

Major PhD Fellowships and Doctoral Programmes in Europe (Science & Engineering)

Updated: October 2025

#	Programme / Fellowship	Host / Region	Details	Opening Date	Closing Date
1	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA-DN)	EU (Horizon Europe)	Doctoral networks funding cross-European PhD consortia; open to all nationalities.	28 May 2025	25 Nov 2025
2	EMBL International PhD Programme	EMBL (Germany, UK, France, Italy, Spain)	Structured PhD across EMBL sites in molecular life sciences.	Jan 2026 (expected)	Mar 2026 (expected)
3	International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS)	Germany	PhD programmes in physical, biological, and computational sciences.	Sep 2025	Nov 2025 (varies by IMPRS)
4	DAAD PhD Scholarships	Germany	National funding for international PhD candidates in all disciplines.	Aug 2025	Oct–Dec 2025 (varies)
5	Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships (FCS)	Switzerland	Fully funded PhD / research scholarships for international students.	4 Aug 2025	Sep–Dec 2025 (varies by country)
6	EPFL Doctoral School & Fellowships	Switzerland	Doctoral school at EPFL; includes CYD and EPFLglob-aLeaders fellowships.	Aug 2025 (CYD stage 1)	Oct 2025 (stage 2)
7	ETH Zurich Doctoral Programmes / AI Center Fellowships	Switzerland	Individual or structured doctorates; rolling applications via supervisors or centers.	Rolling	Rolling
8	Technical University of Munich (TUM) Graduate School	Germany	Structured doctoral programmes; funded PhD positions advertised year-round.	Year-round	Varies by call

9	IMPRS for Intelligent Systems (Example)	Germany	Doctoral programme in AI, machine learning, and robotics.	Sep 2025	16 Nov 2025
10	CERN Doctoral Studentships and Fellowships	Switzerland / France	Co-supervised PhD studentships in particle physics, computing, and engineering.	Yearly calls	Varies by programme
11	UKRI Doctoral Training Partnerships (CDTs)	United Kingdom	National doctoral training networks in science and engineering.	Autumn 2025	Dec–Jan 2026
12	Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates (EMJD)	EU	Joint multi-university PhD programmes with mobility and stipends.	Varies by programme	Varies (usually Dec–Feb)
13	DFG Research Training Groups (RTG)	Germany	Funded doctoral training groups at universities; structured cohort-based PhDs.	Rolling (university posts)	Varies by RTG
14	NWO Doctoral Funding	Netherlands	National research projects funding PhD employment posts.	Varies	Varies (Feb / Sep / Dec 2025 typical)
15	FCT Doctoral Fellowships	Portugal	National PhD fellowships across disciplines including engineering.	Spring 2025 (expected)	May–Jun 2025
16	Spanish FPI / FPU / Severo Ochoa Fellowships	Spain	Funded PhD positions at top research centers.	Autumn 2025	Winter 2025
17	French Doctoral Contracts (CNRS / CIFRE)	France	Doctoral school and industrial PhD contracts (CIFRE).	Spring 2025	June–July 2025
18	European Research Facilities (ESRF, ILL, ESO, etc.)	Europe	Co-funded PhD positions at large research infrastructures.	Varies by facility	Varies
19	European University Institute (EUI) PhD Programme	Italy	Fully funded 4-year PhDs in economics, law, and social sciences.	Sep 2025	Jan 2026
20	EIT InnoEnergy / EuroTech Doctoral Programmes	EU (Consortia)	Joint doctoral programmes with industrial collaboration.	Depends on consortium	Varies (typically Mar–Jun)

Notes

- For **rolling** or **variable** deadlines, check the official page linked in the first column.
- MSCA-DN and Erasmus+ Doctorates are consortium-based; applicants apply to funded projects rather than directly to the EU call.
- Most German, Swiss, and Dutch PhDs are *employment contracts* (with salary) rather than scholarships.

- Always verify the deadline and eligibility on the official portal before applying.

Selected Major University / Institute PhD Fellowships and Advertised PhD Programmes (Science & Engineering)

University / Programme	Description	Opening Date	Closing Date	Source / Link
ETH Zurich — Doctorate & ETH4D Scholarships	ETH individual doctorates (supervisor hires) and ETH4D doctoral scholarships. Most PhD students are employees; ETH4D calls open periodically.	Rolling / Periodic Calls	Varies by call (next ETH4D call expected mid-2025)	ethz.ch/doctorate
EPFL — Doctoral School & CYD / EPFL Fellowships	EPFL doctoral programmes; CYD Doctoral Fellowships (cyber-defence) and EPFL Excellence schemes. Example: CYD call opens Dec 2025; Stage-1 deadline 25 Feb 2026.	Dec 2025	25 Feb 2026	epfl.ch/education/phd
Technical University of Munich (TUM) — Graduate School / PhD Positions	Structured programmes via TUM Graduate School; many funded PhD projects advertised year-round.	Year-round	Depends on project call	gs.tum.de
Max-Planck Institutes / IMPRS (International Max Planck Research Schools)	Annual PhD recruitment across physical, biological, and computational sciences. Example: IMPRS-QBio deadline Oct/Nov 2025.	Sep–Oct 2025	Nov–Dec 2025 (varies by IMPRS)	mpg.de/imprs
EMBL International PhD Programme	Structured PhD across EMBL sites (Heidelberg, Hinxton, Grenoble, Rome, Barcelona). Example: next call opens 1 Sept 2025; deadline 13 Oct 2025.	1 Sept 2025	13 Oct 2025	embl.org/phdprogramme
Imperial College London — President's PhD Scholarships	Highly competitive scholarships; internal departmental studentships available. Typical cycle Oct–Jan.	Oct 2025	Jan 2026	imperial.ac.uk

University of Cambridge — Gates Cambridge & Departmental Studentships	Fully funded PhDs (Gates Cambridge + departmental awards). Gates Cambridge has a single annual cycle (Oct–Dec).	Sep 2025	3 Dec 2025 (international)	gatescambridge.org
University of Oxford — Clarendon Scholarships / DPhil Funding	University-level Clarendon awards and departmental DPhil scholarships. Applications align with course deadlines.	Sep 2025	Jan 2026	ox.ac.uk/clarendon
UCL (University College London) — PhD Studentships & CDTs	UCL departments advertise funded PhD positions and CDT studentships annually. Typical application season winter.	Nov 2025	Feb 2026	ucl.ac.uk/phd
TU Delft — PhD Positions & NWO-funded Projects	Dutch employment-style PhD positions (fully salaried). Vacancies posted throughout the year.	Rolling	As advertised	tudelft.nl/phd
KU Leuven — Doctoral Scholarships / PhD Positions	Funded PhD positions via research groups. Vacancies published throughout the year.	Year-round	Rolling	kuleuven.be/phd
University of Amsterdam (UvA) & VU Amsterdam — Graduate Schools	Dutch universities employ PhD researchers. Applications depend on individual openings.	Continuous	Varies by post	uva.nl/phd
KTH Stockholm & Chalmers Gothenburg — PhD Employment Programmes	Fully salaried PhD positions advertised year-round; deadlines specific to postings.	Rolling	Per posting	kth.se/phd
Sorbonne / Paris-Saclay / CNRS — Doctoral Contracts	French doctoral schools advertise state-funded PhD contracts (contrats doctoraux). Calls open late winter/spring.	Feb 2025	May–Jun 2025	campusfrance.org
Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology (BIST) / ICFO / IFAE — PhD Programmes	PhD fellowships across Catalonia research centres; multiple annual calls.	Spring 2025	Jun 2025 (varies)	bist.eu/phd
PSL University / ENS Paris — Doctoral School Funding	PSL and ENS run doctoral programmes with annual calls; deadlines vary by school.	Mar 2025	Jun 2025	psl.eu/phd

Beatriu de Pinós / Catalonia Doctoral Grants	Regional mobility and doctoral funding in Spain/Catalonia; annual calls.	Mar 2025	May 2025	agaur.gencat.cat
CERN — Doctoral Students Programme	Co-supervised PhD studentships at CERN; typically two calls per year.	Mar 2025	Oct 2025 (second round)	careers.cern/phd
ESO / ILL / ESRF / EGO — Facility PhD Programmes	PhD fellowships at major European research facilities; calls vary.	Yearly	Varies by facility	eso.org/jobs
University College Dublin / Trinity College Dublin — PhD & IRC Scholarships	Irish Research Council (IRC) PhD funding; university scholarships in science/engineering.	Sep 2025	Nov 2025	research.ie/funding
Polish National PhD Funding / NAWA & ERC-Cofunded Doctoral Programmes	National doctoral school funding and ERC-supported PhD positions; deadlines differ per call.	Spring 2025	Jun 2025 (typical)	nawa.gov.pl
EuroTech Universities Alliance / EIT InnoEnergy Doctoral Programmes	Joint engineering/energy doctoral schemes (EPFL, TUM, DTU, TU Eindhoven, etc.).	Aug 2025 (example)	Nov 2025 (varies by call)	eurotech-universities.eu

Notes

- Dates marked as “varies” or “rolling” indicate open recruitment through project-based positions.
- Always confirm updated deadlines via the official links provided.
- Some schemes (e.g., ETH4D, EPFL CYD, EuroTech) have multiple annual rounds.