The SMU PhD:
Research Excellence across
Management, Social Science and Technology
**Our Programmes**

SMU PhD programmes develop world-class researchers. Become future thought leaders in your specialised field.

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**The SMU Experience**

‘The experience moves me away from textbook to real-world application.’ PhD students take their research to the next level.

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**Singapore**

A ‘little red dot’ always bustling with life, Singapore offers an enriching journey for your PhD experience.

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**SMU Admissions**

SMU invites candidates who have a good Bachelor’s degree to join our exciting PhD programmes.
SMU PhD: An Overview

SMU PhD students:

- Become **impactful researchers**
- Experience **world-class training** in our academic centre of excellence
- Become **well-rounded professionals**
- Get **greater accessibility to our industry partners and resources**
- Build a **successful career** with the SMU PhD
PhD Programmes

Lee Kong Chian School of Business
- PhD in Business
  - (Finance / Operations Management / Organisational Behaviour & Human Resources / Marketing / Strategic Management & Organisation)

School of Economics
- PhD in Economics

School of Social Sciences
- PhD in Psychology

School of Information Systems
- PhD in Information Systems
SMU’s environment provides a broad perspective across, & deep expertise in, Management, Social Science & Technology

- Our PhD students could either **delve deep into their chosen disciplines** (research specialisations listed in the 4 boxes) or **undertake interdisciplinary research**.

- Interdisciplinary studies could be undertaken **across PhD programmes** (such as Information Systems & Marketing) or **in alignment with SMU research areas of excellence** (5 circles).
SMU PhD students can specialise in one of the areas in Management, Social Science & Technology: Research Areas of Specialisation

**SMU PhD in Business**
Lee Kong Chian School of Business
- Finance
- Marketing
- Operations Management
- Organisational Behaviour & Human Resources
- Strategic Management & Organisation
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- General Management

**SMU PhD in Economics**
School of Economics
- Macroeconomic Fluctuations & Growth
- International Trade & Trade Policy
- Econometrics
- Industrial Organisation, Urban & Regional Economics
- Economics of Health & Ageing
- Social Choice & Welfare
- Game Theory & Mechanism Design

**SMU PhD in Psychology**
School of Social Sciences
- Social
- Cultural
- Industrial & Organisational
- Personality
- Cognitive
- Developmental
- Evolutionary

**SMU PhD in Information Systems**
School of Information Systems
- Data Analytics & Machine Learning
- Agents, Decisions & Optimisation
- Analytics Fusion: Spatial-Temporal, Social-Physical, Data-Decision
- Software Engineering, Mobile Systems & Cyber-Physical Systems
- Cybersecurity & Secure Mobile Systems
- Information Systems Economics & Management
- Computational Social Science & Field-based Experimentation
# Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme: An Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Specialisation</th>
<th>Secondary Specialisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(8 Course Units)</td>
<td>(4 Course Units)</td>
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</table>

Students will:

- have **research advisors** from both specialisations.
- undertake **research assistantships** with SMU’s centres and institutes.
- receive the prestigious **SMU Presidential Doctoral Fellowship**.
### Analytics for Business, Consumer & Social Insights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Specialisation</th>
<th>Secondary Specialisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Systems</td>
<td>Economics, Marketing or Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Economics, Information Systems or Psychology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Finance & Financial Markets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Specialisation</th>
<th>Secondary Specialisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Finance</td>
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</table>
Programme Structure

Coursework
[Years 1 to 2]

Qualifying Examination
[By Year 2]

Dissertation
- Oral Defence of Proposal [by Term 1 of Year 3]
- Oral Defence & Completion of Dissertation [by end of Year 4]

* Students are encouraged to complete their PhDs in 4 years.
Scholarships & Fellowships

Full Scholarships
- Cover tuition and registration fees, and provide monthly stipends.
- Renewable yearly, up to Year 4, based on good academic performance.

SMU Presidential Doctoral Fellowships
- Exceptionally qualified PhD students.
- Renewable yearly, up to Year 4, based on good academic performance.
- Higher monthly stipends.
PhD Students’ Experiences: 
Academic Training & Professional Skills Training

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

**Professional Skills Training**
- Provided with **teaching skills training** through workshops
- Provided with **English communication skills training** through courses
- Provided with **career development** workshops
SMU has over 20 research centres and institutes, most in collaboration with industry partners. These centres & institutes:

- Conduct world-class research and influence industry practice
- Engage students as research assistants & post-doctoral fellows on impactful projects
PhD Student Experience as Research Assistants

Students are involved in research assistantships at the Schools, and centres & institutes.

Full-time/Part-time research assistantship positions

Cover tuition fees and provide monthly stipends, or supplement scholarship stipends

Allow students to work in teams undertaking targeted and impactful research
Through **internships & overseas training residencies**, students steer their research towards practical problems.

**Internships with leading research institutions**
(eg. Yahoo! Research Barcelona, Spain)

**Overseas training residencies where students work on joint research projects**
(eg. with Carnegie Mellon University, USA)
PhD Student Experience at International Research Conferences

Through reputable refereed research conferences (locally & overseas), students share their research contributions with the international research community.

SMU provides generous conference funding

Students win awards for outstanding research papers (eg. best/distinguished paper awards)
PhD Student Experience as Teaching Assistants & Graduate Instructors

The Centre for Teaching Excellence equips teaching assistants & graduate instructors with formal teaching experience through professional skills development workshops.

- Faculty Online Learning Kits
- Lesson Planning Workshops
- Teaching Portfolio Workshops (useful for applying for faculty positions)
- Brown bag conversations (by SMU faculty on teaching & learning)
- Content Development Workshops
SMU PhD Student Life

Settling-in Activities
- Welcome Briefings for Year 1 PhD Students
- Orientation Activities in Singapore (eg. city tours)

Students & Faculty Interactions
- Get-together sessions amongst faculty & students from the various PhD programmes

Social & Recreational Activities
- Activities where students take time off their busy schedules to have some fun!
Over 40 graduates have secured good placements in academia & industry

In companies which need people to be **Thought Leaders** of their Businesses

As **Faculty** in prestigious colleges and universities

Enter partnerships with business people looking for **Entrepreneurship opportunities**

Some of our Graduates’ Placements

**Academic (Faculty & Post-doctoral Fellowships)**
- Antalya International University, Turkey
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- New York University (Abu Dhabi Campus)
- National University of Singapore
- Shanghai University of Finance & Economics
- University of Luxembourg

**Industry Placements**
- A*STAR
- Booking.com, The Netherlands
- DSO National Laboratories, Singapore
- Google (Switzerland)
- Hewlett Packard Research Labs, USA
- Huawei, China
- Singapore Corporate Executive Board
- Twitter, USA
Singapore

The Central Business District

Marina Bay Sands

Sentosa

… & much more
Quick Facts about Singapore

**Geography**
- 136.8 km north of the equator (tropical climate)
- Island of 714 square kilometres
- Exotic ‘garden-city’

**People**
- Population: 5.3 million
- Residents: 3.8 million (74% Chinese, 13% Malay, 9% Indian, 4% Eurasians & others)

**Wealth**
- 4th wealthiest country in terms of GDP per capita
  - *World Bank, 2011*

**Languages**
- English
- Chinese
- Malay
- Tamil
### University Profile

- Established in January 2000
- First publicly-funded autonomous university in Singapore
- **City campus** surrounded by museums, theatres, educational institutions, art galleries, cafés, restaurants and a range of retail outlets

### Student Profile

- 8,300 **undergraduates & postgraduates***

* As of 26 February 2015

### Faculty Profile

- **Globally diverse faculty members with PhDs from leading international universities**
- 350 full-time faculty*
- 61% international faculty
- 70,209 cumulative citations (as of March 2014)

* As of 26 February 2015
### In Singapore
- Located in the heart of a vibrant city, be surrounded by museums, theatres, educational institutions, art galleries, cafes, restaurants & a range of retail outlets.
- Linked to the Singapore Mass Rapid Transit (SMRT) which is conveniently connected to many parts of Singapore.

### At the University
- Being in the heart of the city, be actively engaged in the city’s financial, business, civic & cultural communities.
- Be part of a vibrant research environment in a highly-focused university with internationally-known scholars, entrepreneurs & distinguished educators.

### As a PhD Student
- Be part of a vibrant learning environment through: research work, research-related events, student development programmes and SMU facilities.
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 level was not English.
When to Apply?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intake</th>
<th>Opening Date for Application</th>
<th>Closing Date for Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>1 November (of prior year)</td>
<td>31 January (of intake year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1 April (of prior year)</td>
<td>30 June (of prior year)</td>
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Admission Schedule

- **Admission Offers**
  - Early-March
  - Early-August

- **Matriculation & Orientation**
  - Early-August
  - End-December

- **Start of PhD Programme**
  - Mid-August For August Intake
  - Early-January For January Intake
The SMU Experience

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At a Glance

Our Programmes

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