

Study plan for the Ph.D. in Management

A detailed description of the academic requirements of the Ph.D. in Management can be found in the [rules and regulations](#).

Because the rules are in French, and for your convenience, we are providing you with an unofficial summary in English below along with more administrative details. However, please note that only the complete French version is legally binding.

The Ph.D. in Management is composed of two steps. Within each step are important milestones that need to be passed. We briefly highlight these milestones here.

STEP 1:

As a preparation for the Ph.D., doctoral students must complete 4 compulsory courses of 6 credits each and three optional courses, as follows:

Four compulsory courses:

1. Theories of Organizations
2. Philosophy of Social Science
3. Experiments: Laboratory, Field, Quasi, and Natural
4. Causal Analysis

[Details and syllabi](#)

Compulsory courses must be taken during the first year with an overall minimum grade average of 4 (using our marking scale, which ranges from 0 to 6).

Three optional courses:

Students should focus their courses depending on their interests and the specialization they have chosen (Marketing, OB, Strategy or Accounting). We offer courses in-house, either in our Ph.D. program or in our master programs (if the professor agrees to setting and grading the assessed at the Ph.D. level—see below); courses can also be taken at partner schools such as the College of Management at EPFL ([list of courses](#)), the University of Lugano, or other universities.

We expect students to take what relevant in-house courses are offered. The courses offered vary semester by semester, so please check in advance what is offered for each semester on our website (same link as above) and plan accordingly. Also, keep in mind that the choice of the three optional courses must be approved by the student's thesis supervisor and by the director of the Ph.D. program in management prior to taking the course. Each course approval request must be submitted (whether funding is required or not) via the [online platform](#).

For optional courses which require funding, 50 % of total costs (including accommodation, travel, as required) will be reimbursed.

Each optional course should have a minimum of 15 hours class contact and students must be evaluated (either with a grade or on a pass/fail basis) at the Ph.D. level. The grades must be transmitted by the professor directly to the Ph.D. office in order to be validated.

In case students would like to take a master course as one of their optional courses, they must ask the professor in charge of the course for a special evaluation procedure at the Ph.D. level.

If a Ph.D. student wishes to take an optional course outside of the University of Lausanne, which does not include an assessment procedure, the student needs to request the professor giving the course for a formal assessment. If this assessment cannot be arranged, and following the approval of the Ph.D. program director, the thesis supervisor will have to design an assessment and grade it.

Optional courses must be taken during the second year of the Ph.D. program. Exceptionally, they can be taken during the first year or during the

5th semester of the doctoral program with prior approval of both the thesis supervisor and the director of the doctoral program.

Please ensure that courses are evaluated at Ph.D. level, prior to seeking approval for the course.

In case of a failing grade, the failed assessment/s can be repeated once only, a second failure is reason for dismissal from the program. This applies both to compulsory and optional courses.

Note: Special foundation program

As it reviews applications, the Ph.D. admissions committee will check that incoming Ph.D. students have an appropriate background to start the Ph.D. in the field they have chosen. If the admissions committee judges that some students have important gaps in their training, these students might be asked to follow several advanced master courses first, as a condition to beginning the Ph.D. courses. These courses may include method-oriented courses (i.e. research methodology, quantitative methods, etc.) or for courses providing deeper knowledge on specific topics relevant for the specialization chosen by the student (marketing, OB, strategy or accounting).

Upon successful completion of step 1, doctoral students can start step 2.

STEP 2:

Ph.D. day (article 6 of the rules):

Doctoral students must present a detailed plan of their thesis to their peers before the end of the 5th semester of their Ph.D. studies (students who have done a foundation program should count 5 semesters from the semester they actually started the Ph.D. program). The presentation will be evaluated by a committee composed of the thesis director and a second professor knowledgeable of the field (and comments by other professors present may be considered by the committee). In case of failure, the presentation can be repeated within 6 months and once only.

Research seminars (article 7):

Ph.D. students must attend all the research seminars (i.e. brownbag) organized within the department of their supervisor.

Presentation during Research seminars (article 8):

Doctoral students must present their work twice during an academic seminar (i.e. department/brownbag seminar). The presentation will be evaluated by a committee composed of the thesis director and a second professor knowledgeable of the field (and comments by other professors present may be considered by the committee). In case of failure, the presentation can be repeated within 6 months and once only.

Conferences (article 9):

Ph.D. students must present their work at two conferences during their doctoral studies.

Colloquium and Public defence.

These last two steps include a private defence, which if passed allows the student to publicly present the thesis. Detailed information can be found in articles 20 and 21 of the [rules and regulations of the doctoral school](#).

Special note:

The general [Faculty rules and regulations](#) as well as relevant university regulations with which students must be familiar as they are also applicable to doctoral students. In particular, pay close attention to the rules concerning academic honesty. Academic dishonesty of any sort (e.g. plagiarism, cheating), will not be tolerated, and may result in dismissal.