

2026 – 2030

PROGRAM START: 19 OCTOBER 2026

EXECUTIVE DOCTORATE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE DBA (E-DBA) | PIONEERING EXCELLENCE SINCE 2015



EDBVC



INSTITUT
POLYTECHNIQUE
DE PARIS



ASSOCIATION
OF
AMBA
ACCREDITED

Key Information

Program start: 19 October 2026

Please check with the team
for deadlines and details.

Final application deadline:
15 September 2026 (limited seats)

Tuition fees 2026–30

Standard tuition:

€55 000 (2026 intake)

€62 000 (2027 intake)

**Early Bird discounts
may apply**—please
check with the team

Alumni or PhD/ABD*

€42 000 (2026 intake)

€47 000 (2027 intake)

Women in Corporate Governance

scholarship offered to
all women applying
to the program (10%
tuition fee waiver)

Standard program duration: 4 years

Tuition includes:

- » 4 x week-long
residential sessions in
Year 1
- » Thesis supervision
- » Regular touchpoint
sessions throughout
the program

* PhD and ABD (All But
Dissertation) applicants:
course exemptions may
apply. Check conditions with
the Admissions Team.



A CRAFTED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The École des Ponts Executive DBA (E-DBA) is a carefully-crafted and time-tested doctoral program, which grants a **professional doctoral degree** (also known as a ‘terminal degree’), specially-designed for experienced executives wishing to pursue a degree beyond the MBA (or other master’s-level degree). This distinctive program is challenging yet compatible with the busy lives of working professionals from around the globe.

The École des Ponts Business School E-DBA is **uniquely oriented towards grounding the emerging practices of today’s business world** in the rigors of academic theory and practice.

We will help you **define your unique Subject-Matter Expertise** so that you can create exciting new opportunities in the next steps of your career.

As a **“learner-centric”** innovative program, you are **free to choose** a research focus in line with your experience, free to choose the form that your doctoral project will take, and free to choose the supervisor you will work with. You are even free to change your focus during the program.

We are here to support you in your unique doctoral project, with proprietary tools, templates and guidelines, all at your own pace.

After 10 years of experience, we know how to help you finish on time and at a level of quality that you will be proud of for the rest of your life.

DRAFT SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO CHANGE*



2026–2030 Executive DBA Schedule*

Residential Session 1

19–25 October 2026

Orientation and Introduction

Learning Lab I: Defining your North Star

Monday to Sunday

Introduction to Doctoral methods: crafting the Integrative Literature Review

Residential Session 2

February 2027*

Qualitative Research Methods

Monday to Saturday

Residential Session 3

June 2027*

Quantitative Research Methods

Monday to Saturday

Residential Session 4

Oct/Nov 2027*

Research and Teaching Case Development

Learning Lab II: Planning for success

Monday to Sunday

Doctoral Proposal workshop

Class hours are typically 9 am to 7 pm.

Venue: Doctoral modules will be held at our central Paris Campus.

For those who cannot travel, an option to take up to 2 residential sessions online exists but is not recommended.

Mentorship & Expert Advisory Support

To further enhance your research journey, you have the opportunity to be matched with a Research Focus Expert Advisor—a seasoned mentor who brings industry experience and foresight to your work. Beyond traditional supervision, this advisor serves as a trusted sounding board, offering insights into emerging trends and engaging in strategic discussions that refine your ideas. With their deep experience and network, they can help shape your research by bringing a real-life perspective. This additional layer of support ensures that your doctoral journey is both intellectually stimulating and professionally impactful.

Industrial Research in Action: Masterclasses with Industry Leaders

Bridging the gap between academic research and real-world application, our Industrial Research in Action sessions bring accomplished industry leaders—Chief Innovation Officers, Heads of Research, and other trailblazers—to share their expertise with our doctoral candidates. These masterclass-style talks, followed by interactive Q&A sessions, offer a rare opportunity to gain deep insights into cutting-edge industry research, innovation strategies, and emerging business practices. By learning directly from those shaping the future of their fields, you will refine your research with practical perspectives, ensuring that your doctoral journey remains not just academically rigorous, but also strategically relevant and impactful.

* Exact dates for 2027 to be announced by the end of Q3 2026. Modules, location, delivery mode and schedule are subject to change.



Give your
passion &
expertise
a voice

OUR EXECUTIVE DBA MANIFESTO

If you're considering an Executive DBA, start by reading the École des Ponts Business School DBA Manifesto, brought to you by none other than our Dean, Professor Alon Rozen.

"In broad terms, a DBA should be oriented towards grounding practice in theory, as opposed to a PhD that aims to advance theory. Research, articles, dissertations are usually written for a scientific, academic or specialist audience. Both are backwards-looking by nature and by design. The DBA at École des Ponts Business School is a bit different."

"The **EXECUTIVE DBA** at École des Ponts Business School is different"

We believe that the doctoral project should not just be oriented towards practice, rather it should be aiming to capture **emerging practice!**

Thus, the readership we target are those who are interested in the emerging future – decision-makers, top managers, CEOs, founders, Board members, people and organizations looking to gain a competitive edge.

It requires the rigor of academic writing and scientific process, but it should be oriented towards and written for a business audience.



WATCH THE VIDEO



■ **Subject-Matter Expertise**

As such, the format of the doctoral project we recommend is 3 articles, each taking a different take on a similar subject, relevant to the research focus, targeting an emerging practice in the doctoral student’s domain.

While we believe qualitative methods are most adapted to practice-oriented articles, we do accept quantitative or mixed-methods articles, as long as the statistics used are accessible to most decision-makers, and that the **Implications for Practice** section represents a significant part of the paper. This means that at a minimum, a qualitative discussion on the implications for business should be included, drawing from the conclusions of the quantitative research.



“We invite our participants to see the Executive DBA as a **personal branding** challenge by which the doctoral graduate successfully positions themselves as a **Subject-Matter Expert** in the emerging dimensions of their field of focus/practice.”

We invite our participants to see the DBA as a personal branding challenge by which the doctoral graduate successfully positions themselves as a **Subject-Matter Expert** in the emerging dimensions of their field of focus/practice. Each paper, and even the choice of paper, should be considered strategic and deliberate in this context. While we recommend an integrative literature review (or equivalent), an embedded case study, and a teaching case as the articles composing the doctoral project, we are very flexible in the specific mix each doctoral student feels is most relevant to them, as long as it is explained and agreed upon ahead of time. For example, we encourage Delphi studies,

Futures Literacy labs, different forms of narrative inquiry, ethnography or any studies involving interviews with experts (or a panel of experts) and practitioners. This ensures the relevance of the research, while also allowing the researcher to create a **powerful network** of leading practitioners which can be a source of insights, mentorship, business opportunities, etc. This also helps the doctoral candidate to speak about the emerging future in a rigorous manner (i.e. without practicing futurology).



■ The Executive DBA

Going further, to differentiate an Executive DBA from a Specialized DBA, we should recall that the overarching objective of any DBA is to further the practice of management, that is to advance “**management knowledge in practice**”. This does require rigor – i.e. a knowledge of academic principles, research methods, evidence-based conclusions, proper application of tools and frameworks, citation methods – and a grounding of any practice in theory.

More specifically, an Executive DBA is a part-time program, in which the doctoral candidate has extensive professional experience and pursues research on practices relative to his/her field of practice, or tangential thereto. The E-DBA candidate has already acquired a certain level of expertise relative to the research focus before starting the program which is complemented by training on applied research methods – qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods and case study.

A specialized DBA, on the other hand, aims to provide the doctoral student an introduction into the same mix of research methods, as well as specific content relative to the focus of the specialization. For a specialized DBA, extensive work experience is not as important, but it is a plus. The DBA can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis.

“More specifically, an **Executive DBA** is a part-time program for senior professionals, in which the doctoral candidate has extensive professional experience and pursues research on practices relative to his/her field of practice, or tangential thereto.”



“With our insistence on capturing emerging practices, it should not be surprising that we ensure our E-DBA doctoral papers focus on **Implications for Business and Practice**. Doctoral students are free to conduct research that is aligned with their own agendas and objectives.”

■ Studying at École des Ponts Business School

The École des Ponts Business School E-DBA program is a bit different than most. We have designed our program with working professionals in mind to ensure the most effective use of their time, creating a clear and optimized journey to graduation. The essential content necessary to complete rigorous and relevant work at “publication-grade” levels is provided and each course is a stepping-stone towards the finish line. This includes proprietary tools, templates and guidelines to accelerate your path to completion.

The program is designed so that the foundations of each of the three articles in the doctoral project are already written by the end of year 1, with the research agenda and the drafts of what will become the final doctoral project already well advanced.

With our insistence on capturing emerging practices, it should not be surprising that we ensure our E-DBA doctoral papers focus on **Implications for Business and Practice**.

As our doctoral students are encouraged to conduct research that is aligned with their own agendas and objectives, we work hard to ensure each student is matched with a supervisor that complements their expertise and provides the specific academic support they need, for a research agenda that they drive.

Without this strong orientation to practice, we risk falling into the trap, like many other schools have done, of considering the E-DBA as a watered-down or shorter/faster/less demanding PhD. We must be clear, we do not encourage papers or dissertations submitted that are PhD-like in style, content, or method. The supervisor has a key role in correctly orienting the participants from the beginning of their collaboration and we carefully brief our supervisors to give recommendations for the doctoral project in line with our philosophy and values, rather than with their own comfort zone.



"We truly hope you have a life-changing experience, that the program inspires you to new heights, depths and insights, that we share similar values, and that you enjoy joining the École des Ponts Business School community!"

Professor Alon Rozen
Dean, École des Ponts Business School

■ The Power of Emerging Practice

Focusing on emerging practices ensures the currency of the subject matter. When combined with writing with the expected rigor of academic journals, many of our doctoral students get their papers published quite quickly in both practitioner and academic journals – even before they graduate. While our DBAs are encouraged to publish with their supervisors if they are so inclined, we just ask them to 1) have the paper accepted first by the school as a single author paper before submitting for publication elsewhere, and 2) mention that the paper was written in partial fulfillment of the school's E-DBA graduation requirements.

While the objective of an E-DBA program is to ensure the research of its students helps to advance practice, **the professional objective of an E-DBA candidate is to strategically and efficiently brand themselves as experts in an emerging domain.** This opens the door to new career opportunities – teaching, consulting, acting as board members, accessing new leadership positions – as well as helping to future-proof their careers.

As we celebrate the **12th intake** of our program, we are more confident than ever that the École des Ponts Business School E-DBA programs are uniquely oriented to help working professionals craft new opportunities, achieve their goals, and to do so in a timely, efficient and effective manner.



PHASE ONE: FOUNDATIONS



YEAR 1

✓ **Residential Sessions:** Year 1 includes four residential sessions: one week in October, another in February, followed by one in June, and concluding with a week in October or November.

✓ This is the **learning phase of the program and doctoral students learn foundational research methods**, cultivate initial ideas for potential research topics, and, if they already have a research focus, delve deeper. During this time, doctoral students also identify suitable databases and data sources and conduct a comprehensive literature review.

✓ The program commences with an energizing ‘Learning Laboratory’ or workshop, devoted to personal inquiry and designed to define the **North Star** of each doctoral student’s research and the boundaries of their practice. This module involves a deep immersion into the meaning, structure, and possibilities represented by each student’s Doctoral Project. Participants will be encouraged to explore the body of work of other accomplished practitioners in their domain.

✓ During the Learning Lab, participants form peer groups called **“Brain Trusts”** to create a unique internal support system – a sounding board for discussing and challenging ideas.

✓ In the **concluding residential session**, participants receive coaching to **define their Doctoral Project** and choose its format (3-paper approach or dissertation), as well as guidance on submitting their research proposal.



■ What happens in between sessions?

Participants regularly attend online FAQ sessions with the Doctoral Programs and Academic Team. Additionally, with the rise of AI research tools, they benefit from research coaching sessions with the Dean, Vice-Dean, and faculty.

Certificate conferral: Successful completion of Phase One is marked by the awarding of a blockchain-based certificate, officially conferring the title of Doctoral Candidate.

“Joining the E-DBA program at École des Ponts Business School has been a transformative journey. As Chief People Officer at EcoVadis, my research bridges human resources and sustainability—exploring how sustainability impacts employee engagement. The program seamlessly integrates with my daily work, enriching my perspective and allowing me to bring fresh insights to my team.

This experience is more than just earning a doctorate; it’s about deep intellectual commitment. Choosing the right topic—one you are truly passionate about—is essential, as this journey requires dedication and a long-term vision.

What drew me to École des Ponts Business School was its global reputation, flexible structure, and high-quality academic content. The ability to balance professional, personal, and academic life while engaging with an international network made it the perfect fit. Additionally, the school’s support for women in executive education was a decisive factor for me. I highly recommend this program to leaders eager to make a real impact in their field.”

Laurianne Le Chalony

Chief People Officer, EcoVadis
Executive DBA 2023



“My work in international organizations and the fashion industry has given me extensive experience, but knowledge alone is not science—it must be systematized. The Executive DBA at École des Ponts Business School has provided me with the research discipline and global insights I needed to structure my expertise in sustainability within the luxury fashion industry. This program transforms experience into academic rigor, helping leaders frame their knowledge within the best global research.”

Simone Cipriani

Dean for Executive Education,
Milano Fashion Institute
Founder of the Ethical Fashion Initiative
Executive DBA 2023

“The E-DBA at École des Ponts Business School was the clear choice for me after extensive research on global programs. With two decades in the tech industry, I wanted a program that not only respected my executive role but also allowed me to evolve my professional skill set.

What sets this program apart is its forward-looking approach. We don’t just analyze historic data—we focus on where innovation is headed. AI, robotics, and emerging technologies are at the core of today’s transformation, and this program equips us to lead in that space.

Another standout aspect is the diversity of the cohort. With participants from over 20 countries, including authors, diplomats, and entrepreneurs, the level of exchange is unparalleled. It’s an honor to be part of such an intellectually rich and globally connected program. For any business executive seeking to grow both personally and professionally, this is the place to be.”

Simon Saneback

Serial Entrepreneur & Investor
Founding Partner, Wellstreet
Executive DBA 2023



“Committing to an Executive DBA while managing a demanding professional career is no small task. It requires dedication, discipline, and consistency. But the key to success lies in choosing a research focus that aligns closely with daily professional activities.

The E-DBA at École des Ponts Business School is not just an academic endeavor—it is an extension of one’s professional practice, a tool for refining expertise, and a means to enhance impact in the workplace. For professionals seeking to deepen their knowledge while advancing their careers, this program offers the perfect synergy between research and real-world application.”

Clémentine Langlois

CEO Skepsos & Digital Health Program Director
President, EIC Corp France & Health / e-Health observatory
E-DBA 2020

The E-DBA at École des Ponts Business School helped me connect the dots in my career. I entered the program with questions about my future, and through structured research and guidance, I found my path—leading me to launch my own advisory firm with a focus on Space Tech and business transformation. The program is ideal for those looking to build the future, offering the right environment to explore, ask critical questions, and shape their expertise into something impactful.”

Dr Bharat Madan

Founder of D-Journey Advisory
& Management Consultant
Executive DBA 2017 (graduate)



“I chose this program for its rigorous academic environment and strong commitment to research and sustainability—values that deeply resonate with me. My research explores the challenges insurance companies in Hong Kong face in understanding and adapting to digital transformation.

This journey has been truly transformative, equipping me with advanced skills, invaluable networks, and practical insights in strategic management. The support from professors and my supervisor has been exceptional, fostering meaningful discussions and mentorship that have enriched both my research and professional growth.”

Dr Amanda Ho

Insurance Industry Digital Transformation Leader Brand and Marketing Expert
Executive DBA 2019 (graduate)

PHASE TWO: RESEARCH AND WRITING



YEARS 2 TO 4

✓ Years 2 to 4: Participants move into **the research and writing phase.** After successfully submitting their research proposals, they are matched with one or several supervisors.

✓ During this period, participants apply the skills acquired in Phase One of the program, conducting their research and collaborating with their supervisor(s) to write their papers.

✓ At the end of Phase 2 of the program, Doctoral Candidates submit their Doctoral Project and if this is approved and accepted, they move on to the final step, the Viva Voce (oral defense).

✓ She/He will then be invited to the next graduation ceremony (usually held in December every year).

Phase One:

Doctoral Student



Year 1

Four residential sessions of one week each with foundational research methods, literature review, Learning Labs, definition of Doctoral Project.

Phase Two:

Doctoral Candidate



Years 2-4

Doctoral Project Proposal submission, supervisor attribution, doctoral research and thesis.

Phase Three:

Doctoral Graduate



Year 4

Viva Voce (doctoral defense) and graduation ceremony.

FUTURE-FORWARD RESEARCH

Through our multiple thematic research centres, we actively explore how businesses can contribute to making a better tomorrow.

ReTech Center

The ReTech Center is a community-driven and multi-stakeholder platform for technology leaders who are enabling the forthcoming Digitally Empowered Responsible Markets and Societies. The ReTech Center is committed to research and actions that Rethink, Restructure and Revamp technology to propel the Responsible transition to Industry 5.0.



The Circular Economy Research Center (CERC)

CERC leads research and designs multidisciplinary business models in the circular economy. We work alongside universities and businesses across the EU to embed the circular economy principles in society. These principles are already an inherent part of all programs at École des Ponts Business School.

The Center for Advanced Studies of Enterprise in Emerging Markets (CASE DIEM)

CASE DIEM is a business case development and scholarly research center that focuses on seizing the learning opportunities that emerging markets and developing countries around the world can provide.



Center for Policy and Competitiveness (CPC – Paris)

The Center for Policy and Competitiveness (CPC) – Paris aims to analyze and promote the determinants of competitiveness and economic development viewed from a bottom-up (microeconomic perspective), which represents the dimension where wealth is ultimately created.

UNESCO Chair in Futures Literacy for Finance

The UNESCO Chair for the Future of Finance empowers individuals and organizations to better understand and use the future to address societal and environmental challenges. Leveraging UNESCO’s Futures Literacy methodology, we collaborate with global researchers and educators to transform how we approach the future and embed this forward-thinking mindset into our programs.

The INSPIRE Competence Lab

The INSPIRE Competence Lab focuses on advancing research and initiatives in cybersecurity, particularly for European SMEs. It aims to bridge technical, policy, and business aspects to address Europe’s cybersecurity skills gap.





EXECUTIVE DBA 2025 – 2029 (E-DBA 11)

CLASS DEMOGRAPHICS

Regions Represented

Africa	30.3%
Morocco	
South Africa	
Nigeria	
Cameroon	
Namibia	
Mauritius	
Asia	12.1%
Hong Kong	
Singapore	
Japan	
Europe	42.4%
Greece	
Portugal	
France	
Switzerland	
Romania	
Middle East	12.1%
United Arab Emirates	
North America	3%
United States of America	

Gender

71% Men 29% Women

Age

45 Average Age	Less than 35	6.7%
	36 to 45	48.6%
	46 to 55	29.1%
	56 and above	15.6%

Academic Background

Business, management and law	60.6%
Information and communication technologies	15.2%
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	12.1%
Finance and Accounting	3.0%
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	3.0%
Social Sciences, journalism and information	3.0%
Other	3.0%

Professional Background

Financial Services	27.3%
Industrial & Manufacturing	15.2%
Management & Strategy Consulting	15.2%
Technology & Digital	15.2%
Public Sector & NGOs	9.1%
Healthcare & Life Sciences	6.1%
Infrastructure, Transport & Construction	6.1%
Energy & Oil and Gas	3.0%
Marketing, Communication & Brand	3.0%

Work Experience

21 Average Years	10 years	2.5%
	11 to 20 years	46.1%
	21 to 30 years	32.8%
	More than 31	15.8%

READY TO TAKE THE PLUNGE?

DO YOU HAVE:



A Master's, MBA, Executive MBA, or other advanced master's-level professional or academic degree?

Applicants with a doctoral degree (PhD, EdD, DBA), ABDs and those who have started doctoral programs elsewhere can apply for transfer credit to the program, depending on recency and content of validated doctoral coursework.*

A minimum of 10 years of full-time work experience at the start of the program, with a considerable amount of experience in a given field?

Most applicants will have 15–25 years of work experience. We are an equal opportunity institution and welcome candidates from all industries and backgrounds, of all ages, genders and nationalities.

A good level of English?

All courses are conducted in English. Business-level English proficiency is required for doctoral program coursework.

The ambition to become a recognized Subject-Matter Expert and thought leader in your present or future domain?

The commitment to complete the program, especially designed for busy working professionals, and your thesis (also known as "Doctoral Project") over an average of 4 years?

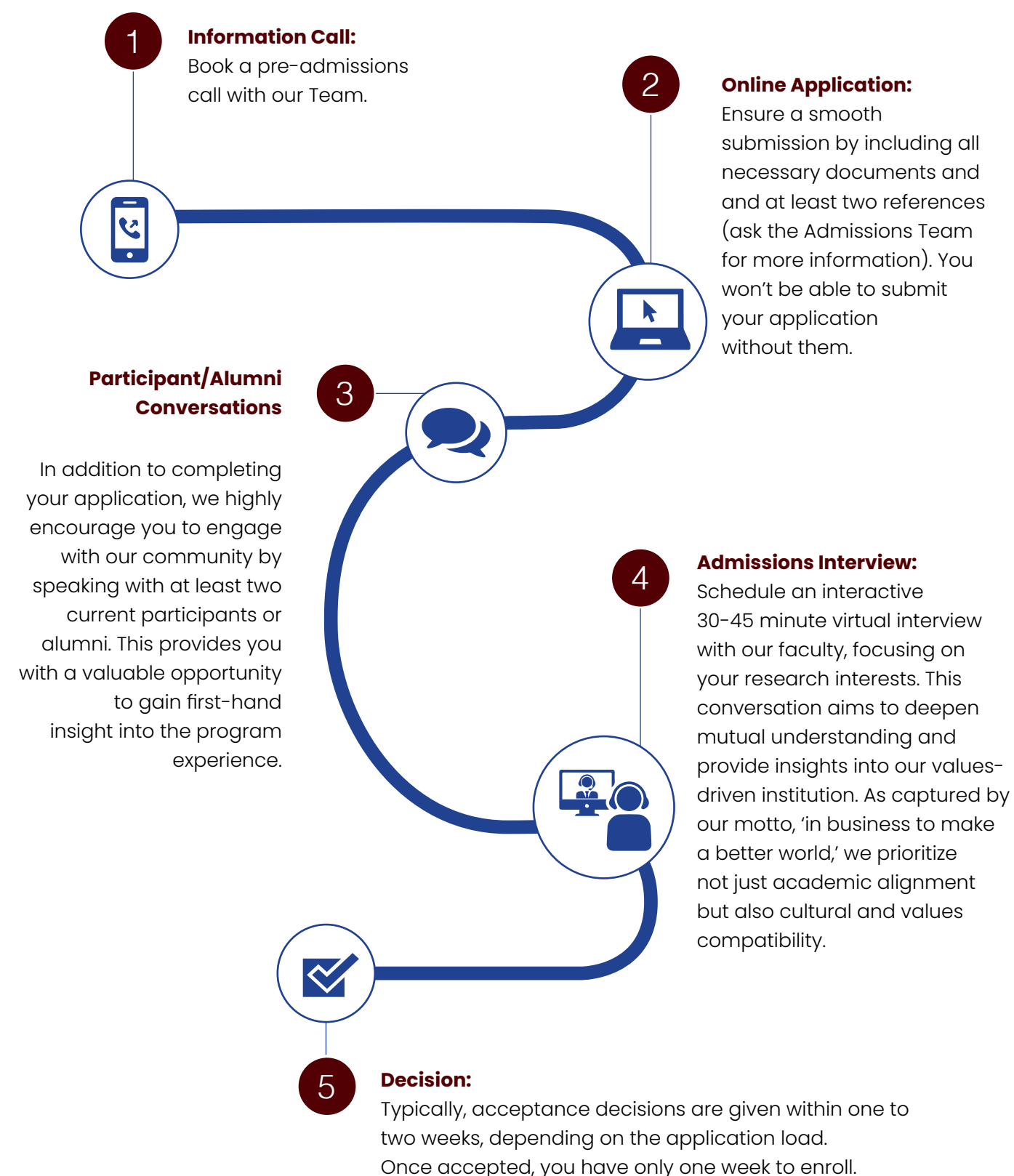
We recognize that many professionals would like to pursue a terminal degree such as the DBA but that real-life constraints may make that very challenging. Our program has been built to offer a professional doctorate that maximizes learning while effectively minimizing the time required away from home and work.

An agile, professional mindset, able to reflect on areas of emerging practice in your industry?

*PhD and ABD (All But Dissertation) candidates must provide an official transcript stating the nature of research methodology courses completed, as well as a full syllabus including course descriptions. ABD candidates applying for course exemptions must have completed their coursework in the last 5 years preceding their application. The final admissions decision will be at the discretion of the Director of the E-DBA program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

We have kept our application process as efficient as possible for busy professionals:



START YOUR APPLICATION HERE

START APPLICATION



What’s in the application?

Essays:

Write 4 brief essays (350–500 words) relative to your experience and your potential research focus.

References:

Provide a minimum of 2 references (you can provide up to 3). Ask the Admissions Team for more information..

Required Documents:

Upload the following documents:

- » Professional photo
- » Copy of your ID (for interview verification)
- » Updated CV (if your LinkedIn profile is current, save it as a PDF)
- » Copy of your Master’s degree and transcripts (grades sheet)
(Note: An official copy will be required if admitted to the program)
- » Copy of your Bachelor’s degree and transcripts (if available)



École des Ponts Business School Admissions Department

Please contact our Admissions Team for any questions or queries:

Hina Wadhwa
Director of Admissions:
wadhwa@pontsbschool.com

WhatsApp 

Expert Advisory Session – Book a Pre-Admissions Call with the Team

If you’d like to discuss your doctoral project as well as your career options, and verify that you have the right profile for our Executive DBA, we invite you to book a phone or online meeting with our Admissions Team:

BOOK A CALL

Regional Representatives of the École des Ponts Business School

As an alternative to contacting our Admissions Team, you may prefer to contact an École des Ponts Business School Representative located in your region of the globe. In addition to answering all the questions you might have on the program and the school, they can also provide you with a local perspective on career strategy and the array of professional opportunities open to Executive DBA graduates.

Morocco:
École des Ponts
Business School Africa
Nouzha Kadmiri
kadmiri@pontsbschool.com

Hong Kong:
The Hong Kong
Management Association
Winnie Sit
postgrad@hkma.org.hk

Singapore:
Inixiate
Jo Anne Lee
joanne@inixiate.com.sg

Latin America:
Regional Representative
César Murga
murga@pontsbschool.com

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26 | 30



WhatsApp 

CONTACT

info@pontsbschool.com

www.pontsbschool.com

Application portal:

<https://pontsbschool.force.com/applicant>

MAIN CAMPUS

6 et 8 avenue Blaise Pascal
Cité Descartes – Champs-sur-Marne
77455 Marne-la-Vallée cedex 2 – France

PARIS CITY CAMPUS

6 Place du Colonel Bourgoïn
75012 Paris
France

Our Brand Story is Growing with You:

WATCH OUR NEW VIDEO

