

School of Management Asian
Institute of Technology

PhD PROGRAM



TOP 200

GLOBAL MBA

QS WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS

2021

***ONLINE (LIVE CLASSES VIA
ZOOM) OR IN PERSON**

QS GLOBAL MBA **#1** in Thailand
RANKINGS 2021 **#14** in Asia

#7 in Asia in Diversity #18 in the world in Return on Investment



AIT

Asian Institute of Technology

PhD Program Structure

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is intended to prepare students for an academic career and research and/or teaching. The PhD program requires a Master's degree and sufficient English proficiency upon entry and publication upon graduation.

PhD at a Glance:

- Two intakes: Students can enter the program either in January or August term.
- Program duration: Students can complete their study within 3 years, depending on their study performance.
- Program structure: Course work in the first year only, and research work in the second and third year.
- Course work delivery: On weekends, either online or on campus, or mix of both.

PhD Degree Requirements:

- Complete a minimum of 12 credits (9 credits of coursework and 3 credits of special study) and maintain a cGPA of not less than 3.25 (usually within the first year; i.e., 5 terms).
- Complete a Doctoral dissertation (72 credits) and defend it at an oral examination.
- Obtain a satisfactory evaluation of the dissertation from the External Examiner.
- Have at least one scientific paper based on the dissertation published in or accepted by an international refereed journal where the student is the first author before the final examination.

First year PhD Program Structure:

Six courses, 1.5 credit each (total of 22.5 hours per course), delivered online and/or in person in downtown campuses

Aug/Sept:	Approaches of qualitative research
Oct/Nov:	Methods of qualitative research
January:	Foundations of management research
February:	Management research methods and writing
Mar/Apr:	Data strategies & hypotheses testing
Jun/Jul:	Building models that link to theory

Special Study: Toward the end of their coursework, PhD students take a research specialization study of 3 credits. The student works with his/her supervisor on a topic of interest. It will be tailor-made to the student's research focus and require understanding and a critical review of the theories and research in the field of specialization. The student will be required to prepare a review paper (a report) based on published research.

Year 2-4 or 5: Dissertation (72 credits): The dissertation is self-study and does not involve any formal coursework. Students are expected to meet with their supervisor and committee members regularly during the dissertation development.

First Year - Course 1: Approaches of Qualitative Research



Details of the course:

This course is aimed to learn about the opportunities and challenges of qualitative research in business management. It includes topics on observational field research, case histories, narratives, and case studies, interviewing, principles of action research, evaluation and ground theory. The course makes students aware of how the choice of different methodologies is closely linked to broader theoretical and conceptual issues, philosophical commitments and behavioral assumptions in qualitative social science research.

The students on completion of this course will be able to:

1. Articulate the differences and similarity among a range of qualitative research methods;
2. Distinguish the strength and weakness of different types of qualitative research methods;
3. Know the kinds of methods appropriate to different research questions and objective;
4. Learn the characteristics of qualitative research methods and their influence on theory development.

Course outline:

Qualitative research theoretical and philosophical foundations; comparing different research methods (qualitative vs. quantitative); different qualitative research methods (biography, phenomenology, case research, grounded theory, ethnography, action research); processes of inquiry in qualitative research; case studies and theory development.

Mode/dates of delivery:

August/September: Online or in person at Asoke campus

First Year - Course 2: *Methods of Qualitative Research*

Details of the course:

This course aims to engage students in the process of making strategic and appropriate research design choices from a variety of qualitative research methods appropriate for social science research. The course will help students to gain knowledge about a range of core qualitative data collection techniques and understand the sampling and recruitment strategies that frame data collection. Doctoral students will also learn qualitative data analysis techniques to adopt in relation to a research objectives and questions. Essential data collection techniques, such as semi-structured interviewing as well as focus group composition, will be complemented with knowledge about conducting content analysis, thematic analysis, and data coding and analysis techniques.



The students on completion of this course would be able to:

1. Use the suitable qualitative research method in their own dissertation research;
2. Organize and presentation of qualitative data collection;
3. Conduct qualitative data analysis techniques and data coding;
4. Describe theoretical statements based on qualitative data analysis;

Course outline:

Managing and preparing data for analysis, codes and coding; types of analysis; qualitative data analysis and interpretation; problem of generalization in qualitative research; challenges in conducting qualitative research in Asian context; reporting and presenting qualitative data.

Mode/dates of delivery:

October/November: Online or in person at Asoke campus

First Year - Course 3: *Foundations of Management Research*

Details of the course:

This course is aimed so that students learn the process of research in management and business of a doctoral study and prepares the students for independent research work. It focuses on the common challenges of designing a research project at doctoral level. As a solid foundation for conducting research, doctoral students will learn a structured approach to the research process, which includes defining the research topic and the research questions in the context of the existing research literature and/or business practice as well as building of a conceptual model and hypotheses development. The course helps students to conduct a systematic literature review and develop critical and constructive reviews of exemplary published research and the ethical dimensions of research.

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize the related literature and how to thoroughly review it in a structured way;
2. Identify the gap and limitation in the existing literature in relation to the student's topic;
3. Recognize the ethical dimension of conducting research;
4. Formulate the conceptual model, research questions, objectives and hypotheses;
5. Formulate hypotheses statements and construct effective and meaningful argumentation
6. Have the ability to articulate the range of problems, concepts and theories relevant to their thesis and field of study.

Course outline:

Literature review; literature assessment, analysis, selection and synthesis; ethics of conducting research conceptualizing the research, research model and hypotheses and argumentation development.

Mode/dates of delivery:

January: Online or in person at Asoke campus



First Year - Course 4: *Management Research Methods & Writing*



Details of the course:

The course examines in-depth the process of selecting and developing an appropriate and refined research strategy, and clarifying the stages of a research project. The course seeks to involve students in developing their skills and understanding of research design and stages, research methodology selection, data collection and presentation, as well as proposal, thesis and article writing, all of which aim at improving doctoral student's management research outputs.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the main phases of research process, the requirements of each phase, and the linkage between them;
2. Describe the proper research methodology that fits the research questions and objectives;
3. Design a questionnaire as instrument for data collection;
4. Apply the knowledge and skills of good research communication;
5. Understand the process of research writing;

Course outline:

Selecting appropriate research method (qualitative and/or quantitative); case studies and multi-method design; questionnaire development and design; thesis and article structure and style; linking research questions, objectives and conclusions.

Mode/dates of delivery:

February: Online or in person at Asoke campus

First Year - Course 5: *Data Strategies & Hypotheses Testing*

Details of the course:

This course aims to provide basic quantitative methods for management research. The focus is on utilizing simple methods appropriately. Major topics covered include finding data, summarizing data, hypothesis testing, and difference-in-difference analysis. The course also aims to help students appreciate the role of theory in quantitative research and develop basic capabilities to design tests to examine competing theories.



Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Appreciate creative and original methods of collecting quantitative data
2. Recognise the importance of data summary and become familiar with the basic tools
3. Understand the basic mechanics of hypothesis testing

Course outline:

Review of probability concepts and random variables; summarizing data; measures of central tendencies; measures of dispersion, correlation, graphical representation of data, sampling and estimation; random and non-random sampling procedures; hypothesis testing and interpretations;

Mode/dates of delivery:

March/April: Online or in person at Asoke campus

First Year - Course 6: *Building Models that Link to Theory*



Details of the course:

This course aims to introduce doctoral students to quantitative methods (large-N) as they apply to social science research. It provides students with expertise about statistical techniques and skills for analyzing quantitative data that may be required for their research. The emphasis is on the appropriate choice and application of estimation techniques and tests of primary and secondary data in order to discover and prove relationships and associations among variables. This course will also discuss causal inference in relation to these techniques and analyze some of the assumptions on which large-N quantitative research techniques such as regression are based on.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop skills to execute and interpret results from multiple regression analysis;
2. Grasp the challenge of establishing causality in the social sciences
3. Develop skills to execute and interpret results from multiple regression analysis

Course outline:

Analysis of Difference (one-way ANOVA, two-way ANOVA, and MANOVA); regression and correlation analysis (basic regression assumptions, interpreting regression output, linear regression, correlation analysis, multiple regression); factor analysis (exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis); structural equation modeling.

Mode/dates of delivery:

June/July: Online or in person at Asoke campus

Entry Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the regular PhD program, an applicant must:

- Have strong academic records (both undergraduate and graduate) and normally hold a four-year bachelor's degree, and a Master's degree, preferably with a combination of course and thesis work, from an institution of good standing, acceptable to AIT.
- The minimum cumulative Grade Points Average (cGPA) requirement for admission to the doctoral program is 3.50* or equivalent at the Master degree level.
- Submit a brief outline of dissertation research proposal including the required research facilities, if necessary.

**For applicants with cGPA of less than 3.50 at the master's degree level, depends on other factors, may receive conditional admission provided that the students complete the minimum course credit requirement and attaining a cGPA of at least 3.50 at the end of the second semester.*

English Requirements:

- The minimum requirement for doctoral applicants is 5.5 (minimum entry requirement) (with additional English Language classes required)
- As a requirement for graduation, students must attain a score of 6.0 on the AIT English Writing

