



The Durham DBA

(Doctor in Business
Administration)





Durham University Business School,
Waterside Building, Durham.

Welcome

The Durham DBA is intellectually stimulating and challenging, to support you in achieving your personal dreams and career aspirations. You will be part of the latest thinking in business which will enable you to make a real impact on the international business world.

You will benefit from the knowledge of a world-leading faculty to further enhance your intellectual capacity, and learn how to apply research to your professional career as you become a recognised contributor to business, creating new knowledge and understanding.

You will be joining a lively and welcoming research-led community at Durham which attracts senior figures from both academia and industry, and distinguished national and international speakers. We welcome the opportunity to share the Durham experience with you.

Professor Karena Yan
Associate Dean of DBAs



Immerse yourself in a challenging and stimulating programme designed to deliver real world results

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Why Durham?

Durham is a city that combines history, community, and culture, making it an excellent choice for doctoral study.

Centred around the World Heritage Site of Durham Cathedral and Castle, the city has a unique charm. Its compact size makes it easy to explore, with everything from riverside cafés and independent shops to walking trails and thousands of years of heritage. The welcoming atmosphere fosters a strong sense of community, while the city's historic charm and peaceful environment create the ideal setting for reflection and transformation. Durham isn't just a place to study—it's where ideas turn into impact.

90%

of Durham University's research is classed as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'

REF 2021



"The Durham DBA has been invaluable in shaping my academic and professional trajectory. It offered me the tools to conduct high-level research that has a tangible impact on both academia and industry. The flexibility of the programme allowed me to integrate my professional experience into my studies, while the diverse cohort of students broadened my perspective."

Dr Samar Aud, Assistant Professor, School of Business - Management Studies Department, Beirut



Shaped by the past

Durham has been a renowned place of learning for over 1,000 years; the University is over 180 years old and the Business School was founded in 1965.

Together, we have always encouraged independent thinking and academic excellence – and these remain at the heart of everything we do.

Why choose the Durham DBA?

World-Class Faculty

Join our world-renowned research community and take your place at the forefront of business thinking. As part of our vibrant and welcoming research led community, you will work alongside a diverse faculty of research students and international academics to develop an independent, critical and high-level command of your subject.

Flexible Learning Environment

The programme is structured to accommodate the busy schedules of working professionals. With a blend of online learning and some modules studied at the Business School in Durham, you can balance your studies with your professional and personal commitments.

Research Excellence

Engage in cutting-edge research that addresses contemporary business challenges. The Durham DBA emphasises applied research, allowing you to develop innovative solutions that can be directly implemented in your organisation.

World-class facilities

You will be taught from our new Business School, Waterside. Waterside is situated in the heart of Durham City, and it provides you with state-of-the-art facilities, including an exclusive executive breakout space for self-study, an executive boardroom with views of the cathedral, Riverfront Bistro, informal touchdown spaces for networking and teaching, and academic and support on site.

Global Network

Join a diverse cohort of professionals from around the world. Build a network of peers and industry leaders who can provide valuable insights and opportunities for collaboration. When you join us, you become a member of the Business School's alumni network. With over 36,000 members in over 150 countries, it facilitates friendships and business connections, and sits at the heart of the 'Durham Experience'.

Prestigious Accreditation

Durham University Business School holds triple accreditation (AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS), a testament to the quality and rigor of our programmes.

A Global Network of Business Leaders

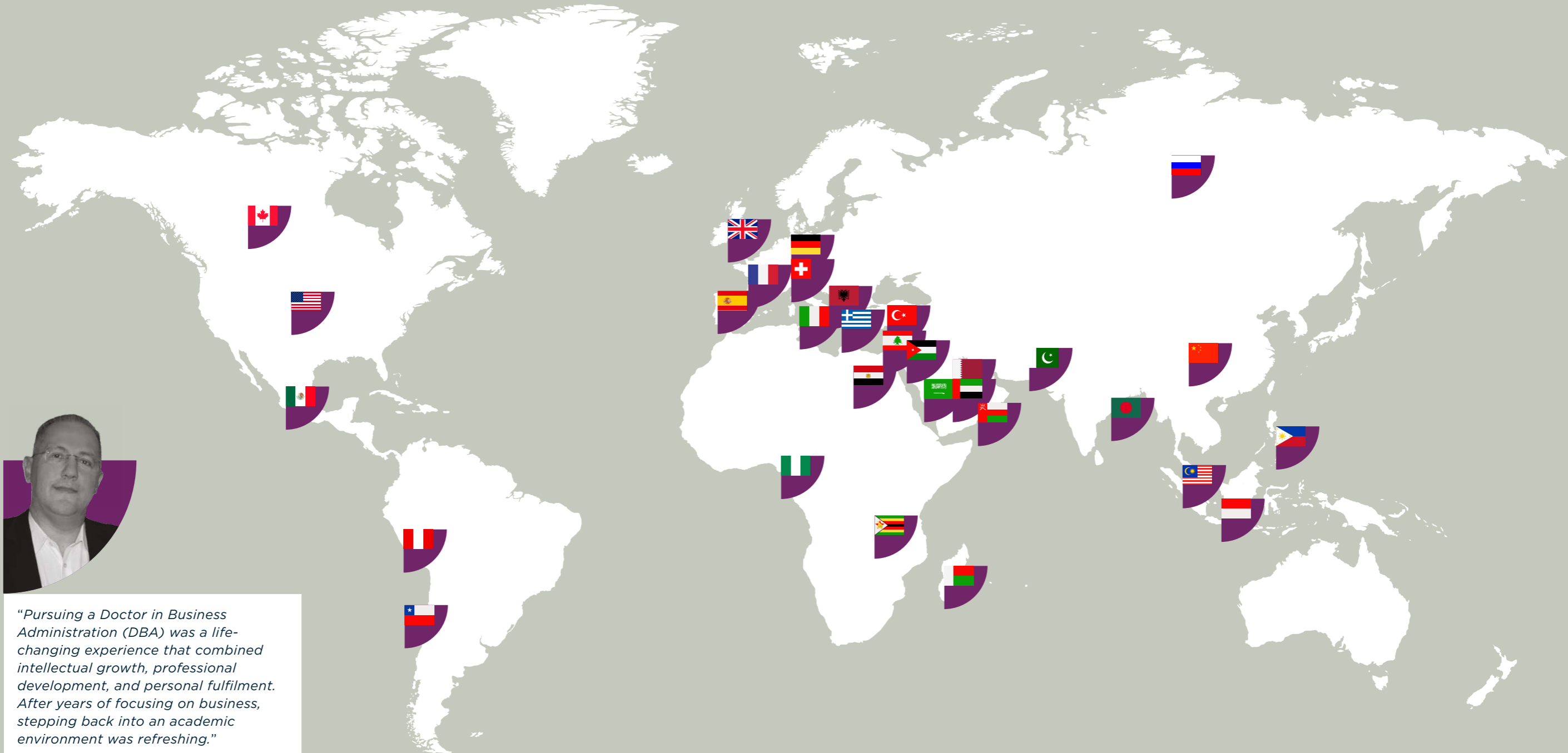
Durham recruits and develops the highest calibre students from across the globe. Our DBA students combine academic excellence with a solid grounding in the real business world.

31 nationalities represented

Students aged between 28-64

36% female students

64% male students



“Pursuing a Doctor in Business Administration (DBA) was a life-changing experience that combined intellectual growth, professional development, and personal fulfilment. After years of focusing on business, stepping back into an academic environment was refreshing.”

Dr. Saeed Al Ghamdi, Durham DBA Alumnus



Durham University Business School,
Waterside Building, central Durham city.

A message from Professor Maria Kakarika, Programme Director

The Durham DBA is a part-time doctoral programme for senior executives and professionals who want to develop their research, analytical and critical thinking skills to the highest level.

Studied part-time over four-six years, the Durham DBA enables you to expand your business knowledge and conduct high-level meaningful research that you can apply directly to your business.

The Durham DBA is a challenging and rigorous programme. It will enable you to have a strong command of your subject area, develop high-level skills of analysis and critical appraisal, use a range of research methodologies, and 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.

At Durham, you will benefit
from the knowledge of global
research experts and
renowned practitioners

Professor Maria Kakarika,
Durham DBA
Programme Director



Programme structure

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

Your first and second year of study

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

The Ecology of Organisations

Module 2

Power, Control and Resistance

Module 3

Marketing Theory and Practice

Module 4

Leadership in Organisations

Module 5

Research Design Workshop / Theory into Practice

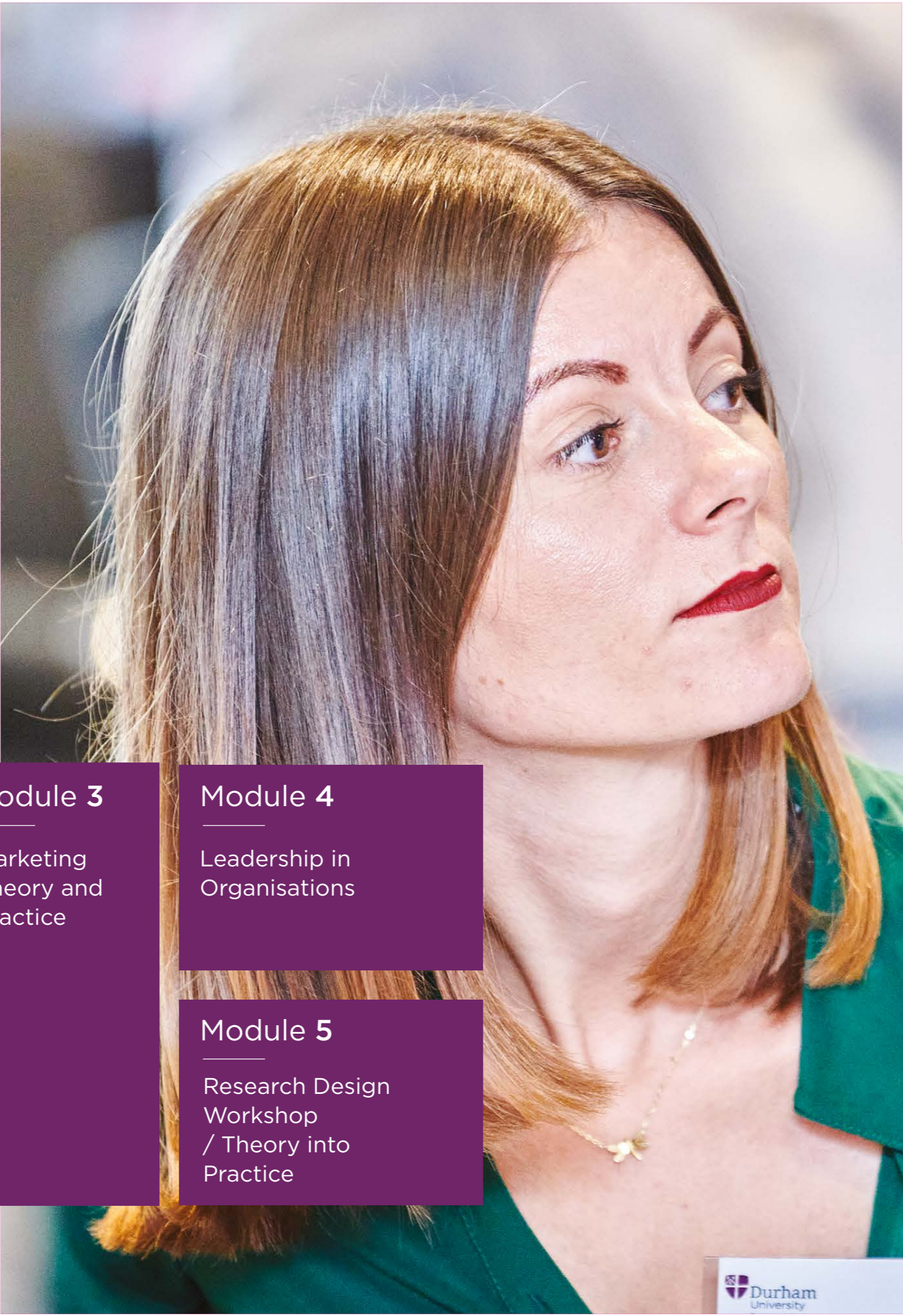
Your third to sixth years at Durham

Your final three years comprise of 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.



"The Durham DBA is particularly noteworthy for its practicality. It is tailored for industry professionals and executives who seek to leverage their rich work experiences and industry insights to develop new theories. I was able to contribute real-life case studies to the academic sphere, enriching the field with practical knowledge. I found this to be incredibly rewarding and fulfilling on a personal level, as it combines the depth of academic exploration with the immediacy of real-world application."

Lisi Peng, Durham DBA Alumna



Research-led education

At Durham University, you will join a community of world-leading academics who deliver cutting-edge research, with the latest Research Excellence Framework (2021) rating 90% of research at Durham an assessment of either 'internationally excellent' or 'world-leading'. You will learn about the very latest developments in your professional area and will work with inspiring academics and supervisors who are passionate about learning.

You'll work alongside a diverse faculty of research students and distinguished international academics to develop an independent, critical and high-level command of your subject area.

You'll be directly involved in the research activities and culture of the School and get support with funding to participate in conferences both at home and abroad. Our reputation is founded on our research. At the heart of this research is a collaborative approach, with academics working with many disciplines to shape and share the latest thinking.

We're also committed to connecting you with a network of high-profile guest speakers through our active research seminar programme. Our research spans disciplines, geographies and industries. We feed fresh thinking and push the boundaries of how businesses work. From social policy and economic growth to international development, our research is renowned and relevant around the world.



Find your place: your affiliation with a Research Department

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
- Global Studies Centre.

“Our research is internationally renowned, both for its academic rigour and the benefits it brings to society as a whole”

Professor Olga Epitropaki
Associate Dean of Research

A World-Class Experience: Research, Support, and Celebration

At Durham University Business School, our DBA programme offers more than just academic excellence—it provides a rich and supportive environment designed to enhance your journey.

Annual DBA Conference

Durham University Business School hosts an annual international DBA Conference at our state-of-the-art Waterside Building, bringing together our extensive and well-connected DBA community. This offers DBA students and alumni the opportunity to present their research to internationally recognised academics and peers, as well as to interact and network in the supportive, enabling environment.

Dedicated Professional Services and Collegiate support

As well as our academic support, Durham's DBA students receive dedicated support from a team of Professional Services staff who understand the unique challenges senior career professionals face in balancing business, family and doctoral level studies. This tailored guidance ensures a supportive and personal experience throughout your journey.

Additionally, our DBA community enjoys a longstanding association with the multicultural, multi-faith St Aidan's College. As part of our historic collegiate system, our DBA students gain a strong sense of belonging, with opportunities to experience student life through the Senior Common Room, and access to a range of social activities and facilities.

Graduate at a World Heritage site

As you complete your DBA and your degree is conferred upon you, celebrate your success at Congregation in the 11th Century UNESCO World Heritage Site, Durham Cathedral - an awe-inspiring backdrop for your memorable pictures.



Your next steps

Meet us

The Business School organises regular webinars for our prospective students. This is an opportunity to find out more about the programme, learn more about what it's like to study a DBA, stay in touch with the Programme Director and ask any questions. To find out more and to book your place visit durham.ac.uk/business/events

How to apply

What do I need first?

You will need:

- A Master's 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 three years' business and management experience at an appropriate level
- A 500-2000 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).

Making an application:

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.

Stage One

Please ensure that:

- You meet our entry requirements
- You can meet the financial requirements of the programme
- You have your research proposal ready.

Stage Two

Applications should be made using the online application form. You will be asked for the following information:

- Academic qualifications and career to date
- An outline of your research interests
- The names and addresses of two academic referees
- Any specific support needs you may have (see Disability Support)
- Your chosen College.

The following documents should also be submitted online as part of your application. Without these documents your application cannot be processed:

- Research proposal of between 500–2000 words. Please submit your proposal within the section of the online application entitled research proposal. However, if your research proposal contains tables or graphics, please upload your document via the section Supporting Documents under Scholarships/Other.
- Copies of certificates of degrees awarded (up to three may be uploaded)
- Copies of transcripts of modules studied (up to three may be uploaded)
- Evidence of proficiency in English (where this is not your first language)
- Two references, one of which must be academic (Reference letters must be emailed directly to us by your referees using the downloadable reference form)
- Your Curriculum Vitae.

Scholarships

If you have outstanding experience, or an impressive academic record, you may be eligible for a Business School scholarship, visit: durham.ac.uk/business/programmes/dba/scholarships/the-durham-dba-scholarships

You can also view University scholarship opportunities here: durham.ac.uk/study/scholarships

The Durham DBA

Learn more
durham.ac.uk/business/durham-dba

Enquiries
business.dba.admissions