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# course factfile



## Doctorate in Business Administration

### Introduction

The Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) programme is designed to validate the competence in professional practice of people working in business and management related areas at the highest academic level.

The programme draws on a wide range of staff from across the Faculty of Business and Law to support the programme allowing potential applicants a very wide range of areas to study within the business and management related arena. It is managed in the Liverpool Business School (LBS), which has a portfolio of programmes for postgraduate research. Currently, staff at LBS are engaged in research into governance, leadership, action learning, business administration and management development.

The DBA programme provides a blend of taught, action-learning sets and individual research.

### Who should attend?

The programme is aimed at senior, experienced **professionals** who are qualified in their own areas of professional practice. This programme will appeal to managers who are looking for a challenge and want to pursue the highest academic qualification that will lead to new areas of professional practice.

The employing **organisation** will directly benefit from the research into areas of interest or issue, gaining valuable and objective feedback that essentially provides them with an opportunity for major consultancy.

### Programme Objectives

The programme aims to provide participants with the opportunity to:

- Develop knowledge and high level research skills to undertake substantive research into business and management related project areas.
- Learn from and reflect upon past experience and academic achievements as part of a carefully considered set of research activities;
- Develop an understanding of the nature and conceptual framework of business and management knowledge and innovation;
- Enhance consultancy, project management, teamwork, research, leadership and organisational skills;
- Develop higher-level transferable and personal skills such as reasoning, report writing, independent learning, communication, critical thinking, personal management and presentation skills.
- Equip participants for significant career progression and intellectual development in business, management and related areas
- Make an original contribution to professional practice.

### Entry requirements

Candidates should be well qualified in their chosen field and possess a related Master's degree (e.g. MBA) or equivalent qualification supplemented with sufficient recent business and management experience appropriate to the research being undertaken. The admission process requires an initial proposal for subsequent investigation.

An IELTS score of 6.5 is required for participants for whom English is a second language.

### Structure of the Programme and Assessment

#### Stage 1 – Planning Module - 60 Doctoral Credits

This stage is the planning module for the major projects to be undertaken at Stage 2 and will help participants to:

- Understand what is required at doctoral level,
- Explore the more complex areas of research strategy, methodology and how to publish in major journals.
- Develop the proposal and project plan for Stage 2 through the development of the Learning Agreement,
- Develop the underpinning review of literature to be undertaken for Stage 2.

This will include taught inputs into the philosophy, principles and practice of research, Action Learning, Reflective Practice and the subject specialism, (which is negotiable and depends upon the topic to be researched in Stage 2 e.g. Management/Leadership, Finance, Economics, Law).

The **assessment** for this module is the Learning Agreement which defines the rationale, outline plan, research strategy and draft literature review for the project(s) undertaken at Stage 2. Participants will be required to keep a reflective diary throughout the programme.

#### Stage 2 - Investigative Project Module(s) – total of 240 Doctoral Credits

Participants need to complete one major piece of work of between 40,000 and 70,000 words. By the end of Stage 2 they will be expected to have demonstrated:

- A significant and original contribution to their field of enquiry
- A substantial contribution to the development and/or implementation of new methods/systems of practice
- Communication of results of research to peers

Participants will be supported throughout by their supervisor, in action learning groups with peer support, and in the workplace by their mentor/critical friend. Full use is made of ICT/web based systems to share and disseminate information and resources.

The **assessment** is a substantial piece of individual work in the form of a report, portfolio or journal articles (of publishable quality in a peer reviewed academic journal).

#### Stage 3 – Reflective Module – total of 60 Doctoral Credits

This module requires the outcomes from Stages 1 and 2 to be synthesised and integrated with full consideration given to future actions within the professional context. The participant will work primarily on an individual basis with support from the supervisor, although there will still be opportunities for peer group interaction on the structure of the final portfolio.

This will be **assessed** by a portfolio of evidence that contains all the project reports from Stages 1 and 2, together with a concise report, which seeks to synthesise the outcomes of the various investigative projects and the reflective diary which describes the learning outcomes.

At the end of the Reflective Module there will be an oral examination of the project (*viva voce*). Two individual examiners will be appointed for each stage 3 viva, one of whom must be external. The Programme External Examiner may take part in the viva in an advisory capacity.

#### **Programme Delivery and Length**

The programme is delivered in a part time mode through residential workshops, action learning sets, local meetings and supervision (all described below). The minimum time for an applicant undertaking the programme is 3 years with a maximum of 7 years. It is delivered through a range of different methods as follows:

- **4 day Residential workshops** - There are 3-4 of these planned over the year for the length of the programme. Each workshop will be focused on the stage of the programme and the required research skills with subject expertise as defined in the learning agreement.
- **Action Learning Sets (every 4-6 weeks over 3 years)** - Action learning involves the use of a 'set' or group, each bringing to the set a real life problem for which they are responsible for solving. In this programme the project(s) will be the focus of the set and each set will have up to 8 participants facilitated by an academic tutor. The sets communicate every 4-6 weeks throughout the programme; this can be done virtually (web or video supported).
- **Local Meetings (4 meetings over 3 years)** - These will be held at one of the participant's work places. This provides an opportunity to review other organisations' facilities and resources, and allows LJMU the opportunity to assess the work-based support. Participants with any support issues will be prioritised to host the meeting. Over the course of the programme, staff will normally visit each participant's workplace at least once.
- **Ongoing Personal Supervision** - This will be one to one supervision with an academic supervisor. This support will be ongoing throughout the programme (by email/through Blackboard or face to face).

#### **How to Apply**

Application is through the completion of an application form, which is available from the Programme Administrator (details below).

The completed application form must be supplemented by two references (preferably one from your employer and one indicating your academic ability) and a transcript of your highest academic award (e.g. MBA).

#### **Programme Fees**

Programme fees are set annually, for further information please contact the Programme Administrator (see below).

#### **Contact Details**

For details about how the programme can best suit your needs please contact:

DBA Programme Administrator  
Faculty of Business and Law  
Liverpool John Moores University  
John Foster Building  
98 Mount Pleasant  
Liverpool L3 5UZ

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