What is to be a Ph.D. student?

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Overview

- What is a Ph.D.?
- What does a Ph.D. offer?
- What is different in a Ph.D.?
- Is Ph.D. for me?
- What can I get from a Ph.D.?
- Applying for a Ph.D.
- After the Ph.D.
- My experience
- Final Remarks
What is a Ph.D.?
What is a Ph.D.?

• Ph.D.: Doctor of Philosophy

• Highest academic degree

• Not a taught degree: candidate is a core component of research

• 3-5…years: depending on the country, student, funding

• Involves a written dissertation

• Public defense
What does a Ph.D. offer?
What does a Ph.D. offer?

• Research → Broadening of existing knowledge

• Springboard for specialist expertise

• Dissemination of expertise in community through positions in:

Academia

Industry
What is different in a Ph.D.?
What is different in a Ph.D.?

• Experience not necessary related to the construction industry (depends on the thesis subject)

• Investment. Lower initial salary (scholarship)

• Flexible work schedule (deadlines, conferences, workshops)

• Programming depends mostly on you (choice of the working environment)

• International experience
Is Ph.D. for me?
Is Ph.D. for me?

• Curiosity

• Creativity

• Adaptability
What can I get from a Ph.D.?
What can I get from a Ph.D.?

✓ Mastery of a subject

✓ Analytical skills & critical thinking

✓ Translation of ideas into action

✓ Communication of ideas (scientific writing)

✓ Time-management

✓ Professional networking

✓ Open new opportunities for a professional career

✓ Requirement for academic career
Applying for a Ph.D.
Applying for a Ph.D.

- Define an area of interest
- Evaluate offered Ph.D. programs or graduate schools
- Pass entrance (language) examinations
- Write a personal statement
- Acquire letters of recommendation
- Provide a CV
- Give personal interview
After the Ph.D....

What do I do now?
After the Ph.D....

Job hunting

Academia

Post-doc

Research Teaching

Industry

Consultancy Engineering

Project Management
My experience
My experience: Why Ph.D.?

- MSc SAHC
- Graduate school and research group
- Ph.D. thesis topic
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My experience: Ph.D. thesis topic

“Advanced continuum finite element models for the structural analysis of large historical constructions”

Classical

Experimental

Advanced

Numerical Advanced

Advanced Masters in Structural Analysis of Monuments and Historical Constructions
My experience: How do I evaluate it?

• Possibility to investigate in the field my choice

• Conferences

• Research stay at University College of London

• Supervision of MSc SAHC theses

• Visits to Historical Buildings and Sites
Final Remarks

KEEP CALM
THE END IS NEAR
Final Remarks

• Ph.D.: Choose an interesting topic for you and the community

• Meet the research group & visit the place

• Be ready for both difficult & glorious days!

• Remember the ‘Big Picture’
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