



PhD PROGRAMME

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (GSB)



Ranked
134
WORLD

Ranked
3
MALAYSIA



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings

Ranked
14
WORLD

Ranked
1
MALAYSIA



World University
Rankings
Asia

Ranked
103
ASIA

Ranked
4
MALAYSIA



AACSB
ACCREDITED

PRME



WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM THIS PROGRAMME?

As a PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Business (GSB), you will grow into a well-rounded scholar in the fields of business and management. Upon graduation, you will be highly competitive and well-positioned for academic and research careers in leading business schools, universities, and research institutions worldwide.

You will have the opportunity to work closely with experienced GSB faculty members and collaborate with other postgraduate scholars in your area of specialisation. This collaborative environment fosters the exchange of ideas, critical discussions, and the development of scholarly insight.

Through a series of structured and intensive workshops tailored to each stage of the doctoral journey, you will experience a programme that is both comprehensive and intellectually enriching. These workshops are designed to strengthen your research capabilities, academic writing, and presentation skills.

Most importantly, through your doctoral thesis and related publications, you will make a significant and original contribution to knowledge within your chosen field of study.

WHY PURSUE A PhD AT GSB?

The Graduate School of Business (GSB) at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) was officially established on 6 March 2009. Its roots, however, can be traced back to 1989, when the School of Management at USM first introduced postgraduate programmes. Since its formal establishment, GSB has evolved into an innovative and forward-looking business school, producing PhD graduates who are highly sought after by universities, research institutions, and both public and private sector organisations globally.

At GSB, doctoral candidates benefit from a structured and intellectually stimulating research environment. Our programme includes regular intensive workshops that are strategically designed to support students at various stages of the PhD journey. These workshops provide a robust foundation in research methodology, academic writing, and scholarly presentation.

Each doctoral candidate is assigned to one of GSB's six research clusters and works closely with their supervisor(s), as well as with other faculty members and fellow doctoral scholars who share similar research interests. This collaborative setting fosters a vibrant academic community where ideas are exchanged, constructive feedback is encouraged, and interdisciplinary dialogue thrives.

As an active member of your research cluster, you will participate in regular seminars and present your research progress to peers and faculty. In addition to cluster-level activities, PhD candidates are also engaged in school-wide seminars, academic development programmes, and scholarly events aimed at enhancing their research capabilities and academic professionalism.

Whether your goal is a career in academia, industry, or the public sector, the PhD programme at GSB equips you with the skills, knowledge, and scholarly grounding to make meaningful contributions to the advancement of business and management knowledge. Through your doctoral research and related publications, you will produce original work that addresses current challenges and expands the frontiers of your chosen discipline.



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The PhD programme at the Graduate School of Business (GSB) is designed to equip students with advanced research and analytical skills essential for scholarly inquiry and academic leadership in the fields of business and management.

As a doctoral candidate, you will undergo systematic and rigorous training in research methodology through a series of structured courses. These courses are compulsory and aim to develop your capacity to conduct independent, high-quality research. To support your academic career aspirations, the programme also includes a pedagogy workshop to enhance your teaching competence at the university level.

In line with GSB's commitment to "Nurturing Business Sustainability," the programme incorporates a dedicated course on business sustainability, ensuring that you are aware of the evolving demands of responsible and sustainable business practices from the beginning of your doctoral journey.

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, you will be expected to prepare and present a Conceptual Paper based on your preliminary doctoral research. This presentation allows for feedback and guidance before moving into the full development of your research.

Approximately six months after the Conceptual Paper presentation, you will proceed to the Proposal Defence stage. At this point, you will formally present and defend your proposed research design, including your methodology and data collection plan. Two appointed examiners will evaluate the quality, feasibility, and academic merit of your proposal.

The final phase of the programme is the submission of your doctoral thesis, followed by an oral examination, known as the viva voce. The viva voce is conducted before a panel comprising two internal examiners (from USM) and one external examiner (from outside USM). This examination provides an opportunity for you to present and defend your research findings and contributions to a panel of experts in your field.

UPON GRADUATION, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate relevant knowledge and skills in conducting rigorous scientific research in the field of business and management.
- Design and deliver academic courses effectively within institutions of higher learning.
- Exhibit a high level of awareness and understanding of current issues related to business sustainability.

FEES

FULL TIME

- Registration Fee : 330.00
- Tuition Fee (Semester) : 3,910.00
- Thesis Evaluation Fee : 800.00
- Convocation Fee : 200.00
- Research Methodology : 320.00

MALAYSIAN (MYR)

- Registration Fee : 225.00
- Personal Bond : 1,000.00
- Tuition Fee (Semester) : 1,600.00
- Thesis Evaluation Fee : 250.00
- Convocation Fee : 50.00
- Research Methodology : 80.00

INTERNATIONAL (USD)

PART TIME/SEMESTER

- Registration Fee : 330.00
- Tuition Fee (Semester) : 3,325.00
- Thesis Evaluation Fee : 800.00
- Convocation Fee : 200.00
- Research Methodology : 320.00

- Registration Fee : 225.00
- Personal Bond : 1,000.00
- Tuition Fee (Semester) : 1,440.00
- Thesis Evaluation Fee : 250.00
- Convocation Fee : 50.00
- Research Methodology : 80.00

* The total amount does not include graduation fees.

** Fees are subject to change

AT A GLANCE

Program Starts • March/October

Duration • 2 to 5 years (4 to 10 semesters) for full-time students;
• 3 to 7.5 years (6 to 15 semesters) for part-time students

Mode:
Research

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A Master's degree from universities recognised by USM's Senate or an equivalent qualification with a minimum CGPA of 3.00/4.00; or
- A Master's degree by research from universities recognised by USM's Senate or an equivalent qualification
- A two-page Research Proposal that includes:
 - Proposed area of interest
 - Potential contribution to theory
 - Background (with evidence of reading that supports potential contribution)
 - Research objectives
 - Significance of research
 - Expected economic, social, or environmental impact of research

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS:

- A minimum score of 60 for TOEFL (Internet-based); or
- A minimum of Band 8.5 for TOEFL Essentials (Online); or
- A minimum of Band 6 for IELTS; or
- A minimum score of 59 for PTE; or
- A minimum score for Cambridge English: Occupational English Test (OET) (Conventional/Online) min 250/Advance (CAE)/Proficiency (CPE)/Preliminary (PET)/First (FCE)/Linguaskill Online min. score 169; or
- A minimum score of 109 for ELS; or
- A minimum of Band 4 for MUET

Exemption can be given to candidate if:

- English is the candidate's mother tongue or National Language; or
- The candidate graduated from an institution of higher learning in which the medium of instruction is English

READY TO LEAVE YOUR MARK? CONTACT OUR ADMISSION TEAM

You may apply to the programme at any time throughout the year.

www.ips.usm.my

For any enquiries, please contact:

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UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA, 11800 PULAU PINANG, MALAYSIA**



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