



Executive Doctor of Business Administration





Introduction

The Executive Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is an advanced doctoral programme designed for seasoned business professionals who would like to strengthen their C-suite knowledge and expertise in the areas of business and leadership, allowing them to not only thrive but become change catalysts in the business world.

This prestigious programme offers a unique blend of advanced academic knowledge, rigorous research and practical application, equipping you with the tools to navigate complex situations, drive innovation and become an indispensable member of your business communities.

Immerse yourself in a global environment

Through this programme, you will get the opportunity to immerse yourself in a global learning environment, connecting with like-minded professionals from diverse industries and backgrounds, and engage in original research that addresses pressing business challenges, allowing you to contribute to the advancement of business knowledge.

Benefit from the expertise of a fly-in faculty

Students will benefit from the expertise of leading academics and industry practitioners from all across the globe through our fly-in faculty programme, who bring diverse perspectives and real-world experience to the classroom.

Why does this course benefit individuals?

- Raise your profile
- Leadership opportunities
- Personal and professional growth
- Research opportunities - Decision-making confidence - Capacity for social impact - Increase your earning potential - Expanded network
- Global perspective

Career Prospects

Executive DBA graduates are well-prepared for a wide range of high-level career opportunities.

They can pursue leadership roles within organisations, contribute to academia as professors, leverage their expertise in consulting engagements, or launch their own entrepreneurial ventures.

The advanced knowledge and skills gained through the Executive DBA programme provide the necessary tools for success, anywhere from the local level to the global one.

This course is available in two phases

Programme Structure

The Executive DBA is comprised of two phases, made up of six modules delivered through a mix of classroom, online and work-based sessions.

How does it work?

Phase 1

Core Taught Modules

Phase 2

Doctoral Research

The programme will have a duration of a minimum of three and a half years.

Phase 1 is made up of five modules. The five modules forming the core taught part of the programme are structured in a way to give students a broader exposure to key business topics and practices.

This phase needs to be completed in the first two years of the DBA programme.

Following the successful completion of all five modules making up Phase 1 of the doctoral study, students will start Phase 2. This phase focuses entirely on their doctoral research.

The exact duration of Phase 2 of the programme is subject to individual progress and thesis completion.

01

Core Taught Modules

MQF 8

24 MONTHS

02

Thesis

MQF 8

18-72 MONTHS

Programme Modules

Phase 1

Research Methods

Executive Business Management and Strategic Leadership

Transformational Change and Organisational Adaptation

Critical Thinking and Analytical Mastery

Ethical Leadership

Phase 2

Doctoral Research

Accreditation

The Executive DBA is accredited by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) and is mapped at Level 8 on the Malta Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning.

Programme Delivery

The Executive DBA is designed to accommodate the busy schedules of senior executives.

We understand that your professional and personal commitments often leave limited time for traditional classroombased learning. Our flexible learning model factors this into account, combining classroom sessions, online sessions and work-based learning.

Assessment

The assessment strategy for the Executive DBA programme will follow a mixed assessment method consisting of assignments, case studies, reflective journals, presentations, projects and a thesis.

Entry Requirements

The entry criteria for the Executive DBA programme require students to hold an MQF Level 7 master's qualification, and/or ten years of industry experience in a leadership or managerial role.

Candidates must also have academic or professional knowledge of key financial and marketing business practices and processes.

If not, they will need to successfully complete two modules at MQF level 7 focusing on strategic marketing and strategic financial planning that may be undertaken at Knights or any other comparable educational institution.

Students who do not meet the above entry requirements can still apply by submitting a 1000-word motivation letter, emphasising their academic or professional accomplishments and why they believe they are qualified for the programme.



Why Knights

Knights College is one of the most forward-thinking academic institutions in Malta. Here, we redefine learning by embracing technology, research, and blended education to create a dynamic, future-ready academic experience.

With an ever-growing list of partnerships, we're committed to making exceptional education more accessible and convenient. By collaborating with top-tier institutions like Coventry University and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), we offer globally recognised qualifications—ensuring you gain the skills and career-boosting credentials needed for success, no matter where you are.

To support this, we combine in-person, online, and on-demand learning, giving you the flexibility to balance your studies with work, life, and everything in between. Our passionate educators, with real-world industry experience, go beyond textbooks to equip you with the skills, insights, and confidence to stand out in today's competitive job market.

Whether you're interested in our Sixth Form, Undergraduate, Postgraduate or Doctoral programmes, we're here to provide as many opportunities as possible to help you become the best version of yourself.



Application Process & Fees

For current information about the application process and course fees, visit knights.edu.mt/courses.

Funding Schemes & Payment Terms

Students may also make use of our flexible payment terms and benefit from a number of funding schemes.

Find out more
knights.edu.mt

Meet our distinguished faculty and partners

At the core of the DBA programme is a globally respected faculty representing top European universities:

Dr. Georgina Fardoe

Expert in applied business psychology and leadership.

Dr. Joanna Voulgaropoulou

Head of School of Management, Coventry University London - Harvard Kennedy Fellow with expertise in organisational strategy and international finance.

Dr. Rose Anne Cuschieri

Former CEO, MFHEA, and doctoral alumna of The University of Sheffield - expertise in educational leadership and e-learning.

Dr. Russell Camilleri

Management and leadership specialist.

Dr. Steven Kilroy

Associate Professor, Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin - award-winning scholar in HRM and organisational well-being.

Prof. Janine Bosak

Professor of Work & Organisational Psychology, Dublin City University - internationally recognised for research on women in leadership and employee well-being.

Prof. Johan Coetsee

Liverpool Business School, Liverpool John Moores University - authority on leadership and change

Prof. Patrick Flood

Full Professor at Dublin City University - award-winning researcher in leadership and performance.



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