

Part B - Doctoral Programme Profile

3675 Doctor of Business Administration 201718

This Management Doctoral Programme Profile accompanies the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 201718*, and details additional Faculty/programme-specific information.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Part Time
Duration in years	84 months-following standard progression for a PT student
Accreditation details	N/A
Final award	DBA
Name of award	Doctor of Business Administration
Interim Exit awards	See note under intermediate exit points
FHEQ level of final award	8
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Doctoral Degree Characteristics Statement (2015)
Programme Lead	Associate Professor Mel Ashleigh
Date specification was written	March 2009
Date Programme was validated	July 2009
Date specification last updated	July 2016

All Doctoral Programme Profiles should be read alongside the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2017/18* and the University of Southampton's [Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy](#) and [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The DBA Programme is a doctoral degree that is based on supervised research in areas of Management such as Accounting, Accountability and Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Strategic Management, Banking, Financial Markets, Health Care Management, Human Resources, Organisational Behaviour, Information Technology, Management Science, Marketing, Risk, Operational Research and Supply Chain Management, and leads to a qualification at a doctoral level (DBA) when successfully completed. The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is a professional part-time doctoral degree designed to enhance executive and professional practice through the application of sound theory and rigorous research to real and complex issues in business and management. It provides a structure and a wide range of learning opportunities including formal teaching, group work and research colloquia, as well as a community of practice to develop knowledge and understanding of research that is both scholarly and relevant.

Differences between a DBA and a part-time PhD. The DBA is different from, but equivalent to a PhD. However, there are a number of important areas in which the DBA route is different to a part-time PhD. These are:-(i) you will be required to demonstrate that you have made a contribution to knowledge in your field and made a contribution to practice in your field.(ii) the dominant nature of the research will be addressing practical issues and problems conducted in organisations with employees, managers, executives etc (Commonly referred to as Mode II research)(iii) your research will be conducted in an organisation rather than on an organisation.(iv) you will be registered for the DBA from the outset of the programme (whereas on a part-time PhD you are initially registered for an MPhil).In addition the DBA tends to involve research which is frequently cross-disciplinary and likely to entail the use of mixed methods.

Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

The educational aims of the Doctor of Business Administration programme are to enable you to:-

1. Enhance your performance as a reflective practitioner and to enhance your professional practice.
2. Have a sound understanding of the relevant conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of your chosen area of research into business and management, which may have a single discipline or an interdisciplinary focus.
3. Have a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic and management enquiry.
4. Create and interpret knowledge through original research of a quality to satisfy review by senior scholars and practitioners and to make a contribution to theory and professional practice.
5. Have the ability to conceptualise, design and implement projects for the generation of significant new knowledge or understanding and adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen difficulties.
6. Argue an effective, coherent and scholarly case for your chosen research topic, both orally and in writing, including the production of a Doctoral Thesis.
7. Have the ability to communicate your ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialists, practising managers and non-specialist audiences.
8. Have developed your professional and research competencies sufficient to continue to undertake rigorous and relevant research at an advanced level that contributes to theory and practice in business and management, and to continue a lifetime of self-reflective development.

Programme Structure

The following summary should be read in conjunction with the Faculty Postgraduate Research Handbook and the University Regulations as specified in the [Calendar](#).

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible to always predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. Research students are however, all required to undertake three Progression Reviews during their studies, as detailed in the [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#). The timetable shown below is indicative of what you can expect. Maximum candidature is 48 months in full-time registration, 84 months in part-time Registration. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods. The timings listed below are those for a full-time student. Timings for a part-time student are adjusted suitably.

Programme details

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible to always predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. The following is an indicative list. Where there is a definite requirement to undertake a certain activity this is stated.

Part 1

Part 1 of the DBA is designed to cover the first 24 months of the programme.

At the start of part 1 students will be required to attend an introductory week that explores the structure of a DBA and introduces students to the main components of the research journey and requirements for successful completion of the DBA. Following the introductory week the students complete a development plan that covers both their development as researchers and the development of their professional practice. This plan is reviewed and agreed with the supervisory team. Students will also need to have sat MANG7001 Research Methods, the only compulsory module in the DBA Programme, assessed 100% by coursework and a successful pass is a prerequisite for confirmation of the DBA candidature by the end of part 1.

Throughout the DBA the student will work with their supervisory team to prepare the main deliverables (more details below). The main supervisor is typically the leading supervisor for the project and very often also coincides with the co-ordinating supervisor who is responsible for organising the completion of all progression paperwork and timely examination. A second supervisor may have less direct involvement with the candidate's work, but may still attend review meetings with the candidate (as well as progression milestones) and be available to discuss the progress of the candidate's project.

Candidates will be required to complete a 6 month report (more details, under Progression Requirements). There will be regular 6 month reports throughout the duration of the DBA candidature.

Students have the opportunity to meet regularly with the Graduate School through the Faculty Graduate School Advisory Group's meetings (which comprises an academic representative from each Academic Unit as well as the Director of Graduate School) at a mixture of training and networking meetings, which gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues a candidate may be having during their studies.

During part 1 students will undertake Independent study and research and be required to present their work at one DBA research colloquium each year. In addition they are encouraged to attend research seminars, conferences and training programmes that are available to PhD students. In the course of part 1 DBA students will be required to submit a 3000 word thesis critique, a 5000 word literature review and a 5000 word reflective professional development review for assessment by their supervisory team (see details below). At the end of part 1 DBA students are required to submit a full (10,000 word research proposal for confirmation of progression to part 2 (more details below), which will be considered by a review panel comprising two independent assessors. The assessors are usually selected from within the School, but will not have had direct contact with the research project. Upon successful completion the candidate is then eligible to continue their studies into Part 2 of the DBA in readiness for final submission of their thesis.

The format of the research proposal must demonstrate an understanding of the chosen field of research, review of the background literature and draw together the work to date and outline the future direction of the research. Further guidance is available for students from the PGR office and/or DBA Director. A *viva voce* takes place at which the internal assessors may examine the candidate on any aspect of the candidate's work and future plans for the project. The assessor must be satisfied that the candidate has the potential to undertake independent research and produce a doctoral level thesis within the timescale of the programme. The assessor submits their reports to the Faculty Graduate Office, if all requirements have been met the upgrade to DBA Part 2 status is confirmed by the Graduate School and reported to the Faculty Programme Committee. If the candidate fails to meet the requirements for upgrade to Part 2 of the DBA, they may choose to be re-examined at this upgrade milestone, but will be allowed only one further attempt at the transfer (within a specified time period determined by the review panel). If the second submission fails to meet the standards required the candidate may ask to be considered for a transfer to an MPhil programme. See the University Calendar for further details on the award of an MPhil.

Part 2

During part 2 students will continue to undertake Independent study and research and be required to present their work at one DBA research colloquium each year. In addition they are again encouraged to attend research seminars, conferences and training programmes that are available to PhD students. The focus of part 2 is the completion of the research project and the writing up of the final 70,000 word thesis. By the end of part 2 DBA students will need to submit a second 5000 word reflective document that focuses on demonstrating the impact of their learning on the development of their professional practice. This document is assessed by the supervisory team. The final thesis is considered by at least one internal and one external examiner and a *viva* held. Examiners make their reports to the Faculty Graduate School. Possible outcomes are the recommendation to the University of the award of the DBA; award of the DBA subject to minor corrections to the thesis; major revision of the thesis with the award of the DBA subject to a further examination or rejection of the thesis with the recommendation that the DBA should not be awarded. *In the latter case an MPhil may be awarded based on earlier performance.*

Programme Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice

- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Current research developments and findings within your area of research for your DBA
- Theory, practice, analysis and interpretation of data in your DBA, including relevant analytic techniques and processes Theoretical and empirical developments at the research frontiers in your DBA topic
- Applications of theory and research to practice within your area of research in your DBA

Learning and Teaching Methods

You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition you will further develop your understanding through research topic workshops and colloquium meetings.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods will include written assignment, oral presentations, thesis critique, working paper, reflective reports, research proposal, progression reviews including **Confirmation of DBA Registration** and a thesis with viva voce, as described in part A.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Interpret and critically evaluate information from academic papers, books, practitioner journals, and other sources
- Synthesise ideas and apply creative and original thought to the solution of management problems and challenges within your area of research
- Develop, modify and apply existing theory in novel situations and circumstances.
- Create and evaluate new knowledge through research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication.
- Apply your acquired skills to practical situations and developing your professional practice

Learning and Teaching Methods

Guided and independent research which focuses on research within organisations.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods will include written assignment, oral presentations, thesis critique, working paper, reflective reports, research proposal, progression reviews including **Confirmation of DBA Registration** and a thesis with viva voce, as described in part A

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student

Public Workstations.

- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- Standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- Access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Student Services Centre
- Enabling Services offering assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.
- a Researcher Development and Graduate Centre, which provides professional development and skills training
- An appropriate research environment, as set out in the Code of Practice

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Research infrastructure
 - A Research Training and Support Grant of at least £700 per annum (FT) for registered students including those on nominal roll and pro-rata for PT
 - An additional PGR Conference and Research Support Fund providing up to £1000 to further support dissemination and research activities
 - Access to appropriate desk space and computing facilities (as per SBS policy)
 - Support of a supervisory team consisting of at least two members of staff
 - Finance for details of your personal RTSG subproject code and claims
 - Publication award scheme providing financial incentives for publishing papers in internationally recognised journals.
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- UoS Supervisors will act, in lieu of Personal Academic Tutors, to ensure University of Southampton pastoral care duties to PGR students. Further clarification on this will be made available in due course.

Fees, Additional Costs and Funding

The Fees for the programme are as per the published fee rates for the DBA. Other than additional costs shown in the section later in this programme specification, there are no additional fees payable.

Intermediate exit points (where available)

There are no intermediate exit points for this programme.

In some cases, students may not or cannot continue through to completion of the PhD. Students may make such decisions for themselves, or it can be based on unsatisfactory performance at one of the formal milestones described above. In this case a transfer to the MPhil programme may be possible, in which case the University will comply with its obligations under the relevant immigration legislation which may be updated from time to time. A student who is concerned about his/her entitlement to remain in the UK following a failure to progress should seek urgent advice from the Student Visa Guidance Service. An MPhil may be awarded only after successful examination of a suitable thesis by an internal and external examiner and passing a viva voce. See the University Calendar for further details on the award of an MPhil <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionV/mphil-phd.html>

Admission

An important aspect of the entry requirements for this programme is the extent of your work experience. It is likely that you will have at least seven years work experience with a substantial part of this having been within a managerial (or equivalent) role.

You would normally be expected to have a masters level degree (MBA or MSc) with evidence of a good quality dissertation. However, an alternative entry route could be available if you have a professional qualification (eg Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development - FCIPD, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing – FCIM, etc) and a significant period of senior level management experience.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

English Language Proficiency

English Language requirement for candidates whose first language is not English: The following scores are accepted for direct entry: IELTS – overall 6.5 or above with 6.5 or above in reading and writing, 6.0 or above in listening and speaking.

All candidates whose first language is not English and who require a visa to study must comply with the minimum requirements for language proficiency set by UK Visas and Immigration for the issuance of the visa.

Career Opportunities

As DBA students have to be currently employed (see admission requirements) it is anticipated that the DBA studies will be encompassed within their personal career development plans. The studies undertaken by students are designed to enhance their chosen career aspirations and the inclusion in the programme of professional development planning is designed to support the students in achieving their career goals.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide)

Appendix 1:

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for the DBA. In addition to this, students Will need to meet any costs involved in the collection of their data (e.g. travel to conduct interviews etc.)