

Presentation

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München / Master of Business Research (MBR)

The target group of the program are students which already finished their masters and want to start their Ph.D. at that point. The MBR is an integral part of doing a PhD at the Munich School of Management. It ensures a high standard of research at the faculty and the final grade forms part of the PhD grade. Students cannot take up a Ph.D. at this university without enrolling in the MBR. For all of the courses in the program attendance is mandatory.

They courses of the program are mostly in a physical way. The MBR can be compared to a additional Master, which the Ph.D. students at LMU have to complete besides their Ph.D. studies.

Local offer of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. Only students which want to do a Ph.D. there are allowed in the program.

Tuition fees adhere to the standard rates in Bavaria. The only fee is a 118,50 € (as of Summer 2017) administrative fee charged by LMU Munich. However, most students enrolled in the MBR are simultaneously employed as research assistants at one of the institutes at the Business Administration Faculty.

Description

All PhD students have to complete the Master of Business Research program that trains students in essential methods and topics for management research. This mandatory course is also to ensure the ongoing quality of the degree. The only requirements for the respective Ph.D. students is that they have a qualifying degree (masters degree) and a doctoral supervisor. Students have to find the supervisor on their own, by talking to them. If these two requirements are met, the students automatically enter the MBR program. Thus the program is like a additional Master. Students have to earn a Masters degree first. The MRB program is an obligatory part of the Ph.D. studies at the LMU.

The Munich School of Management offers a broad variety of courses for PhD students. They frequently invite renowned researchers from all over the world for teaching method and reading courses to PhD students. The program is designed for four semesters (two years) including one semester for the project study. The MBR core courses (A/I) are usually block courses that cover three to four full days. In addition, they will generally be required to prepare a presentation or seminar paper (specified for each course in the course syllabus). From experience LMU estimate that each course takes two to three weeks full-time work.

Formally, the MBR replaces the oral exam in the PhD process. The MBR grade thus counts for 1/3 of the final grade for the PhD, with the other two thirds being made up of the grade for the doctoral thesis.

Transferability – improvement

The initiative is transferable if the university has an option for funding (to pay the wages of the students and also of the coordinator).

1. Set up a similar infrastructure
2. Assignment of a responsible person, who takes care of the organization of the courses but also the interests of the students
3. Establishment of uniform standards for the entire faculty
4. Creating acceptance for the program. Since the program is obligatory for all Ph.D. students of the faculty, a willingness to accept uniform standards must be created among the supervisors and students

Further information

<https://www.phd.bwl.uni-muenchen.de/phd-courses/index.html>