School of Management
Asian Institute of Technology

DBA

DOCTORATE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

*ONLINE OR IN PERSON

AIT
Asian Institute of Technology

DBA Program Structure

The degree of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is intended to provide further preparation and skills for working professionals to reenter industry upon graduation. Both educational qualifications and work experience are taken into consideration for admission to the DBA program.

DBA at a Glance:

- Two intakes: Students can enter the program either in January or August term.
- Program structure: Course work to be taken within the first year (preferably), and research work in the second and third year. However, students should finish course work before the end of the 10th term.
- Course work delivery: On weekends, either online or on campus, or mix of both

DBA Degree Plan (to finish within three years):

- Year 1: Complete a minimum of 15 credits of coursework[1] with a minimum cGPA of 3.25.
- Year 1: Complete a Special Study (SS) of 3 credits.
- Years 2-3: Complete a doctoral dissertation (66 credits) and defend it at an oral examination, and
- End of year 3: Obtain a satisfactory evaluation of the dissertation from the External Examiner.

DBA Program Structure
First year DBA Program Structure:

Six doctoral level research methodology courses (1.5 credit each, a total of 22.5 hours per course), delivered online and/or in person in downtown campuses:

Aug/Sept: Approaches of qualitative research (1.5 credit)
Oct/Nov: Methods of qualitative research (1.5 credit)
Jan/Feb: Foundations of management research (1.5 credit)
                Management research methods and writing (1.5 credit)
Mar/Apr: Data strategies & hypotheses testing (1.5 credit)
Jun/Jul: Building models that link to theory (1.5 credit)

Knowledge Building Courses: Students select a total of six credits from the School of Management MBA/MSc courses

Special Study: Toward the end of their coursework, DBA students take a research specialization study of 3 credits. The student works with his/her supervisor on a topic of interest. It will be tailor-made to the student's research focus and require understanding and a critical review of the theories and research in the field of specialization. The student will be required to prepare a review paper (a report) based on published research.

Year 2-3: Dissertation: The dissertation is self-study and does involve any formal coursework. Students are expected to meet with their supervisor and committee members regularly.

[1] For DBA students who previously completed the MBA or equivalent Master Degree may apply for "Transfer of Credits" for up to 6 credits of relevant coursework. However, these credits should meet AIT criteria for credits transfer (e.g., equivalent to graduate courses at AIT, completed within the last five years). Transfer of credits for the DBA program is done through "Credit by Examination."

First Year - Course 1: *Approaches of Qualitative Research*

Details of the course:

This course is aimed to learn about the opportunities and challenges of qualitative research in business management. It includes topics on observational field research, case histories, narratives, and case studies, interviewing, principles of action research, evaluation and ground theory. The course makes students aware of how the choice of different methodologies is closely linked to broader theoretical and conceptual issues, philosophical commitments and behavioral assumptions in qualitative social science research.

The students on completion of this course will be able to:

1. Articulate the differences and similarity among a range of qualitative research methods;
2. Distinguish the strength and weakness of different types of qualitative research methods;
3. Know the kinds of methods appropriate to different research questions and objective;
4. Learn the characteristics of qualitative research methods and their influence on theory development.
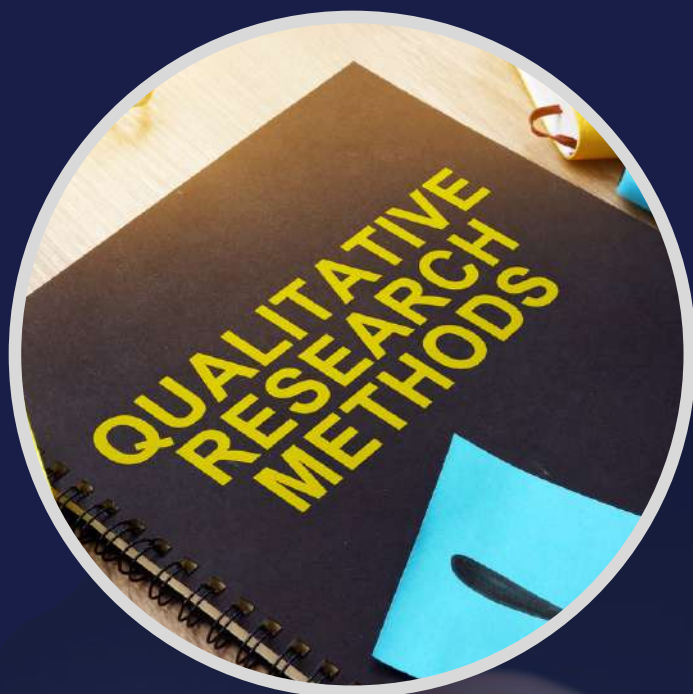
Course outline:
Qualitative research theoretical and philosophical foundations; comparing different research methods (qualitative vs. quantitative); different qualitative research methods (biography, phenomenology, case research, grounded theory, ethnography, action research); processes of inquiry in qualitative research; case studies and theory development.

First Year - Course 2: *Methods of Qualitative Research*

Details of the course:

This course aims to engage students in the process of making strategic and appropriate research design choices from a variety of qualitative research methods appropriate for social science research. The course will help students to gain knowledge about a range of core qualitative data collection techniques and understand the sampling and recruitment strategies that frame data collection. Doctoral students will also learn qualitative data analysis techniques to adopt in relation to a research objectives and questions. Essential data collection techniques, such as semi-structured interviewing as well as focus group composition, will be complemented with knowledge about conducting content analysis, thematic analysis, and data coding and analysis techniques.

The students on completion of this course would be able to:

1. Use the suitable qualitative research method in their own dissertation research;
2. Organise and presentation of qualitative data collection;
3. Conduct qualitative data analysis techniques and data coding;
4. Describe theoretical statements based on qualitative data analysis;

Course outline:
Managing and preparing data for analysis, codes and coding; types of analysis; qualitative data analysis and interpretation; problem of generalization in qualitative research; challenges in conducting qualitative research in Asian context; reporting and presenting qualitative data.

First Year - Course 3: *Foundations of Management Research*

Details of the course:

This course is aimed so that students learn the process of research in management and business of a doctoral study and prepares the students for independent research work. It focuses on the common challenges of designing a research project at doctoral level. As a solid foundation for conducting research, doctoral students will learn a structured approach to the research process, which includes defining the research topic and the research questions in the context of the existing research literature and/or business practice as well as building of a conceptual model and hypotheses development. The course helps students to conduct a systematic literature review and develop critical and constructive reviews of exemplary published research and the ethical dimensions of research.

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognise the related literature and how to thoroughly review it in a structured way;
2. Identify the gap and limitation in the existing literature in relation to the student's topic;
3. Recognise the ethical dimension of conducting research;
4. Formulate the conceptual model, research questions, objectives and hypotheses;
5. Formulate hypotheses statements and construct effective and meaningful argumentation
6. Have the ability to articulate the range of problems, concepts and theories relevant to their thesis and field of study.

Course outline:
Literature review; literature assessment, analysis, selection and synthesis; ethics of conducting research; conceptualizing the research, research model and hypotheses and argumentation development.

First Year - Course 4: *Management Research Methods & Writing*

Details of the course:

The course examines in-depth the process of selecting and developing an appropriate and refined research strategy, and clarifying the stages of a research project. The course seeks to involve students in developing their skills and understanding of research design and stages, research methodology selection, data collection and presentation, as well as proposal, thesis and article writing, all of which aim at improving doctoral student's management research outputs.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the main phases of research process, the requirements of each phase, and the linkage between them;
2. Describe the proper research methodology that fits the research questions and objectives;
3. Design a questionnaire as instrument for data collection;
4. Apply the knowledge and skills of good research communication;
5. Understand the process of research writing;

Course outline:
Selecting appropriate research method (qualitative and/or quantitative); case studies and multi-method design; questionnaire development and design; thesis and article structure and style; linking research questions, objectives and conclusions.

First Year - Course 5: *Data Strategies & Hypotheses Testing*

Details of the course:

This course aims to provide basic quantitative methods for management research. The focus is on utilizing simple methods appropriately. Major topics covered include finding data, summarizing data, hypothesis testing, and difference-in-difference analysis. The course also aims to help students appreciate the role of theory in quantitative research and develop basic capabilities to design tests to examine competing theories.
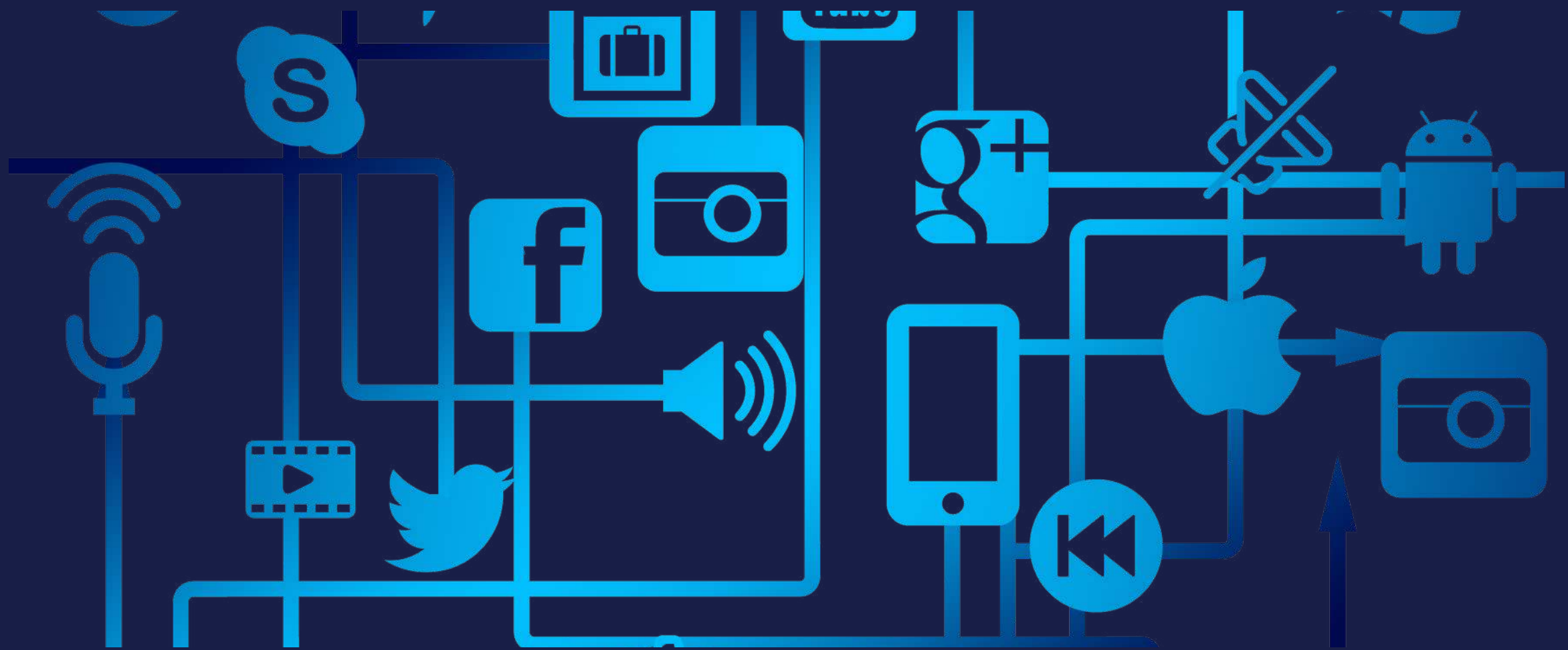
Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Appreciate creative and original methods of collecting quantitative data
2. Recognize the importance of data summary and become familiar with the basic tools
3. Understand the basic mechanics of hypothesis testing

Course outline:
Literature review; literature assessment, analysis, selection and synthesis; ethics of conducting research; conceptualizing the research, research model and hypotheses and argumentation development.

First Year - Course 6: Building Models that Link to Theory

Details of the course:

This course aims to introduce doctoral students to quantitative methods (large-N) as they apply to social science research. It provides students with expertise about statistical techniques and skills for analyzing quantitative data that may be required for their research. The emphasis is on the appropriate choice and application of estimation techniques and tests of primary and secondary data in order to discover and prove relationships and associations among variables. This course will also discuss causal inference in relation to these techniques and analyse some of the assumptions on which large-N quantitative research techniques such as regression are based on.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop skills to execute and interpret results from multiple regression analysis;
2. Grasp the challenge of establishing causality in the social sciences
3. Develop skills to execute and interpret results from multiple regression analysis

Course outline:
Analysis of Difference (one-way ANOVA, two-way ANOVA, and MANOVA); regression and correlation analysis (basic regression assumptions, interpreting regression output, linear regression, correlation analysis, multiple regression); factor analysis (exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis); structural equation modeling.

Study Plan for DBA Students

Credit requirements = 18 (including 3 credits of special study)
these 18 credits should be taken before the end of 10th term
Required methodology courses (9 credits)

Term	Duration	Course Title	Credits
Term 1	August/September	Approaches of Qualitative Research	1.5
Term 2	October/November	Methods of Qualitative Research	1.5
Term 3	January	Foundation of Management Research	1.5
Term 3	February	Management Research Methods and Writing	1.5
Term 4	March/April	Data Strategies and Hypotheses Testing	1.5
Term 5	June/July	Building Models that Link to Theory	1.5
		Total Credits	**9**
Term 15	August/September	Due for advancement to candidacy (ATC)	

Students need 6 credits of knowledge courses:

List of MBA Courses			
August	SM80.1701	Accounting For Decision-Making	3
January	SM80.1703	Corporate Finance	3
January	SM80.1704	Entrepreneurship and New Ventures	3
August	SM80.1705	Leadership and Organisation Management	3
March	SM80.1706	Managerial Economics	3
March	SM80.1707	Managing Technology and Innovation	3
June	SM80.1708	Marketing Management	3
October	SM80.1709	Operations Management	3
October	SM80.1710	Strategy and Corporate Sustainability	3
List of MSc in Business Analytics and Digital Transformation (BADT)			
January	SM89.2001	Big Data Analysis	3
August	SM89.2002	The Business of Frontier Technologies	3
March	SM89.2003	Global Data Management	3
June	SM89.2004	Agile Thinking and Digital Tranformation	3
June	SM89.2005	Digital Marketing and Consumer Analytics	3
October	SM89.20006	Industry 4.0	3
June	SM89.2007	Developing Leadership Skills in the Digital Workplace	3
List of MSc in International Finance (IF)			
August	SM88.2001	Applied Valuation & Investments	3
March	SM88.2002	Capital Markets	3
October	SM88.2003	Financial Accounting and Decision-Making	3
June	SM88.2004	Managing Risk	3
June	SM88.2005	International Finance in ASEAN: Wealth Management to Infrastructure Finance	3
June	SM88.2006	Developing Leadership skills for the Finance Workplace	3

Entry Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the regular DBA program, an applicant must:

- Bachelor Degree: Completion of a four-year Bachelor degree at accredited institution with strong academic records and submission of academic transcript and certificate of degree.

- It is recognized there is variation among grading systems in regions of the world. There is, however, a minimum of 2.75/4.0 GPA from undergraduate degree (no candidates will be admitted below this minimum).

- Master Degree: A Master degree from recognized institution prior to entry to the DBA is preferred. However, if one does not have a master's degree prior to entry to the DBA, eligibility will be based on their professional experience and equivalent qualifications. For those DBA students admitted without a Master's degree, additional coursework may normally be required.

- Work Experience: On average, our DBA students have more than 7 years of work experience. DBA candidates with at least five years of work experience will be admitted. However, we expect most DBA students to accumulate additional work experience while in the program.

- All candidates must have evidence of English proficiency

English Requirements:

- The minimum requirement for doctoral applicants is 5.5 (minimum entry requirement) (with additional English Language classes required)
- As a requirement for graduation, students must attain a score of 6.0 on the AIT English Writing

Admission Requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree & transcripts
2. Master's degree & transcripts
3. CV
4. Application form
5. Letter of recommendation
6. English requirements: IELTS 5.5 or take English Test at AITCV Office (writing skills 5.5)
7. Picture (3*4)
8. Passport

DAO THANH YEN

Local Coordinator for SOM - AIT in Vietnam

Asian Institute of Technology in VN

6th Floor, FCC Building

45 Dinh Tien Hoang, Ben Nghe, District 1, HCMC

Tel : 08 3910 7423 (ext. 111)

Mobile : 098 360 4487

Email : yendt@aitcv.ac.vn

Website : www.som.ait.ac.th