



Waterford Institute *of* Technology

Doctorate in Business Administration

Department of Graduate Business



The DBA programme focuses on the application of theoretical knowledge to the advancement of management and business practice, and is designed to develop the analytical, conceptual, and critical thinking skills of senior business and management professionals.

www.wit.ie

Doctorate in Business Administration

The Programme

This is a distinctive, research-issue driven programme that is orientated towards senior executives in managerial roles, and combines workplace and professional engagement with the scholarly rigour of the academic institution. This qualification is increasingly recognised by international business and management schools as the most appropriate post-MBA (or equivalent Master degree) route to combining academic research on management and business with further personal and professional development.

The programme allows participants' to understand prevailing practices in the subject area of their field of research; to acquire the necessary understanding and expertise in appropriate research design, data-collection methods and data-analysis techniques; to conduct, write-up and disseminate high-quality research of doctoral standard; and to achieve a greater level of effectiveness in managing business innovation and change.

Programme Content

We aim to develop the participant's ability to undertake independent research at an advanced level and make a significant contribution to knowledge and professional practice through the evaluation of business management structures, contexts and processes. Through the application of research to business problems and issues, the programme focuses on the skills required to contribute to the enrichment of trans-disciplinary professional practice in management, and to lead organisations facing a complex global business environment. This three-stage programme concentrates on the enhancement of professional practice by:

- Focusing on professional development
- Enhancing enterprise leadership & development skills
- Assimilating knowledge
- Honing analytical, conceptual & critical thinking skills
- Developing advanced research skills

Following completion of a series of workshops in Stage 1, participants will submit a research proposal, to be presented at a doctoral colloquium. Students will then research and write up a series of research papers in Stage 2, guided by an academic mentor and a WIT working paper series, before submitting and defending their thesis in Stage 3 of the programme. Participants will attain a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Research Methods on successful completion of Stage 1 of the DBA programme, and prior to submission/participation in the doctoral colloquium.

Entry Requirements

This programme is intended to meet the strong demand for professionals who have completed a high level of training in management and business-related areas, and who possess highly developed skills in undertaking research. Applicants should also display a competence in solving problems analytically and in separating opportunities and challenges in terms of cause and effect. Specifically, we look for:

- MBA (or equivalent Master degree)
- Five years management experience, ideally at senior level
- Satisfactory performance at the admission interview

Applicants have the option to apply for a DBA bridging studies programme, details of which are available on request.

Programme Delivery

The programme has been designed based on an innovative three-stage model: Stage one (year 1 and 2 - workshop series) accounts for one third of the programme output, Stage two (year 3 and 4 - cumulative research paper series) a further one third of the output, and the DBA thesis submission and defense accounts for the remaining one third. Each stage incorporates a number of 1 to 3 day workshops and independent research, maintaining a balance between peer-learning and self-led learning within the programme.

Who should apply?

Candidates are evaluated on their achievements, their potential, and the fit between what they aspire to achieve and what our programme has to offer. If you believe the DBA may be right for you, we encourage you to contact us to get all the information that you need to apply for our programme.

For further details, please contact:

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