PHD IN BUSINESS (GENERAL MANAGEMENT)
An Unconventional Research Degree Programme.
For Unconventional Senior Leadership.
The First-Ever Inter-Disciplinary Globally-Oriented PhD That Applies Research in Practice.

“\nThis programme will help the active and engaged leaders to continue to advance the practice of effective leadership by equipping them with the international perspective, the formal methods for enquiry and the core ability to define and address seemingly complex problems. The international cohort that attend this programme provide for a rich and diverse learning environment.”

Philip C. ZERRILLO
PhD. Northwestern University
Dean
Office of Postgraduate Professional Programmes
Singapore Management University

Our PhD in Business (General Management) is a pre-eminent executive doctorate programme for Asia’s leaders and senior management or managers seeking to compete for the future. Our in-depth knowledge, relevant research and expertise on Asia’s rapid economic development and challenges provide for a dynamic academic experience and engagement at the highest levels.

Graduates will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to conduct relevant and rigorous inquiries into the most complex problems facing businesses.

The inter-disciplinary & globally oriented pedagogy of this programme will prepare the PhD graduands not just to challenge but to shape them.

Candidates acquire in-depth knowledge of a specialised area (e.g, Finance, Operation, Marketing etc.), and sharpen their ability to conduct original applied research in business. The schedule is timely and convenient; its modular format curriculum is structured around busy senior management or managers.
“Senior managers have insights into business challenges and processes that span disciplinary or functional boundaries across business units. Such intellectual rigours challenge conventional wisdom allowing them to reshape business models. This cross-disciplinary, general management doctoral programme is designed for senior managers to apply relevant knowledge and research skills to solving complex problems, turning them into exciting opportunities. Furthermore, the programme takes their critical thinking skills and analytical capabilities to a higher level for them to better manage big picture opportunities and challenges. It is an excellent migration path for experienced managers aspiring to become business thought leaders with a difference.”

Professor Rajendra Srivastava, Provost and Deputy President (Academic Affairs)
Overview

This is an intensive and rigorous limited-residency degree programme specially designed for working senior management or managers and professionals, to be able to apply what they learn in class in research areas related to the corporate strategic challenges faced in real life business issues. The minimum duration of the programme is three years. Most students, however, are expected to take approximately four years to complete the programme. The maximum duration of the programme is seven years, unless special approval for a longer duration is granted by SMU.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum consists of completing the following:

Foundation courses
Electives
Advanced Research Topics (ART) courses
Qualifying exam that demonstrates competency over the 1 year of coursework
Oral proposal of the dissertation research project
Completion of an approved PhD dissertation and an oral defense of the dissertation

The coursework and the number of credit units are listed below:

COURSEWORK (12 CREDIT UNITS)

Business foundation courses (6 Credit Units)
Advanced Research Topics (ART) courses (4 Credit Units)
Elective business courses (2 Credit Units)
Passing qualifying examination
Oral presentation of dissertation proposal

DISSERTATION (28 CREDIT UNITS)

The programme also requires the preparation and completion of a PhD dissertation.

Oral defense and completion of PhD dissertation

Total graduation requirement = 40 Credit Units
COURSEWORK

This phase consists of coursework and a thesis proposal. PhD students who have not completed SMU’s EMBA programme will be required to complete 6 Business foundation courses. This is followed by 4 Advanced Research courses and 2 Elective courses. The foundation courses are designed to familiarise students with the various business domains, their evolution and the current state of research and theory in the domain. The research courses are intended to equip the students with the skills and insight to conduct rigorous research.

FORMAT

The coursework is conducted in the Intensive Executive Residential format, consisting of a total of 468 contact hours of lectures, seminars or workshops, which may be over a period of 6 intensive Resident weeks. Coursework will be conducted over a 10 month period. The typical format of a course is generally comprised of three phases:

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<th>PHASE 1 (PRE-WORK)</th>
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<td>Students are required to complete 9 hours of work before coming in to SMU where they are given assignments/projects to complete and have individual face-to-face/video conference consultation with SMU faculty.</td>
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<th>PHASE 2 (RESIDENTIAL SEGMENT)</th>
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<td>Students attend classes of 21 hours per course in SMU in the Intensive Residential Format.</td>
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<th>PHASE 3 (POST SEGMENT APPLICATION)</th>
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<td>Students are required to complete 9 hours of work after their Intensive Residential Segment where they are given assignments/projects to complete and have face-to-face/video conference consultation with SMU faculty.</td>
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Each course will be assessed by the instructor, and the method of assessment may be a written examination, take-home examination, project or essay. Instructors will give a grade for each section of the course and the final grade will be based on the overall assessment of the course. Students must pass the courses to the satisfaction of the instructors.

Potential faculty: Singapore Management University has one of the strongest and most diverse faculties in Asia and the world. Hence it is the fastest school in history to garner AACSB accreditation for both its graduate and undergraduate business programmes. To facilitate the modular delivery of coursework, and to provide a unique doctoral experience, some courses may be taught by visiting faculty.

Our Faculty

Here is a list of some of our expected faculty. (Please note that due to scheduling and the duration of this programme there may be some changes in the faculty that teaches the eventual modules).

Howard THOMAS
Dean,
Lee Kong Chian School of Business
LKCSB Chair in Strategic Management
PhD, University of Edinburgh

Jeremy GOH
Lee Kong Chian School of Business
Associate Professor of Finance
PhD, Washington University

LOW Kee Yang
Director,
School of Law
Associate Professor of Law
PhD, King's College London

Srinivas K. REDDY
Associate Dean,
Lee Kong Chian School of Business
Professor of Marketing
PhD, Columbia University

The Li Ka Shing Library
DISSERTATION

Upon completion of coursework, every student will submit a proposal to outline his/her dissertation topic. Subject to a satisfactory completion of their PhD qualifying examination and oral presentation of the dissertation proposal, the student will proceed to work on his/her dissertation. Students will be working on their dissertations under the supervision of faculty members from the Lee Kong Chian School of Business or its affiliate network. Students are expected to meet regularly with their dissertation supervisor and committee members advisory for one week every 3 months until successful completion of their PhD Dissertation.

SUPERVISION AND EXAMINATION OF PHD DISSERTATION

Each student will work on the PhD Dissertation with the Dissertation Committee consisting of one dissertation supervisor (Chair of the Dissertation Committee), two SMU faculty members and one member outside of the discipline group which may or may not be a SMU faculty member. The members of the Dissertation Committee are appointed by the School in consultation with the dissertation supervisor.

The student is expected to submit the written dissertation proposal and orally defend the dissertation proposal to the Dissertation Committee by the end of Term 1 of Year 2.

The student is expected to submit the written dissertation report of the completed research to the Dissertation Committee by the end of Term 2 of Year 4. After reading the written dissertation report, the Dissertation Committee will conduct a final oral examination in which the student will orally defend the completed dissertation. Revision and resubmission of the dissertation may be required by the Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee will examine the dissertation and make a recommendation to the SMU Graduate Studies Office (GSO) regarding fulfillment of the dissertation requirement for the degree.

Note: It is expected that all dissertation work is to be performed by the student and that their report is to be 100% original unless properly cited.