

Master by Research Programmes

Elevate Your Career with
Advanced Research Knowledge



Message from The Dean



The Singapore Management University (SMU) offers four Master by Research programmes. These programmes will allow you to ascertain if research, at either an academic institution or industry, is what you would like to pursue as a career. If you are considering a career in academia but have not decided that you would like to pursue a doctoral programme right after your Bachelor's degree, these Master's programmes will provide you a head start on research work.

The programmes will provide you with a good understanding of current arguments, analyses and issues in a particular area of research. You will also get the ability to identify and formulate a research question, as well as construct and carry out a research plan. Students are given flexibility in the way they organise their coursework and the writing of their theses over the two years to best fit their career objective, be it to continue their studies with a PhD or to enter the labour force upon graduation.

Professor Heli WANG
Dean, College of Graduate Research Studies

College of Graduate Research Studies (CGRS)

The College of Graduate Research Studies (CGRS) trains students to **uncover new knowledge and develop novel solutions that are relevant to some of today's most challenging issues**. This will be undertaken at the intersections of disciplines, cultures and industry.

Our community of learners benefit from the **diversity of expertise, disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge and perspectives** so that they are well-equipped to create significant impact.



CREATE
Significant Impact
Across Disciplines



TACKLE
Challenging Issues
With Confidence



BUILD
Strong Connections
Within Our Community

TRANSFORMATIVE & HOLISTIC LEARNING

- Through interdisciplinary programmes.
- Through the Graduate Research Interdisciplinary Topics (GRIT) comprising the training in curated topics spanning across two or more disciplines, to ensure students are well-grounded.
- Through the Graduate Research Professional Development (GRPD) programme which consists of a suite of credit-bearing courses, workshops and seminars to ensure career-readiness.

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

- Through the Graduate Research Student Society (GRSS) to deepen interactions among students with academic exchanges and social activities.
- Through the Graduate Research Alumni Chapter (GRAC) to enhance lifelong engagement and affiliation among the graduates.
- Through meaningful engagement events and activities between students and graduates.

Globally Ranked

- **21st Worldwide** among specialist universities (QS World University Rankings 2025)
- **19th Worldwide** among the Best Young Universities (QS World University Rankings 2024)
- **1st Singapore University** to achieve AAHRPP accreditation
- **1st Triple Accredited Business School in Singapore (AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS)**
Lee Kong Chian School of Business
- **8th Business School in Asia**
Lee Kong Chian School of Business (Financial Times EMBA Ranking 2020)
- **1st in Asia, 2nd Worldwide** for Archival Accounting Research (All Topics) (Brigham Young University Accounting Research Rankings)
- **2nd in Asia** for Master of IT in Business (QS Masters in Business Analytics Ranking)
- **1st in Asia, Top 3 Worldwide** for Master of Science in Wealth Management in Finance Rankings 2020

COLLEGE OF INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Asian Urbanisms

This is a two-year programme that integrates rigorous coursework with a research component. Asian Urbanisms recognises and embraces the uniqueness of Asia as a region, and uses this uniqueness to develop novel theoretical, empirical and practical interventions into the study and understanding of Asian cities. All our graduates receive broad-based training in urban theory; qualitative and quantitative research methods; and the local, national and regional distinctiveness of Asian cities. They will also receive specialised training, culminating in independent research and a Master's thesis, in one of three thematic areas: (1) Environment and Sustainability, (2) Infrastructure and Technology, (3) Economics and Governance, and (4) Society and Culture.

For more details, please visit:

<https://smu.sg/mphil-asian-urbanisms>

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Economics

This is a two-year programme. It integrates rigorous coursework with a research component. The coursework brings students to the frontier of Economics knowledge, while the thesis gives students the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of the research frontier.

Students are required to complete eight courses and a thesis. Courses must include Microeconomics I & II, Macroeconomics I & II, Econometrics I & II. Students have flexibility in organising their coursework: they can take three compulsory courses in the first year and the other three courses in the second year; they can also choose to take all compulsory courses in the first year. For the remaining two courses that students must complete, they have the choice among Topics courses offered in our PhD programme, and they can choose to complete them in the first year, the second year, or over the two years.

For more details, please visit:

<https://smu.sg/mphil-economics>

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Psychology

This is a two-year full-time programme designed for Year 4 SMU undergraduates who are interested in developing advanced research skills and having a rigorous experience. The programme is designed especially for those who aspire to pursue a PhD in Psychology or research-oriented careers in various sectors. By completing the Fast-track MPhil in Psychology (FTMP) programme, students will earn the MPhil in Psychology one year after graduating from the Bachelor's programme.

The programme provides a formal structure that addresses the challenges faced by graduate students seeking further studies in psychology. This includes access to essential resources needed to conduct independent research and a two-year period to develop larger research projects and collaborations.

FTMP graduates will be well equipped with the skills and knowledge to pursue a wide range of advanced research-based career opportunities in the industry, government and research institutions, including placements in PhD programmes within Singapore and overseas.

For more details, please visit:

<https://smu.sg/mphil-psychology>

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Master of Science in Computing (MSC)

This programme enhances your knowledge and skills by providing a broad view of computing systems and hands-on experience. The MSC programme is ideal for applicants who are interested in developing new technologies and creating innovative applications.

An essential component of the curriculum is its emphasis on strong industry-relevant projects. Work on real-world problems and gain sought-after development and research skills. There are three programme tracks in Cybersecurity, Data Science & Engineering, and Software & Cyber-Physical Systems.

For more details, please visit:

<http://smu.sg/msc-computing>

SMU RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP & PROGRAMME FEES

The SMU Research Scholarship is available for the MPhil in these disciplines – Asian Urbanisms, Economics and Psychology. The Scholarship covers registration and subsidised tuition fees, and provides monthly living stipends. Scholars under this scheme are not allowed to engage in any other gainful employment. Beyond the scholarship duration, you may receive continued support through research assistantships, teaching assistantships or industry grants at SMU.

The Master of Science in Computing is a self-funded programme – find out more about the Programme Fees on the relevant website.



Yi Jing CHUA
MPhil in Psychology,
Class of 2023
PhD Student
(Psychology) at
Stanford University

SMU's Fast Track MPhil in Psychology programme was an invaluable opportunity that allowed me to hone my research skills and explore my research interests. I am especially grateful for the excellent faculty, who were instrumental in preparing me for a career in academia and fostering my growth as a researcher!



Ginice SEAH
Master of Science in Computing,
Class of 2021
Trading Analytics
Product Owner at
ExxonMobil

Having a background in statistics and a passion for data-driven decision-making, I am thrilled to join and complete SMU's Master of Science in Computing, under the Data Science & Engineering track. The programme's interdisciplinary approach, rigorous curriculum, and sharing of real-world use cases have enabled me to apply advanced analytics techniques to solve complex business challenges and make a positive impact in my career.

With a strong focus on cutting-edge research, hands-on experience, and expert faculty, this programme has provided me with the opportunity to deepen my knowledge in data science, develop advanced research skills, and make meaningful contributions to the data science field.



Website



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