



Welcome to the Future of the Doctorate platform and conference website.

Doctoral training acts as a bridge between the world of higher education and research. It is one of the most advanced and specialised forms of training available at higher education institutions, and it is primarily based on original research and working at the frontier of knowledge.

There is lively **discussion** on the effectiveness, efficiency and purpose of the existing arrangements of doctoral training for the **next generation of researchers**. In particular, the debate concentrates on the following questions:

- What is the right balance between the creation of knowledge and wider economic and social objectives?
- What is the right balance between demand and supply of doctoral graduates?
- How to ensure that doctorates are fit for purpose in times of changing research environments and the decrease in permanent academic positions?
- How to balance the need for specialisation with the need to acquire more general employability skills?
- What does this mean for national higher education systems?

These and many more issues will be debated at the **international conference** on the 'Future of the doctorate', organised by the European Commission and held in Riga on 28-29 May 2015.

The **programme** of the conference is available [here](#).

CONFERENCE VENUE
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