

# Summary of Part I

Part I of this book has been concerned with the decision process centered on whether or not a doctoral degree is the right course of action for you. This question has been addressed at two levels: In a first examination of the question (Chap. 1) we took a high level view, asking whether you fall into any of the following four categories:

- you aspire to undertake a career that requires a doctoral degree,
- you are fascinated by innovation in a particular field,
- you are fascinated by the quest for science and engineering knowledge as an end in their own right, or
- you want to achieve a personal goal.

If any of the above applies to you, then the likelihood is that a doctorate is the perfect course of action for you.

To firm up the decision process, Chaps. 2– 5 examined the questions at a deeper level and addressed the following topics:

- Examples of where you can use a doctorate, including universities, industry and government (Chap. 2).
- The importance of choosing a place, supervisor and topic and the alignment of all three (Chap. 3).
- An indication of how hard you will have to work (Chap. 4).
- A discussion of how long a doctoral degree might take and of the difficulties associated with doing a doctorate part-time (Chap. 5).

When combined with the initial indication, this more detailed information should help you arrive at a solidly founded decision. You can also use the decision aid tool on the book's web-site: A doctorate and beyond.