



### 2.3.1 Thinking of doing a PhD?

Our research participants chose PhD programs for a variety of reasons, including personal goals and responsibilities and financial situation. These are important considerations; however, these criteria alone are not enough and several participants regretted not making more detailed investigations. To help choose between PhD programs, consider the following questions in addition to any personal considerations that may influence your decision.

- The program and your own goals
  - What is the match between the PhD program, the resources it provides and your own goals? For example, if you are interested in the policy and practice implications of research, does the PhD program share that view?
  - If the match is not good and you still intend enrolling, what steps will you take to ensure that you meet like-minded people and can, at least in part, explore your interests?
- The supervisory arrangement
  - What influence do you have in the choice of supervisor(s)?
  - What do you know about their approach to supervision? How does it fit with the relationship you hope to have with your supervisor(s)?
  - How knowledgeable is your proposed supervisor in your area of research interest? How can you find out?
  - Can you arrange to meet with existing students to ask about their experiences?

Useful resources for managing a PhD:

- <https://eua.eu/issues/13:doctoral-education.html>
- <http://www.eurodoc.net/>
- <https://pride-network.eu/>
- <https://www.researchers-like-me.com/>



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