



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
LEEDS BUSINESS SCHOOL

# DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (DBA)

CREATE AND IMPLEMENT PRACTICAL  
SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS COMPLEX  
BUSINESS CHALLENGES.

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk/DBA](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/DBA)



## OVERVIEW

The Leeds Business School Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is designed to support leaders, managers and professionals in industry to address real business issues in a contextual setting.

The programme is delivered part-time, allowing you to combine the managerial demands of your career with your drive to gain a professional doctorate, the highest level of professional qualification available in business and management.

Providing you with the opportunity to develop sophisticated, practical solutions to address your specific business challenge, the DBA is for professionals with managerial-level organisational experience who wish to develop research in an area that will have a significant impact on business practice.

The thorough grounding in business research methodology, advanced analytical training and critical skills that you will receive will allow you to research a topic and contribute to the body of knowledge in your area. You will also challenge and expand the existing frontiers of knowledge in order to make a major contribution to academic knowledge and professional practice.

## LEEDS BUSINESS SCHOOL

Leeds Business School offers organisations a new perspective on challenges that have resulted in tremendous upheaval throughout the last decade, potentially as a result of the global financial crisis, corporate scandals or more recently the economic and market challenges of Brexit.

These business challenges have been extensively researched by our academics who can offer you new insights in order for you to research and develop solutions to address these challenges within your sector.

## ADVANTAGES OF A DBA

As a manager, you have the advantage of being an insider to your own organisation, with ready access to data and respondents. Combine this with the academic research skills you will gain through studying with Leeds Business School and you'll be in a strong position to undertake research that makes a powerful impact.

With a focus on the development of knowledge with practical application, our DBA is specifically designed to help professionals in industry address real business issues in a contextual setting. It will strengthen your knowledge of the fundamentals in undertaking doctoral research, enhance your expertise and academic knowledge, and instil an element of creativity and innovation in the research you undertake.

You'll be part of a group with a common identity of industrial experience, and will be part of an ever-developing relationship between academia and business, that generates a valued learning experience for both parties.

Undertaking a DBA enables you to:

- Conceptualise current research literature to identify gaps in knowledge.
- Demonstrate sound understanding of techniques to undertake research.
- Develop key skills in constructing research instruments (quantitative or qualitative).
- Demonstrate advanced research analysis skills (for both quantitative and qualitative data).
- Develop ability in judgement, foresight and problem analysis when assessing original research material derived from empirical research.
- Develop academic writing skills to enable you to submit researched work for publication, ensuring it satisfies peer review and merits a contribution to knowledge by extending the boundaries of professional practice.
- Make an original contribution to the enhancement of professional practice.
- Clearly articulate your thesis to meet the academic standards of a doctoral award.
- Apply original thought to managerial-level practice.



My research in connection with the substantial guidance and encouragement of my experienced professors helped me to deepen practical and scientific skills in important areas of my work such as customer service, customer satisfaction, financial performance in retail banking etc.

My thesis, I believe, created added value to my organization providing important elements for recovery, reflection and action. The results of the customer satisfaction survey of the bank's customers using the appropriate methods (linear regression, multicriteria methods etc.) gave concrete impact based on customer segmentation.

The flexibility of study at a recognized university, the educational level of professors and their effective guidance for the successful completion of the doctorate are the strengths of this course. This course can improve your ability of your mind to think.

If you believe in your strengths, you have to take the chance.

**Dr Michail Kanakis**  
Regional Area Manager,  
Eurobank, Greece

# DBA STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY

## DELIVERY OF DBA UNITS

The first two years' units will require attendance to three four-day blocks of scheduled programmes for each of the two years (six four-day sessions in total). Evenings and a potential further 'day five' offers you independent learning time or activities including guest speakers and 'industrial visits' to businesses. In total, a minimum of 24 days attendance will be required during the first 24 month period.

The blocks will initially be tutor-directed seminars or workshop-based tuition sessions that will evolve to tutor and participant-led discussion and activities. In the method and analytical units, you will use appropriate software for analysis. Students will be expected to read/prepare materials in advance of the sessions.

You will also spend substantial independent learning time undertaking wider reading, drafting assignments and revising your assignments after receiving formative feedback.

## DBA UNITS

In year one, you will be able to attend three units to help develop your critical evaluation skills and writing style for academic reports. This will be complemented with an insight into research philosophies and how these can be applied to investigate contemporary practices.

### Year 1 Subjects

- Management Literature Review
- Research Design for Business inquiry
- Contemporary Management Challenges I

In year two, the foundation skills of management literature review, research philosophy for business, advanced analytics, and contemporary management challenges will be further explored to help you gain a deeper and richer understanding of the key skills required to undertake an independent research project. The units in years one and two will be delivered three times in a year, over a four-day intensive study period.

### Year 2 Subjects

- Critical Management Literature Review
- Advanced Business Analytics
- Contemporary Management Challenges II

## UNIT COURSEWORK

After each block of delivery, students will be required to submit a short synopsis of the outline of their subject assignment so that feedback can be offered. Feedback will then be provided so that participants can start to prepare their critical review for each subject.

Each coursework submission will form the foundation chapters for the final thesis. The final two years will be dedicated to the thesis.

## SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK

Class contact will be supported by electronic and personal meetings with the unit tutor(s) and DBA management team to help provide guidance on key reading material and assessment structure for each unit.

## DBA THESIS

The DBA thesis will be comparable in structure to a PhD thesis (c. 60,000 words) and will be examined viva voce in the same way as any other doctoral programme.

## RESEARCH TOPICS

Candidates seeking admission onto our DBA will be required to submit a research proposal on one of the following research priorities for Leeds Business School:

1. Accountancy & Finance
2. Business Strategy, Operations & Enterprise
3. Economics, Analytics & International Business
4. Leadership, Governance & People Management
5. Marketing (Branding, Strategy, Innovation, etc.)
6. Public Relations, Communications & Journalism

Other business-related topics will also be considered.

## STRUCTURE OF THE DBA

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3, 4 & 5	
<b>Unit 1</b> Management Literature Review (Theory & Practice) 6000 word assignment	<b>Unit 4</b> Critical Management Literature Review (Conceptual Development) 6000 word assignment	Development & submission of THESIS (60,000 words)	
<b>Unit 2</b> Research Design for Business Inquiry 6000 word assignment	<b>Unit 5</b> Advanced Business Analytics 6000 word assignment	Defence of thesis – Viva Voce	
<b>Unit 3</b> Contemporary Management Challenges I 6000 word assignment	<b>Unit 6</b> Contemporary Management Challenges II 6000 word assignment		
	If conditions are met the potential for the exit award of 'Masters in Research Methods' (MRes)	End of Year 3: Production of Conference Paper	End of Year 4: Production of Peer Reviewed Journal Paper
Confirmation of Registration (at 6 months stage) Annual Progression Interviews (year-end)	Annual Progression Interviews (year-end)	Annual Progression Interviews (year-end)	Annual Progression Interviews (year 4 and 5 if required)

## RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Candidates who enrol on our DBA will be expected to start their research journey with a specific problem in mind. This will require candidates to initially submit a 2000 word research proposal on a topic / business problem they will investigate to make a contribution to knowledge and an impact in the sector.

### STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	WORD COUNT
1. Title of research	What will you research and what will be the impact?	8 to 12 words
2. Aim / Purpose of the Research	What specifically will you research and what do you hope to achieve from undertaking it?	200 to 300 words
3. Research Objectives	List three to five focused objectives of what you will investigate and how you will make a contribution to knowledge.	3 to 5 sentences (max 50 words)
4. Literature Review (Contribution to knowledge)	What are the current views / models in your research topic? Who has been critical of research issues in the subject? How will you make a contribution to knowledge and practice?	800 to 1000 words
5. Research Methodology	How will you investigate your research topic? How will you collect and analyse the data? What is your sampling criteria? How will you prove your results are reliable and valid?	500 to 700 words
6. Proposed Outcomes	List of three to five bullet points of your contribution to knowledge and practice.	3 to 5 sentences (max 50 words)
7. References	Cite all references used in your research proposal. Make sure you use contemporary references in your chosen research topic area and methodology selected.	

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SECTION	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergraduate degree</li> <li>Usually a Master's degree or MBA</li> <li>For candidates from non-English speaking countries outside of the UK - IELTS certificate of 7.0 with no sub score below 6.5</li> </ul>
Work Experience	4-5+ years
Seniority	Experienced professionals
Research Proposal	2000 words

### ANNUAL FEES FOR THE DBA PROGRAMME 2019

YEAR	FEES
1	£10,000
2	£10,000
3	£10,000
4	£10,000
5	£500

For the latest information about the DBA course and fees please visit [leedsbeckett.ac.uk/DBA](http://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/DBA)



The experience of achieving the DBA was indeed transformative. As a senior manager the DBA opened my eyes to how naturally creative people are, how to empower them, and how to convert ideas to capabilities. Mostly, it taught me, in very real, very detailed ways how organizational strategy can determine innovation capabilities.

Since completing my DBA I have presented my findings at various workshops and conferences. Many organizations, wanting to innovate, but frustrated not knowing where to begin, have received my research with excitement.

The DBA programme at Leeds Beckett University was an incredible experience. The professors, academic advisors, and research committee are supportive, informative and dedicated to your success. This was truly the greatest and most enjoyable experience of my life and I recommend the DBA at Leeds Beckett University to anyone who wishes to pursue doctoral level education and research.

**Dr Timothy D. McCulley**  
Facility Manager, Pactiv Foodservice



## How to apply

For information on how to apply please visit

[www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/dba](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/dba)

## More Information

If you have any queries about the DBA please email  
the DBA team: [dba@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:dba@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)



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