

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 Associate Dean (Research) and Programme Director

The Lee Kong Chian School of Business at the Singapore Management University (SMU) is a leading research business school in Asia. Our faculty members consistently publish in top-tier business journals and are experts in their respective areas. The PhD in Business programme at SMU aims to develop exceptional scholars who have a deep understanding of the research issues that confront the business world and are able to conduct cutting-edge independent research in their respective fields. 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 graduate students to ensure that they will be surrounded by inquisitive individuals who are passionate about research. Our intake class sizes are deliberately kept small so as to maintain a low student-to-faculty ratio. Our faculty work hand-in-hand, via close supervision or through joint work, with students in the PhD programme to advance the frontier of business research.

We provide generous funding support and solid infrastructure to support research. The vast majority of the students receive full tuition support and stipends while they are in the programme. Our PhD students benefit from interacting with very senior distinguished academic visitors who are regularly on campus. We encourage students to deepen their academic experience by attending and presenting their work at overseas conferences. Students can also leverage on the significant resources that are available through the numerous research Institutes, Centres, Labs & Initiatives at SMU to conduct impactful applied research on real-world business issues.

I very much look forward to welcoming you into our PhD in Business programme.

Professor Melvyn Teo

Associate Dean (Research), and
Programme Director, PhD in Business Programme
Lee Kong Chian School of Business
Singapore Management University



Associate Dean (Research) and Programme Coordinators





The SMU PhD offers you an ideal place to learn. It offers you a place to explore and nurture ideas, to meet great people, and to learn about the frontiers in finance. Doing my PhD at SMU was an enriching and fulfilling experience. SMU provided me with a solid foundation to pursue an academic career.



Dr Yen Teik Lee

PhD in Business (Finance), Graduated in 2013
Assistant Professor of Finance
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

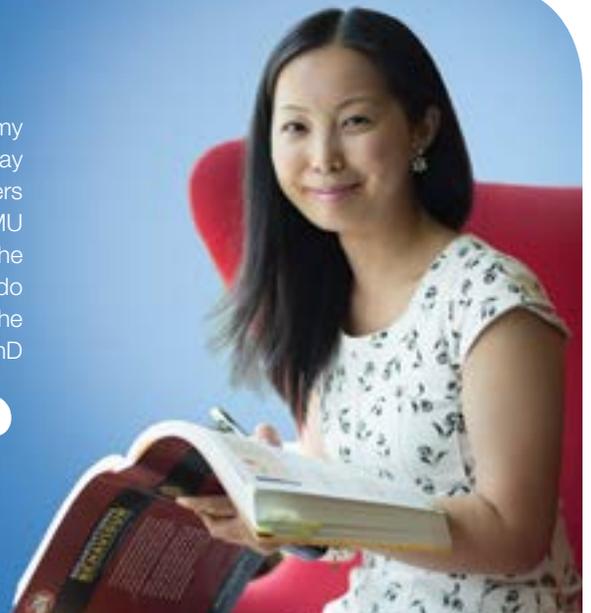


I chose the SMU doctoral programme because of the overlap in my research interests with those of the faculty. I am happy and proud to say that it is by far the best career decision I have made. The faculty members are world-class, very accessible and willing to help. The training at SMU truly prepares a person to enter academia. The research culture in the department is strong. In addition to the rigorous training, they also do an excellent job of connecting us with scholars worldwide through the visiting scholars programme and the Lim Kim San Fellowship for PhD students programme. It's a great doctoral programme.



Serena Changhong Lu

Student of PhD in Business (Organisational Behaviour and Human Resources)



The programme has been productive but challenging. It serves to broaden your intellectual perspective as you really have to think hard about issues and ideas. It develops not only your research capabilities but also expands the way you view the world. But what drives the experience of every programme will definitely be the people. The faculty and even the students are exceptionally brilliant and responsive people who will generously make time to discuss ideas. They set high expectations but provide the means, in terms of knowledge and capabilities, for you to meet them. In addition, the programme allows us a chance to rub shoulders with other academics who are at the top of their respective disciplines as they are invited to the School to speak about their ongoing work. All in all, I believe that what the programme provides has given me the best opportunity to succeed in the field.



Yee Heng Tan

Student of PhD in Business (Marketing)





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/phdbusinessfinance>



PhD IN BUSINESS (MARKETING)

This programme trains students to conduct rigorous and relevant research focused on understanding and predicting marketing actions of firms and managers, and consumer behaviour. This is a highly selective programme geared towards training students to become leading marketing faculty in top-tiered research focused schools.

For more details, please visit:

<http://smu.sg/phdbusinessmarketing>

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.

For more details, please visit:

<http://smu.sg/phdbusinessom>





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.

For more details, please visit:
<http://smu.sg/phdbusinessobhr>

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.

For more details, please visit:
<http://smu.sg/phdbusinesssmo>



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.



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.

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.

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.

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 programme fees and application procedure can be found in the respective programmes’ website. Please check the websites for updates.





Financial Assistance Schemes

SMU awards two types of scholarship on a competitive basis. We assess applicants for different award schemes at the time of admission based on qualification and suitability for these schemes.

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 are offered candidatures into SMU's PhD programmes as well as to existing PhD students who are outstanding

in their academic performance. The Fellowship is a one-year award that is renewed annually, for up to four years.

* The stipend rates are published on SMU's postgraduate research programmes' site at www.smu.edu.sg/pgr and are subject to changes.



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

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

A DIFFERENT LEARNING APPROACH

Students shaping their own syllabuses.

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

Seminar-style teaching in small classes for optimal student-instructor interaction.

STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE

- Small MBA-style seminar rooms.
- Research facilities including proprietary and published databases.
- SMU's library (for access to many publications and other necessary materials).
- Professional skills development programmes.

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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