

Deakin Business School PhD Program





If you **think** about the key challenges facing the world today, you will find that they all have a business element to them. Without understanding the business world, we cannot **hope** to solve these challenges. At Deakin Business School, we conduct rigorous research that helps us **understand** the business ecosystem and **change** the world for the better.

Why a PhD in Business?

A PhD in business is the path to becoming a business scholar. Business scholars investigate a wide range of topics from a scientific perspective, pursuing questions relating to markets, organizations, management, and economics. The knowledge created as a result of this research helps societies organize resources more efficiently, governments enact policies which enhance welfare, and companies more effectively meet their responsibilities to their stakeholders. Business scholars demonstrate thought leadership through disseminating their research in academic and practitioner journals, teaching the next generation of business leaders, and directly advising leaders of industry and policy. While all academics can shape their fields, business scholars have a unique opportunity to influence both the academic and corporate sectors.

The Deakin Business School Difference

At DBS, we place a strong emphasis on research that matters. Our academics consistently author papers in top tier academic journals which shape the frontiers of knowledge in their respective fields. The strong research profile of our staff translates into our strong Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) ratings ('above world class' and top 8 in Australia).

Our program is designed to empower you to become an independent researcher. Our rigorous research methods and subject matter training ensure that you have the tools needed to conduct independent, cutting edge research. Our strong research culture provides an ideal environment for the incubation and development of ideas that grow to impactful research projects. At the end of your journey, we support your job search with tailored seminars and individual coaching.

Our guiding philosophy in developing future business scholars follows William Butler Yeats words that 'education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire'. Our students, with their intellectual curiosity, motivation, discipline, and passion for their field provide the fuel for the fire. DBS in turn provides the spark to start the fire and the oxygen to sustain the flame.

Student experience

The PhD program at DBS prepares students for an increasingly competitive academic job market, as well as high level research jobs in the private and public sectors. As a PhD student at DBS you will be part of a highly stimulating intellectual environment, where you will be challenged and encouraged to address the big research issues in your field. We place a strong emphasis on academic rigour and provide students with comprehensive discipline specific and methodological training.

Intellectual Leaders Seminar Series

Our Intellectual Leaders Seminar Series exposes students to authorities from a wide range of disciplines, ranging from history, neuroscience, cultural anthropology, and business. This unique seminar series is designed to broaden students' horizons and stimulate intellectual curiosity. Highly renowned speakers share their research as well as their experiences and tips for achieving success in academia.

Department Research Seminar Series

Each department within the Faculty of Business and Law organises a research seminar series, which allows students to stay on top of the most recent developments in their field.

Consultant Development Program

This program allows students to work in teams to solve real-world (or hypothetical) problems by applying an evidence-based approach and drawing on their unique expertise from their research discipline. The process involves training components that help students understand best practices with respect to teamwork, communication, and mindset when working with industry clients. The desired outcome of this program is that students gain an understanding of how to leverage their academic reasoning, communication and research skills to tackle real world issues.

Job Market Support

Students in the final year interested in the academic job market receive personalized support to help them maximize their job market package. Candidates take part in job readiness workshops and receive 1:1 coaching from an internationally acclaimed PhD consultant and coach.

International study opportunities

Internationalisation is in our DNA. We therefore strive to give students the greatest international exposure possible. Beyond the high number of leading international speakers at department and faculty seminars throughout the year, and generous international travel support, we are constantly working to offer students the opportunity to work with the best academics around the world. At present, we have developed two formal exchange programs.

Development economics at Yale University

Students working in development economics have the opportunity to apply to visit Yale University for a period of 9 to 12 months, where they will be part of **Professor Mobarak's** working group of PhD students. They will also have the opportunity to attend seminars and classes at Yale. To apply, PhD students must have excelled in the first year of our program, and must be working on a topic in development economics. This opportunity is offered on a competitive basis and participation is subject to visa requirements. Successful applicants will receive additional funding which will offset a portion of the costs associated with traveling to and living in the USA.

Behavioural finance at University of Miami

Students working in behavioural finance have the opportunity to apply to visit University of Miami for a period of 3 to 6 months, where they will have the opportunity to undertake additional research training and work in one of the most active departments specializing in behavioural finance. This opportunity is offered on a competitive basis and participation is subject to visa requirements. Successful applicants will receive additional funding which will offset a portion of the costs associated with traveling to and living in the USA.

Degree Structure

Depending on your specific field of study, you will complete between 4 and 6 coursework units in the first year. You will be required to complete a 12 month probation period, which culminates in a Confirmation of Candidature at the 12 month mark. Only once your candidature is confirmed, can you proceed with your project. Candidature is for a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years

Year 1

Completion of mandatory coursework and development of research proposal. Confirmation of candidature at the end of the first year.

Year 2

Development of research project based on research proposal developed in the first year. Students are encouraged to take part in the Consultant Development Program.

Year 3

Finalization of research project. Opportunity to workshop project outputs at domestic and international conferences. Students are encouraged to seek internship opportunities. Those students looking to pursue a research career take part in the Job Market Support program.

Our Disciplines

At DBS we study the business sphere from various angles. Our academic departments consist of:

- Accounting
- Economics
- Finance
- Information Systems and Business Analytics
- Management
- Marketing



Accounting

About the department

The Department of Accounting staff specialize in research on Organizational Governance and Accountability, Auditing and Assurance Services, Financial and Non-financial Reporting, and the Financial Implications of Political Connections.

Accounting at Deakin is ranked 112th in the world, and 3rd in Australia in the latest BYU rankings of accounting departments worldwide. Highlighting the supervisory and research capability of the department, research produced by department members frequently appear in leading accounting journals, including Journal of Accounting and Economics, Journal of Accounting Research, Accounting Review, and Contemporary Accounting Research.

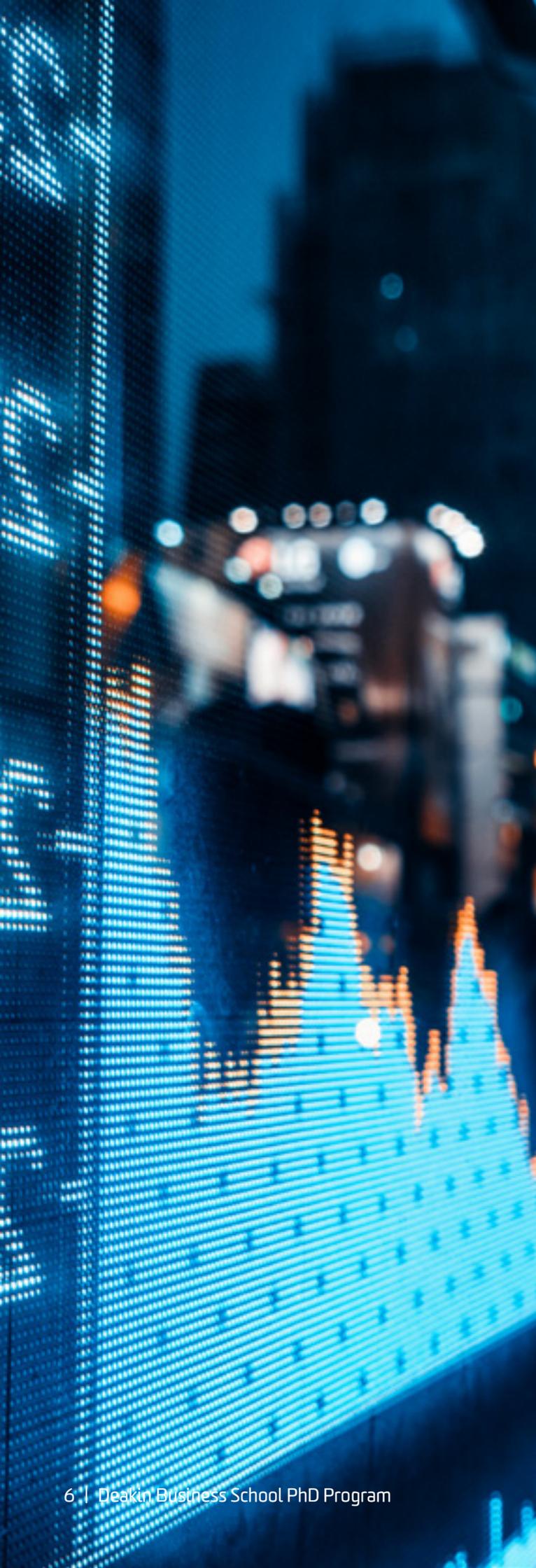
Deakin Business School has recruited world-class researchers, such as **Professor Ferdinand Gul**, who is ranked amongst the top 40 accounting researchers in the world in the latest BYU author rankings. The department also has a large number of academics who hold PhD degrees from renowned universities, eg., Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), City University of Hong Kong, and Polytechnic University of Hong Kong.

Research areas

- Organisational Governance And Accountability
- Auditing and Assurance Services
- Financial and Non-Financial Reporting
- Financial Implications of Political Connections.

Applicant characteristics

1. Intellectual curiosity
2. Enthusiasm and passion for research
3. Excellent written and oral communication skills
4. Strong academic background in accounting, economics or finance with a solid grounding in quantitative methods
5. Strong reference letters
6. Strong GRE or GMAT scores are valuable but not mandatory.



Economics

About the department

The Department of Economics staff specialize in research on Development Economics, Macroeconomic and Microeconomic Theory, Applied Economics, and Trade. The department is ranked among the top nine in Australia and third in Victoria according to the Australian government rankings (ERA 2018). Research produced by department members appear in leading journals such as AEJ: Macroeconomics, Econometrica, Journal of Economic Theory, Review of Economics and Statistics, and The Economic Journal.

As part of Deakin Business School's commitment to the recruitment of world-class researchers, the department has hired academics who hold PhD degrees from renowned universities, e.g., Emory University, London School of Economics, Ohio State University, University of Rochester, and University of Texas at Austin. The department has also hired Professorial Research Fellows who further strengthen the departments supervisory and research capability, including **Professor Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak** (Yale University), **Professor Christopher Waller** (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis), and **Professor Utku Unver** (Boston College).

Research areas

- Development Economics
- Macroeconomic and Microeconomic Theory
- Applied Economics
- Trade

Applicant characteristics

1. Intellectual curiosity
2. Strong academic background in Economics, Mathematics or Statistics while also demonstrating potential to complete PhD-level courses in Economics to a high standard
3. Strong referee letters that are able to rank the candidate relative to their peers and also relative to previous cohorts
4. Ability to clearly articulate contributions and gaps in one's own research work as well as the research work embodied in key papers in the academic literature within one's field of interest
5. Strong GRE or GMAT scores are valuable but not mandatory.

Finance

About the department

The Department of Finance academic staff specialize in research on Corporate Finance, Behavioural Finance, Asset Pricing, Banking, and Financial Markets. Finance at Deakin is ranked in the 76–100 band in the most recent ARWU Subjects ranking. Highlighting the research capability of the department, research produced by department members frequently appears in leading finance journals, including *The Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, *Review of Finance*, and *Management Science*.

As part of Deakin Business School's commitment to the recruitment of world-class researchers, the department has hired academics who hold a PhD degree from renowned universities, eg., University of Washington at St. Louis, University of Michigan, University of California, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), and Hong Kong University. The department has also recently hired **Tarun Chordia** (Emory University) and **Alok Kumar** (University of Miami) as a Professorial Research Fellows.

Research areas

- Asset Pricing
- Corporate Finance
- Behavioural Finance
- Banking
- Financial Markets

Applicant characteristics

1. Intellectual curiosity
2. Strong academic background in Finance, Economics, Mathematics or Statistics while also demonstrating potential to complete PhD-level courses in Finance to a high standard
3. Strong referee letters that are able to rank the candidate relative to their peers and also relative to previous cohorts
4. Ability to clearly articulate contributions and gaps in one's own research work as well as the research work embodied in key papers in the academic literature within one's field of interest
5. Strong GRE or GMAT scores are valuable but not mandatory.



Information Systems and Business Analytics

About the department

The Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics staff specialize in research on Business Intelligence, Big Data, Digital Business Transformation, and Competitive Business Generation Through Analytics. The research produced in the department is both academically impactful, and has strong real world impact. The academic impact of the research is demonstrated by the fact that outputs have been published in leading academic journals such as Organization Science, Information Systems Research or The Journal of the Association of Information Systems. The real world impact of the research is demonstrated by the various industry partnerships that the department has established, including the IBM Centre of Excellence in Business Analytics.

Research areas

- Ethics in Business Analytics and Ai
- Social Informatics and Health Informatics
- Digital Business Transformation
- Disruptive Technology and Innovation
- Deep Learning for Business Applications
- Analytics in Applied Contexts (Cybersecurity, Social Media, Marketing)

Applicant characteristics

1. Intellectual curiosity
2. Strong academic background in Data science, Engineering, Mathematics, or Statistics
3. Strong referee letters that are able to rank the candidate relative to their peers and also relative to previous cohorts
4. Ability to clearly articulate contributions and gaps in one's own research work as well as the research work embodied in key papers in the academic literature within one's field of interest
5. Strong GRE or GMAT scores are valuable but not mandatory.

Management

About the department

The Department of Management staff specialize in research on Employee Wellbeing, Labour Migration and Refugees, Organisational Behaviour and Leadership, and Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility, among others. Management and Deakin is ranked in the 101–150 band in the latest QS ranking for business and management. Highlighting the supervisory and research capability of the department, department members frequently appear in leading academic outlets, including Academy of Management Journal, Management Science, Journal of Applied Psychology, Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of Vocational Behavior and Journal of International Business Studies.

Deakin Business School is committed to the recruitment of world-class researchers, and the department's academics hold PhD degrees from renowned universities, eg., University of California, KU Leuven, and Leeds University. The department has also hired Professorial Research Fellows who further strengthen the departments supervisory and research capability, including Professor Jason Shaw (NTU) and Professor Brian Connelly (Auburn University).

Research areas

- Employee Wellbeing
- Labour Migration and Refugees
- Organisational Behaviour and Leadership
- Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility

Applicant characteristics

1. Intellectual curiosity
2. Strong academic background of theoretical and methodological frameworks in Management, while also demonstrating potential to complete PhD-level courses to a high standard
3. Strong referee letters that are able to rank the candidate relative to their peers and also relative to previous cohorts
4. Ability to clearly articulate contributions and gaps in one's own research work as well as the research work embodied in key papers in the academic literature within one's field of interest





Marketing

About the department

The Department of Marketing in Deakin Business ranks third in Australia and number one in Victoria across all academic levels in terms of the citations of staff's research publications, and recently achieved an 'above world class' performance rating in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA).

An emerging strength within the Department is the utilization of quantitative and analytical research methods to address pressing issues in marketing, facilitated by a close collaboration with the Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics. Research produced by Department members regularly appears in leading marketing journals, including Marketing Science, Journal of Marketing, Journal of Marketing Research, Journal of Service Research, Journal of Consumer Psychology and Journal of Retailing. As part of Deakin Business School's commitment to the recruitment of world-class researchers, the Department has hired academics who hold a PhD degree from world-renowned universities.

Research areas

- Customer Analytics and Modelling
- Consumer Behaviour
- Social and Transformative Marketing
- Services Marketing
- Marketing and Public Policy

Applicant characteristics

1. High levels of motivation, intellectual curiosity, persistence and resilience
2. Good oral and written communication skills
3. A background in Psychology and/or experience with experimental methods and data analysis, which provide optimal preparation for students who wish to pursue a PhD in the field of consumer behaviour. Solid training in economics and statistical methods offers an advantage for quantitative marketing students, but students from backgrounds such as engineering and computer science are also well-suited
4. Strong referee letters
5. Ability to clearly articulate theoretical contributions and gaps within one's research field of interest

Admission requirements

To be eligible for consideration, you must:

1. Have completed an Honours or Masters by Research degree within the past 5 years, where the research thesis component consisted of at least 25% of a year's full-time study.
2. Have obtained an 80% average in your research degree, with a minimum 80% grade for the thesis (Honours or Masters by Research).
3. Meet the university's English language requirements by completing your qualification in an English-speaking country or demonstrating English language proficiency in an **English language test.**

Students who meet the eligibility to apply are invited to send their Expression of Interest (EOI) to bl-phd@deakin.edu.au, together with their academic transcript, CV, and research proposal.