

The Durham DBA

The DBA is the highest business qualification that an academic institution can bestow, and is a challenging and rigorous programme of research study. The degree denotes you have a strong command of your subject area, have developed high-level skills of analysis and critical appraisal, are able to use a range of research methodologies, and can work independently.

At Durham, you will benefit from the knowledge of global research experts and renowned practitioners – to develop your intellectual rigour. You will learn how to apply this research to your working life as you become a recognised contributor to business, creating new knowledge and understanding. As a graduate of Durham you will be affiliated to a research centre and have lifelong access to research materials, online libraries and seminars.

The school is one of an elite group worldwide to carry three internationally-recognised accreditations by EQUIS, AACSB and AMBA for the quality of our research, teaching and environment. Our research spans the major disciplines of business studies, marketing, finance and economics.

Programme Structure

The programme is offered on a flexible part-time basis and takes from four to six years to complete. It is structured in phases, which enables you to receive regular feedback to facilitate progression.

Years 1 and 2

Five taught modules (order of delivery may vary), each requiring attendance at the School typically in three day blocks. You will study three modules in your first year and two in your second.

The first four modules are taught modules, delivered at Level 4 and worth 30 credits each. Module five is split into two parts: Research Design Workshop and Theory into Practice.

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
Ecology of Organisations	Power, Control and Resistance	Marketing Theory and Practice	Leadership in Organisations	Research Design Workshop / Theory into Practice

Years 3 to 6

Your final three years comprise individual supervised research and study. You will attend regular research visits to give you the opportunity to meet your supervisor/module leader for teaching, guidance and advice. Formal progress reviews are scheduled within the research visits, to ensure you are making satisfactory academic progress. There is no formally assessed work to be completed for a research visit; it is assumed you will be self-regulating by the time you reach this phase. The final thesis has a 60,000 maximum word count.

Our Research Centres

During your studies at Durham you will be affiliated to a Research Department, and as an alumnus of the University, you will continue to be a member.

- Centre for Banking Institutions and Development
- Centre for Consumers and Sustainable Consumption
- Centre for Environmental and Energy Economics
- Centre for Experimental Methods and Behavioural Research
- Centre for Leadership and Followership
- Centre for Macroeconomic Policy
- Centre for Organisations and Society
- Centre for Strategy, Technological Innovation and Operations
- Durham Enterprise Centre
- Durham Research in Economic Analysis and Mechanisms
- El Shaarani Centre for Ethical Finance, Accountability and Governance
- International Centre of Public Accountability
- Quantitative Research in Financial Economics

How to apply

A successful application is based on your ability to meet the entry requirements, your research proposal and the School's capacity to provide relevant supervision for your research.

It is important that your general research interests match those of at least one member of our academic staff.

You will need:

- A Masters degree in a discipline related to business and management from a recognised university or other institution of higher education; or equivalent qualifications or experience
- A minimum of five years of management experience
- A 1500-2000 word research proposal.

English language requirements:

- If English is not your first language you will need IELTS 7.0 (no element below 6.5) or Pearson Test of English Overall Score 70+ (No element below 62).
- Please note that these can be no more than two years old at the month the programme starts, TOEFL IBT is no longer accepted as an English Qualification for visa purposes.



“I fell in love with this University not only because it is ranked among the top 100 universities in the world but also because of its unique and historic setting. Now in I am proud to say that I am a Durham Alumna and I hold a very prestigious degree that will be the turning point in my career”

Dr Samar Aud
Durham DBA Alumna

Get in touch

For more information about the Durham DBA, scholarships and the application process please visit durham.ac.uk/business/durham-dba or contact our programme team by emailing business.dba.admissions@durham.ac.uk.