

Professional Doctorate Programmes

Academic Doctoral Degree for
Practitioner-Scholars



POSTGRADUATE

Message from The Dean



The Singapore Management University (SMU) College of Graduate Research Studies (CGRS) enhances integration and interdisciplinarity across the various SMU postgraduate research (PGR) programmes, enabling our PGR students to gain a holistic learning experience and well-grounded approach to their research. This is achieved through interdisciplinary programmes, shared courses and professional training workshops. Furthermore, CGRS will strengthen networking, cohort building and collaborative opportunities for PGR students across the various programmes, facilitated through the student and alumni groups. Ultimately, our PGR students will be poised to tackle challenges affecting businesses and societies across boundaries with confidence and create significant impact.

SMU offers Professional Doctorate Programmes designed for senior and mid-level practitioners (such as business leaders, consultants, engineers or scientists), and for applied scholars who are working at the boundaries of academic and practitioner-oriented work. The programmes train practitioners to translate and apply academic research into solutions for stakeholders in the real world. You will bring value to your professional field through this enhanced ability to translate and apply research results into evidence-based decisions, policies, programmes and solutions.

On behalf of SMU, I welcome you to embark on an exciting doctorate journey with us!

Professor Heli WANG

Dean, College of Graduate Research Studies



CREATE
Significant Impact
Across Disciplines



BUILD
Strong Connections
Within the Community



TACKLE
Challenging Issues
With Confidence



UNLOCK
Opportunities
Through Interdisciplinary Research

» SMU College of Graduate Research Studies

The College of Graduate Research Studies (CGRS) enhances interdisciplinary training across the various SMU's PhD programmes to allow students to uncover new knowledge and develop novel solutions that are relevant to some of today's most challenging issues. 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 on both academia and industry.

» SMU Research Rankings



#8

in Asia
in Tilburg
University's Top
100 Worldwide
Economics
Schools
Research
Ranking
2024

#2

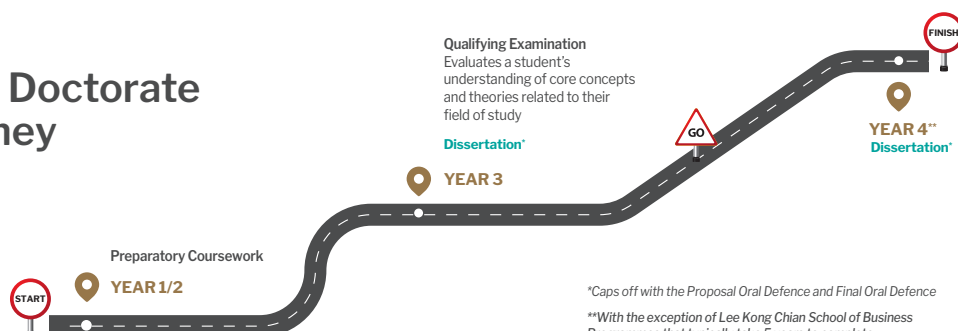
in Asia and
#21 worldwide
in Financial
Times Global
Business School
Aggregate
Research
Rankings 2025

#2

in the world
for Archival
Financial
Research by
Brigham
Young
University
Accounting
Rankings
(since 2024)

As of 29 August 2025

» SMU Doctorate Journey



*Caps off with the Proposal Oral Defence and Final Oral Defence

**With the exception of Lee Kong Chian School of Business Programmes that typically take 5 years to complete.

List of Programmes

SMU offers a suite of professional doctorate programmes, as follows:

- PhD in Business (General Management)
- Doctor of Business Administration
- Doctor of Engineering



We also partner with the following leading institutions to offer collaborative professional doctorate programmes:

- Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business (CKGSB)
- Peking University HSBC Business School (PHBS)
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU)
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen) (CUHK-SZ)
- Zhejiang University (ZJU)

For more information, please scan the QR code.

Networking Opportunities

Graduate Research Student Society

The Graduate Research Student Society (GRSS) both enhances social and academic interactions, as well as facilitates collaborative activities and exchanges amongst the SMU postgraduate research student community.



Graduate Research Alumni Chapter

The Graduate Research Alumni Chapter (GRAC) supports the transition, wellbeing, belonging and life-long affiliation of our students to SMU and one another through various networking opportunities organised by our alumni community.



Application, Fees and Funding

Scan the QR code to check out the application, tuition fees and scholarship information for the individual programmes.



Our Students' Work

The SMU Professional Doctorate programmes provide opportunities to our students to deepen their knowledge and research expertise. Over the years, our students have published papers and written dissertations that have contributed towards the pool of academic knowledge.

Dissertations



The pursuit of the programme was more than an academic endeavour. It was transformative, challenging me intellectually, fostering personal growth in terms of resiliency and adapting to the demands of a dissertation committee, most importantly, allowing me to contribute valuable concrete insight into making society better for all.



Leon QIU
PhD in Business
(General Management)
Class of 2024
Board Member of SR
Nathan Education
Upliftment Fund



TAN Choon Ngee
Doctor of Business
Administration
Class of 2025
Group CEO of aZaaS
Pte Ltd

The SMU DBA experience has been nothing short of transformative — not just for the knowledge gained, but for the company I kept. To be surrounded by peers whose insights elevated every discussion, and to learn from faculty whose world-class expertise constantly challenged my thinking — that was the true privilege.



NGUYEN Huynh Long Hung
Doctor of Engineering,
Fourth Year Student,
School of Computing
and Information Systems
Vingroup Scholar

As a current student in the Doctor of Engineering (EngD) programme at SMU's SCIS, I find the experience both invigorating and challenging. The faculty members, with their extensive teaching, practice, and consultancy experience, provide invaluable guidance and focus on solving deep tech business challenges. Additionally, the engaging discussions and debates with my peers have greatly enhanced my understanding and learning.





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