



the ph.d. program in management

your ticket to success
in academia or business

Unil

UNIL | Université de Lausanne
HEC Lausanne

PH.D.

ever thought of doing a ph.d. in management?

A Ph.D. in Management can open up a career in various industries. The top one is academia, where one does research and teaching. If you are interested in learning high-level research skills there are other career avenues too that may interest you in government, industry, think-tanks or elsewhere. There are also ample opportunities in management consulting. A Ph.D. can open up many options in public, private, or non-governmental organizations.

Doing a Ph.D. is not just about doing research; it is about learning lifelong skills that are useful in a variety of situations. Once you find your calling in a particular area you will become one of the foremost thinkers in that area.



FACULTY

why HEC Lausanne?

Our School has a strong reputation internationally. Our professors and students publish in the top journals in management, such as Academy of Management Journal, Academy of Management Review, Journal of Management, Strategic Management Journal, Journal of Applied Psychology, Journal of Marketing, Review of Accounting Studies, Journal of Operations Management, Journal of Marketing Research, Journal of Management Studies, Contemporary Accounting Research and Accounting Organisations and Society among others. They also publish in top area journals like Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, The Leadership Quarterly, Business and Society, Business Ethics Quarterly, Journal of Business Venturing, Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology, Journal of Research in Personality, Personality and Individual Differences, Journal of Consumer Psychology, to name a few. In fact, when looking at rankings that consider objective research indicators our University and School fare particularly well.

JOBS

where do our graduates get jobs?

Our research prowess and the world-class training we give means good jobs for our doctoral students, who have been placed in universities such as Aalto University, Cass Business School, EMLYON Business School, Emory University, University of Essex, University of Geneva, IESE Business School, University of Lausanne, Maynooth University, HEC Paris, University of Richmond, Tongji University, and VU Amsterdam among others.



PROGRAM

what is the program like?

The program emphasizes a common core component tailored to develop expertise in four specialization fields:

- Accounting
- Organizational Behavior
- Marketing
- Strategy

The 5-year full time program is taught entirely in English. The first two years are devoted to course work and the next three years to the preparation of the thesis. The structure is as follows:

Year 1: Four compulsory courses to give solid training in methods and theory for management research.

Year 2: Three optional classes to specialize in the field of interest.

Year 3: Preparation and presentation of the first thesis paper and proposal for rest of thesis.

Year 4: Preparation of the second paper.

Year 5: Preparation of the third paper and thesis defense.

Additional requirements include:

- Attendance in all the department seminars,
- Presenting twice in research seminars,
- Presenting twice in academic conferences

RESOURCES

what resources are available for students?

In addition to a well-equipped behavioral lab (the " Labex ") useful for behavioral economics, decision-making, and consumer behavior-type experiments, we provide students with substantial resources to ensure that they succeed.

For instance, our students can attend the top conferences in their discipline; from the second year of enrollment, the School pays 100% of the expenses incurred for presenting at one conference per year in Europe; from the third year, the School pays for up to 2 conferences per year (including one outside Europe).

We also provide teaching and presentation skills support for our doctoral students and can contribute 50% of costs towards taking optional classes outside our University.

TOPICS

what kinds of topics do students study?

The list of theses can be found on our webpage. Topics that our students have studied include financial disclosure of firms, leadership antecedents and outcomes, impact of personality on organizational outcomes, discrimination, decision making heuristics, consumer psychology, business-to-business marketing, ethical decision making, among many other interesting and practically-relevant topics.

FINANCING

how can I finance my ph.d. degree?

Tuition fees are very low (CHF 280 for the first semester + CHF 80 for each additional semester). More importantly, most Ph.D. students receive paid graduate assistantships while working for the School or are hired directly on research grants. Students can also apply for personal SNSF scholarships (see www.snf.ch).

PROGRAM

how can I apply to the program?

The application procedure is detailed on our website. Admissions are on a rolling basis.

To gain entry to the program, candidates must have an MSc degree in management or a closely related discipline and have the support of a faculty member who will act as their thesis supervisor.

English proficiency is necessary to succeed in the program. Having basic knowledge of French is also useful for a smoother acculturation in Lausanne.

TESTIMONIALS

testimonials from current and former doctoral students

HRVOJE KURTOVIC'



Current Ph.D. student. Research topics: Financial economics, Corporate earnings announcements, Financial markets, Short selling

"Our Ph.D. program allows me to personally develop myself by not only becoming an expert in my field but also by encouraging me to look at most issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Professors are available for any kind of advice and the bond among students is amazing. Given my experience so far, I feel optimally prepared for my future career."

ARIANNA PISCIELLA



Current Ph.D. student. Research topics: Sustainability accounting, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reporting; Real effects of non-financial disclosure

"The Doctoral program in Management at HEC Lausanne offers a sound theoretical and methodological preparation for our future career, both in academia and in the industry. I particularly appreciate the interdisciplinary perspective of the courses being offered and the large choice of research seminars organised every week by all Departments. Overall, the program's design and structure allow me to achieve a good balance between research, teaching and personal development skills."

EV RIM YANAR



Current Ph.D. student. Research topics: Status signaling, Conspicuous consumption, Luxury consumption

"Ph.D. school provides plenty of opportunities to be raised as a future academic such as rigorous training, networking opportunities, and a supportive environment. The program is structured in a way that you do not get lost, keep on track and remain up-to-date with the literature."

ZITIAN QIU



Current Ph.D. student. Research topics: Digital marketing, Luxury branding

"HEC Lausanne is the perfect place to pursue your Ph.D. Here, you can meet and have regular scholarly discussions with distinguished researchers from various fields. Especially after receiving intensive training that will significantly enhance your academic research abilities, you will have abundant opportunities to apply for a variety of funds to launch your own projects."

ROBIN SCHIMMELPFENNIG



Current Ph.D. student. Research topics: Behavioral science, Cultural evolution, Digital behavior

“After graduating with a BSc in Economics and a MSc in Psychology, starting the PhD in Economics at the HEC Lausanne wasn’t necessarily the next logical step. But it turned out to be just right. The HEC offers unique chances for interdisciplinary researchers from around the world, who want to find answers to the most pressing questions of our time.”

DENIS IURCHENKO



Former Ph.D. student. Now Assistant Professor, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, USA

“The Ph.D. in Management program at the University of Lausanne provides a solid theoretical and methodological foundation for a career in academia. Also, the working conditions offered for doctoral candidates are quite favorable in comparison with similarly positioned research institutions and allow for good work-life balance.”

ROMAIN OBERSON



Former Ph.D. student. Now Assistant Professor, Université Laval, Canada

“The doctoral program in Management at HEC Lausanne has provided me with an excellent basis to start my academic career. The faculty is dynamic with outstanding researchers who guide doctoral students in producing impactful research that leads to positive economic and social outcomes.”

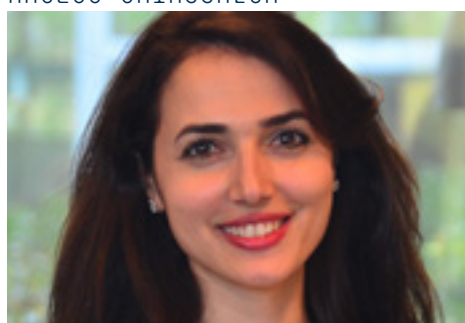
MINYUE DONG



Former Ph.D. student. Now Associate Professor, HEC Lausanne, University of Lausanne

“For me, pursuing Ph.D. was a wise career decision that made me change from a practitioner to a professor; this choice of lifestyle gives me an ideal balance between my career and family.”

AREZOU GHIASSALEH



Former Ph.D. student. Now Assistant Professor, Durham University, United Kingdom

“Undertaking my Ph.D. at HEC Lausanne was a hugely rewarding experience. The school provided an excellent and supportive environment to undertake research. My experience at HEC Lausanne also helped me to develop invaluable skills to pursue an academic career.”

JUDITH SCHREMPF-STIRLING



Judith Schrempp-Stirling, Associate Professor, Institute of Management, University of Geneva

"The doctoral program in management at the HEC Lausanne provided me with the building blocks of how to do research. The faculty support and advice in regards to research but also to my academic career in general, was one of the most valuable parts of the program."

DANIEL WÄGER



Daniel Wager, Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

"At HEC Lausanne, I was fortunate to work under the supervision of world-renowned professors and I was given the freedom to explore research ideas that really carry meaning for me. Writing a Ph.D. thesis is a challenging, but ultimately deeply rewarding journey. The doctoral program at HEC Lausanne provided me not only with the theoretical and methodological foundation to complete that journey, but also to launch my academic career as an assistant professor at the University of Amsterdam."

PHILIPPE JACQUART



Philippe Jacquart, Associate Professor in Leadership, EM Lyon Business School

"Pursuing doctoral studies at HEC Lausanne has been one of the richest and most exciting endeavours I have engaged in. It has been incredibly intellectually stimulating and I can confidently say that the knowledge and skills I have obtained in the process have enriched both my personal and professional life."

YIH-TEEN LEE



Former Ph.D. student. Now Professor in Leadership and People Management, IESE Business School

"The world-class faculty at HEC Lausanne is a great asset that enables doctoral students to grow and become solid scholars in specific fields. The support and mentorship I received from the professors, during and after the program, are tremendous. I am very grateful to the development opportunity offered by the Ph.D. program at HEC Lausanne."

CÉDRIC PORETTI



Former Ph.D. student. Now Assistant Professor, École Hôtelière de Lausanne

"An intensive program that helps Ph.D. students acquire the necessary skills to be successful in their future research. The core program is quite broad, and the optional courses give Ph.D. students the opportunity to study topics closely related to their chosen research fields."

more about HEC Lausanne and the university of Lausanne

Located on the shores of Lake Geneva, in the heart of the French-speaking region of Switzerland, the University of Lausanne (UNIL) is a teaching and research institution with approximately 14,300 students and 3,000 researchers. One fifth of the student population and one third of the teaching staff come from abroad. An emphasis is placed on an interdisciplinary approach, with close cooperation among students, teaching staff, and professors. UNIL is composed of seven faculties, including HEC Lausanne, the Faculty of Business and Economics, founded in 1911.

Recognized as one of the best schools in the fields of management and economics, HEC Lausanne trains capable and responsible economic leaders and entrepreneurs, as well as researchers who will pursue an academic or industrial career. HEC Lausanne stands out for the excellence of its research, which professors integrate in their teaching and apply to the economic world by providing sound advice to leaders and decision makers.

EQUIS- and AMBA-accredited, HEC Lausanne has more than 3,000 students and more than 350 researchers, including 85 professors, around fifteen student associations and more than 13,000 alumni.

how to contact us?

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The logo for Unil, featuring the word "Unil" in a white, elegant, cursive script font.

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