DOCTOR OF
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

新跃社科大学商学院
工商管理博士

SUSS
SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Programme Overview

The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme offered by the School of Business at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) focuses on training students to acquire in-depth knowledge and skills in selected management areas. With the training provided in this programme, entrepreneurs, senior management executives and mid-career industrial practitioners are expected to develop rigorous and structural thinking process, acquire deeper knowledge and advanced research methodologies, and cultivate analytical skills that enable them to investigate and solve complex management problems and support evidence-based strategy formulation.

The DBA curriculum offers exposure to knowledge relevant to the digital economy and provides students with a choice of management courses or a mix of multidisciplinary courses to suit their applied research objectives. The programme is supported by a flexible learning environment that draws its benefits from SUSS's close linkage with industries.

The global economy is experiencing considerable uncertainty and challenges brought about by technological advancement and innovations, and changes in political landscapes and national demography. Managers and leaders need to develop a strategic mindset and global insights to address problems created by increasing economic volatility. The DBA programme is designed to produce graduates that are able to drive thought leadership in organisational change and organisational development, and effectively meet the challenges that disruptive technologies will bring to the economy.

Unique Features of the Programme

- The programme provides graduates with in-depth training to develop rigorous and structural thinking process, cultivate analytical skills, and develop a strategic mindset and global insights.

- The programme enables graduates to investigate and solve complex management problems, support evidence based strategisation, and drive thought leadership and innovation.

- The curriculum design emphasises sustainability, social responsibility and ethical practices of business operations.

- Students benefit from SUSS's flexible learning environment, close industry linkages and opportunities to participate in overseas immersion courses.

Programme Structure

DBA students are required to complete 40 credit units (cu) of coursework (30 cu of disciplinary knowledge courses and 10 cu of research methodology courses) and submit a doctoral dissertation. Courses will mostly be held on 3 to 6 consecutive days including weekends from 9am to 6pm. Students are also required to participate in overseas immersion courses that will be held over a period of a few days.

Upon the completion of 30 cu of coursework, students are awarded with the Graduate Diploma in Business. After the completion of an additional 10 cu of coursework, students are also required to successfully complete a qualifying examination (QE) in order to be granted DBA candidacy. DBA candidates are required to undertake an applied research project that culminates in a dissertation at the doctorate level. The dissertation should produce output via original applied research that is relevant to industry/ professional practice and advance knowledge in those areas. Upon successfully defending their dissertations in the dissertation examination, candidates will be awarded the DBA degree.

The minimum candidature period for the DBA programme is 3 years and the maximum candidature period is 7 years.

Compulsory Courses (Total 10 cu)

- Contemporary Topics in Business and Management

  Topics may include:
  - *Intellectual Property Management*
  - *Financial Innovations and Fintech*
  - *Internet and future business model*
  - *Internet of Things*
  - *Industrial revolution 4.0*
  - *Analytics and Predictive Technologies*

- Strategy

Elective Courses (Choose 20 cu)

- Strategic Leadership & Management for Excellence
- Corporate Governance, CSR and Change Management for Sustainability
- Business Economics and Public Policy
- Marketing for the Future Economy
- Managing Technology and Innovation
- Inclusive FinTech

Research Methodology Course[1] (10 cu)

- Applied Research in Business and Management (compulsory)

Doctoral Dissertation Course (80 cu)

- Doctoral Dissertation (compulsory)

Complimentary Elective Courses (Up to 10 cu)

- Choose to audit up to 10 cu of courses from about 150 Graduate Unrestricted Elective courses offered at SUSS

Complete 30 cu Coursework

⬇

Graduate Diploma in Business[2]

⬇

Complete an additional 10 cu Coursework

⬇

Qualifying Examination

⬇

Confirmed as DBA Candidate

⬇

Literature Review, Data Collection, Analysis and Writing of Dissertation

⬇

Dissertation Submission

⬇

Dissertation Examination and Oral Defence

⬇

Doctor of Business Administration

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* All courses are 5 cu unless stated otherwise.

Explanatory Notes:

[1] **Candidates must have completed a statistics course, or conducted self-directed learning to ensure the basic knowledge of statistics before they take up the research methodology course.**

[2] **Students will need a min. cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.5 to be awarded Graduate Diploma in Business, and a min. CGPA of 3.0 to proceed to Doctor of Business Administration.**

For more information on our Doctor of Business Administration, please visit suss.edu.sg/DBA

Admission Criteria

The DBA programme is open to Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents, as well as International Students.

Applicants need to fulfil the following criteria for admission:

1. An MBA or EMBA or a master's degree in relevant disciplines.
2. A minimum of five years of work experience.
3. Applicants with relevant work experience but with other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.
4. Depending on the proposed research topic, specific relevant work experience will be an asset.
5. A personal statement including:
   - how this programme supports the career aspirations of the applicant, and
   - topics and areas you are keen for the DBA programme to include in its courses/field trips
6. A research proposal (using research proposal template), highlighting:
   - research questions
   - motivation
   - how would society benefit from the findings
   - how you plan to conduct the research
7. Two reference letters on the character of the applicant as well as achievements and capabilities of the applicant. Referees are required to submit the reference letters directly to the Student Admissions department at admissions@suss.edu.sg (using the reference letter template).

To view and download research proposal and reference letter templates, please refer to suss.edu.sg/DBA

Shortlisted applicants will be required to undergo one or more interviews and/or take such written admission or other evaluation tests as may be prescribed by SUSS from time to time.

All applications are considered individually on merit, and the offer of admission is dependent on the number of places available in individual programmes. Admission is solely at the discretion of SUSS and the decision is final and binding. SUSS reserves the right to refuse admission and is not obliged to offer an explanation for the non-admission of unsuccessful candidates.

Tuition Fees

The amount of course fees you pay in each semester depends on the number of courses you take in that semester. The course fees cover all study materials, classes, tutor supervision, assignments and examinations. They do not include fees for textbooks and other additional items specified by SUSS from time to time.