RESEARCH AT HENLEY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Research is a vital component of Henley Business School’s reputation for challenging the future environment of organisations. It is what keeps us fresh and ensures that individuals and groups have the knowledge and capability to positively change the way that we work and identify what contribution business can make.

We attract experienced and motivated individuals to undertake significant research that shapes organisational thinking and provides an increasingly complex business environment.

We are home to some of the world’s most distinguished research-led academics and some of the most innovative, practically-oriented thought leaders.

Our work generates pioneering research, valuable knowledge and leading insights into the rapidly evolving world of modern business. We provide an outstanding environment for individuals looking to further their academic and professional careers through doctoral study.

We are consistently ranked among the UK’s leading business schools based on our research output and performance, and we have produced more DBA graduates than any other institution in Europe.

Through academically rigorous DBA and PhD programmes we provide the range of opportunities and the outstanding environment that stimulates the production of world-class research.

Research associates take part in a wide range of conferences and events, networking with like-minded researchers and acquiring the advanced insights provided by our own faculty members and our guest lecturers.

Our expertise extends across virtually all areas within business and management education and research – from leadership to marketing, international business to real estate and planning, HR to finance and economics, reputation management to corporate governance, and emerging markets to organisational behaviour.

Our teaching, learning and research align through a unique synthesis of research centres and thought-leadership groups including the John H. Dunning Centre for International Business, the ICMA Centre, the Informatics Research Centre, the Centre for Euro-Asian Studies and the Centre for Customer Management.

These groups also encompass a number of Centres including the Knowledge Management Forum, the Henley Centre for HR Excellence, the John Madejski Centre for Reputation and the Henley Centre for Engaging Leadership.

For further information visit www.henley.ac.uk/dba
‘The DBA journey became a true opportunity for me to intensify my learning and further develop my skills in an efficient manner. In this context, the biggest success factor was the quality of faculty members and their extensive knowledge of the field. Furthermore, Henley Business School is probably one of the strongest academic institutions for research in the field of finance, M&A and strategy. The DBA helped me to better internalise the dynamics of M&A and growth strategies. During the entire study, I was able to publish more than 12 papers in Germany and in the UK, which was possible due to strong supervision and mentorship by faculty members and staff. Henley is a world-class business school and I am very proud to have accomplished my DBA study.’

Dr Mehdi Farhadi
Henley DBA Graduate and Principal Roland Berger Strategy Consultants
Frankfurt, Germany
INTRODUCTION – WHAT IS A DBA?

THE DBA PROVIDES YOU WITH A FOUNDATION OF VALUABLE RESEARCH SKILLS AND DEVELOPS YOUR RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL AND CONSULTANCY ABILITIES. IT IS RECOGNISED AND RESPECTED WORLDWIDE WITH ITS RIGOROUS LEARNING PROCESS THAT ALLOWS YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR ORGANISATION WITH ADVANCED RESEARCH CAPABILITIES AND ANALYTICAL THINKING.

The Henley Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is a professional part-time doctoral degree with an international scope and reputation, designed to enhance executive and professional practice through the application of sound theory and rigorous research into real and complex issues in business and management. It enhances the capability to develop knowledge and theory, and their practical application in business. Key to this programme is the development of personal, consultancy and research skills in the context of rigorous and relevant research.

Who should consider a DBA?

The programme will be of particular benefit to experienced senior executives, consultants, management educators and business school academics. A DBA from Henley will enhance professional capability and credibility, develop networks, and provide a firm foundation for further career development or a major career move. Employers benefit from supporting candidates for the DBA by attracting, developing and retaining key talent and building knowledge for competitive advantage.

Henley DBA research associates undertake two linked, yet distinct, stages of study and research over a period of about five-and-a-half years. The programme is conducted on a part-time basis.

We have an impressive record in providing doctoral programmes at Henley. We launched the DBA in 1992 and now have participants and graduates from more than 30 countries around the world.

Henley’s DBA is one of only nine DBA programmes worldwide to be triple-accredited by AMBA, EQUIS and AACSB.

Since 2009, the Henley MSc/DBA has enjoyed a partnership arrangement with the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

A number of Research Associates join the programme from Rotman each year. This also provides benefits to Henley-based candidates as three of the four workshops per cohort are offered in parallel in Toronto. All Research Associates, therefore, have a choice of attending workshops at Henley or at Rotman.

After a highly successful first term, this partnership has been renewed in 2015 for a further six years.
‘As a small business owner in a fast-developing country and a consultant to cross-national and listed companies, I long nursed the desire to spend time in a quality, adult learning environment. The Henley community is a friendly and supportive one, the physical surrounds are highly conducive to reflection, study and research, and the demands of academic rigour, while ever present, were never intrusive. There was no better place for me.’

Dr Millicent Danker
DBA Graduate and Founder, Perception Management International Group
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
THE HENLEY DBA PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

HENLEY’S DBA PROGRAMME IS A PART-TIME DEGREE PROGRAMME COMPRISED OF TWO DISTINCT, YET LINKED, STAGES. IN THE FIRST STAGE, YOU WILL DEVELOP THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR RESEARCH ON A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF AN MSc IN BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH. YOU MAY THEN PROGRESS TO THE DBA RESEARCH STAGE, WHICH FOCUSES ON PRIMARY RESEARCH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCIES IN THE APPLICATION OF RESEARCH.

Aims

The Henley DBA will enable you to:

• Develop a sound understanding of the relevant conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of your chosen area of research into business and management
• Have a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic and management enquiry
• Create and interpret knowledge through original research. Enhance both your performance as a reflective practitioner and your professional practice
• Develop personal, consultancy and research competences to undertake rigorous research at an advanced level that contributes to theory and practice in business and management

Your sponsoring organisation will also benefit from the advanced research capabilities, analytical thinking, knowledge development and enhanced professional competencies that you will bring back to your role.

Stage 1: MSc in Business and Management Research

In line with all doctoral programmes, you will begin your journey by developing your research knowledge and skills. At Henley, you work towards an additional qualification whilst you undertake this part of your development. So, unless you already have an equivalent qualification, all research associates will complete the MSc in Business and Management Research. This is a qualification in its own right and may also be completed by those who do not wish to progress to doctoral study.

The programme provides a thorough grounding in research methodology and techniques. You will be preparing and developing your ideas and proposals for your own research – through teaching inputs and structured assessment – and also developing your competence to undertake research. Since this is a part-time programme, Stage 1 is scheduled over 18 months, with four one-week compulsory workshops covering:

• Introduction to research
• Research methodology
• Qualitative research methods
• Quantitative research methods

This stage also includes research colloquia and other optional seminars.

Your MSc will culminate in the development of a research proposal, providing the platform for developing research in the DBA stage.

Stage 2: DBA

Your DBA stage will focus primarily on independent research, with the support of a supervisor and including attendance at research colloquia. You will complete a research project leading to the preparation of a doctoral thesis, which will be examined by internal and external experts in the field.

The DBA stage will enhance your personal development and research application skills. You will complete several development targets relating to personal, teaching, research and consultancy competences.

Due to the part-time delivery mode of the DBA programme, you would expect to spend four years on this stage, with a minimum of three years in exceptional circumstances.

Contact us: dba@henley.ac.uk
It’s the quality of our applied research training and our international focus that makes the Henley DBA a truly outstanding experience.’

Professor John Board, Dean of Henley Business School
Stage 1: MSc in Business and Management Research

Your MSc will promote the development of a deep knowledge of the research process and a broad understanding of the available range of research methodologies. As you progress through the MSc, you will also be developing your research questions, broadening your knowledge of the literature in the area you intend to research, and selecting the appropriate methodology and methods. You’ll finally arrive at a detailed research proposal.

The assessed components of the MSc are:

- Research outline interview: further develops your research ideas
- Working paper: a scoping literature review of a selected area
- Competence development target: a critique of a selected research methodology and one other research target linked to your particular needs
- Thesis critique: an evaluation of an existing doctoral thesis
- Qualitative data analysis assignment
- Quantitative data analysis assignment
- Report on a pilot study: a report on a study involving a pilot collection of data
- Research proposal: a detailed proposal for research – including literature review, methodology and methods – relating to a specific research area

Stage 2: DBA

Your DBA stage has two assessed components relating to the completion of a research thesis and the development of competences relevant to the application of this research:

- Report on two targets for development in the areas of personal, teaching and consultancy skills competences
- Doctoral thesis

PhD opportunities at Henley Business School

The DBA is a part-time study programme. For those who want a full-time study programme, they should consider a PhD.

At Henley Business School we welcome high-calibre PhD candidates from more than 50 countries.

Typically a three-year full-time programme, our participants engage with world-renowned academics on cutting-edge research and participate in leading international conferences and events.

For further information on PhD opportunities at Henley Business School please visit our website:

www.henley.ac.uk
THE HENLEY DBA PROGRAMME

For further information visit www.henley.ac.uk/dba
'I would highly recommend the Henley DBA to anyone considering undertaking a DBA. The rewards, in terms of the learning achieved along the way, broadened my understanding of, and greatly enhanced my ability to conduct research in business and related contexts. It gave me the confidence and expertise to analyse the research of others and to conduct my own research. I am exceedingly grateful to Henley for giving me the opportunity to enrich my understanding and skills and to develop my interests and abilities to undertake research of a standard that is accepted by peer review journals.'

Dr Ben van den Assem PhD,
DBA Graduate, Consultant and Mentor
Henley-on-Thames and Ottawa, Canada

Debra Paul, Henley MSc/DBA Research Associate and Managing Director, Assist Knowledge Development Ltd
SUPPORTING YOUR THINKING

MENTORING IS AT THE CENTRE OF THE DBA PROGRAMME. OUR FACULTY MEMBERS NOT ONLY TRAIN YOU TO APPROACH CHALLENGES ACADEMICALLY, BUT ALSO EMPHASISE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF YOUR LEARNING.

for further information visit www.henley.ac.uk/dba
Thought-leadership communities and research colloquia

From the very beginning of your MSc you will join one of Henley’s academic schools. You will also be able to participate in regular research seminars and workshops including doctoral research colloquia, held four times per year, which allow you to discuss your ideas for research and those of other doctoral researchers. You’ll be expected to present formally on at least one occasion per year.

Research facilities

You will have full use of the Academic Resource Centre (ARC) at Henley Business School with extensive facilities for undertaking research including journals, textbooks, newspapers and online resources, plus previous doctoral theses and research articles.

You’ll also access the ARC Online via the Business School website, with full-text access to thousands of journal articles, company financial data and market research reports.

Core support

The overall academic content and quality of your programme will be led by the Director of the DBA Programme, and the Doctoral Programme Team will support you throughout the process from application to graduation.

Mentors

You will be mentored by a member of academic faculty through the MSc stage, who will help you to develop your research expertise and will guide you through the early assessment stages. At the pilot study/research proposal stage, you will begin to work with your supervisor.

Supervisors

Throughout the research process you will have the support and guidance of at least one supervisor. Every student has the support of a member of the Henley academic faculty either as first or second supervisor.
APPLICATION PROCESS

Making an application

To be considered for entry onto a Henley research degree (MSc, DBA, MPhil, PhD) please complete the application process and provide one business reference, one academic reference and a short research outline.

Students are required to submit a short research outline in an area of research-related faculty expertise. All available research topics each academic year are listed on the website:

http://www.henley.ac.uk/postgraduate-research/course/doctor-of-business-administration-research-topics/

Only research outlines that match an available research topic will be considered, and students must indicate the research topic on their research outline.

Details for applying to the combined MSc in Business and Research Management and DBA can be found at:

http://www.henley.ac.uk/postgraduate-research/course/doctor-of-business-administration/

You will normally be expected to register for the MSc in Business and Management Research commencing in October each year. You should apply by the end of June – applications made after this may not be considered.

Entry requirements

To enter the MSc and DBA programme you will normally be expected to hold a Masters degree in the area of business or management together with at least five years of relevant experience.

To be eligible to transfer from the MSc to the DBA programme you will require an average of 60% in the MSc and 60% in the research proposal. Only students who hold a PhD or an MRes or MPhil with 90 credits of research courses, typically with a ‘merit’ pass or equivalent, will be considered for direct entry to the DBA stage directly.
THE DBA AT HENLEY

For general enquiries please contact:

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