# Career guidance from the beginning for a successful doctoral experience & professional development?

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# ABG: Supporting recruitment and career development of PhD candidates and holders

- Non-profit created in 1980 and partly funded by the French government
- We publish **job offers, thesis topics, masters internships** on our website: www.abg.asso.fr 4000 ads per year
- We **help companies** recruit PhDs
- We set up events and share information (PhD career paths, recruiters' career advice, fundings, mobility...) about opportunities outside academia
- We train and coach doctoral candidates, post-docs and researchers to steer their career 3200 people trained in 2021 in France and in Europe
- **EURAXESS Career Development Centre** since 2017



# The French context: a few figures

- 70,000 doctoral candidates (16,000 1<sup>st</sup> year registrations/year)
- 40% international
- 74% funded doctorates
- Duration: 3-4 years (HSS:  $2/3 \ge 52$  months)
- More than 14,000 new doctorates delivered/year
- Less than 2,000 entry positions/year in academia (public)
  - Success rate: 5% (research) 13% (teaching)
  - Average age: varies between 31 37 yo



# AvanThèse (« Before Thesis ») Trainings: Integrating the doctorate to the career plan

Passion Reason

Wishes Tastes Skills Job

Values prospects

#### Asking the right questions

Is a PhD useful for my future career?

Do I have the skills and qualities needed?

What are my real motivations?

Discuss with people

Network, meet professionals



### Necessary skills for a successful doctorate?

Analysis & Problem-solving Critical thinking Conducting a Intellectual curiosity Data management research project Creativity Commitment Teamwork & working Time management Motivation within a network Ability to work under pressure Identifying and mobilizing the skills of experts Perseverance **Fundraising** Ability to do more Reporting Dexterity with less Written and oral communication Resilience Initiative **ABG** 

Bernard Gregory

## **During the doctorate**

1st year

2nd year

3rd year

Initiating reflection on career planning & Self-awareness

Insight into the job market & career options after a doctorate

Making the most out of the doctoral experience for a future career in or outside academia Identifying and assessing the skills and assets acquired during the research experience

Practicing presenting them

Networking

Optimizing applications

Recruitment process

Job interviews



# The supervisor's role

- Quality of the recruitment (=> preconditions for starting a doctorate ?)
- Onboarding of the doctoral candidate
- Ensuring high quality research and integration (\*the importance of the first year)
- Fostering career development, encouraging vocational training







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