

PhD in Business

Advance knowledge at Asia's leading
business and management university



SMU

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH
DEGREES



LEE KONG CHIAN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Message from PhD Programme Director

Greetings from the Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB) at Singapore Management University (SMU)!

I am excited to introduce our PhD in Business programme, designed to train the next generation of business academics and leaders across five specialisations: Finance, Marketing, Operations Management, Organisational Behaviour & Human Resources, and Strategy & Entrepreneurship.

As a premier institution, LKCSB stands at the forefront of business education in both Asia and the global arena. Our strategic location in the heart of Singapore provides unmatched access to industry giants, innovative startups, and non-profit organisations. This vibrant ecosystem, along with our close ties to diverse academic disciplines within SMU, such as accounting, computing and information systems, economics, law, and social sciences, creates a fertile ground for original and impactful research.

Our PhD in Business programme is a journey of deep academic exploration, where students master their chosen fields of study and contribute to the creation of new knowledge. Collaborating closely with our world-class faculty, students refine their research skills through original studies. The rigorous curriculum – with coursework in the first two years and dissertation research in the subsequent years – provides students with a solid foundation to be independent thinkers and researchers.

We are proud to support our vibrant, diverse, and exceptionally talented student body as they stride towards becoming the next generation of thought leaders in business. Admitted students receive generous funding for their full-time study at LKCSB, including full tuition support and stipends during the programme as well as conference and research funding. Additional fellowship, grant, research, and teaching opportunities are also available.

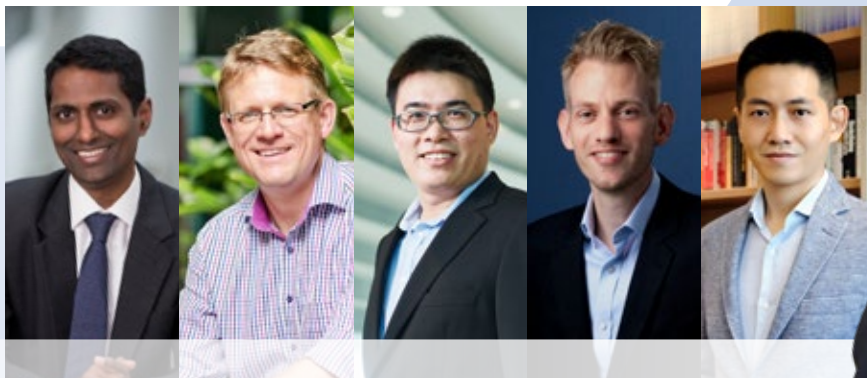
Our programme is highly selective, seeking candidates with a deep intellectual curiosity and a drive to address the complex challenges confronting businesses, consumers, and policymakers worldwide. Our alumni network is a testament to our success, with graduates excelling in prestigious universities, research institutions, and leading companies in Singapore and around the world.

I warmly invite you to explore our programme further on our website and to join us at our upcoming online webinars. Your interest in our PhD in Business programme is much appreciated, and I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to welcome you to our academic community.

Dr FANG Xin

PhD Programme Director

Associate Professor of Operations Management



PhD Programme Coordinators

(From left to right) Professor Reddi KOTHA, Professor Jochen REB, Associate Professor HUANG Dashan, Associate Professor Ernst OSINGA, Associate Professor Daniel ZHENG Zhichao.



Dr FANG Xin

PhD Programme Director

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, Financial Technology, Household Finance, Real Estate Finance, Sustainable Finance

For more details, please visit:

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

PHD IN BUSINESS (MARKETING)

The PhD in Business (Marketing) programme trains students to conduct rigorous and relevant research focused on understanding and modelling the behaviour of consumers and managers and their interactions in the market. Students have the opportunity to decide which research-active faculty to work with, making this a flexible and nurturing programme. Our faculty and PhD students conduct top-level research and publish in prestigious journals such as 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.

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:

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



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:

Affect and Emotions, Creativity and Innovation, Culture and Cross-Cultural Management, Diversity, Ethics and Justice, Economic Cycles, Followership and Leadership, Groups and Teams, Job Attitudes and Job Performance, Judgement and Decision Making, Mindfulness, Negotiation, Organisation Climate, Personality, Psychology of Workplace Technology, Recruitment and Employer Branding, Social Hierarchies, Talent Acquisition and Talent Assessment, Trust, Well-being and Job Stress, Work Design and Work Motivation

For more details, please visit:

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

PHD IN BUSINESS (STRATEGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP)

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, Digital Business, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability

For more details, please visit:

<https://business.smu.edu.sg/strategy-and-entrepreneurship-research>

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:

Business Analytics, E-Commerce & Marketplace Analytics, Healthcare Operations Management, Inventory, Logistics & Transportation Management, Operations Planning, Scheduling & Control, Operations Strategy, Product, Process and Service Design and Improvement, Project Management, Purchasing & Sourcing Management, Supply Chain Management, Sustainable Operations including Agri-business

For more details, please visit:

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

SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business is one of the youngest business schools in the world to achieve 'triple crown' accreditation by AACSB (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business), EQUIS by European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), and by AMBA (the Association of MBAs) for MBA programmes.



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 Elective Courses (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 Qualifying Examination and 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 follow.

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.

* The Graduate Research Professional Development (GRPD) programme (1 Course Unit) is compulsory.

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 in 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 Report*
- 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.

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 (all programmes)	1 August (of prior year)	31 December (of prior year)

A successful candidate who applies early may be provided with an early offer.

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



College of Graduate Research Studies (CGRS)

UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

The College of Graduate Research Studies (CGRS) trains students to **uncover new knowledge and develop novel solutions that are relevant to some of today's most challenging issues.** This will be undertaken at the intersections of disciplines, cultures and industry.

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.



CREATE
Significant Impact
Across Disciplines



TACKLE
Challenging Issues
With Confidence



BUILD
Strong Connections
Within Our Community

Transformative & Holistic Learning

- Through Interdisciplinary Programmes.
- Through the Graduate Research Interdisciplinary Topics (GRIT) comprising the training in curated topics spanning across two or more disciplines, to ensure students are well grounded.
- Through the Graduate Research Professional Development (GRPD) programme which consists of a suite of credit-bearing courses, workshops and seminars to ensure career-readiness.

Fostering a Sense of Belonging

- Through the Graduate Research Student Society (GRSS) to deepen interactions among students with academic exchanges and social activities.
- Through Graduate Research Alumni Chapter (GRAC) to enhance lifelong engagement and affiliation among the graduates.
- Through meaningful engagement events and activities between students and graduates.

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 RESEARCH 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 existing PhD students who have outstanding academic performance. The Fellowship is a one-year award.

SMU INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

The SMU Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship* is awarded to existing PhD students who have shown exemplary pursuit of research that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. This Fellowship is also a one-year award.

* The stipend rates are published on the SMU PhD website and are subject to change.

“ Pursuing the PhD in Business (Operations Management) at Singapore Management University was a natural progression for me, driven by a deep-seated passion for optimising operations and enhancing efficiency for healthcare service systems. The programme not only offers rigorous academic training but also fosters a dynamic environment where interdisciplinary research methodologies are encouraged. Through engaging coursework, mentorship from supportive faculty members, and various industry collaborations, I have learned to appreciate the unique perspectives of practitioners, and gained invaluable insights that directly translate to real-world applications. With a balanced emphasis on practicality and academic excellence, the programme equips me with analytical tools and strategic acumen needed to tackle contemporary business challenges. ”



Wang Xiaodong (Operations Management)



“ PhD in Business (Finance) programme is a natural choice for people like me to pursue rigorous and cutting-edge academic training, through the network with world-level academia. The programme allows me to be well-benefitted from the vigorous discussion and collaboration with my colleagues on substantial research topics. Meanwhile, the programme enables us to connect with professional doctorate students, who provide valuable insights, from a veteran’s perspective, for us to re-examine the research output in a real-world scenario. We are also boosted in teaching skills, especially faced with undergraduate students, to increase competency in the job market. ”

Fan Qi (Finance)

“ I am proud to say that my journey at this programme has been what I was looking for: To do meaningful research and create relevant knowledge for and about people at work. Students are always treated as independent thinkers whose opinions and ideas are highly encouraged and valued. Thus, it is no doubt that PhD graduates from this programme are equipped with essential skills and capabilities to produce high-quality research, either on their own or in collaboration. It is critical to note that this programme’s primary strength lies with the top-notch faculty members who are not only accomplished scholars but also great sources of support for students. There are ones who will push you relentlessly to think deeper, further, beyond. There are others who will check on you and make sure you are well amidst the chaos of failed experiments and flawed theorising. I am grateful that we have plenty of both in this department. ”



Nguyen Hoang Bao My (OBHR)



“ Choosing the PhD in Business (Strategy & Entrepreneurship) was an obvious choice for me. I was drawn to S&E because of the incredible faculty whose research has always inspired me – studying alongside them is a dream come true. The programme’s courses have transformed the way I think, helping me tackle real-world business challenges with multiple scientific approaches and theoretical perspectives. The vibrant seminars with top scholars, both within and outside the programme, have provided invaluable insights and feedback that are profoundly shaping my research and professional journey. It’s an exhilarating experience to be part of this dynamic community! ”

He Bei (S&E)

“ After running businesses for ten years, I was eager to find a place that connected academic knowledge with real-world practice. I chose the SMU PhD in Business programme because it offers a well-rounded experience. The programme is not only academically challenging, but it also fosters a strong research culture. This openness among researchers encourages sharing knowledge. From the start, everyone, including faculty and peers, has been welcoming and helpful. This sense of community makes a big difference during the long PhD journey. The SMU experience helps PhD candidates develop both intellectual and social skills, which are valuable for both professional and personal growth. ”



Jacqueline Chang (Marketing)



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