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Norwegian Doctoral Degrees in Chemistry

Statistics from the Doctoral Degree Register

Commision from the Research Area for Science and Technology at the Research
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Main figures

From 1991 until the spring 1996, 2,800 doctoral degrees were conferred by Norwegian higher education institutions. Of these, 765 or slightly more than one fourth were taken in science and technology. Of these, 151 were classified under *chemistry* under the Faculties of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at Norwegian universities. In addition, 114 doctoral degrees were taken at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology at the former Norwegian Institute of Technology, NTH, (from 1.1.1996 incorporated in the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU¹). Together, 265 doctorates were taken within chemistry at Norwegian universities.

Degree title distribution

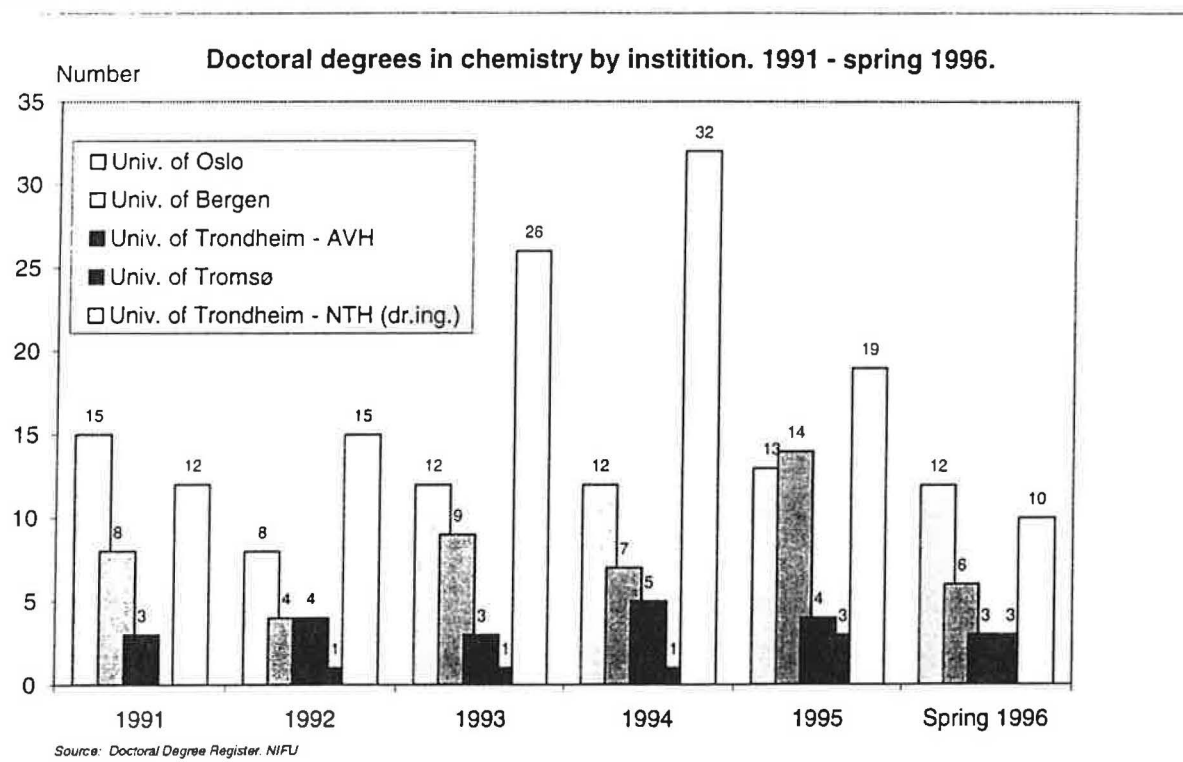
This is the distribution of the 265 degrees:

Dr.scient. 139

Dr.philos. 12

Dr.ing. 114

Institutional distribution



¹ Also incorporated in NTNU is the former College of Arts and Science (abbr. AVH).

Gender distribution

The percentage of women among doctoral degree candidates was higher in chemistry than in mathematics/natural sciences in general, 38 versus 27 per cent during the period under study. The percentage of women taking doctoral degrees in *all* fields was 27 percent.

Distribution by subfields

Based on their titles, doctoral degrees are classified by disciplines and subfields. Within the natural sciences department association or field of study in most cases will be decisive for the discipline or subfield classification.

Table 1 shows the distribution of doctoral degrees in chemistry in the Faculties of Mathematics/Natural Sciences by subfields.

Table 1 Norwegian doctoral degrees in chemistry 1991- spring 1996 by subfields. Number and average age.

Subfield	Number	Average age
<i>Mathematics/Natural Sciences faculties</i> ¹⁾		
Analytical chemistry	3	32,7
Biochemistry	43	35,6
Physical/theoretical chemistry	20	31,4
Organic chemistry	26	33,9
Inorganic chemistry	8	35,4
Chemistry - unspecified	51	33,6
Sum MN-faculties	151	34,0
Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, NTH ²⁾	114	30,6
Total	265	32,7

1) Incl. natural science departments at the Univ. of Tromsø

2) Figures from 1992. Incl. one degree without faculty association (siviling. in Porsgrunn)

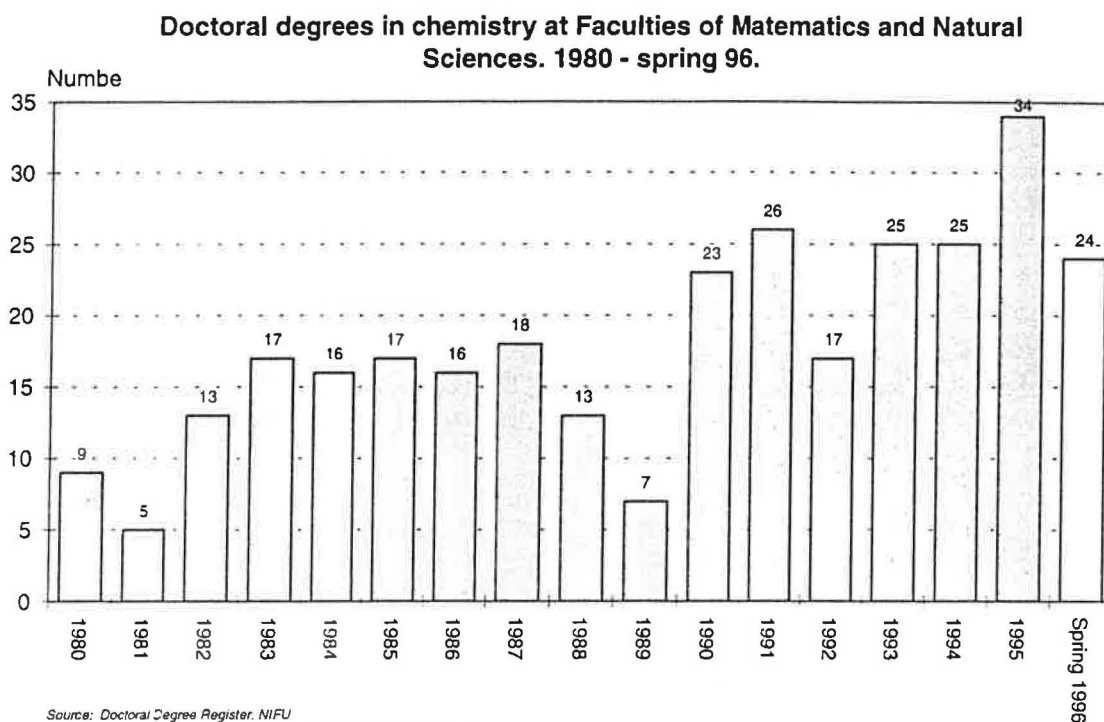
Source: Doctoral Degree Register. NIFU

Age distribution

As Table 1 shows, the average age at the thesis defence was 33; there were no significant differences between genders in this respect. Those taking the dr.ing. degree were somewhat younger (31), while those who took the dr.scient. or dr.philos. degrees were slightly older (34). In Mathematics and Natural Science Faculties the average age was 35, while the average age for all doctors regardless of discipline was 37. The average for all subfields within mathematics and the natural sciences can also be seen from Table 1.

Development over time

The figure below shows development in the number of doctorates in chemistry in mathematics/natural sciences since 1980.



Annex: The Doctoral Degree Register

This register contains all the doctoral and licentiate degrees ever conferred at *Norwegian* universities and colleges. The first doctoral degree was taken at the Royal Frederik's University (now the University of Oslo) in 1817. This register is updated twice a year on the basis of information received from the doctorate granting institutions. At the end of 1995 the register encompassed information on 7,700 persons. The following information is registered for each person granted a doctorate:

- Name
- Gender
- Age (date of birth)
- Nationality
- Education (graduate degree before the doctoral degree)
- Institution of education
- Year of completed education
- Type of doctoral degree (title)
- Year of doctoral thesis defence (from 1991 the month is also registered)
- Place where the doctoral degree was taken (institution and faculty)
- Main field of the doctoral degree (mainly based on dissertation topic)
- Discipline of the doctoral degree (mainly based on dissertation topic: pertains to disciplines within the humanities, social sciences, mathematics and natural sciences).

During the recent years the time of the *thesis defence* has been used as the time of registration in the doctoral degree register rather than the time of conference through a formal steering board or formal conference in the form of a ceremony. We conceive the date of the thesis defence as the *real* conclusion of doctoral degree studies. This enables us to avoid the different practices of institutions regarding ways in which degrees are conferred and to have comparable figures regarding ages and the time between graduate degrees and doctoral degrees.

Data from the doctoral degree register are used for statistical purposes. These statistics are published biannually in an information newsletter and they are also available on the Internet (<http://www.nifu.no>). Doctoral degree statistics are used in many different publications and as background material. They may also be used for a variety of analyses (research recruitment, mobility studies etc).

The doctoral degree register is maintained pursuant to the regulations of the Data Inspectorate.