

8) Development of a suitable research project

A suitable research project will typically be developed in collaboration between you and your supervisor, as it will have to suit both sides, and as it will have to be feasible given the expertise and infrastructure available. It will also depend on the availability of funds, for consumables etc. on the one hand, and possibly also for paying a salary/fellowship to you. If your salary is supplied by a research project of your supervisor, the work to be performed has already been pre-defined in the proposal in a broad sense. Still, it will be your responsibility to develop the work into your own doctoral project. Alternatively, if you apply for your own fellowship with an external agency to increase your chances of being accepted as a doctoral student, you will have to develop the project from scratch. Your potential supervisor will certainly be willing to support you, but make sure that you write the proposal yourself - the referees of the funding agencies will easily spot a proposal written by an experienced supervisor and simply copied by you for your application. And this would not reflect favourably on your scientific independence and maturity. Be aware of the deadlines of the funding agencies which are very strict, so plan your doctoral studies well in advance.

