



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW

Doctoral Candidates' Union in
university governance and
quality assurance

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Doctoral Candidates in Poland

- In 2019 there was a major reform of doctoral education in Poland.
- The doctoral studies were replaced with doctoral schools – in its nature – interdisciplinary.
- (Almost) every doctoral candidate receive the scholarship.
- A time limit of 4 years is imposed on the doctorate preparation.

Number of doctoral candidates in Poland

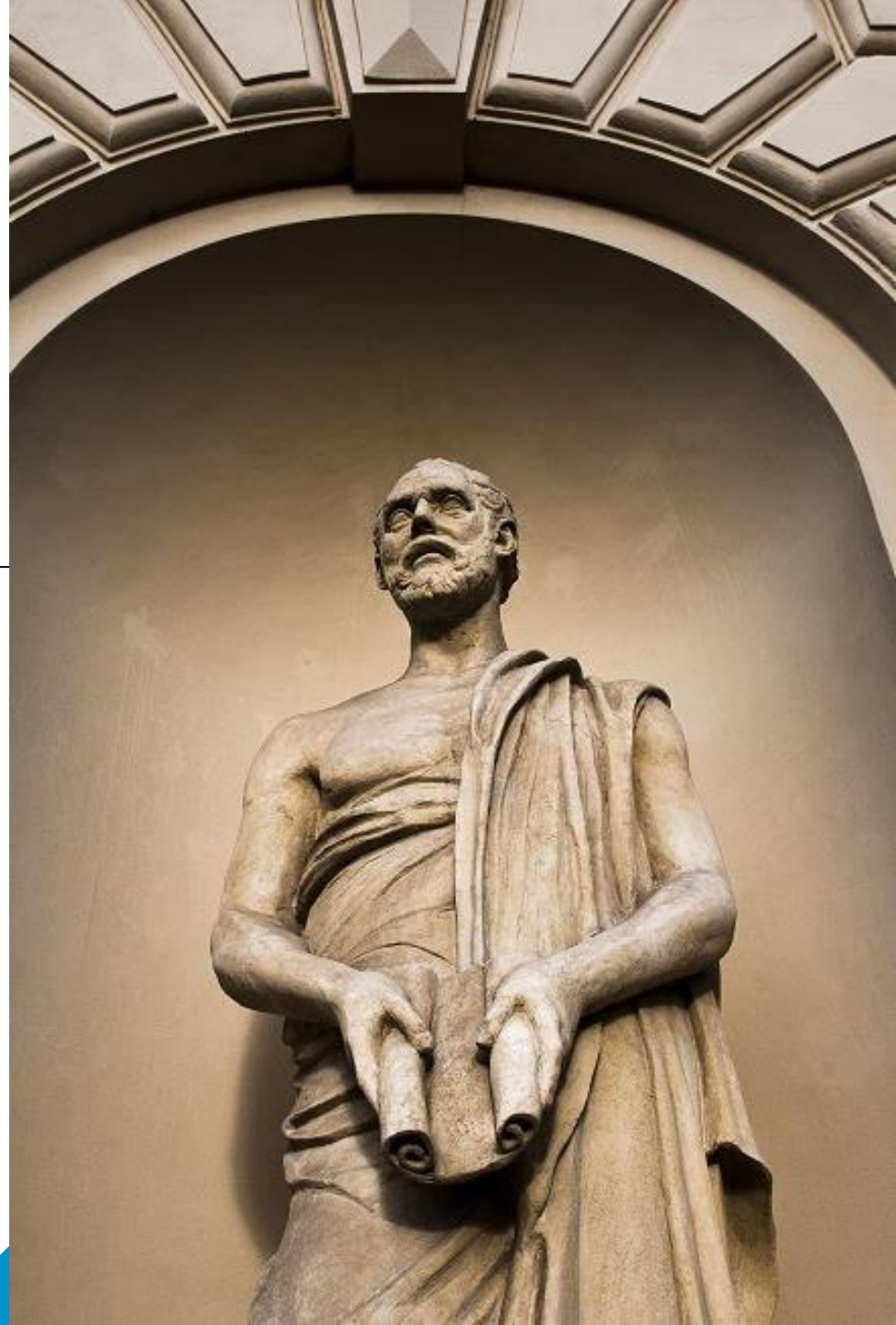
Mode/Year	2019	2020	2021
Doctoral Schools	3 826	8 287	12 051
Doctoral Studies	29 759	22 805	15 582
TOTAL	33 621	31 092	27 633

CREDO

TRUSTING TEAMS



RESULTS



Who are we?

- In the ever changing academia we are lacking the universal understanding of who are doctoral candidates.
- The answer to this question varies between universities – from being the full-time student (e.g. Charles University) to full-time employee (e.g. University of Copenhagen)
- Can we truly have European Higher Education Area without joint understanding of the doctorate?

KEY VALUES IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION

- TRUST

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- PARTNERSHIP

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- TRUST
- PARTNERSHIP
- SOLIDARITY

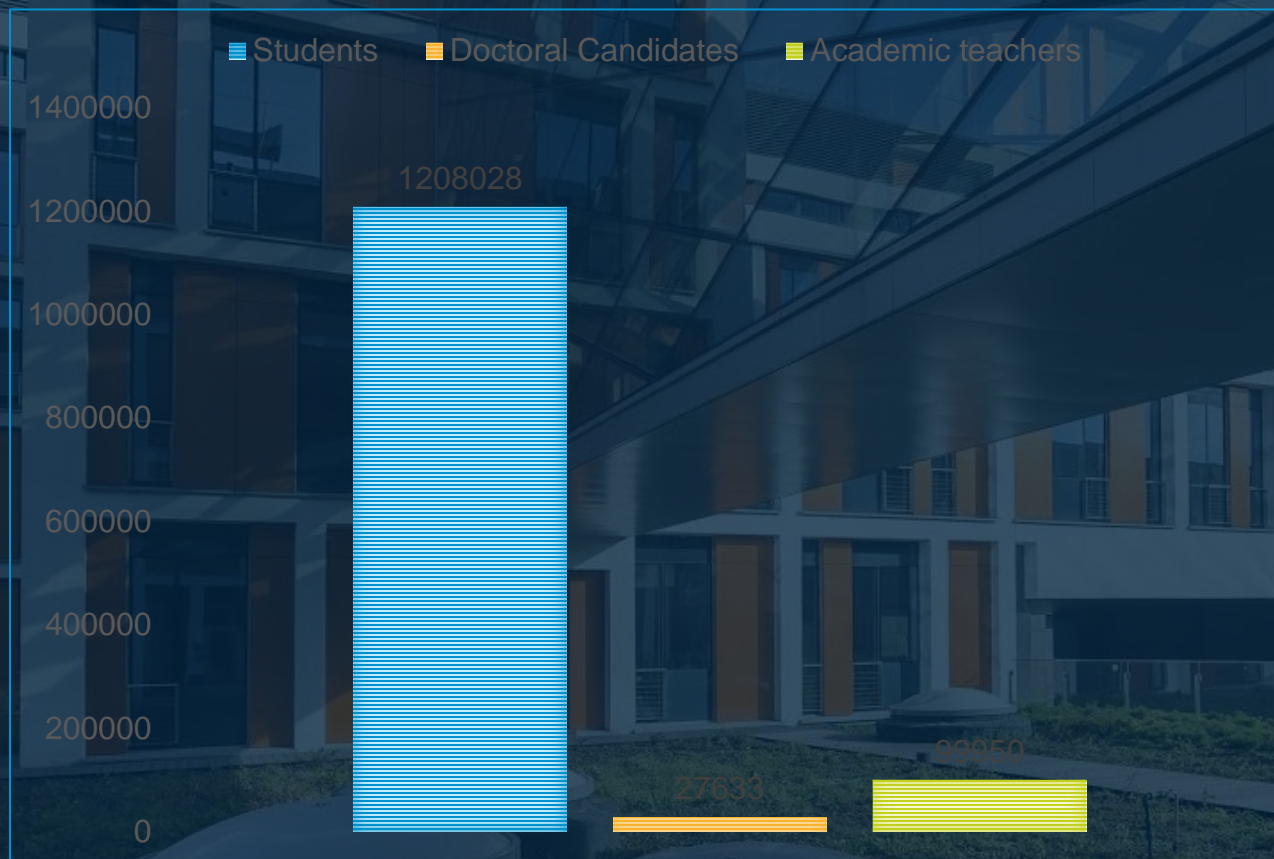
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SENIOR ACADEMICIANS AND DOCT. CAND.

- Boss or older brother/sister?
- Supervisor or Promotor?
- Care or Cooperation?
- Student or Candidate?
- The role of the doctoral candidates' union is to promote the latter, using soft tools – like recommendations – or harder ones – like changes of naming in the official documentation.

DIVISION OF RESOURCES

- In the time of crisis spending on higher education is not the top priority.
- The very values that govern our universities will determine the division of the scarce resources.
- Who to finance and how?

Number of groups in Polish academic communities



REPRESENTATION

- Doctoral candidates are the least numerous group in Polish academic community.
- It makes our voices very hard to hear in any public debate regarding doctoral education.
- By law, doctoral candidates do not have to be represented in all University bodies.
- We need to provide a proper representation of doctoral candidates and make sure the needs of the group are voiced also by other groups.

WHAT WE DO?

- In 2022 the Doctoral Candidates' Union at the University of Warsaw has launched several projects, aimed at increasing the teaching and research quality at the University.



DOCTORAL CO-WORKING SPACE



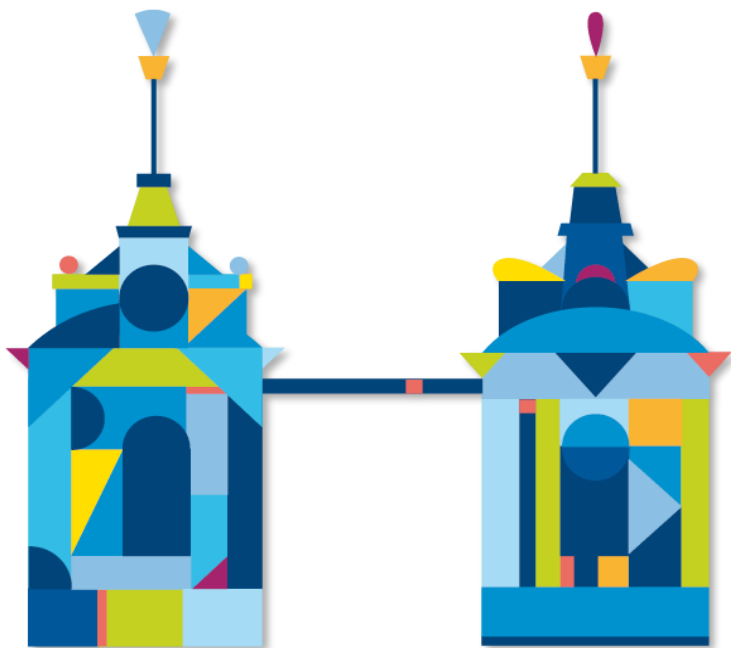
SIMPLIFICATION OF DOCTORATE AWARDING PROCEDURE

AND MORE

- Teaching excellence rewards.
- Additional medical insurance.
- Negotiations on increase in scholarship amounts.
- New curricula of doctoral programmes.
- Code of conduct for promotor.
- Employment rules for doctoral candidates.
- Anti-sexual harassment team.

ISSUES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Universities and scientific authorities need to clearly state the status and role of the doctoral candidates.
- Universities should recognise the meaning of the meaningful inclusion and representation of doctoral candidates within the academia.
- Universities needs to provide appropriate resources for the day-to-day operations of the doctoral candidates' unions.



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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