

2) Identification of a suitable research area

The next step will be to identify the research area of your interest. The topic must fascinate you such that you are willing to sacrifice three to three-and-a-half precious years, to work hard and to endure failures, to take responsibility for progressing your work even against obstacles and problems, to defend your results in critical discussions and perhaps against established opinions... Scrutinize yourself well! The research area needs to be YOUR first choice, otherwise you will not succeed. Once you have identified your research area, you will have to decide whether or not you want to pursue your doctoral research in the framework of a structured doctoral program.