

SMU PhD IN BUSINESS

Advance knowledge at Asia's leading
business and management university



S I N G A P O R E M A N A G E M E N T U N I V E R S I T Y



Message from PhD Programme Director

The Lee Kong Chian School of Business at the Singapore Management University (SMU) is a leading research business school in Asia. We have a culturally diverse and research-active faculty. Our faculty members come from more than 20 different countries and are well-regarded experts in their respective areas, publishing regularly in top-tier international journals.

Our PhD in Business programme aims to develop scholars who have a deep understanding of the issues that confront the business world and are able to conduct independent research in their respective fields. At SMU, we emphasise doing research that is not only rigorous but also impactful to the world we live in. To this end, we have developed a rigorous and intellectually stimulating curriculum that will prepare our graduates for diverse careers in academia and industry.

We are committed to training the next generation of research scholars. We carefully select incoming students who are not only smart but also passionate about research. Our intake class sizes are deliberately kept small so as to maintain a low student-to-faculty ratio. Our faculty members work closely with doctoral students through an apprenticeship approach to jointly develop research ideas and conduct studies. Our students also benefit from interacting with distinguished scholars who regularly visit our campus. We encourage students to deepen their academic experience by attending and presenting their work at overseas conferences.

In addition to honing research skills, our programme also provides systematic training for students to develop teaching skills so as to prepare them for university-level faculty jobs. Students have the opportunity to teach undergraduate classes to gain practical teaching experiences.

Generous funding and solid infrastructure support research at SMU. Most students receive full tuition support and stipends while they are in the programme. Students can also access valuable resources such as data and industry connections through the numerous research centres and institutes at SMU to conduct impactful applied research on real-world business issues.

Over the years, our graduates have been placed at well-regarded universities and companies in the region and around the world.

I hope you can join us in this exciting journey of learning, exploring, and making a difference to the business world. I look forward to welcoming you into our PhD in Business programme.

Roy Chua

PhD Programme Director
Lee Kong Chian School of Business
Singapore Management University



Programme Director and Coordinators





I chose the SMU PhD in Business (Finance) programme because I believe its rigorous training provides excellent preparation for a career in the academic field. Being part of a community of smart, highly motivated faculty and fellow PhD students allows me to be intellectually challenged and exposed to new ideas every day. There is an open-minded atmosphere and everyone is always willing to help. We also have many opportunities to meet and interact with academics from universities around the globe who are invited to the school to present their research. Overall, I feel lucky to study at a university with such a strong research environment, and in the metropolitan centre of beautiful Singapore.

Antonia Krasimirova KIRILOVA
Student of PhD in Business (Finance)



I chose the SMU PhD in Business (Strategic Management and Organisation) as it offers a compelling curriculum and provides both breadth and depth in terms of academic exposure. I also found that the school provides a nurturing and supportive environment for research undertakings. Faculty members and the various departments are very open to share their knowledge and expertise, and this facilitates the undertaking of research by doctoral students across many areas. The faculty constantly encourages students to push the pinnacle of business research, whilst reminding them to stay grounded by keeping abreast of the developments across business sectors. Overall, my experience in this programme has equipped me with the resources critical for academic research, and I believe it will continue to help me develop critical skills to tackle future challenges.

Edson KIEU Li Hao
Student of PhD in Business
(Strategic Management and Organisation)



My PhD journey at SMU has been a fruitful one. The programme trains students to become independent thinkers, conduct rigorous research, and communicate our research effectively. The research culture at SMU is vibrant and open. It encourages students to lead research projects and provides great opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations. Distinguished faculty members are nurturing and great role models for PhD students. They have devoted their passion and hearts into mentoring and guiding PhD students. The SMU PhD community is diverse and inclusive with students coming from all over the world. Excellent networking opportunities and friendly colleagues have made the PhD life at SMU sociable and balanced.

Mengzi JIN
Student of PhD in Business
(Organisation Behaviour and Human Resources)





Lee Kong Chian School of Business

PhD IN BUSINESS (FINANCE)

This rigorous and intellectually stimulating programme emphasises advanced study in the areas of finance, economics, statistics and quantitative research methods. The programme is taught by a group of dynamic faculty who consistently publish in top finance journals.

At the end of the programme, graduates will have the skills needed to conduct in-depth research into a specific sub-field in finance such as asset pricing, corporate finance and market microstructure. Graduates will also have a broad appreciation of the key research issues that resonate with the field. Given the tremendous relevance of finance to the global economy, a graduate of this programme will be well prepared for diverse careers in academia, industry, international organisations and the public sector.

Research Areas Include:

Asset Pricing, Corporate Finance and Governance, Institutional Investors, Market Microstructure, Hedge Funds, Private Equity

For more details, please visit:

<https://smu.sg/phd-business-finance>

PhD IN BUSINESS (ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOUR AND HUMAN RESOURCES)

This programme equips graduates with the knowledge, skills and abilities to conduct highly rigorous research in Organisational Behaviour and Human Resources (OBHR) in major research universities worldwide. The programme, taught by an international group of faculty members who consistently publish in the field's most respected journals, will provide hands-on training in research right from the onset as well as a stimulating curriculum emphasising psychological foundations of organisational behaviour and human resources, statistics and research methods. A nurturing approach will be adopted by faculty to help students succeed in the job market and in their careers.

Research Areas Include:

Ethics, Trust, Fairness, Leadership, Human Capital Strategy and Management, Judgement and Decision-making, Negotiation, Culture and Cross-cultural Management, Organisational Creativity and Innovation, Positive Organisation (Mindfulness, Humility, Proactivity), Well-being and Stress

For more details, please visit:

<https://smu.sg/phd-business-obhr>





PHD IN BUSINESS (MARKETING)

The PhD in Business (Marketing) programme aims to train students to conduct rigorous and relevant research focused on understanding, modelling and predicting marketing actions of firms and managers, and the behaviour of consumers. To this end, students have the opportunity to decide the research active faculty they want to work with, making this a flexible and nurturing programme. Our faculty has published their research in prestigious journals like Journal of Marketing, Journal of Marketing Research, Journal of Consumer Research, Marketing Science and Management Science. This highly selective programme is geared towards helping students in their journey to becoming scholars and leading marketing faculty.

Research Areas Include:

Digital & Mobile Marketing, Offline and Online Retailing, Financial Impact of Marketing Actions, Role of Feelings & Emotions on Consumer Decision Making

For more details, please visit:

<https://smu.sg/phd-business-marketing>

PHD IN BUSINESS (STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION)

This programme is designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge and competencies to conduct high-quality research in the areas of strategic management and organisations. Students can choose their research topics from a variety of sub-areas within the domains of strategic management and organisation theory, including corporate and business strategy, innovation, technology management, entrepreneurship, and corporate governance.

The programme provides rigorous training by faculty members who regularly publish in top academic journals. This ensures that students will be well equipped to start their academic careers as competent and independent researchers.

Research Areas Include:

Entrepreneurship, Innovation, International Business, Organisation Theory, Strategic Management

For more details, please visit:

<https://smu.sg/phd-business-smo>



PHD IN BUSINESS (OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT)

The PhD in Business (Operations Management) is a highly competitive programme that admits only a very limited number of students every year. The programme emphasises theoretical research with practical relevance. Students are expected to complete rigorous coursework, collaborate closely with the Operations Management faculty members and attend regular research seminars. Students will also have opportunities to interact with renowned visiting scholars from different parts of the world. The programme aims to place its graduates to faculty positions in leading universities or managerial positions in industry, public sector and international organisations.

Research Areas Include:

Sustainable Operations, Operations Analytics, Supply Chain and Risk Management, Product and Service Design & Development, Project Management, Retail Operations, Agribusiness, Healthcare

For more details, please visit:

<https://smu.sg/phd-business-om>

Singapore Management University is one of the youngest universities in the world to be conferred the prestigious EQUIS accreditation, awarded by the European Foundation for Management Development, and the AACSB accreditation, awarded by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business since 2011. The accreditations cover all degree programmes up to PhD level.



Programme Structure

A PhD student will typically focus on coursework in the first one to two years, followed by the dissertation research in subsequent years.

The PhD framework is as follows:

- 6 Foundation Courses (6 Course Units)
- 2 Electives (2 Course Units)
- 4 Advanced Research Topics (ART) Courses (4 Course Units)
- PhD Dissertation (28 Course Units)

The coursework is intended to lay the ground in preparation of the dissertation research. The student will have to sit for a PhD Qualifying Examination (QE). It will assess his or her mastery of the foundation required for the next stage of the PhD programme – the dissertation. This is the student's original work in his or her specialised area through independent research. On successful completion of the QE, the student will be ready to embark on the dissertation. If he or she feels comfortable with the PhD curriculum along the way, the dissertation research can commence even before the coursework is completed. The dissertation is marked by two major milestones, as follows.

Admission and Application

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

At least a good Bachelor's degree.

A Master's degree is useful but not required.

Good GRE or GMAT results.

Good TOEFL or IELTS scores.

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

Submission of the following documents:

Identity Card/Passport

Cover Letter and Latest Curriculum Vitae with a recent photograph

Degree Certificates and Transcripts

Statement of Purpose (*please include your purpose for getting a PhD in our programme and also list faculty members you are most interested in working with*).

Referee Reports*

Writing Samples^

* All programmes require two referee reports with the exception of PhD in Business (OBHR) where three referee reports are required.

^ One to three writing samples (such as a published paper and/or undergraduate report) is/are required for applications to PhD in Business (OBHR) only.

ORAL DEFENCE OF THE DISSERTATION PROPOSAL

This is an oral presentation of the proposed topic to a Dissertation Committee. A written dissertation proposal will have to be submitted before the presentation. A supervisor, with the expertise in the chosen topic, will be appointed. He or she guides and mentors the student throughout the dissertation work.

ORAL DEFENCE AND COMPLETION OF THE PhD DISSERTATION

This is an oral presentation of the written dissertation report to the Committee. After possible revision(s) to the report and upon fulfilment of all necessary requirements, the Committee will recommend to the University to award the PhD degree.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

All the PhD programmes are full-time. The University's application window is listed below.

Intake	Opening Date for Application	Closing Date for Application
August	1 November (of prior year)	31 January (of intake year)

Details of application procedure can be found in the respective programmes' website. Please check the websites for updates.





Financial Assistance Schemes

SMU awards three types of scholarships and fellowships on a competitive basis. We assess applicants for different award schemes either at the time of admission based on qualification and suitability for these schemes or during their PhD journey based on their outstanding academic performance.

SMU SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship covers registration and subsidised tuition fees. This scheme also provides successful recipients with monthly living stipends.* The scholarship is renewed yearly, conditioned on good academic performance, for a maximum duration of four years. Beyond the scholarship duration, students who have been on the scholarship may receive continued support through research and teaching assistantships or industry grants.

SMU PRESIDENTIAL DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

The SMU Presidential Doctoral Fellowship* is awarded to exceptionally qualified students who enrol into SMU's PhD programmes as well as to existing PhD students who have outstanding academic performance. The Fellowship is a one-year award that is renewed annually, for up to four years.

SMU MULTIDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

The SMU Multidisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship* is awarded to existing PhD students whose research output show the use of techniques from two or more fields of research. This Fellowship is also a one-year award that is renewed annually, for up to four years.

* The stipend rates are published at <http://smu.sg/phd> and are subject to change.

A Unique University in Vibrant Singapore



SMU has been designed to provide a different model of university education in Singapore.

A STRONG AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH CULTURE

Internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching conducted by faculty members who joined us from top universities.

Faculty members collaborate on cross-disciplinary work to generate impactful and real-world relevant ideas, over and above research in their own disciplines.

Faculty members establish research centres and institutes to conduct problem-driven research and influence industry practice across a wide range of topics.

A DIFFERENT LEARNING APPROACH

Faculty members encourage an interactive learning environment through inquiry, participation and teamwork.

Seminar-style teaching in small classes optimises student-instructor interaction.

STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE

Research support includes proprietary and published databases.

SMU's library provides access to many scientific journals, electronic books and other necessary publications and materials.

Being in the heart of the city, students will have easy access to industry partners who provide research data and validation platforms.

Each School has dedicated personnel to take care of students' administrative needs. Furthermore, many SMU research centres and institutes provide post-doctoral fellowships and/or research assistantships that add value to students' research experience.



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