



SMU Academic Research PhD Programmes:

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in
Accounting ,
School of Accountancy**

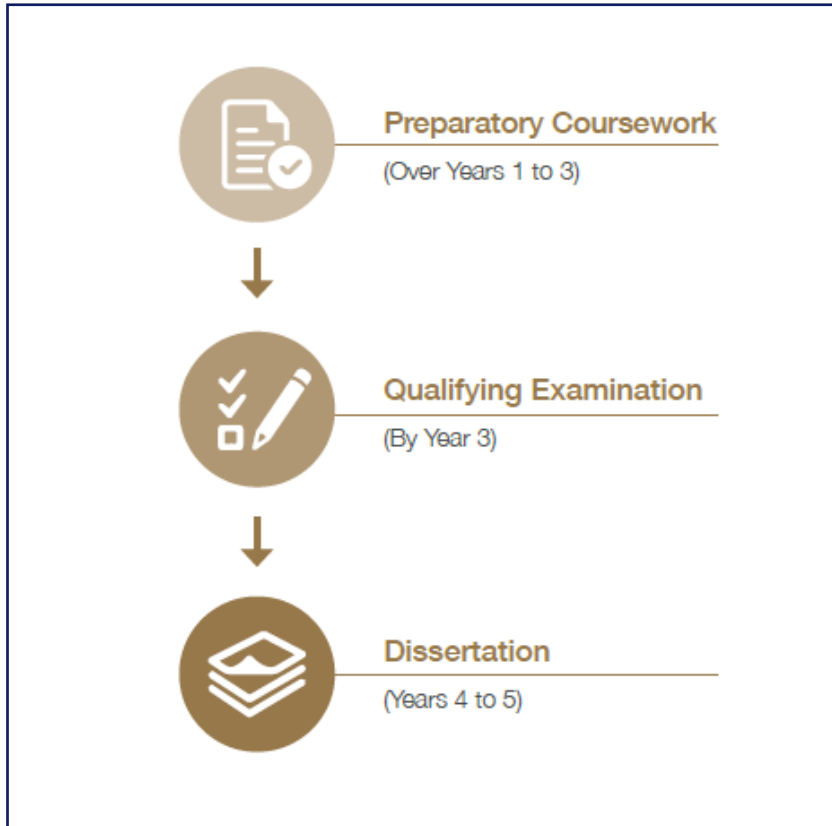
Presented by:

**Lou Yun,
Associate Professor of Accounting
Programme Director, PhD in Accounting Programme
Lee Kong Chian Fellow**

Program Objectives

- To prepare students for a career at leading research-oriented institutions
- To train future thought leaders in accounting for the accounting industry and regulatory agencies in the Asia-Pacific region
- To develop students' ability to conduct original scientific research in accounting through theory-building and state-of-the-art quantitative research methodology.

SMU PhD: Overall Programme Structure



** Coursework & QE periods would vary from programme-to-programme.*

Preparatory Coursework Requirement

A combination of:

- Foundation Courses
- Electives
- Advanced Research Topics
- Empirical Research Projects

Qualifying Examination (QE)

- Students are **assessed on the mastery of the foundation required** for the Dissertation

Dissertation

- **Oral presentation of the proposed topic** to a Dissertation Committee
- **Oral presentation of the written dissertation report** to the Dissertation Committee

SMU PhD: Student Experiences That You Can Look Forward To

Academic Training & Professional Skills Training

Academic Training

- Provided with **high quality academic research PhD curriculum**
- Appointed as **research assistants** at the Schools, & SMU centres & institutes
- Participate in **international research conferences**

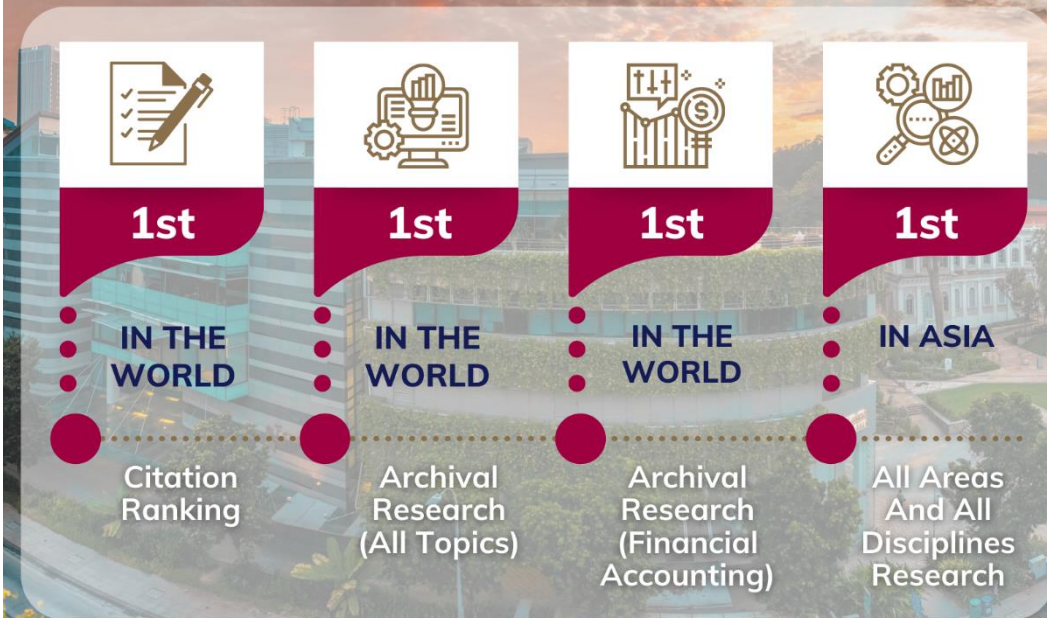
Professional Skills Training

- Provided **with teaching skills training** through workshops
- Provided with **English communication, and scientific presentation & writing skills training** through courses
- Provided with **career development workshops**



BYU ACCOUNTING RESEARCH RANKINGS 2021

(RELEASED FEB 2022)



Core Research Areas of SOA



- Mainly focuses on archival/empirical research
- 22 research-active tenure track faculty members with a broad spectrum of research interests
- New research focus: ESG reporting; Digital Transformation Research

Recent Research@SOA

Credit ratings clients of Moody's, S&P received better ESG scores, SMU study finds

🕒 THU, MAY 19, 2022 - 7:05 PM | 🔄 UPDATED THU, MAY 19, 2022 - 7:14 PM

WONG PEI TING ✉️ wongpeiting@sph.com.sg 🐦 @WongPeiTingBT



Feedback



Assistant Professor Richard Crowley

Predicting intentional accounting misreporting

Taking a fine-tooth comb to the text found in a firm's annual report, instead of the numbers, could better predict intentional misreporting, says SMU Assistant Professor Richard Crowley.

By Alvin Leo

In the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) 10-K annual report filing for its financial year ending July 31, 2008, American jewellery retailer Zale Corporation ("Zales") mentioned the words 'advertising' or 'advertisement' 17 times. A year later, those same words showed up more than twice as often at 41 times.

By then, the SEC had begun investigations after the company delayed posting fourth-quarter results. Zales was subsequently found to have improperly capitalised television advertising costs from 2004 to 2009 although few had noticed what was going on.

In a method featured in new research by SMU Assistant Professor of Accounting Richard Crowley, this intentional misreporting would have sent alarm bells ringing well before the SEC started asking questions.

"They're 97th percentile or higher in our model in every single year from the second year of misreporting onwards," says Professor Crowley, referring to the machine learning technique featured in the paper "What are You Saying? Using Topic to Detect Financial Misreporting". "97th percentile here means that their score on our misreporting detection model was higher than 97 per cent of US public companies."



He adds: "The model is run yearly, so that means that for each year of 2005, 2006, ... 2009, Zales scored a higher misreporting detection score than 97 per cent of public companies that year."

What's the word?

Professor Crowley explains that the research completely ignores the numbers – "If managers are going to misreport the numbers, they're going to do it in a believable fashion" – and looks at what is written instead, which the research refers to as the 'topic'.

Together with Professors Nerissa Brown and Brooke Elliott from Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Professor Crowley analysed over 3 billion words in 10-K filings from 1994-2012 to see how reliably certain

topics predicted intentional misreporting. In certain samples, the research improved prediction of intentional misreporting by 59 per cent.

"The one key difference when you're discussing things when you're lying is that you're very intentional on the topics you pick to discuss," he elaborates, pointing to the example of Enron.

"They just talk about increases in income and they have an enormous amount of discussion about that," Professor Crowley observes. Enron's 1999 annual report serves as a prime example, citing "acceleration of Enron's staggering pace of commercial innovation" for a 28 per cent revenue increase to US\$40 billion from a year ago, as well as a 37 per cent jump in

The researchers based their findings on an analysis of the ESG ratings issued by Vigeo Eiris and RobecoSAM before and after they were acquired by Moody's and S&P, respectively, in 2019. PHOTO: PIXABAY

SMU PhD: Scholarships & Fellowships

Fully-funded Scholarships

(cover registration & tuition fees, and provides monthly stipends for 1st 4 years)

Doctoral Fellowships

(Presidential Doctoral Fellowships & Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowships)

Graduate Assistantship Programme

(includes Graduate Instructors, Research & Teaching Assistantships)

- *Generous conference funding also provided: SGD3,500.*
- *In the 5th year, students who have been on the scholarship may receive continued support through research and teaching assistantships, graduate instructor positions or industry grants.*

SMU PhD: Scholarships & Fellowships (Cont'd)

Monthly Stipends for Full Scholarships

Nationality	Monthly Stipend before Qualifying Examination (SGD)	Monthly Stipend after Qualifying Examination (SGD)
Singapore Citizens	2,800	3,300
Singapore Permanent Residents	2,400	2,900
International Students	2,200	2,700

SMU PhD: Scholarships & Fellowships (Cont'd)

Monthly Stipends for Doctoral Fellowships

[*Presidential Doctoral Fellowships (PDF) & Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowships (IDF)*]

Nationality	Monthly Stipend (SGD)
Singapore Citizens	3,600
Singapore Permanent Residents	3,400
International Students	3,100

- **PDF:** Awarded to exceptionally qualified PhD candidates (*incoming & existing*)
- **IDF:** Awarded to existing PhD candidates who have shown exemplary pursuit of research that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries.
- Higher monthly stipends.
- PDF & IDF award recipients are provided with an additional conference funding of SGD3,500.

SMU PhD: Admission Requirements

Passion

For the pursuit and creation of knowledge to benefit society.

At least a good Bachelor's degree

A Master's degree is useful but not required.

GMAT/GRE

Required for most programmes, with some disciplines having a preference of one over the other.

TOEFL/IELTS

For applicants whose medium of instruction at the undergraduate/ Master's level was not English.

SMU PhD: Application Period

Intake	Opening Date for Application	Closing Date for Application
<i>August</i>	1 August (of prior year)	31 January (of intake year)

Website and Contact Information



<https://smu.sg/phd-accounting>



+65 6828 0610



soa_phd@smu.edu.sg

Thank You.

