

# DOCTORATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM (DBA) STRATEGIES, LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAINS

## CONTACT

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## LOCATION

### ESLI

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GIP CEI - Etablissement Public

## I - PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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The main goal of the DBA Program on Strategies, Logistics & Supply Chains is to develop outstanding research capabilities of business professionals in order to solve complex challenges in the fields of supply chain coordination, purchasing and procurement, inventory management, supply chain finance, supply chain risk management and security and supply chain innovation – through innovative and sustainable solutions that contribute to a tangible benefit.

This program is designed to make important contributions to the enhancement of transdisciplinary executive practice in business administration with a focus on Supply Chain Management. The degree pursues the application and development of theoretical frameworks, methods and techniques to solve practical business challenges.

The program offers candidates a rigorous, research-focused curriculum that emphasizes research addressing the problems most relevant to today's industry executives. Its curriculum develops the applied research competencies necessary to create the field's independent thinkers and problem-solvers. Managers equipped with these advanced research skills will be better prepared to discover and address the vexing SCM problems that face complex organizations, lead change initiatives, improve general organizational performance and impact advanced business practice in innovative and sustainable ways.

Our DBA track puts special emphasis on developing and strengthening candidates' capabilities to make a significant and meaningful impact on businesses and/or on society to create new knowledge by providing answers to the most current sustainability challenges in the areas of Strategies, Logistics & Supply Chains.

## II - PROGRAM OUTLINE

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In today's business world, ability to make decisions compatible with the unstable environment is a core capability for supply chain leaders & business strategists. The DBA program of MEGS draws on a strong tradition of excellence in research and education to foster this capability.

The program is aimed at senior supply chain managers, logisticians, and business strategists / executives who aspire to become industry champions with doctoral-level research capabilities, with a distinguishing feature on solving real-world field problems and identifying opportunities for lasting impact.

## III - THE AIM OF THE PROGRAM

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The program aims to develop competencies for addressing complex business challenges and produce senior field executives who add concrete value to organizations. Through rigorous doctoral training, the SLS track of the DBA program:

- Provides doctoral-level research skills for senior executives
- Identify solutions to complex field challenges based on applied research
- Make a meaningful impact by addressing a wide variety of today's supply chain and procurement dilemmas
- Generate new knowledge that helps transform existing business practices towards a sustainable future
- Crisscross academic research with executive practice.

## IV - THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILO)

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- Identify and frame difficult societal and business challenges
- Design and execute rigorous research in the fields of Strategy, Logistics, and Supply chain management
- Develop and disseminate solutions among different audiences
- Apply doctoral-level research competencies to make a lasting impact on business and society in today's ever changing-unstable environment.

## V - WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM ?

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- A unique DBA program with a distinctive focus Strategy, Logistics and Supply Chains
- A supervision experience supported by the best research field experts, and customized to the needs of each student
- Opportunity to build an international network of researchers, executives, and leaders of the industry
- A unique program design aimed to build doctoral research competencies that lead to applicable-publishable results that are also of value to business organizations.

## VI - PROGRAM DYNAMIC

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The program offers a hybrid dynamic:

It enables candidates to conduct it either online or on-site in our Paris campus.

### ON-SITE EXPERIENCE

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Each year, DBA candidates must spend three residential weeks in MEGS Paris campus in France. consisting of selected courses, a networking opportunity, mentoring support, meeting distinguished academic or professional guests and the opportunity to participate in a local cultural experience.

### DISTANCE-LEARNING EXPERIENCE

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The program can also be attended by interested researchers in its online form. Indeed, researchers can attend the DBA program courses through our VLE (virtual learning environment) as well as hold advisership meetings with their thesis advisor virtually.

It enables candidates to conduct their research / capstone either in **French** or **English**

## VII - PROGRAM DURATION

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When it comes to the program duration:

### **FULL-TIME NORMAL TRACK-OPTION:**

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Candidates enrolled in this program will finish it in a period of three years. Based on the recommendation of the examination board, a derogation for an additional fourth year can be given to a student to complete the capstone.

When it comes to re-admission:

### **RE-ADMISSION COURSEWORK COMPONENT:**

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A candidate will be allowed a maximum of 2 years to complete this component.

### **THESIS / CAPSTONE:**

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A candidate will be allowed a maximum of 4 years to complete this component (after having completed the coursework component of the program).

## VIII - PROGRAM COURSES

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The program academic courses are built up on two major blocks:

### **BLOCK 01: FUNDAMENTALS OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH**

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- **Course 01** : Case Study Research
- **Course 02** : Qualitative and Mixed Methods
- **Course 03** : Quantitative Methods
- **Course 04** : SCM present and future scope

At the end of the first year of training and the first five seminars, the students will receive a Certificate of Research in Business Administration from MEGS

### **BLOCK 02 : ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN STRATEGIES, LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAINS**

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- **Course 01** : Data Analysis, Interpretation and Theory Building
- **Course 02** : Competition and Cooperation in Supply Chains
- **Course 03** : decision problems & solution methodologies in Secured SCM
- **Course 04** : Sustainable Supply Chains and Digitalization

Each course will be delivered by one of ESLI's & College de Paris esteemed international faculty member and will last around three (03) days.

There's an English track and a French track.

## IX - PROGRAM ADMISSION

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All DBA applicants must hold an undergraduate and a graduate degree (Master level diploma) or equivalent qualifications from their home countries that qualify them for doctoral studies.

Additionally, all applicants must submit supplemental materials to complete their application. Below is a list of all the necessary documents:

- 1 - Application form
- 2 - Curriculum vitae / Resume
- 3 - Motivation Letter
- 4 - Copy of their passport
- 5 - Official transcripts/diploma (both Master and bachelor's degree is required).
- 6 - Official TOEFL, IELTS (minimum 6.5 test score) or other similar English test (if not a native speaker) that is accepted and validated by MEGS
- 7 - Three letters of recommendation (executive and academic)
- 8 - Certificate of employment (if you exercise a professional activity)
- 9 - Research proposal

Applicants will receive a notification later regarding the status of their application and the date of their interview in case of acceptance. An email will be sent to those who will pass the interview with the details regarding the next steps. For accepted applications, a 30 min interview with the scientific committee will take place where each applicant must present his / her research proposal and the significance of the intended work. Those who pass the interview will enroll as DBA candidates.

## X - THE RESEARCH PROJECT

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The objective of the thesis project that applicant is required to present is to ensure that he /she will be able to formulate a DBA thesis topic during the first year of the program. This subject should have the applicant's interest, be aligned with his /her professional experience and have enough chances to be accepted by the program's scientific committee. This topic may be changed or modified during the first months of the program, if needed.

The **research project** must include a detailed proposal that meets the following requirements:

- 1 - The cover page must include the applicant's name and surname, as well as a clear envisaged study topic.
- 2 - The length of the proposal: 10 - 12 pages EXCLUDING the reference list. Proposals that exceed the required length will not be considered.
- 3 - Font size: 12 Font type: Arial or Times New Roman.
- 4 - Spacing: 1.5 Margins: 2.54 cm (top, bottom, left and right)
- 5 - Preferred referencing style: APA Referencing Style

**The Thesis project should include:**

- A subject (managerial problem)
- A description of current knowledge of the issue
- The objectives of the research
- Must include books / academic references

**In the project, the applicant must be able to answer the questions below:**

- Expose the nature of the problem / questioning that interests the applicant
- Why is this an important issue for companies/organizations?
- What scientific readings have he /she done on the subject? How did they help the applicant build his / her thinking on the subject?
- Does he /she have an idea of how research could be built based on the problem raised? If yes, how?
- Once the research is complete, who could benefit from the knowledge produced?

## THE PROPOSAL CONTENT INCLUDES:

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- What the research problem is (especially, what seems to cause it).
- A selection of previous efforts/studies to solve the problem and what the gaps in these studies were.
- The proposed solution by the applicant (even if the solution is a better understanding of the nature and causes of the problem).
- The envisaged contribution that the study will make to business and management practice and/or government policy on business and management.
- A clear and succinct main research objective in statement format
- Providing an idea what data will be collected, from whom and how it will be analyzed.

## THE PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL SHOULD INCLUDE:

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- Title
- Scope of the Research (Relevance)
- Hypothesis
- Literature Review
- Research Model or Framework of Analysis
- Planned Methodologies
- Data Analysis Plan
- Expected Research Outcomes
- Early Managerial Recommendations
- Bibliography

## XI - THE DBA THESIS

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### THESIS CHARACTERISTICS

The thesis is a publishable piece of written work that summarizes the entire research experience of the candidates while mobilizing their professional experience and academic knowledge, with the aim to generate genuine-new applicable / impactful knowledge that links between theory and business practices.

The DBA thesis will follow a traditional format – which includes an introduction, a literature review, a conceptual framework, the used methodology, presentation of results, a discussion & analysis of results, the managerial impact of the research, a conclusion, and a bibliography.

Generally, it is a document of about 150 to 300 pages.

## THE DEFENSE OF THE THESIS

The defense of the DBA thesis takes place after an official written authorization by the scientific council, considering the submitted thesis, the supervising professor's report and an external examiners' report.

The defense is public and formally announced.

The examination panel / thesis defense jury is composed of at least three academic examiners including the advisor and possibly a practitioner.

The defense follows the following process:

- Oral presentation by the candidate (30 minutes),
- Remarks, questions, and discussion from examination panel members (15 minutes),
- Deliberation and advice on potential for publication (15 minutes),
- Public announcement of the results and award of the Doctorate in Business Administration – Track : SLS by MEGS

## XII - DOCTORAL SUPERVISION

The program is tailor-made to enable practicing manager produce knowledge. All candidates will be accompanied by research supervisors / thesis advisors who will accompany researchers during the DBA journey.

### THE SUPERVISOR GIVES THE RESEARCHER – DBA CANDIDATE ADVICE ON:

- The choice of research topic
- The research methodology to be adopted
- The academic literature to read
- The thesis plan.

### THE SUPERVISOR APPROVES:

- The final choice of research topic
- The final choice of research methodology,
- The format of the thesis.

### PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SUPERVISOR DOES NOT:

- Provide a research topic
- Write the thesis for the candidate
- Provide a proofreading or copy-editing service.

## XIII - RESEARCH PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES

MEGS professors have wide experience of publishing in peer-reviewed academic journals as well as professional journals. The objective of the DBA is to enable future degree holders who wish to and if the defense jury gives its approval, to publish their thesis.

In that matter, there are several possibilities when it comes to the dissemination of knowledge – post-the viva :

- Publication of the thesis in the form of a book via a publisher in France or abroad
- Publication of the thesis in the form of a book at the author's own expense
- Publication of the thesis in the form of an e-book on the institution's (MEGS) website or on another website
- Publication in the form of a case study submitted to a pedagogical case center
- Publication in the form of an article in a professional journal
- Publication in the form of an article in an academic journal. Any publication costs are to be borne by the graduate.

## XIV - DEGREE AWARDS

Upon a successful thesis defense – and on the recommendation of the Examination board, the candidate will receive the following degree :

- Certificate of Research in Business Administration
- Doctorate in Business Administration – Track : SLS awarded.