

SOS for Researching Seafarers – Introducing Professional Doctorate in Maritime Education



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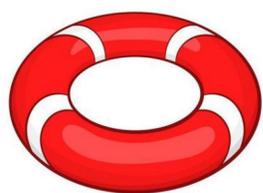
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Students enrolling at PhD maritime programs in majority opt for part-time doctorate. Their finishing rate is, however, low and the time to eventual completion exceeds 7 years by which 73% of EU students reach their PhDs.

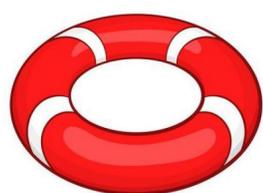
In order to save maritime professionals at doctoral programs, maritime universities could try throwing **a professional doctorate (Doctor of Engineering, EngD)**

over classical research doctorate (Doctor of Philosophy, PhD). In brief, PhD is intended to develop “professional researchers” and EngD is designed to develop “researching professionals”. In order to perform successful salvation, professional doctorate must rely on these six points:



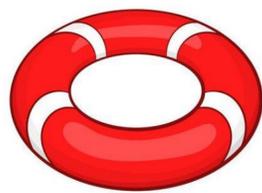
1. CAREER FOCUS

EngD should be aimed at experienced professionals who wish to extend their professional expertise and undertake advanced research.



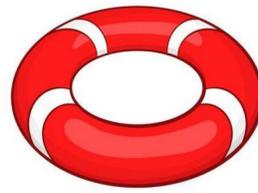
2. RESEARCH TYPE AND FOCUS

EngD students should perform applied research and their research focus is on a perceived problem in professional practice that needs investigation and resolution.



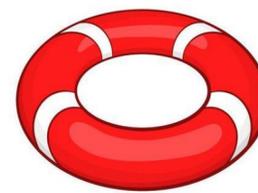
3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

EngD students should be able to conceptualise, design and implement a project that is intended to generate new knowledge and its application to professional practice.



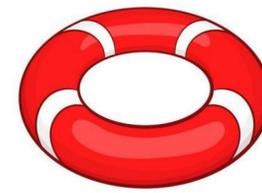
4. MODE OF STUDY

EngD students spend their working time in industry and therefore most of the EngD programs are designed to be studied only by part-time attendance.



5. BLENDING OF WORK & STUDY

Harmonizing the extent to which the scientific research penetrates everyday professional practice is crucial to deliver optimal performance at work place and fulfill academic requirements.



6. DISTANT LEARNING

Maritime professionals can not spend prolonged periods at campus, so composing adequate online EngD curriculum is a must. This program must adhere to same academic rigour as onsite programs.

