12.
HOW MUCH DOES THE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT FEE COST?

The academic fees for enrolling in doctoral courses are around €500. This fee grants access to supervision and to the full range of training activities offered by the International Doctoral School (EINDOC).

13.
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE BEFORE YOU CAN DEFEND YOUR THESIS?

It will depend on the results you achieve in your research and on how long it takes you to publish your article or patent. You need at least two academic years before you can defend your thesis. The maximum duration is 5 years full-time and 8 years part-time.

14.
AND WHAT IF YOU WORK IN A COMPANY ON R&D TASKS?

There is the possibility of obtaining the Industrial Doctorate distinction if you are employed by a company that can certify your dedication to R&D activities for at least one year (or the equivalent of 30% of a full-time position over three years) and if a specific agreement has been signed between the company and UPCT.

15.
CAN YOU CARRY OUT A CO-SUPERVISED THESIS WITH RESEARCHERS FROM SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES?

Yes. You can obtain a doctoral degree from two universities under a Co-supervision Agreement, paying tuition fees only at one of them but being enrolled in both. You must have supervisors at both universities and spend at least six months at each institution.

16.
CAN YOU ACCESS A PHD PROGRAM AT UPCT FROM OUTSIDE SPAIN?

Yes, without the need for official recognition, provided it is verified that you have a level of education equivalent to that of an official Spanish Master's degree and that, in the country where your degree was issued, it grants access to doctoral studies.

17.
CAN YOU CARRY OUT YOUR RESEARCH FROM YOUR HOME UNIVERSITY?

Yes, since UPCT does not require the research to be conducted on its premises.

ALL THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT DOCTORADO.UPCT.ES

UPCT PhD Programs
Academic Year 2026–2027

Specialization in Emerging Professions

11 PhD Programs

Industrial Doctorate

International Doctorate

Cotutelle with Foreign Universities

Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena

MIEMBRO DE EUT+ EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

ESCUELA INTERNACIONAL DE DOCTORADO

1.
WHY SHOULD YOU PURSUE A PHD?
Because you are passionate about research and excited to acquire specialized skills in a specific field of study.

2.
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF EARNING A PHD?
The PhD is the highest academic qualification. It opens professional opportunities, allows you to access certain job positions, and to advance in an academic career. It demonstrates the ability to conduct original research, independently, with internationally recognized quality.

3.
WHAT PHD PROGRAMS DOES UPCT OFFER?
Advanced Techniques in Agricultural and Food Research and Development

Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency

Industrial Technologies

Electrochemistry, Science and Technology [Interuniversity Program]

Information and Communication Technologies

Economics (DECIDE Program) [Interuniversity Program]

Economic, Business and Legal Sciences [Interuniversity Program]

Technology and Modeling in Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering

Business Administration and Management (only for engineers) [Interuniversity Program]

Architecture, Building, Heritage and City [Interuniversity Program]

Dual-Use Technology and Management Systems in Security and Defense

4.
HOW CAN YOU BECOME A PHD HOLDER?
You must complete a research period within a university doctoral program, along with specific academic training. The process culminates in the writing and defense of a doctoral thesis before a committee of expert PhD holders in the field, after prior approval by two external research specialists.

5.
WHAT IF YOU START YOUR THESIS RESEARCH FROM SCRATCH?
It is advisable to explore potential research interests among the professors in UPCT's research groups. You should contact the coordinator of the doctoral program to which you are applying, indicating your research area so that a tutor can be assigned to you.

6.
IS IT MANDATORY TO HAVE A THESIS SUPERVISOR OR CO-SUPERVISOR FROM UPCT?
No. It can be any PhD holder, but their research must be accredited (4 articles published in the last 6 years in journals listed in the JCR-ISI, with at least one of them in Q1). However, you will be required to have an academic tutor at UPCT.

7.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A UPCT THESIS SUPERVISOR, WHY DO YOU NEED A TUTOR? WHO CAN BE ONE?
The tutor monitors your academic training. They must be a UPCT professor and a member of the doctoral program. If you are not connected to any faculty member, the Academic Committee will assign one to you. The tutor will not be involved in the research of your thesis.

8.
WHEN AND HOW DO YOU ENROLL?
You can pre-register during one of the three admission periods that open throughout the academic year. The process can be completed online.

9.
WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL YOU CARRY OUT TO EARN YOUR PHD?
You must engage in research activity, which should be materialized at least through the publication of a scientific article in high-impact journals or a patent. In addition, you must complete your academic training through activities specifically designed for the doctoral program.

10.
ARE THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES FACE-TO-FACE?
There is a wide online offer of both transversal and specific training activities within the programs, so it is not necessary to attend physically at UPCT. Attendance at conferences and seminars can take place anywhere in the world.

11.
WILL YOU HAVE SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY?
Yes. UPCT offers grants for international stays of more than 3 months, which will allow you to obtain the International Doctorate distinction. You can also apply for Erasmus K171 grants, managed by the International Relations Office.