

DBA Program

PHASE 1a: Year 1

11 x 1-day seminars in Ho Chi Minh City (between September and August)

Regular individual follow-up meetings with the doctoral supervisor:

The student managers have an individual 1h doctoral thesis follow up to discuss:

- The doctoral thesis topic
- The progress of research
- The literature that is read
- The research questions in line with the literature
- The problems and difficulties encountered

Block Seminars 1: Structure and development of the DBA thesis

These introductory seminars provide student managers with the necessary techniques and tools to effectively and efficiently organize and implement the personal process of designing, developing and writing their Executive DBA thesis.

The range of topics offered includes:

- Finding of a precise definition and specification of the DBA thesis topic
- Organization and execution of the thesis work
- Formal bases and requirements of a DBA thesis
- Methods of scientific work in management science
- Development of research problems and questions
- Development of a research design
- Search for suitable databases (Business Source Ultimate) to do the literature review
- Methods of data collection and processing
- Quantitative and qualitative research methods for the DBA

Block Seminars 2: Thematic business science paradigms I and II

These seminars are designed to give doctoral student manager an overview of current research questions from various areas of management (strategy, finance, marketing, information systems, human resources, organizational behaviour, technology management etc.). The professors focus their teaching on the current hot topics of the research field and provide the DBA student managers with their personal concrete experience in terms of research methodology and research implementation.

Through these 1-day seminars, doctoral students of the Executive DBA program gain:

- a comprehensive understanding of the relevant research problems in different disciplines of management science and to apply them to their companies and organizations.
- a targeted focus on specific research areas, different methods and analyses that can be used to do research in management science applied to their companies and organizations.
- the formalization of a personalized research program (depending on the student manager's experience and the interests of your company) that forms the "red thread" of the DBA thesis.

PHASE 1b: End of Year 1

4 x 1-day seminars in Wiltz Castle, Luxembourg (last week of September)

Block Seminar 3: Qualitative Methodology

These seminars enable DBA student managers to learn and master the qualitative methods that are necessary and relevant for the collection and analysis of management information. Among others, the following topics will be covered in the seminars:

- Psychological theories
- Theory building through Grounded Theory
- In depth-Interviews with / in companies
- Analysis of the leadership discourse
- Clinical analysis
- Content analysis
- Sentiment analysis
- Text mining
- Case study, action research etc.

Block Seminar 4: Quantitative Methodology

These seminars instruct student managers in statistical techniques that are useful for analyzing quantitative data. Their focus is not on mathematical proofs, but on the practical and pragmatic use of software tools such as Sphynx, R Commander in the context of research protocols and the DBA thesis. The following topics will be covered by using concrete examples, and if available the student managers' own company data:

- Statistical Tests
- Correlations
- Classifications
- Factor Analyses
- Analyses of Variance

- Regression Analyses
- Structural Equation Modelling

At the end of the first year, after successful presentation of their preliminary research proposal during the international week in Luxembourg, doctoral students receive the “Certificate of Research” from the Business Science Institute.

The successful completion of the “Certificate of Research” is also the step into the second year of the DBA, as the student managers will have done a first literature review and have established their road map for the research design, as well as the empirical qualitative or quantitative data collection and analyses.

PHASE 2: Year 2

3 x 1-day follow-up seminars in Ho Chi Minh City

Regular individual follow-up meetings with the doctoral supervisor:

The student managers have an individual 1h doctoral thesis follow up to discuss:

- The progress of research
- The literature review
- The research questions in line with the literature
- The empirical data collection and analyses
- The (preliminary) results
- The problems and difficulties encountered

Block Seminar 5: Doing the Empirical Investigation and Writing the Executive DBA Thesis

These seminars complement and support the regular monthly individual coordination and supervision by the academic supervisor and provide student managers with lasting support on their way to their final doctoral thesis. This includes:

- Checking the progress of research
- Evaluation of the literature review
- Evaluation of the empirical data collection and analyses
- Questioning the research questions in line with the (preliminary) results
- Discuss problems and difficulties encountered

PHASE 3a: Year 3

1 x 1-day follow-up seminar

The third year serves the DBA student manager to write his/her doctoral thesis independently. For this purpose (s)he is in regular contact with his/her academic supervisor.

Regular individual follow-up meetings with the doctoral supervisor:

The student managers have an individual 1h doctoral thesis follow up to discuss:

- The progress of research
- The literature review
- The research questions in line with the literature
- The final results
- The discussion of the results
- The problems and difficulties encountered

Block Seminar 6: Writing and finishing the Executive DBA Thesis

This seminar supports the regular monthly individual coordination and supervision by the academic supervisor and serves to provide student managers with lasting support on their way to their final doctoral thesis. This includes:

- Checking the progress of research
- Evaluation of the literature review
- Questioning the research questions in line with the results: discussion of the results
- Discuss problems and difficulties encountered

PHASE 3b: End of Year 3 (last week of September)

Defense DBA in the Wiltz Castle in Luxembourg

Pre-defense of the thesis (May): The doctoral thesis is approved by the supervisor and the BSI Scientific Council.

Approval of external reviewers (July/August): The doctoral thesis is approved by two independent external reviewers.

Public defense at the Wiltz Castle in Luxembourg (last week of September): the doctoral thesis is orally defended in front of a jury followed by comments and questions.

Graduation ceremony at the Wiltz Castle in Luxembourg (last week of September):

The two DBA diplomas of the BSI Luxembourg and the IAE Business School, University Lyon 3 are delivered to the student managers during the graduation ceremony.