

● 2020  
Graduate Programmes  
● **SCHOOL OF**  
● **BUSINESS**

**DOCTOR OF  
BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION**

新跃社科大学商学院  
工商管理博士



## 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 multi-disciplinary courses to suit their applied research objectives. The programme is supported by a flexible learning environment that draws its benefits from SUSS' 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' flexible learning environment, close industry linkages and opportunities to participate in overseas immersion courses.

## Programme Structure

DBA students are required to complete 40 cu coursework (30 cu disciplinary knowledge courses and 10 cu 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 required to participate in overseas immersion courses that will be held over a period of a few days.

Upon the completion of 30 cu coursework, students are awarded with the Graduate Diploma in Business. After the completion of an additional 10 cu coursework, students are 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 advances 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 DBA is 3 years and the maximum candidature period is 7 years.

**Disciplinary Knowledge Courses (Choose 30 cu)  
(Each course is 5 cu)**

- Contemporary Topics in Business and Management (compulsory)
- Strategy (compulsory)
- Managing Sustainable Operations
- Strategic Leadership & Management for Excellence
- Corporate Governance, CSR and Change Management for Sustainability
- Business Economics and Public Policy
- Marketing for the Future Economy
- Sustainability Management
- Data Analytics for Decision Makers
- Managing Technology and Innovation
- Inclusive FinTech
- Courses from Selected SUSS Master's Programmes
  - Master of IP and Innovation Management
  - Master of Management [Urban Transportation]
  - Master of Business Administration
  - Master of Finance
  - Master of Human Capital Management

**Research Methodology Course\* (10 cu)**

- Applied Research in Business and Management (compulsory)



**Complete 30 cu Coursework**



**Graduate Diploma  
in Business<sup>1</sup>**



**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 Defense**



**Doctor of Business  
Administration**

\* 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.

<sup>1</sup> Students will need a min. 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.

# ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

## Admissions

Applicants to DBA programme need to fulfill the following criteria for admission:

1. A 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 on:
  - How this programme supports the career aspirations of the applicant, and
  - A research proposal, highlighting
    1. research questions;
    2. how would society benefit from the findings;
    3. how do you plan to conduct the research;
    4. topics and areas you are keen for the DBA programme to include in its courses/field trips
6. Two reference letters on the character of the applicant as well as achievements and capabilities of the applicant.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview with the Programme Admission Committee.

The offer of admission is dependent on the number of places available in this programme. The decision of the Admissions Committee of the Singapore University of Social Sciences is final and binding. The University reserves the right to refuse admission and is not obliged to offer an explanation for the non-admission of unsuccessful candidates.

## Tuition Fees

Our tuition fees are on par with those of other local universities. 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.

## Concession

SUSS offers the following course fee concessions:

1. Applicants who are 60 years old and above will enjoy a 20% course fee concession.
2. Alumni (Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral programmes) of SUSS and SIM will enjoy a 20% course fee concession.

Students will only enjoy one of the two categories of concession. The above concessions are applicable to all graduate programmes (excluding Graduate Certificate) offered and awarded by SUSS unless specified otherwise.

The concessions are not applicable to students under any scholarship or sponsorship schemes as well as courses offered with external institutions/organisations. The concessions are also not to be used concurrently with any other concessions/grants.

To encourage further education and upgrading by our alumni, graduates from the Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degree programmes awarded by SUSS will enjoy an additional 30% course fee concession for the first two master's courses when they enrol for a Graduate Diploma and/or Master's programme with the University.

Visit [suss.edu.sg](http://suss.edu.sg) for more details.

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