

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



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WELCOME TO THE WORCESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

Worcester Business School's mission is to develop highly informed, innovative and inspirational individuals who can make a positive impact on society and the organisations they work with.

The Business School has grown rapidly over recent years and now has around 1,500 students on a range of Business and Computing courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level. We aspire to create an inspirational learning experience where academics are encouraged to maintain research, scholarship and knowledge transfer activity to underpin their teaching, and where students can contribute to a forward looking academic community.

We are an interdisciplinary Business School and pursue a holistic and applied approach to business, management and computing, both within the School and beyond. We work with a number of organisations, supporting leadership and management development. We provide a highly supportive, real-world, intercultural learning environment which acts as an effective springboard into rewarding employment. We focus on developing employability and career development skills together with the capabilities that will enable our students to make an immediate impact in the world of work, such as creativity, responding to and leading change, defining goals, making important business decisions, solving problems and inspiring others. We are dedicated to making learning and personal development accessible to all.

OUR KEY STRENGTH IS OUR PEOPLE:

- Our staff have taught, researched and practised across the world. They are excellent teachers, able to apply their experience to current issues. They understand what employers need and this is reflected throughout our broad and flexible curriculum.
- Our student community includes highly motivated individuals from around the world, who interact to create your business contact network for life.
- We have excellent and purposeful links with local business leaders who are actively involved with the School, advising on the relevance and applicability of our curriculum and the development of skills appropriate for employment. These leaders provide real world insight into the future world of work.

Worcester Business School offers a unique combination of being both professional and friendly – a place to feel welcome and inspired. Housed within beautifully restored Georgian buildings in Worcester city centre, the Business School reflects a real-world business environment with open-plan, multi-directional and open learning spaces, interconnected with meeting rooms. The School is also adjacent to the University's new award-winning library The Hive.

WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER'S DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (DBA)?

The University of Worcester's Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is a professional doctoral degree designed to enhance business leadership and professional practice. The programme provides an opportunity for business professionals to work creatively by analysing and synthesising research literature, and their own research evidence, to understand their own professional contexts more critically and to find solutions to key challenges in their working environment. In doing so, it is envisaged that our students will become communities of practice for their profession and ultimately lead within these. The degree is delivered as part of a University professional doctorate programme.

The Professional Doctorate award is distinct from the PhD award in the following respects:

- There is a considerable weighting given to a taught component which comprises an integral and key part of the programme, and the assessment of the taught component contributes directly towards the final award.
- The thesis produced by Professional Doctorate students will make an original contribution to knowledge within the relevant area or areas of professional practice.

The benefits of the DBA are both organisational and personal. Research-led insights are likely to impact greatly on practice and you will broaden and deepen your professional outlook.

WHY WORCESTER?

Our DBA programme offers you:

- **Academic rigor:** Gain a deeper understanding of your chosen subject area with a challenging combination of research training and supervised research.
- **A wide variety of research interests:** Our academics have a high degree of professional and personal experience which you will benefit from in both the taught and research element of your programme.
- **Excellent supervision:** Your supervisory team is drawn from experienced professionals working at the forefront of their disciplines.
- **Resources:** Access to the University of Worcester's virtual resources and to the state-of-the-art library facilities at The Hive.
- **Networking opportunities:** Work alongside health and education professionals to form a 'community of practice'.

THE BENEFITS TO YOUR ORGANISATION:

- Access to vital 'cutting edge' thinking.
- The ability to significantly enhance your organisation's innovative capacity.
- The opportunity to offer senior business professionals the chance for further career development.

PROGRAMME AIMS

The DBA Programme aims to develop business professionals' ability to integrate rigorous academic/critical analysis with practical relevance and application to enable them to become more effective evidence-based practitioners and to contribute to the development of their profession through the furtherance of knowledge.

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

The Professional Doctorate is designed for busy working professionals so the taught programme begins with a 3 day workshop followed by ten in depth teaching blocks delivered either by face-to-face meetings or by virtual tutorial, delivered over an 18 month period, to complement your workload.

The taught programme is shared across our three Professional Doctorate Programmes, therefore offering you the opportunity to work alongside professionals in the health and education disciplines.

At DBA level, the delivery is about a process of professional critical engagement between academic staff and participants. The learning process includes lectures, facilitated discussions and participant presentations, as well as online interaction and workshops focusing on aspects of professional culture and the research process. These activities are informed not only by knowledge and skills relevant to the modules, but are importantly based around the research questions and issues brought to the programme by those involved.

The research stage of your programme usually takes 2-3 years to complete and will culminate in the production of a 50,000 word thesis that will be examined by viva voce. The thesis stage of the programme will commence following notification that you have passed the taught element of the programme. Your research may be suitable for publication, as journal articles or a book.

MODULE SUMMARY

The Researching Professional

The purpose of this module - stretching across the length of the taught component of the professional doctorate - is to consider, in a holistic sense, the nature of 'knowledge', its generation and management in various contexts, and the relationship of this to your professional culture, identity and role. The multiple factors - at a macro, meso and micro level - which shape knowledge and organisational cultures will be critically explored. How knowledge is constructed and used, as well as how evidence and research informs, shapes and reshapes practices and professional self-identity within this, will all be critically evaluated within this module.

Research Methods and Design

This module will reflect on the variety of methods available to complete doctoral level research. You will discuss relevant and appropriate knowledge and skills required, including literature searching at doctorate level, critical reading, identifying and defining the research question, methodological and analytical processes involved in completing the research process, and research ethics associated with particular methods. You will be introduced to a variety of research methods dependent on the interests, circumstances and expertise of the participant cohort. Throughout this module, you will have the opportunity to compare and contrast research paradigms and approaches, consider the implications for your own research question and develop a design, including the formation of a research question.

Project Development, Planning and Management

This module develops further the rationale for your doctoral research project, drawing appropriately on relevant literature, conceptual or theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches. A key aspect of the module is a focus on the practical aspects of conducting a piece of research. Specifically the module will equip you with the knowledge, skills and capabilities to plan, initiate, manage and write your doctoral research project.

ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants are expected to be active experienced professionals who will have a recent and relevant Master's qualification. Applicants must also have a minimum of three years' senior management / business experience.

HOW TO APPLY

We are recruiting now for a January 2018 start. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2017 with interviews being held at the end of November. Please apply by completing the application form that can be found at www.worcester.ac.uk/professionaldoctorate and submit this to the Research School.

FEES

Current fees can be found on the University website: www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/course-fees

CONTACT US

For more information about the DBA programme, please contact research@worc.ac.uk or call 01905 542595.



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