Training of doctoral students is additional to research work. The student must complete a minimum of 120 hours of training during the dissertation preparation period (there is no upper limit). The training is compulsory and should include the following elements:

1/3rd of the training must be related to the subject area of the dissertation, accounting for about 40 hours. These courses are administered by the Doctoral School and are chosen by the student and his/her supervisor.
Every year, the Doctoral School offers doctoral students a range of scientific training courses. The doctorate partners can offer other courses to meet the individual requirements of the doctoral students.

2/3rds of the training are unrelated to the subject area of the dissertation, and must include at least 24 hours dedicated to professional insertion. These courses are offered by the institutes’ doctoral schools, the Doctoral College of Université Grenoble Alpes and the DFI, its doctoral department for Training, Initiation and Professional Insertion ("service Doctoral pour la Formation, l'Initiation et l'insertion professionnelles" in French) for doctoral training labels. Doctoral students can also enrol in external training courses as long as they are validated by their doctoral school.

See the training catalogue (in French)

Doctoral training labels

The Doctoral College of Université Grenoble Alpes also offers five training programmes (labels) targeting five clearly identified employment sectors:

- Advice and expertise
- Public institutions and international organisations
- Starting a business
- Research, Business and Innovation
- Research, and higher education

The training plan and experiments vary from label to label. They account for more than 80 hours of introductory courses. Doctoral students enrolled in Labelled courses must carry out an additional 40 hours of scientific training.

More information on Labels

Training validation

A training course is a consistent whole that lasts at least 8 hours.

Accreditation of the Doctoral School is necessary for all courses other than those offered in the training catalogue. The accreditation ensures that the training is recognised by the Doctoral School and can be included in the 120 hours of compulsory training. It specifies the training category (scientific training in the dissertation subject area, introductory training or professional insertion training). The accreditation is generally obtained before the beginning of the training course.

Training supervision and validation

The Doctoral School ensures that the minimum period of training has been completed before authorising the doctoral dissertation viva. This is ensured by means of a training attendance sheet signed by the person in charge of each course.

Examples of certified training courses

The accreditation system is quite flexible, so different types of training can be validated: courses in other universities, training in a host company, etc.

A few specific cases are noteworthy.

Summer and thematic schools are certified. Doctoral Schools grant packages of training hours on a case by case basis.

To help with the organisation of a conference, a forum, a student fair or an exhibition, Doctoral Schools grant packages of training hours on a case by case basis.

For distance learning, multimedia learning and MOOCs, Doctoral Schools grant packages of training hours on a case by case basis.

"The "Doctoriales", a training course common to all Doctoral Schools, allow you to validate 40 hours of training. The courses in French as a Foreign Language (FLE) and in propedeutics, common to all Doctoral Schools, come with a package that cannot exceed 60 hours' tuition.
A word of warning! Conferences, seminars, workshops and optional university teaching hours provided by doctoral students are not validated as compulsory training courses.

Exceptional cases

The compulsory scientific training of doctoral students with a status of civil servant or an open-ended contract is reduced to 40 hours.
Doctoral students working under a training through research agreement (CIFRE) and joint doctoral students have the same obligations as the other doctoral students. Training courses completed in a company or in a partner country are taken into account.

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