



Frankfurt School

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN ACCOUNTING, FINANCE & MANAGEMENT



Learn more

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Develop a profound understanding of complex real-world problems

Are you intellectually curious and interested in tackling the real-world organizational, financial, and technological problems that characterize today's business world? Do you have outstanding analytical skills and a sharp pen? Use your talents for a challenging career with a doctorate in business.

Frankfurt School offers a truly academic climate, in the best sense of the world. Faculty is passionate about research and committed to training doctoral students to become educated scholars who will lead in their fields of business. Among only a handful of schools in Europe, Frankfurt School offers a structured two-year coursework program that provides students with the necessary skills to do rigorous research. Faculty sees the training of doctoral students as a group responsibility and students are encouraged to benefit from the expertise of all professors.

Why do a Doctorate in business?

Intellectually rewarding

Doctoral students work on problems such as corporate social responsibility, stock market crashes, poverty reduction, and ethical leadership. You contribute by doing original research; finding new insights on issues with practical implications. You need to convince your peers of your arguments by bringing rigor to your analysis and clarity to your communication.



International diversity

Doctoral students hail from all continents, work together in the class room, and build relations with researchers from all over the world. As a doctoral student, you will have opportunities to travel, spend time at leading research universities abroad and develop a network with the smartest people in the field.

World class faculty

Frankfurt School has world-leading experts in accounting, finance, and management, who contribute to the top journals of these fields as authors, reviewers, and editors. They will work together with students to prepare you for doing independent research at the highest level. Your education starts with a first year that provides you with a strong foundation in data science, economics and your field of study. Next, you will dive into your chosen field, obtaining a thorough understanding of the frontier of knowledge. Throughout, you will be working on your own portfolio of research projects, culminating in your dissertation at the end of the program.

Academic lifestyle

Becoming a business school professor is rewarding, not just because it offers opportunities to shape the future generation of business leaders, but also because you have the (academic) freedom to choose to work on problems that interest you and work in a way that fits your needs. Academics don't have a 9-to-5 mentality, work at home, the office or a cafe, travel frequently, and collaborate with people across the world. In addition, business schools are attractive employers.

Generous financial aid

Qualified students receive a full tuition waiver and a (tax-free) stipend of Euro 1,820/monthly. Students get a research budget and dedicated work spaces in close proximity to faculty.

Placement

Doctoral students benefit from having experienced faculty with well-established networks around the world not only in terms of the training they receive, but also because these connections are essential in placing students in academic positions. Faculty have personally placed students at schools around the world including the University of Melbourne, the University of Chicago, University of Mannheim, London Business School, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Michigan State University.

DOCTORAL INFO LEAFLET

FS researchers lead the way Accounting

Frankfurt School’s doctoral program in Accounting is offered by one of the most productive faculties in Europe. Ranked in the top in Europe in Brigham Young University’s prestigious research ranking, Frankfurt’s Accounting group is known for its innovative research in capital markets and managerial accounting.

We train our students in applying state-of-the-art research techniques to address research questions that advance contemporaneous accounting thinking. Our faculty is at the forefront of their research area and shape the profession not only through original research but also by their editorial work and involvement in global research initiatives. Faculty has a proven track record of working closely with doctorate students throughout the program and has placed students in some of the best research schools in the world.

Accounting research has little to do with refining the workings of double-entry bookkeeping. Instead, scholars examine a broad range of questions about the role of information in markets and within firms. Accounting research is strongly related to practice, but is also empowered by the latest theoretical insights from economics and related disciplines (sociology, linguistics, even biology) and has recently made significant strides forward by adopting methods developed by (big) data science. Accounting, contrary to some stereotypes, therefore is one of the most exciting fields of research in business.

Contact

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“My time at the Accounting Department at Frankfurt School has been nothing short of amazing. Each faculty member is supportive in every possible way during my doctoral study. I appreciate all their contributions of time, ideas, and support to make my doctoral experience productive and stimulating. I would give them most of the credit for becoming the kind of academic I am today.”

Wenjiao Cao

Class of 2018
Assistant Professor at Erasmus School of Economics Rotterdam

Finance

The Finance program features a diverse set of faculty, whose interests cover corporate finance, asset pricing, and banking. Benefiting from being the largest group within the FS, the program has a broad offering of courses and workshops that prepare students for working on the frontier of finance. Located in Frankfurt, continental Europe’s financial capital, there are many close connections with the financial industry and regulators such as the European Central Bank and the Bundesbank. These connections help students to have access to data and develop research ideas that have an impact on the financial world. The ultimate goal of the program is to produce innovative research and qualify for academic jobs in leading schools.

Management

Frankfurt School’s approach to a doctorate in management is truly interdisciplinary. Scholars from strategic management, entrepreneurship, marketing, and operations research all work together on complex problems in organizations. This is reflected in the doctoral program as students explore in their course work all these different facets in management. The guiding philosophy of the doctoral program is that without an interdisciplinary approach to management problems, no fundamental solution is possible. Rather than taking the narrow-minded academic silo approach, faculty teach students to make connections between fields and think creatively about what insights can be drawn from analyzing problems from multiple (theoretical) perspectives.