



PhD PROGRAM IN METHODS AND MODELS FOR ECONOMIC DECISIONS

Department of Economics – Insubria University
Cicles 39 – 40 – 41, a.y. 2025/26

Staff

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PhD Office

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PHD PROGRAM IN METHODS AND MODELS FOR ECONOMIC DECISIONS

Introduce yourself

Surname	Name
Shah	Bibi Fiza
Osei Afriyie	Samuel
Piuri	Marina
Osatohanmwen	Patrick
Vanegas	Sofia
Veshapeli	Givi
De Angeli (PhD SDC)	Irene

Where you come from:

- previous studies
- background

Research interests



RESEARCH AREAS



- The economic theory of decision-making, both from the classical and behavioral perspectives;
- econometric models and statistical tools for analyzing economic decisions observed in laboratory or field settings;
- macroeconomics, including a historical perspective, and microeconomics;
- control theory and optimization for modeling economic phenomena.



PhD board – Department Members

Stefano Amelio	Associate Professor of Business Administration
Marianna Astore	Assistant Professor of Economic History
Andrea Bellucci	Associate Professor of Finance
Carlo Brambilla	Professor of Economic History
Chiara Casoli	Assistant Professor Econometrics
Paolo Castelnovo	Associate Professor of Applied Economics
Eugenio Caverzasi	Associate Professor of Economics
Umberto Galmarini	Professor of Public Economics
Astrid Gamba	Associate Professor of Economics
Patrizia Gazzola	Professor of Accounting
Asmerilda Hitaj	Associate Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economics
Paolo Leonetti	Associate Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economics
Elena Maggi	Professor of Economics

Elisa Mastrogiacomo	Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economics
Ivan Moscati	Professor of Economics
Regine Oexl	Associate Professor of Economics
Cristina Elisa Orso	Associate Professor of Public Economics
Paolo Pagnottoni	Assistant Professor of Statistics
Alessia Pisoni	Associate Professor of Management
Giuseppe Porro	Professor of Economic Policy
Matteo Rocca	Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economics
Alessandra Tanda	Associate Professor of Financial Markets and Institutions
Raffaello Seri	Professor of Econometrics
Daniela Sonedda	Associate Professor of Economics
Fabio Vanni	Associate Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economics
Andrea Vezzulli	Professor of Applied Economics



PhD Board – External members

1/2

Alessandro Barbiero	Associate Professor of Statistics	University of Milan
Cinzia Colapinto	Associate Professor in Management	Cà Foscari University of Venice
Giovanni P. Crespi	Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economics	LIUC – University Carlo Cattaneo
Francesco Figari	Professor of Public Economics	University of Eastern Piedmont
Chiara Gigliarano	Professor of Statistics	LIUC – University Carlo Cattaneo
Davide La Torre	HDR Associate Dean and Full Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Applied Mathematics	SKEMA Business School Université Cote d’Azur,
Jianyi Lin	Associate Professor	Department of Statistical Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Francesco Lissoni	Professor of Economics	University of Bordeaux
Danilo Liuzzi	Associate Professor	Department of Economics, Management and Quantitative Methods, University of Milan



PhD Board – External members

2/2

Simone Marsiglio	Associate Professor of Economics	University of Pisa
Silvia Massini	Professor of Economics and Technology Management	University of Manchester
Enrico Moretto	Assistant Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economics	University of Milan Bicocca
Davide Secchi	Associate Professor of Organizational Cognition	University of Southern Denmark
Silvana Robone	Professor of Economic Policy	University of Eastern Piedmont
Anna Cecilia Rosso	Associate Professor of Economics	University of Milan
Valerio Sterzi	Professor of Economics	University of Bordeaux



Doctoral Program

The main objective of the PhD program in Methods and Models for Economic Decisions is to prepare **highly-qualified researchers** to conduct research, work and teach in the variety of theoretical and applied approaches that are used in economics for analyzing decision-making processes.

To achieve this goal, the students will learn **scientific** contents and **methods, design** capabilities and **practical** skills.



Doctoral Program

The program also provides additional **complementary courses** related to the program's topic, taught by external professors visiting the Economics Department.

Please remember that lectures and seminars are given in English, usually held in presence and student's attendance is compulsory.



Doctoral Program

In line with the training framework defined by the Doctoral School, the study plan includes ECTS credits for both teaching and research activities.

Components of the PhD Program:

- Teaching activities
- Transferable skills training (minimum 3ECTS during the whole PhD)
- Research activities
- Optional study or research periods abroad

 Total: 180 ECTS over three years

 1 ECTS = 8 hours of lectures



PHD PROGRAM IN METHODS AND MODELS FOR ECONOMIC DECISIONS

PhD Timeline and Activities

- **Year 1:**
Intensive coursework in economics, quantitative and computational methods.
- **Years 2–3:**
Focus on individual research projects, participation in seminars and departmental events, and encouraged international mobility.
- **Transferable Skills:**
Distributed across all three years, with some activities tailored to specific cohorts (Year 1, Years 1–2, or open to all).



PhD Training Areas – Overview

Economic Area

Advanced training in theoretical and applied economics

Three sub-areas:

- Econometric techniques
- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics

Goal: Provide frontier-level knowledge of models and methods from international research literature



PhD Training Areas – Overview

Mathematical & Statistical Area

Advanced training in quantitative modeling of economic and financial phenomena. Topics include:

- Optimization theory
- Optimal control
- Network theory
- Risk measures

Research-oriented approach using key mathematical and statistical methods



PhD Training Areas – Overview

Computational Methods Labs

Practical skills on essential software for quantitative analysis.

Focus on:

- Optimization
- Regressions
- Time series analysis
- Complex dataset management

Empirical research-oriented teaching for model implementation, calibration, and validation



PhD Training Areas – Overview

Specialized & Interdisciplinary Activities

- Advanced courses, workshops, and thematic seminars
- Organized also in collaboration with external institutions

Aim:

- enrich methodological and interdisciplinary skills,
- foster scientific exchange,
- support academic/professional development



PHD PROGRAM IN METHODS AND MODELS FOR ECONOMIC DECISIONS

PhD Training Areas – Overview

Interdisciplinary Activities

- Check list here

<https://www.uninsubria.eu/course-catalogue/course-list/methods-and-models-economic-decisions-xli-cycle>

- Frequency is mandatory for at least 3ECTS (24 hours)

Free choice activities

Ph.D. students have the right to attend educational activities free of choice in other Ph.D. courses, also in other Universities



English Language Requirement

To obtain the PhD degree, candidates must certify at least **B2 level in English**.

Fulfillment options:


- Passing a B2-level exam from a recognized institution.
- Exemption (subject to PhD Board evaluation) in case of:
 - ≥1 year of college in English-speaking countries.
 - ≥1 year of academic mobility in English.
 - ≥6 months abroad during the PhD in non-Italian-speaking countries.
 - Master's degree entirely taught in English.
 - Language degree with ≥3 years of English studies (specific classes and regulations apply).



English Language Requirement

Support offered by the University:

- Optional courses via **MacMillan English Campus (MEC)**
- B2-level preparation course

 More info: <https://www.uninsubria.eu/course-catalogue/course-list/phd-doctoral-programs/information-enrolled-students/english-language>



Teaching activities: details

FIRST PERIOD (November – December 2025)						
Course title	n. hour	CFU	Lecturer	SSD	AREA	Final Exam
Advanced Econometrics for Decision Making	12	1,5	Seri	ECON-05	Economics Econometric techniques for economic decisions	✓
Applied econometrics: causality and policy evaluation	20	2,5	Castelnovo - Porro - <u>Sonedda</u> - <u>Vezzulli</u>	ECON-05	Economics: Econometric techniques for economic decisions	✓
Transport decision making and sustainability	12	1,5	Maggi	ECON-04	<u>Economics:</u> Applied Microeconomics	✓
Introduction to Macro Agent Based models	12	1,5	<u>Caverzasi</u>	ECON-01	<u>Economics:</u> Macroeconomics	✓
<u>Introduction to MATLAB</u>	8	1	Moretto	STAT-04	Computational methods for economic decisions	✓
STATA Laboratory for financial and economic analyses	10	1,25	Tanda	ECON-09	Computational methods for economic decisions	✓
Advanced Mathematical Methods for Economic Decisions	10	1,25	Tarsia	STAT-04	Mathematics/Statistics Quantitative tools for economic decisions	✓ (joint with Rocca's course)

Teaching activities: details

SECOND PERIOD (<u>February</u> – <u>May 2026</u>)						
<u>Course title</u>	<u>n. hour</u>	<u>CFU</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>SSD</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>Final Exam</u>
Decision making in historical-economic perspective	12	1,5	Brambilla	ECON-01	<u>Economics: Macroeconomics, Historical perspective</u>	✓
The economics of altruistic decisions and charitable giving	10	1,25	Galmarini	ECON-01	<u>Economics: Microeconomics</u>	✓
Applied econometrics: <u>Health Economics</u>	18	2,25	Prado, Robone, Orso	ECON-03	<u>Economics: Applied microeconomics</u>	✓
Optimization with applications to finance and economics	16	2	Rocca	STAT-04	Mathematics/Statistics Quantitative tools for economic decisions	✓
Networks: Theory and Applications	12	1,5	Vanni	STAT-04	Mathematics/Statistics Quantitative tools for economic decisions	✓

Teaching activities: details

<u>Complementary Educational and Seminar Activities (February – May 2026)</u>						
<u>Course title</u>	<u>n. hour</u>	<u>CFU</u>	<u>Lecturer</u>	<u>SSD</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>Final Exam</u>
<u>Structural Estimation</u>	8	1	Mantovan	ECON-05	Economics: Econometric techniques for economic decisions	X
Machine Learning for Human Life	8	1	Montorsi	ECON-01	Economics: Econometric techniques for economic decisions	✓ (joint with <u>Castelnovo et al. course</u>)
<u>Economic growth theory</u>	8	1	Marsiglio	ECON-01	Economics: <u>Macroeconomics</u>	✓ (joint with <u>La Torre's course</u>)
TBA	4	0,5	<u>Mendonça</u>	TBA	TBA	X
<u>Optimal control theory</u>	8	1	La Torre	STAT-04	Mathematics/Statistics Complementary tools for economic decisions	✓
<u>Option prices and its use in finance</u>	8	1	Sala	STAT-04	Mathematics/Statistics Complementary tools for economic decisions	X
<u>Becoming a researcher</u>	4	0,5	Massini		Transversal activity	X

MMED PhD WORKSHOP (Primavera 2026)		
<u>Presenter</u>	Affiliation	AREA
Francesconi	University of Essex (UK)	<u>Economics</u> : Applied <u>Microeconomics</u>
Mantovan	University of Liverpool (UK)	Economics : Econometric techniques for economic decisions
Massini	University of Manchester	<u>Economics</u> : Applied <u>Economics</u>



Research

Supervisor(s)

- 1 Supervisor + Co-Supervisor (mandatory)
- 1 between the Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor **MUST** be professor @ Uninsubria
- The supervisor must be identified **by the end of the 1st year**



Research

Research period abroad

- The PhD board strongly encourages to spend a research period abroad
- Duration can be from 1 month on
- It must be authorized by the PhD Board
- Request to be submitted at least 1 month before leaving
- Increase of salary of 50%

International Engagement

- Participation in international conferences and summer schools encouraged
- Opportunities to present and collaborate



Educational activities

PhD MMED Seminars

- Monthly meetings (Nov 2025 – Jun 2026)
- Open, informal space for idea exchange
- Presenters: PhD students (2nd/3rd year), post-docs, junior researchers
- Mixed format (in-person + online)
- Organized with Prof. Daniela Sonedda and with support from two 3rd year PhD students (Sara Savini and Serena Valente)



Educational activities

Brown Bag Seminars

- Monthly meetings (Nov 2025 – Jun 2026)
- Advanced insights and constructive feedback
- Presenters: by senior faculty and PhD Board
- Networking and supervisor identification for 1st year students
- Mixed format (in-person + online)
- Organized by areas (Economics: Sonedda, Math-Stat: Pagnottoni and Mastrogiacomo, management: Pisoni)



Educational activities

Participation Requirements

- **Mandatory** for 1st year students (PhD MMED seminars and Brown Bag seminars)
- Reminders with date and time are sent from the administrative staff a few day in advance
- **Strongly encouraged** for 2nd/3rd year students, and, in any case,
≥4 Brown Bag Seminars
≥4 Department seminars



Educational activities: Schedule (being updated)

PhD MMED Seminars:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AqDhspzTudrs47L1PoSakKYsMqGmKccKUYQuNRAoomc/edit?usp=sharing>

“Brown Bag”:

https://uninsubria365-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/personal/ids79777052_uninsubria_it/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B45D22A25-1CA5-4319-9639-C3BA10633966%7D&file=Brown%20Bag%20Seminars.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true

Other Department activities

<https://dieco.uninsubria.it/it/news-e-eventi/seminari>



Duties

Research Presentations

- **1st year students:** Oral presentation of research ideas for the PhD thesis (May/June 2026)
- **2nd year students:** Progress meeting + working paper submission
- **3rd year students:** Thesis presentation (Autumn 2026)



Duties

Annual Report (for all students)

- Submit by **Sept 15, 2026**
- To: dottorato.dieco@uninsubria.it (cc: coordinator)
- Include: seminar attendance (internal and external), research progress, training activities
- 2025 format available here
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Rw4sZS2XVwAVg-k0lwADb5JTIBzcygT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106428527216835633247&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- **Updated format will be sent by the administrative staff by early September**



Duties

In addition:

First year students:

In order to be admitted to the second year, first year students need to

- pass all the exams and submit all the required essays no later than the 15th of September of the first year. Failed exams can be retaken only once. All retakes should be carried out by the 15th of October. Failing twice to pass any exam prevents admission to second year and it involves the suspension of the fellowship
- By the 15th of September, first year students also need to choose a supervisor, among the members of the PhD board. A co-supervisor can also be chosen among other academics or practitioners who are not members of the PhD board



Duties

In addition:

Second year students:

In order to be admitted to the third year, students need to

- have completed at least one working paper and to have submitted it, through the supervisor, to the PhD board by the 15th of September of the second year. Failure to submit a working paper with the following requirements will prevent admission to the third year and involves the suspension of the fellowship.
- The working paper is an original research essay that contains at least some preliminary results with good potential for future publication, according to the supervisor's evaluation. It needs to appear in the Economic Department WP series or any other official WP series.



Duties

In addition:

Third year students:

- At the end of the third year, the PhD Board evaluates the entire training path of the doctoral candidate, including the quality and progress of the PhD thesis, for admission to the final examination. The thesis represents the main outcome of the research path and must demonstrate the ability to conduct original analysis and provide a significant scientific contribution.
- In a workshop that takes place during the autumn of the third year, students will present their work to the PhD board.
- Instructions for the submission of the PhD dissertation and *viva vocem examination* [can be found here](#).



Duties

Fo all students:

GUIDELINES FOR STRUCTURING YOUR PHD THESIS 1/2

- The thesis is expected to include at least three chapters.
- While the publication of all chapters by the time of the final examination is not required, each chapter should be developed with the clear aim of meeting the quality standards necessary for submission to quality recognized international peer-reviewed academic journals.
- Chapters should be presented in a format that does not create copyright concerns at the time of thesis submission. When including previously published works, an appropriate preprint version should be used to ensure compliance with academic and editorial requirements.



Duties

Fo all students:

GUIDELINES FOR STRUCTURING YOUR PHD THESIS 2/2

- It is recommended that at least one chapter be single-authored by the candidate.
- The thesis may be structured as a collection of articles, linked by an introduction and a concise literature review.
- The supervisors have a decisive role in guiding the structure and content of the thesis, and their recommendations should be followed. The final decision regarding the overall organization and conclusion of the thesis rests with the supervisor(s).



Resources for PhD Students

Financial Resources

- Each PhD student receives:
 - +10% of annual scholarship for research activities (Italy & abroad)
 - +50% scholarship increase for each month abroad (up to 12 months)
 - Up to 18 months increase for joint supervision (cotutelle)
- Mission requests must be submitted through the U-Web Missioni platform, accessible using your university credentials at <https://uninsubria.u-web.cineca.it>; rules available here: https://www.uninsubria.it/sites/default/files/2024-08/Reg_missioni_servizio_formattato.pdf (only in Italian)
- Administrative contact: Francesca Grignaschi, francesca.grignaschi@uninsubria.it



Resources for PhD Students

Structural Resources

Access to:

- Reserved office space
- Department computing labs & university IT facilities
- Study rooms and library
- Departmental computing server



Resources for PhD Students

Library & Databases

- Managed by Central Library System (SiBA)
SiBA Access
- Online access to databases and resources

IT Facilities

- Teaching labs and equipment
- IT Labs Info



Paid Activities

Teaching & Tutoring Activities

- PhD students may engage in **tutoring**, including paid tutoring, for Bachelor's and Master's students
- **Supplementary teaching** (introductory or remedial) is allowed up to **40 hours**

Activities require **PhD Board approval**

No increase in scholarship is provided for these activities

See the full regulation: PhD Program Rules (PDF)



Final Defense

- Once the 3rd year has been passed and admission to final defense is confirmed
- Registration for final exam (typically by end of November of 3rd year)

- **Submit the thesis via Esse3**

Evaluated by **2 external reviewer**

Each reviewer: **minor/major judgment**

- Decision: **minor** (if 2 minors), **major** (if 2 majors), **minor or major** decided by the Phd board (if 1 minor and 1 major)
- Minor: about 1 month to submit final version,
Major: 6 months to improve the work and submit major revision,
which is **again reviewed** by the external reviewers

Final Defense

- **Final defense**

Presentation in front of a committee (typically 1 internal member and 2 external members)

Pass/fail outcome with a score

General instructions (for the current a.y.) available on

<https://www.uninsubria.eu/course-catalogue/course-list/phd-doctoral-programs/information-enrolled-students/final-exam>

PhD Students

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37	21-22	CIRUZZI	MICHELE	mciruzzi@uninsubria.it
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		VALENTINI	OTTAVIA	ovalentini@studenti.uninsubria.it
38	22-23	CRISTALDI	GIULIA	gcristaldi@uninsubria.it
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		OFORI- MENSAH	KWAME ANSERE	kaoforimensah@uninsubria.it
		PONTIVI	ELISA	epontivi@uninsubria.it
		PRASOJO	HADI	hprasojo@studenti.uninsubria.it

*** In green: students' representative



PhD Students

cicle	a.y.	Surname	Name	Email
39	23-24	ADIWIJAYA	BRENDA HADIANA	bhadiwijaya@uninsubria.it
		BARGNA	LUCA	lbargna1@uninsubria.it
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		KOKA	ARDIT	akoka@uninsubria.it
		KUNZE	AMELIA	akunze@uninsubria.it
		SAVINI	SARA	ssavini@uninsubria.it
		VALENTE	SERENA	svalente@uninsubria.it
		TAGLIABUE	ALESSIA	atagliabue2@studenti.uninsubria.it

*** In green: students' representative



PhD Students

cicle	a.y.	Surname	Name	Email
40	24-25	ANTINORI	FRANCESCA	fantinori@uninsubria.it
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		DAL LAGO	FILIPPO	fdallago@uninsubria.it
		FAMÀ	ANGELO	afama1@uninsubria.it
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		SHENDEROVA	ANASTASIYA	ashenderova@uninsubria.it
		UL ABIDEEN	ZAIN	zulabideen@uninsubria.it
		PAKKATTIL	MURALEEDHARAN NIKHIL	npakkattilmuraleed@studenti.uninsubria.it



PhD Students's representatives

The representatives facilitate interactions between the students and the Phd Board

- Regular meetings with the coordinator

Duties:

- Collect feedback from students and report them to us
- Help with the organization of some activities (e.g., exams from remote)



Website

ALMOST EVERYTHING AVAILABLE
ON THE WEBSITE OF OUR PHD PROGRAM
<https://www.phd.eco.uninsubria.it>

I will appreciate any suggestion for the development of the website

Information Available on the Web

Managed by Scuola di Dottorato

- <https://www.uninsubria.eu/phds>
- <https://www.uninsubria.eu/course-catalogue/course-list/phd-doctoral-programs/information-enrolled-students>

Managed by the PhD Board

- <https://www.uninsubria.eu/course-catalogue/course-list/phd-doctoral-programs/information-enrolled-students>
- <https://www.phd.eco.uninsubria.it>

being continuously updated

Recommendations and Best Practices 1/3

- Be **ambitious** and **hardworking** from day 1
- Interact as much as possible with **supervisors and faculty**
- Attend cluster **seminars** and **interact** with speakers
- **Read frontier research:**
- Main journals in your fields
- Working paper series
- Present at least once a year in **internal seminars**
- Apply to **PhD conferences**
- Apply to **larger conferences**



Recommendations and Best Practices 2/3

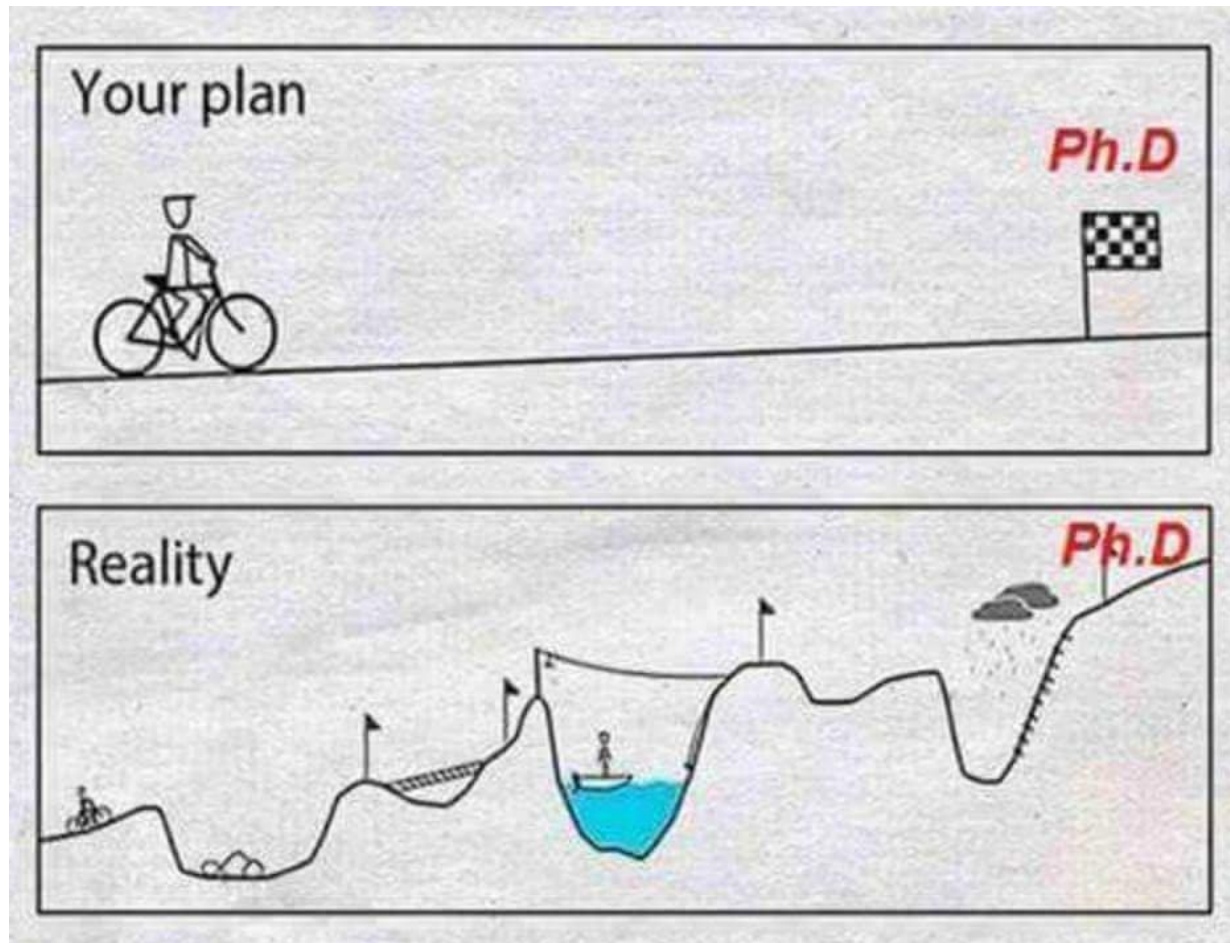
- Students are strongly encouraged to produce more than the minimal requirements described above.
- Any original result already published or accepted for publication on a peer reviewed scientific journal will be highly appreciated.

Recommendations and Best Practices 3/3

Never hesitate to contact

- The **phd representatives** for feedback and processes that can be improved (issues that may affect most of the students)
- Your **supervisor** for non-trivial problems about your ph.d. career that you cannot solve with your supervisor (personal issues)
- The **coordinator** for institutional problems (institutional issues + all the above)

PhD is a Journey



The Iceberg Illusion

Success is an iceberg



SUCCESS!

WHAT PEOPLE SEE

Persistence



Failure



Sacrifice



Disappointment



WHAT PEOPLE DON'T SEE

Dedication



Hard work



Discipline

