



SCHOLAR- LEADERS

FOR BUSINESS
IN THE DIGITAL ERA

Ⓟ • DBA

Taught in English ♦ Offered in Hong Kong

Doctor of Business Administration

2025-2026



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WHY POLYU

- Providing application-oriented education since 1937
- Collaborating with over 280 institutions
- Offering over 170 programmes
- Working on over 4,500 research projects

International Rankings

#03

QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025 (Hong Kong)

#03

Times Higher Education (THE) World's Most International Universities 2025

#07

Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings 2024

#17

QS Asia University Rankings 2025

WHY POLYU BUSINESS SCHOOL

- A comprehensive portfolio of academic programmes
- Over 200 world-class scholars including specialists in accounting, finance, logistics, management, marketing, and transport
- Research and specialist centres facilitate single and multidisciplinary studies
- International context and culturally diverse environment
- Network of over 55,000 alumni

Accreditations



International Rankings

#02

Clarivate Web of Science 2022-2024: Shipping Research

#04

Research.com Best Business & Management Universities 2025

#25

The U.S. News Best Global Universities for Economics and Business 2025

#35

UTD (University of Texas at Dallas) Top 100 Worldwide Business School Rankings based on Research Contributions 2020-2024

#37

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025: Business & Economics

#46

QS World University Rankings 2025: Business & Management Studies



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Faculty of Business of PolyU.

The Faculty of Business, known as PolyU Business School (PBS), is a world-class business school that offers top-quality academic programmes and spearheads cutting-edge research in business and related disciplines. We take pride in our accreditations from AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and EQUIS (EFMD Quality Improvement System).

Dedicated to the pursuit of *Innovation-driven Education and Scholarship (IDEAS)*, PBS collaborates with stakeholders to create a positive societal impact sustainably, with a focus on Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. Through our educational programmes, partnerships, and close connections with industry and the professional community, we aim to share knowledge and technology with the wider community.

Our comprehensive portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, many of which are endorsed by professional bodies, encompass key areas such as accounting, aviation, business artificial intelligence, ESG, finance, logistics, management, maritime, marketing, shipping, and transport. Alongside the BBA, MBA, DBA, DBAI, DBM, DFinTech, DMgt, and specialised master's degrees, our research programmes also lead to the MPhil and PhD qualifications.

To maintain currency of our academic programmes and specialist consultancy services, our faculty members conduct pioneering and impactful research within and across their disciplines, supported by our Case Consortium and centres for branding and marketing, digital transformation, economic sustainability and entrepreneurial finance, financial technology, leadership and innovation, maritime data and sustainable development, and shipping and logistics. Our research has been ranked 35th globally in *The UTD Top 100 Worldwide Business School Rankings based on Research Contributions 2020-2024*.

We invite you to become part of our community of over 200 esteemed scholars from around the world, 5,300 students, and 55,000 alumni.

Ir Prof. T.C. Edwin Cheng

IASCYS Academician, FHKEng, ScD, PhD

Dean, Faculty of Business

Fung Yiu King – Wing Hang Bank Professor in Business Administration

Chair Professor of Management



PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am excited to introduce you to the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme offered by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) — the first local university to initiate this professional cum academic programme at the highest level of business education.

As we navigate the challenges, including the explosive development of Generative AI, alongside ongoing post-pandemic impacts, geopolitical tensions and the growing importance of new opportunities in crypto assets and asset tokenization, strategic decision-making has never been more complex. Our DBA programme is designed to equip senior executives and business leaders with the technical competencies necessary to thrive in this evolving landscape while integrating their extensive business experience within a unified, cross-disciplinary analytical framework.

The PolyU DBA programme stands out for its interdisciplinary and rigorous approach, drawing on diverse faculties from various disciplines within the University. Our classrooms feature distinguished professors who are prolific contributors to high-quality international journals. We foster the generation of innovative ideas and groundbreaking concepts, ensuring clarity and depth in our profound curriculum.

A key aspect of the PolyU DBA is our commitment to providing a rich international perspective. We have established partnerships with renowned institutions such as the IMD (International Institute for Management Development) and LSE (The London School of Economics and Political Science), offering our DBA students the opportunity to engage in their esteemed leadership programmes and Executive Education Courses.

Moreover, PolyU boasts the largest DBA community of "[scholar-leaders](#)" in the region, making it prestigious to join our family of accomplished professionals. With the longest history of nurturing top executives in multinational corporations, private enterprises, and state-owned enterprises across Asia, we invite you to become part of our exceptional cohort in this unique academic journey.

Prof. Brian Kei
DBA Programme Director
Professor of Practice (Fintech)
School of Accounting and Finance

An abstract digital graphic featuring a dark purple background. In the center, there are two overlapping spheres. The inner sphere is composed of many thin, yellow, needle-like lines radiating from its center. The outer sphere is made of a grid of red and orange oval shapes. Scattered throughout the background are binary digits (0s and 1s) in various colors including white, yellow, red, and blue. A large, faint, stylized 'P' shape is visible in the lower-left quadrant.

WHY POLYU DBA

- Earn a professional doctorate
- Transform your knowledge and experience into a practice-based academic framework
- Trust our experience: the PolyU DBA has been running for 28 years. The first professional doctorate in business administration launched in Hong Kong, it has the largest DBA alumni community in Hong Kong, and on the Chinese mainland.
- Choose your preferred study mode: two-year full-time or three-year part-time
- Gain an understanding of the impacts of digital technology and develop an appreciation of digital transformation to strengthen leadership and performance



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

To enhance the international dimension and academic vigour of PolyU DBA, collaborations have been established with IMD business school in Switzerland and The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in London, U.K.



IMD has been ranked in the top 10 for both open and custom programmes worldwide in the 2024 Financial Times Executive Education ranking.



Executive
Education Courses

LSE has been ranked third in Europe, and sixth in the world, in social sciences and management subjects in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025.

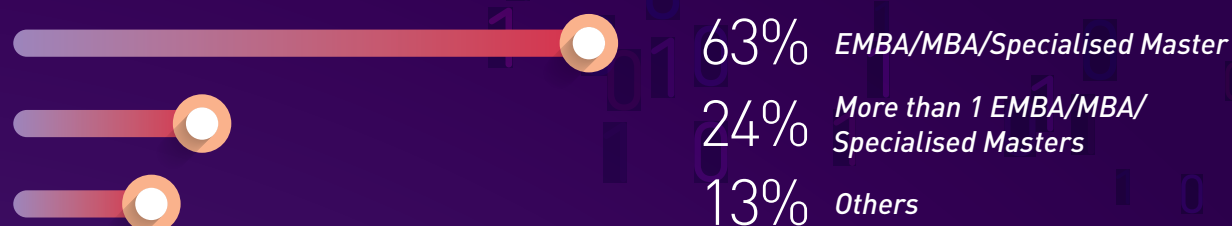
CLASS PROFILE

Average work experience 15 years

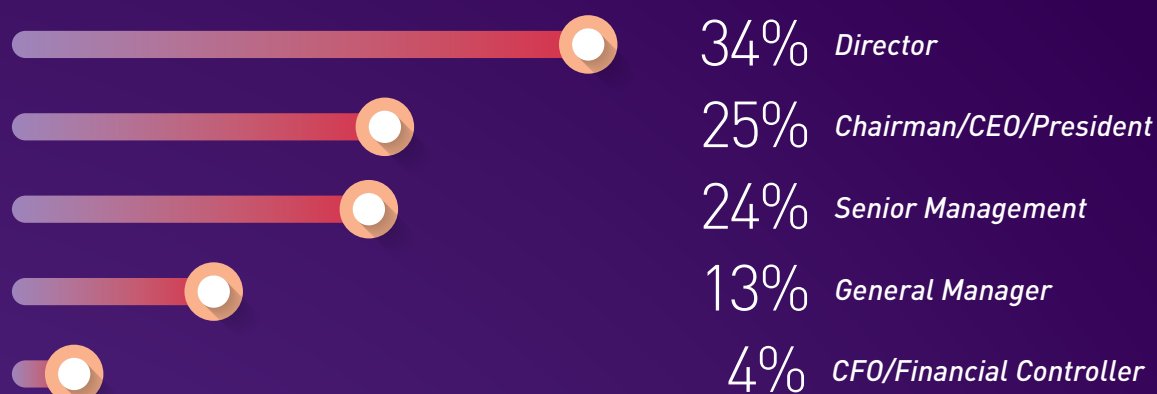
Gender 68% Male 32% Female

Nationality 54% Local 46% Non-local

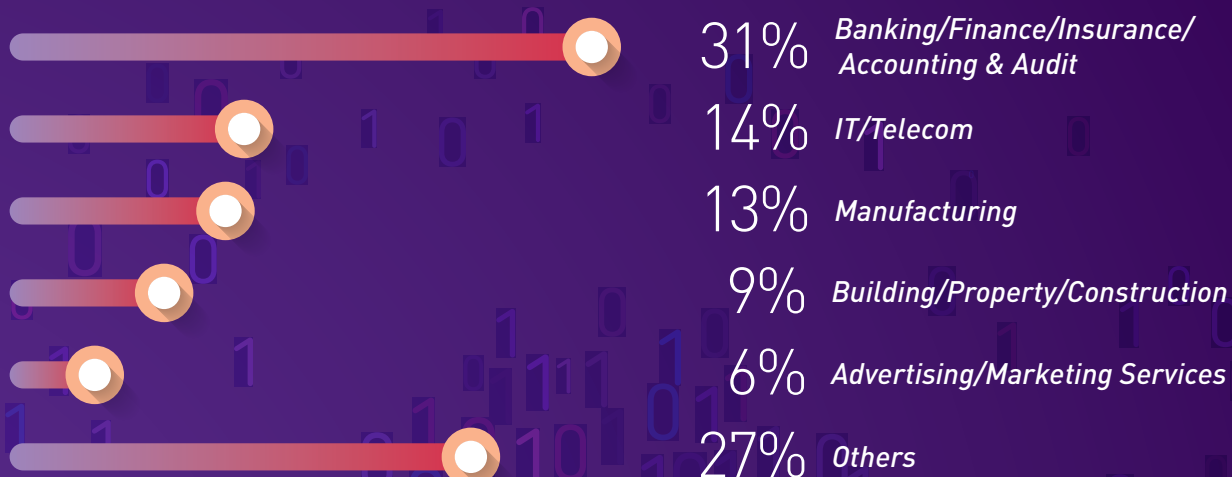
Education background



Job post



Industry





PROGRAMME DETAILS

Objectives

This programme aims to educate senior executives to be the “scholar-leaders”, who are able to apply research findings in solving the real-world management problems. It has been designed to integrate academic study and management practice in a way which will form a significant part of an individual’s business career.

On completion of the programme, students will be able to advance their knowledge, skills and intellectual abilities as defined in the broad learning outcomes which are underpinned by specific learning objectives below:

i. General Business Knowledge

Learning Objective: Broaden, update, and deepen students' knowledge of business administration in general with an appreciation of digital transformation in the business world

ii. Specialist Knowledge

Learning Objective: Acquire an in-depth knowledge of a specialist area including some basic understanding of the impacts from digital technology

iii. Applied Research

Learning Objective: Sharpen students' ability to conduct original applied research and ethical awareness in business administration

Mode and Duration

PolyU DBA is a mixed-mode programme. Students may pursue their DBA studies with either a full-time study load (taking 9 credits or more in a semester) or a part-time study load (normally taking less than 9 credits in a semester).

The normal duration for DBA full-time study option is 2 years and 3 years for DBA part-time study option. Students who wish to extend their studies beyond normal duration should submit an application to the Faculty of Business for consideration.

Students are required to complete 52 credits including 9 Coursework Subjects (a total of 25 credits), 2 DBA Residentials (1 credit for Residential 1 and 2 credits for Residential 2) and a DBA Thesis (8 credits for Thesis I and 16 credits for Thesis II).

There is a possible exit award of Master of Science in Management Research Studies (MSc in MRS) for students who have completed 25 credits of Coursework subjects, 3 credits of two compulsory Residentials, and passed the 8 credits of Thesis I (thesis proposal presentation) (a total of 36 credits).

Medium of Instruction

English

Structure

To be eligible for the Doctor of Business Administration award, students are required to meet all requirements of the University and the programme. The programme requirement is as follows:

- 25 credits of Coursework:
 - Academic Integrity and Ethics (1 credit)
 - 1 Compulsory, 2 Core and 5 Elective Subjects (3 credits each)
- 3 credits of Residentials: Residential 1 (1 credit) and Residential 2 (2 credits)
- 24 credits of Thesis: Thesis I (8 credits) and Thesis II (16 credits)

All taught coursework subjects (3 credits each) are at an advanced level and students are assumed to have prior knowledge of each subject area.

The normal duration for the DBA Thesis is 12 months for full-time students and 18 months for part-time students. The two DBA Residentials include one scheduled at the start of the programme and the other at the beginning of the DBA Thesis phase of respective full-time and part-time students.

The curriculum includes technological contents such as data analytics tools, digital technology and the business world, the impact of technology and AI on leadership, and qualitative and experimental designs in relation to AI and entrepreneurship research.

Coursework (25 credits)

Academic Integrity and Ethics

- Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business

Compulsory Subject provides students with a solid foundation in research skills.

- Business Research Analysis and Design

Core Subjects provide students with an in-depth evaluation of qualitative and quantitative research approaches and methods as well as statistical applications. Students are required to complete any two of the following:

- Econometrics Methods
- Qualitative Research and Experimental Design
- Statistical Analysis for Management Research

Elective Subjects allow students to pursue particular areas of interest. There is generally more emphasis on academic readings to prepare students for the DBA Thesis. Students are required to complete any five of the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Advanced Business Strategy | • Current Issues in Organizational Behaviour |
| • Advanced Financial Management | • Frontier of Leadership Research |
| • Advanced Topics in Economics for Business Decision | • Incentives and Monitoring in Accounting |
| • Contemporary Issues in Financial Reporting and Corporate Disclosures | • Independent Studies in Business |
| • International Collaborations Experience | |

Orchestrating Winning Performance (OWP) at IMD is a 5-day programme on latest management thinking. Students find practical innovative solutions to complex business challenges and 'globalize' their contact files with senior executives from every continent.

At IMD in Switzerland



- Services Marketing Management
- Strategic Management of Information & Organization in Digital Economy
- Strategic Marketing
- Strategic Quality Management
- Strategic Supply Chain and Logistics Management

Residentials (3 credits)

There are 2 Residentials which are compulsory to all students:



DBA Residential 1 is a mandatory orientation workshop scheduled for the beginning of the programme in August / September.

*DBA Residential 1, 2024 in Singapore:
Students and Professors*

DBA Residential 2 is a research workshop held normally after students have completed all the required subjects. The main purpose of the workshop is to give students an opportunity to present their thesis proposals and to prepare them for writing the theses.



*DBA Residential 2, 2024 in Hong Kong:
Students and Professors*

DBA Thesis (24 credits)

The DBA Thesis comprises two parts: **DBA Thesis I** and **DBA Thesis II**. Students must pass the Compulsory Subject, 2 Core Subjects, and at least 3 Elective Subjects before beginning their theses. They need to integrate and apply what they have learned to critically and rigorously examine a topic of interest in the field of business or management. They are challenged to make an important contribution and/or provide innovative insights into the practice of management.

Remarks:

1. Subject to factors such as staff availability, student enrolment, programme resources and so on, not all subjects will be offered during the normal duration of study. And, registration is subject to the availability of quota.
2. Programme structure and subject details (e.g. subject description form, offering pattern, class timetable etc.) are subject to review and change from time to time.

Class Schedule

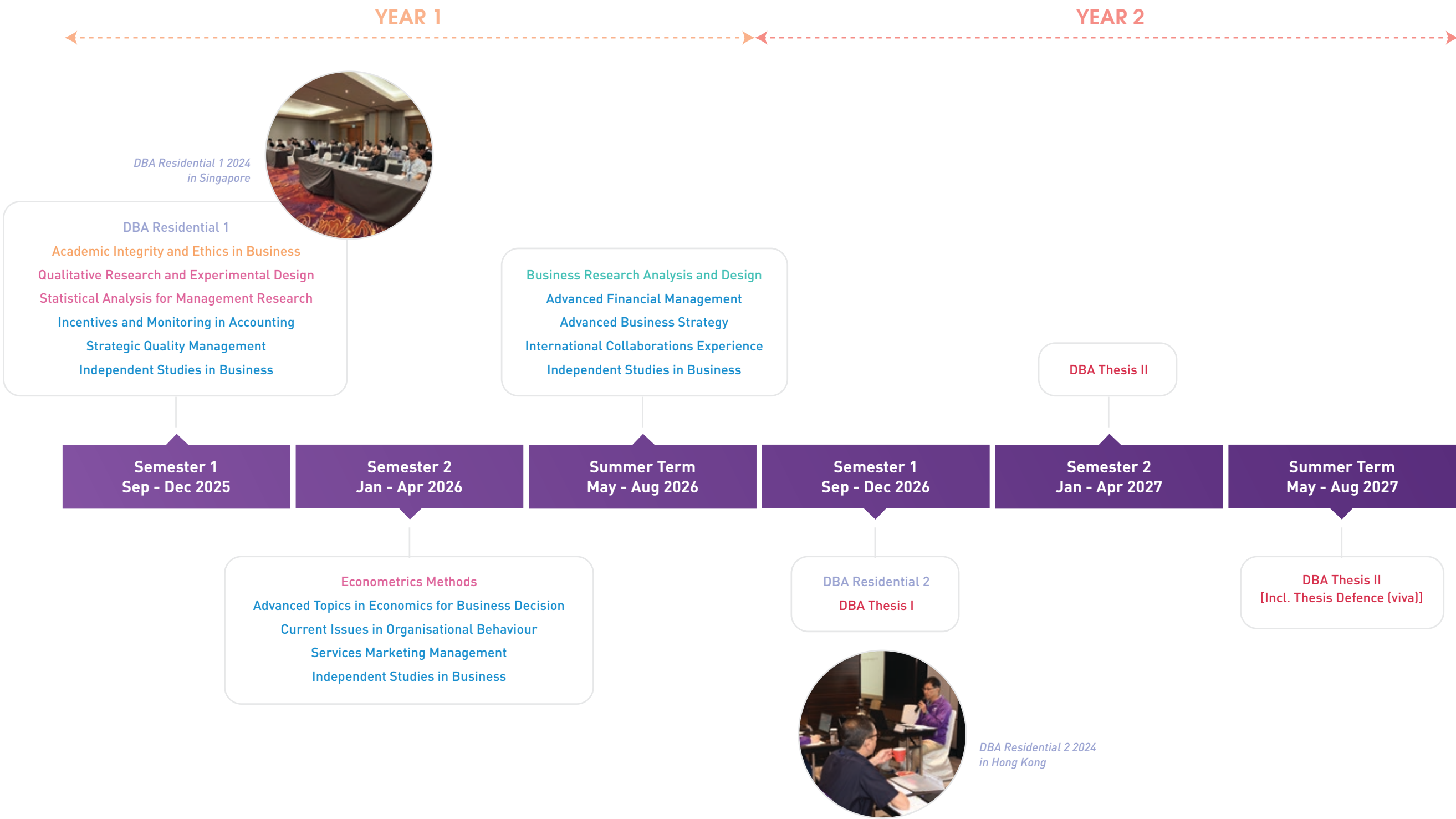
Most classes are scheduled on weekends, subject to the final arrangement of the programme.

STUDY TIMELINE

1 Academic Integrity and Ethics + 1 Compulsory Subject + 2 Core Subjects (any 2 subjects) + 5 Elective Subjects (any 5 subjects) + 2 DBA Residentials + a DBA Thesis

For subject details, please refer to the DBA website (www.polyu.edu.hk/fb/study/tpg-landing/tpg/dba/programme/#structure) for updates.

Full-time Study Option



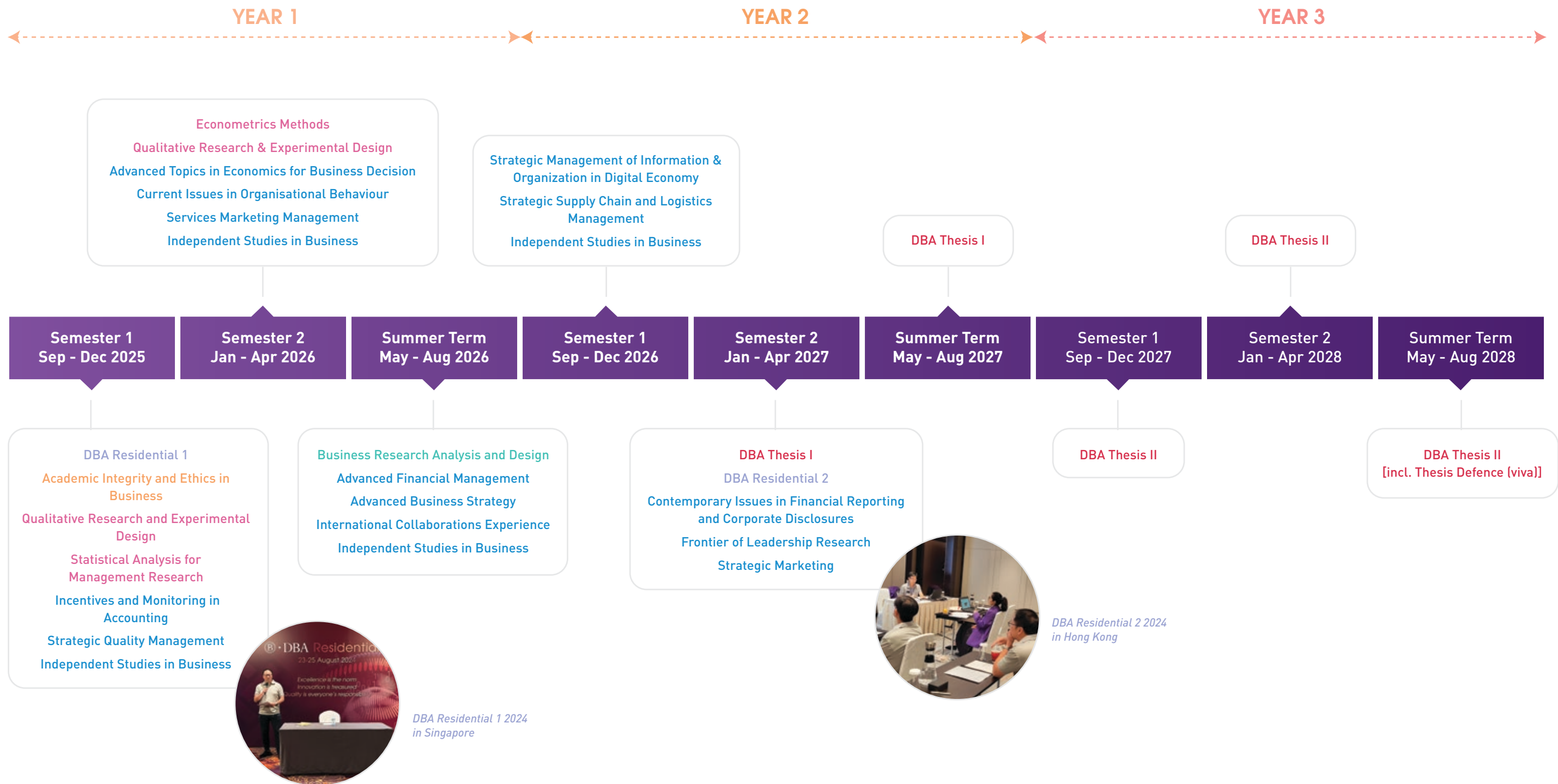
* Subject to factors such as staff availability, student enrolment, programme resources and so on, not all subjects will be offered during the normal duration of study. And, registration is subject to the availability of quota.

STUDY TIMELINE

1 Academic Integrity and Ethics + 1 Compulsory Subject + 2 Core Subjects (any 2 subjects) + 5 Elective Subjects (any 5 subjects) + 2 DBA Residentials + a DBA Thesis

For subject details, please refer to the DBA website (www.polyu.edu.hk/fb/study/tpg-landing/tpg/dba/programme/#structure) for updates.

Part-time Study Option



* Subject to factors such as staff availability, student enrolment, programme resources and so on, not all subjects will be offered during the normal duration of study. And, registration is subject to the availability of quota.

ADMISSION

Entrance Requirements

- A Master's degree, preferably in a business-related area; and
- Substantial managerial experience (at least 8 years) at a senior level.
- Candidates in senior management positions possessing a recognized first degree and membership of a recognized professional body may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you are not a native speaker of English, and do not possess a Bachelor's or Master's degree or equivalent qualification which is awarded by institutions where the medium of instruction is English, you are expected to fulfil the University's minimum English language requirement for admission purpose. Please refer to the "Admission Requirements" section for Taught Postgraduate Programmes at Study@PolyU for details.

Candidates are required to submit the following documents at the time of application:

- Personal Statement
- Proof of employment (at least 8 years)
- Your academic qualifications (such as graduation certificates, transcripts of studies, etc.) that are not in English should be accompanied by an official certified English-translation

Provision of additional documents may be required if deemed necessary.

An incomplete application cannot be processed promptly and will reduce your chance of admission. Please complete all relevant fields on the application form and enclose all necessary documents.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews.

Fees and Payment Schedule

Fees for the entire PolyU DBA programme for 2025/26 intake: HK\$1,096,500 (52 credits)

Students taking the elective subject "International Collaborations Experience" will pay the course fee directly to the offering institution and bear themselves the costs of travel, accommodation, visa, insurance, etc. The DBA programme will not charge the credit fee for taking the "International Collaborations Experience" subject.

Fees for 25 credits of Coursework Tuition fees will not be charged for the 1-credit "Academic Integrity and Ethics in Business"	HK\$516,000
Fees for the DBA Thesis I and II (8 credits for DBA Thesis I and 16 credits for DBA Thesis II)	HK\$516,000
Fees for 2 DBA Residentials (1 credit for DBA Residential 1 and 2 credits for DBA Residential 2)	HK\$64,500

Initial Payment

Fees for 1 Coursework Subject (HK\$64,500) and DBA Residential 1 (HK\$21,500) are payable upon acceptance of offer.

Interim Payments

Fees for the remaining Coursework Subjects are payable on a credit basis (HK\$21,500 per credit). Amount payable depends on the number of subjects taken in that semester.

Fees for the 8-credit DBA Thesis I (HK\$172,000) and DBA Residential 2 (HK\$43,000) are payable upon registration for DBA Thesis I.

Final Payment

Fee for the 16-credit DBA Thesis II (HK\$344,000) is payable upon registration for DBA Thesis II.



Enquiries

General Enquiries:

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📠 (852) 2365 7415

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