongly supports mobility
- ☐ Not relevant / not applicable

Financial factors

- Availability of scholarships for doctoral mobility
- Erasmus+ grant levels
- Flexibility in using different Erasmus+ mobility formats (SMS, SMP, BIP, STT, SMT)
- Availability of institutional co-funding
- Ability to combine multiple funding sources
- National or local mobility schemes

- Cost of living and housing at destinations
- Financial burden of maintaining housing at home during mobility

Academic and institutional environment

- Alignment of doctoral programme structures with partner institutions
- Availability of doctoral-level courses at host institutions
- Existing research collaborations with partner HEIs
- Research fit between doctoral topics and host institutions
- Supervisor encouragement of mobility
- Supervisors' international networks
- Clarity on what counts as doctoral mobility activities
- Flexibility of doctoral curricula
- Recognition of mobility within doctoral training
- Integration of mobility into the doctoral trajectory from the beginning

Recognition and administrative processes

- Usefulness of learning agreements for research mobility
- Transparency of recognition procedures
- Administrative workload related to mobility
- Institutional experience with organising doctoral mobility
- Timing of application and selection procedures
- Visa and insurance procedures
- Social security arrangements
- Availability of dedicated administrative support

Institutional culture and networks

- International orientation of departments
- Participation in European University Alliances
- Existing institutional partnerships and networks
- Staff mobility stimulating doctoral mobility
- Reputation and prestige of partner institutions
- Participation in international research projects
- Supportive doctoral school environment

Personal, social and cultural factors (as observed institutionally)

- Language requirements and language of instruction
- Doctoral researchers' confidence in foreign language skills
- Cultural proximity of destination countries
- Family and caring responsibilities
- Employment obligations during doctorate
- Health or disability considerations
- Mental wellbeing and stress related to mobility
- Peer and social support systems
- Career prospects linked to mobility
- Previous international experience of researchers

Legal and regulatory context

- National regulations affecting doctoral mobility status
- Eligibility of doctoral researchers for Erasmus+ schemes
- Length and rigidity of doctoral programmes
- Legal frameworks for cotutelles and joint degrees
- Intellectual property constraints

PART C – Open reflection

32. What are the strongest enablers of doctoral mobility at your institution?

☐ Open text

33. What are the most significant barriers of doctoral mobility at your institution?

☐ Open text

34. What changes (institutional, national or European level) would most improve doctoral mobility within CHARM-EU?

☐ Open text