



AMSTERDAM
BUSINESS
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

www.abri.vu.nl/en/executives

PART-TIME PhD IN BUSINESS

THE ULTIMATE DEGREE
FOR BUSINESS LEADERS



ABRI Amsterdam
Business Research Institute



JOIN AMSTERDAM BUSINESS RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO ATTAIN YOUR NEXT LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

Bringing innovation and change into an organisation is no longer an MBA level assignment. Today's business leaders more and more often raise questions about the implications of their business decisions and organisational change initiatives on their employees, organisation, industry and even markets. Conducting research to understand the organisation's own internal processes, as well as the business processes surrounding the organisation, is becoming an important function of each organisation and its self-assessment. Understanding trends and predicting implications ahead of others enables business leaders to make better decisions and to empower enduring organisational renewal.

Can today's business leaders afford outsourcing research to external parties? We think not. Research produces new knowledge, and it needs to be integrated into the heart of your organisational processes. You need to pioneer this knowledge-based change by investing in developing yourself and your organisation.

With our Part-time PhD programme, we aim to support business leaders in:

- Leveraging your expertise for the creation of innovative business concepts
- Leveraging existing research findings into a new integrated knowledge
- Learning to conduct high quality research
- Publishing your work in international business and scientific journals
- Becoming part of a stimulating academic community

The Part-time PhD programme is offered by Amsterdam Business Research Institute (ABRI). Established by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in 2009, ABRI has become one of the largest research institutes in business and management studies in Europe. Next to facilitating top-class international research, ABRI offers a range of doctoral education programmes.

What makes ABRI's Part-time PhD programme a great choice?

- Teaching and supervision by internationally renowned professors
- Research support from VU research centres specialising in different business topics (e.g., servant leadership and professional services)
- A unique programme design, focused on a sequential development of academic research papers
- Intellectually stimulating research community
- Excellent location and facilities
- A module-based programme enabling participation of highly mobile and international participants

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROGRAMME

- Each programme year follows a cycle of research paper development
- The learning process is deliberately divided into the six sequential modules
- Attainable milestones are set to allow working professionals to stay on track
- The focus on developing academic writing skills enables participants to publish their research work in international peer-reviewed journals



PROGRAMME DESIGN IN A NUTSHELL

The programme design follows cycles of the PhD research development, and consists of three main phases:

PHASE 1 The first phase coincides with the first year of the programme during which PhD candidates give start to their PhD dissertations. During this year, the candidates focus on developing a PhD proposal and writing a literature review on their research topic, which will later become one of the chapters in their dissertation. The process of development of both research outputs is deliberately divided into the six sequential modules. With this design we create an unfolding learning cycle and attainable milestones, therefore allowing working professionals to stay on track. The quality of writing is central to the success in the programme. We aspire to produce only publishable work. The writing and paper development of the PhD candidates is closely monitored by the professors teaching different modules, as well as individual supervisors. The first year ends with an official assessment of candidates' work by a scientific committee and recommendations are made for their next research phase.

PHASE 2 The second phase covers the consequent two years of the programme and focuses on conducting original research. Here again, the programme years are organised around writing academic research papers. Each year within this phase is divided into six modules, which follow the research cycle sequence, and result into academic papers. Participants can choose between dedicating a year focused on the development of a quantitative research paper or a qualitative research paper, depending on their topic.

PHASE 3 The third phase of the programme is dedicated to finalising research papers that will become part of the PhD dissertation, and the integration of the entire research work into a single PhD manuscript. This phase involves a close collaboration with the candidate's scientific supervisors. Upon the approval of the dissertation by the scientific supervisors, the dissertation is sent to an international reading committee, consisting of renowned international professors who are experts on the topic, for a final decision. It is also ready for a public presentation during a highly traditional and ceremonial academic defence at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.



©Sabine de Jong

RESEARCH TOPICS COVERED BY THE PART-TIME PHD PROGRAMME

The programme supports PhD research on any of the following topics:

- Business Processes
- Business Services
- Coaching
- Career Counselling
- Consulting
- Entrepreneurship
- Innovation
- Human Resource Management
- Knowledge Management
- Leadership
- Management
- Marketing
- Organisation
- Organisational Change
- Strategy

For the possibilities to conduct research on other topics, please contact the Programme Director

Prof. dr. Svetlana Khapova
s.n.khapova@vu.nl



START DATE

Each year in January

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants who wish to participate in the Part-time PhD programme should possess:

- An MSc or an equivalent degree obtained from an institution of recognised standing
- An excellent command of written and spoken English (certified by an official English language test IELTS or TOEFL, or a degree from an English-taught programme)
- A commitment to devote at least 15 hours a week for research and course work

PROGRAMME COSTS

Year 1-2 (January - December): €7000 per programme year

Year 3 (January - December): €2500 - €7000 per programme year, depending on the participant's choice to take modules, or to continue with supervision only

Year 4 and all additional years thereafter

(January - December): €2500 per programme year

The total programme costs range between €19.000 and €23.500, based on a trajectory of 4 programme years.

This includes the costs of modules, individual supervision, access to ABRI research courses (optional) and summer schools, registration, food catering and access to facilities and services of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

External participants (associated with other universities) can register for a single year of the programme. However, purchasing separate modules is not possible. Please note that travelling costs and expenses associated with the attendance of international conferences are not included in the programme fee.

HOW TO APPLY?

To apply for participation in the Part-Time PhD Programme please submit the following documents before the 1st of December:

- A description of your research topic, including problem statement and a potential research methodology (maximum 2000 words)
- A CV with complete contact details
- Copies of academic transcripts and diplomas (certified): an MSc degree or equivalent is required
- A copy of a valid passport (or a copy of a residence permit allowing to stay in the European Union)

LOCATION

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
De Boelelaan 1105
1081 HV Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is conveniently located close to the train station Amsterdam Zuid WTC, which is only five minutes away from Amsterdam international airport Schiphol.

MORE INFORMATION

Mr. Niki Konijn MA

ABRI Policy Officer

E: n.m.konijn@vu.nl

T: + 31 20 59 85667

www.abri.vu.nl/en/executives

¹ Since this is a part-time module-based programme, we are not able to organise a Dutch residence permit for foreign participants.