Doctoral programmes represent the highest level of formal education, distinguished from Bachelor's and Master's programmes by their individual focus and emphasis on independent research in a specific field in collaboration with an experienced supervisor and under the guidance of the subject-area board which is responsible for running the PhD programme. PhD studies prepare students for a career in research and/or for highly qualified work in a number of professions. PhD programmes are integrated with high-quality research activities. Charles University is one of the most important providers of doctoral studies in the Czech Republic – one in three doctoral students in the Czech Republic study here. Therefore, the University considers doctoral studies as one of its key long-term strategic priorities, and it has been strengthening this profile in doctoral studies by developing partnerships with other research institutions (particularly the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic).

Charles University has been monitoring feedback from its doctoral graduates; around 85 per cent of them consider their PhD studies to have been a positive experience.