

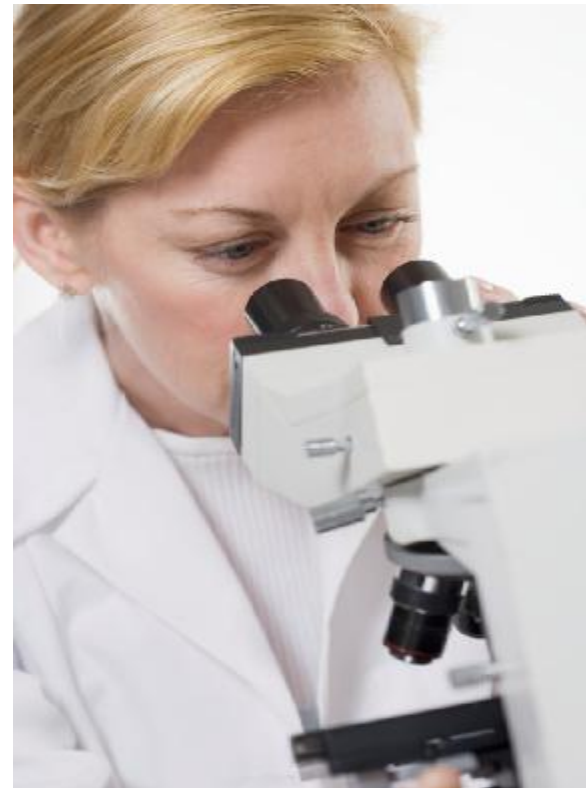
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**WORKSHOP 3**

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Fitness for purpose:  
Emerging notions defining the doctorate



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# What notions are emerging?

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- Recent discussion papers and outcomes
- Sources of funding, including impact of centres for doctoral training
- QAA-led project on 'doctorateness'
- Diversity of PGR programmes?
- Converging graduate attributes?

# Discussion papers and outcomes

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- HEA – Chris Park: Redefining the doctorate, 2007

[Redefining the doctorate](#)

- QAA – Doctoral discussion paper, 2007

[QAA discussion paper about doctoral programmes](#)

# Funding and related factors

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- Centres for doctoral training: different models operated by research councils
- Length of period of study affected by source of funding?
- Recruitment linked to ability to pay?
- Requirement of masters as entry qualification in some subjects
- Completion / qualification rates?

# QAA-led project on the UK doctorate

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- Early stages of discussion
- Joint project involving HE sector organisations such as UUK, HEA, RCUK, UKCGE, HEFCE
- Aim is to produce additional guidance about the nature of the doctorate
- Working group being established

# Diversity of PGR programmes?

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- More diversity across doctoral programmes than in the past?
- Boundaries between PhD and professional doctorates becoming blurred?
- Impact of centres for doctoral training on structure and content of doctoral degrees?
- Do funders appreciate impact of their policies on candidates and institutions?

# Converging of doctoral graduate attributes?

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- More consistency than before in the attributes achieved by doctoral graduates?
- What impact does the subject area have on ability and skills at graduation?
- Do candidates make informed choices?
- What are the implications of different types of doctoral degree: for graduates, for funders and for the UK?

Are we  
continuing  
to maintain

...



... the  
academic  
standards  
and quality  
of their  
degrees?