

Presentation

Imperial College Business School is a business school in London and forms part of Imperial College London. The business school's initiative to attract students to scientific research and its doctoral program is to combine highly relevant and structured training during the first year with the Master's in Research (MRes) programme focusing on specialist courses and core research skills. MRes provides a solid foundation for an academic career.

The Doctoral programme is structured to take between four and five years full-time. In the first year, all students undertake the MRes programme. Subject to satisfactory academic progress, students then progress to the PhD which takes between 3-4 years. Admission onto the Doctoral programme is highly competitive as we accept around 15 students each year. It is not possible to enrol on the Doctoral programme on a part-time or distance learning basis. Students must be in attendance throughout the full period of study.

The Doctoral programme at Imperial College Business School is fully financed – this includes a tuition fee waiver and a stipend for up to five years. The 2019-20 rate of the Graduate Teaching Assistant scholarship stipend is £17,100 in year one, rising to £18,500 in subsequent years (rates are reviewed annually) Stipends are tax-free and the continuation of the stipend will depend on the satisfactory progress on the programme. Within Imperial also exist opportunities from various external studentships, including EPSRC, ESRC and the Imperial College President's PhD Scholarships.

Description

The Doctoral programme is a full-time, five-year programme that combines highly relevant and structured training in the first year when you complete a Master's in Research, with the freedom to explore your chosen area of research over the course of a further four years.

The year one start with a one-year Master's in Research (MRes). During this time, the student will take compulsory modules in research methodology and subject-specific theory, which will provide a theoretical grounding and thorough research training for a solid foundation for an academic career. It is also necessary undertake an individual research project. The MRes grant the necessary skills to perform high quality doctoral research in the areas of Finance, Economics and Management. Modules are assessed by a mixture of assignments, research projects and examination.

The year two allows to undertake advanced reading modules in order to deepen into theory and discuss current research in Finance, Economics and Management. It is also necessary choose a primary and secondary supervisor, based on the research interests. The supervisor-student relationship is the foundation for a successful doctoral thesis as the supervisor help for develop the research question, identify research and teaching opportunities and support the student through the studies and the academic job application process. For the Research Plan, the supervisor to refine initial plans, define with the student the research question and outline the core literature of the research area. During the summer of year two, the Early Stage Assessment (ESA) is assessed by a panel of faculty. The ESA outlines the research question, the work done to date and the future research activities to be carried out to complete the project. It is comprised of a written report and presentation to which all PhD students and research department faculty are invited. The purpose of the ESA is not only to assess the personal progress but it also gives the opportunity to discuss work at its early stages and get feedback and ideas from faculty to improve the research.

The years three and four are devoted to the thesis, focusing on the collection and analysis of empirical data and developing theoretical frameworks. Under the guidance of the supervisors, the thesis gives you the opportunity to conduct a substantial piece of original research. In parallel, being part of the School's inspirational research community is a crucial aspect of the doctoral experience – as is gaining familiarity with

cutting edge research from world-leading academics. The research departments run seminars where internal and external academics discuss their latest work. As well as providing insight into yet-to-be-published research, the seminars offer networking opportunities and visiting academics often lead special topic workshops for research students. The Doctoral programme also supports the participation of research students in international conferences to present the research and participate in doctoral consortia. The Late Stage Review (LSR) takes place in the summer of year three and follows the same principle as the Early Stage Assessment, in that its purpose is to assess the progress and provide feedback and advice on the direction and scope of the research.

Finally, the year five is the Continuing Research Stage, which will culminate in the submission of the thesis and the viva voce examination. The student must submit your thesis within five years of starting the programme.

Transferability - improvement

- Definition of a precise doctoral program over 5 years with objectives and rigorous annual evaluation
- Integration during the first year of the doctoral program of a research master

Further information

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<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/business-school/programmes/doctoral-degree/why-imperial/>