

SMU PhD PROGRAMMES



Research Excellence across
Management, Social Science & Computing





Message from Vice Provost (Research)



The Singapore Management University (SMU) is a premier university in Asia that is internationally known for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. SMU offers five Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes across the disciplines of management, social science and computing. The PhD programmes offered are in **Accounting, Business, Economics, Psychology and Information Systems (IS)** [including Computer Science and IS Management].

With at least a Bachelor's degree and a passion for research and teaching, you can embark on a PhD with us in specialised as well as multidisciplinary research areas of interest. The SMU PhD provides **high-quality doctoral training** that equips **our students and graduates to produce leading-edge research**

in their specialised fields. Our graduates are in **diverse careers in academia and industry**, working for prestigious academic institutions and industry organisations in Singapore and abroad.

Pursuing a PhD may be a long journey involving 4 to 5 years of full-time study, but it is the beginning of an enriching career. On your journey, you will look for gaps in existing literature and find innovative solutions to problems, and explore unique ways to 'connect the dots' or even 'disconnect and reconnect current ones'. Your research work could be disseminated in top-tier journals and conferences, and could also bring about impactful changes to the lives of others. Basically, you are **creating knowledge**, the kind that could eventually be used by educationists, industry or even policy makers.

SMU ensures that you do not walk this journey alone. We provide you with **academic and professional training** to prepare you well for your career. You will be taught and supervised by our distinguished faculty members who are experts in their respective fields. They will carefully take you through every major milestone (as shown in the diagram below) in your PhD study. You will also receive training in professional skills (such as in teaching, and in scientific writing and presentation).

I encourage you to take this first step in shaping your future, and look forward to welcoming you on board our SMU PhD programme.

Professor Steven Miller
Vice Provost (Research)



SMU PhD PROGRAMMES: BROAD RESEARCH STRENGTHS

PhD in Accounting

Auditing • Capital Markets • Corporate Governance • Disclosure • Financial Reporting • Taxation

PhD in Business

Finance

Asset Pricing • Corporate Finance & Governance • Hedge Funds • Institutional Investors • Market Microstructure • Private Equity

Marketing

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

Operations Management

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

Organisational Behaviour & Human Resources

Culture & Cross-cultural Management • Ethics • Fairness • Human Capital Strategy & Management • Judgement & Decision Making •

Leadership • Negotiation • Organisational Creativity & Innovation • Organisational Justice • Performance Measurement • Positive Organisation (Mindfulness, Humility, Proactivity) • Trust • Well-being & Stress

Strategic Management & Organisation

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

PhD in Economics

Econometrics • Game Theory, Social Choice & Mechanism Design • Macroeconomics • Health Economics • Industrial Organisation • International Trade • Labour, Human Capital & Education • Real Estate & Urban Economics

PhD in Psychology

Cognitive • Cultural • Evolutionary • Industrial & Organisational • Social-Personality

PhD in Information Systems

Cybersecurity • Data Science & Engineering • Information Systems & Management • Intelligent Systems & Optimisation • Software & Cyber-Physical Systems



PhD Programmes

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

PhD in Accounting

This programme equips students with in-depth knowledge of accounting theory and practice, and of related fields such as economics and finance. Students will have the ability to conduct original scientific research in accounting through theory-building and state-of-the-art quantitative research methodology, and will be trained by distinguished faculty members in fields such as financial accounting, managerial accounting, auditing and tax. Our programme's objective is to develop highly-skilled and innovative thought leaders in accounting research and education for leading research-oriented universities and industries in this region and throughout the world.

For more details, please visit:

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

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.

For more details, please visit:

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

PhD in Business (Marketing)

The 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 members they would like to work with, making this a flexible and nurturing programme. Our faculty members have published their research in prestigious journals like the 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.

For more details, please visit:

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

PhD in Business (Operations Management)

This is a highly competitive programme that admits 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.

For more details, please visit:

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

PhD in Business (Organisational Behaviour & 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.

For more details, please visit:

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

PhD in Business (Strategic Management & 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 organisation. 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.

For more details, please visit:

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

The Lee Kong Chian School of Business is one of the youngest business schools in the world to be conferred the prestigious EQUIS accreditation awarded by the European Foundation for Management Development in December 2011, and the AACSB accreditation awarded by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in April 2011. The accreditations cover all degree programmes up to PhD level.



SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

PhD in Economics

This programme trains you to do rigorous research and analysis in Economics. It is delivered by internationally recognised professors who are actively engaged in research, and who are dedicated to teaching and training the next generation of economic researchers, teachers and policy makers. We also offer interaction opportunities with top researchers in economics from around the world through our extensive seminar and visitor programmes. SMU's School of Economics is recognised internationally as a leading centre for economic research.

For more details, please visit:
<http://smu.sg/phd-econs>

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

PhD in Information Systems (IS)

[including Computer Science and IS Management]

This programme develops researchers and developers who address deep technological challenges in real-world information systems that impact business processes or management, or who develop tools and methodologies to translate business goals into technological solutions. There are five niche areas of research concentration, namely: Cybersecurity; Data Science & Engineering; Information Systems & Management; Intelligent Systems & Optimisation; and Software & Cyber-Physical Systems.

Our graduates are capable of collaborating with researchers from different disciplines, designing technology solutions for real-world problems and applications, and producing top-rated academic publications. The programme will equip them for careers with research and development laboratories, academia and industry.

For more details, please visit:
<http://smu.sg/phd-is>

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

PhD in Psychology

This programme equips students with doctoral-level knowledge in content areas in psychology and research methodology, focusing on areas in experimental, social, personality and organisational psychology.

Students will learn, from both coursework and hands-on research experience, to link psychological theory, study design, measurement, and data analysis in order to make substantive inferences and evidence-based recommendations to theory and practice that are scientifically defensible. Students in the programme have presented their work at international conferences and published their research in top journals in psychology. Graduates of the programme will be well-prepared for careers in universities, research institutes and industry.

For more details, please visit:
<http://smu.sg/phd-psychology>

Visiting Graduate Student Programme

The SMU Visiting Graduate Student programme provides opportunities for students from universities worldwide to spend one or more academic terms at SMU as non-graduating students. PhD and Master's students from other universities may enrol in our postgraduate research courses and participate in research projects under the co-supervision of SMU faculty.

For more details, please visit:
<https://smu.sg/graduatestudies-visiting-graduate-student-programme>





Programme Structure

A PhD student will focus on coursework in the first one to three years, followed by dissertation research in subsequent years. The coursework is intended to lay the ground in preparation for the dissertation research.

The coursework requirement of the various PhD programmes is a combination of these courses:

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

On completion of all required coursework, the student will 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.

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 fulfillment of all necessary requirements, the Committee will recommend to the University to award the PhD degree.

Admission and Application



GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

At least a good Bachelor’s degree.
A Master’s degree is useful but not required.
Some disciplines require a Bachelor’s degree in related areas.

Good GRE or GMAT results.
Some disciplines may specify a preferred test.

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:**
- Copy of Identity Card/Passport
 - Latest Curriculum Vitae with a recent photograph
 - Copies of Degree Certificates and Transcripts
 - Personal and Research Statements
 - Recommendation and/or Reference Letters
 - Writing Samples

APPLICATION INFORMATION

All the PhD programmes are full-time. The University’s application windows are listed below. All programmes, except the PhD in Information Systems, accept only one intake per year, in August.

Intake	Opening Date for Application	Closing Date for Application
August	1 November (of prior year)	31 January (of intake year)
January	1 April (of prior year)	30 June (of prior year)

Details on the application procedure can be found in the respective programmes’ websites (indicated earlier under ‘PhD Programmes’).



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.



SMU PhD Student Life and Achievements

SMU supports our PhD students' social and professional growth.

We develop our students to become **skilled thought leaders through professional training workshops**, including teaching; scientific writing and presentation; and career development courses (such as interview preparation and resume writing).

In the course of their PhD study, our students are also provided with opportunities to undergo on-the-job academic training through **research and teaching assistantships**, as well as being **graduate instructors** (where they are given full responsibility to teach undergraduate or postgraduate courses). As research assistants, our students have access to SMU's research centres and institutes which conduct world-class research and influence industry practice across a wide range of topics.

To enhance interactions and encourage collaborations with one another, our PhD students actively participate in a variety of

activities organised throughout the academic year. These include research exhibitions, sports events and networking sessions.

Our PhD students have gained extensive research achievements. They have **won best paper awards at distinguished international conferences**. Some of their papers are joint research work with our faculty that have been presented at these conferences and/or published in good journals.

Our students have also **secured competitive internships with prestigious international organisations**, and been invited to present at peer-reviewed international conferences. Each year, our most outstanding students across the various PhD programmes are awarded the **SMU Presidential Doctoral Fellowship** and **SMU Multidisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship** in recognition of their achievements.

These outstanding research achievements and international exposure give our PhD students a competitive edge in the job market, be it for an academic or industry position.



“ A graduate student's journey during the degree programme is akin to an apprenticeship and as such, the relationship between the student and his or her supervisor is especially crucial. My development into a researcher would not have been possible without my immediate supervisor and other SMU faculty members from the SMU School of Social Sciences. They have built an **open, warm and nurturing environment** for their graduate students, and are genuinely interested in their progress.



Lay See Ong
Graduate
PhD in Psychology

“ SMU's **innovative pedagogy, rigorous curriculum, supportive professors and flexible research environment** provide excellent opportunities to grow personally and professionally. Classes are highly interactive and provide a congenial environment for deliberation. The SMU PhD allows for **multidisciplinary collaboration** across academia and industry. My professors are always encouraging me to **participate in international conferences and publish in top-tier journals**. This has indeed been a great avenue for me to promote my work to the wider research community.



Pavneet Singh Kochhar
Graduate
PhD in Information Systems



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