International Business

Code: 26

Responsible professor: Assistant professor Iiris Saittakari

The doctoral program in International Business at Aalto BIZ focuses on content relating to the theory, research, and practice of management with a cross-border or cross-cultural dimension or developing an understanding of how management in different areas of the world works. Our doctoral program warmly embraces quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research, but it requires and facilitates doctoral students developing strong methodological skills in their chosen approach as well as some diverse method skills to be able to understand published research well. While we encourage methodologic rigor, doing research which is interesting and makes an impactful contribution is of great importance to our unit. The doctoral program focuses on helping doctoral students gain the skills needed to publish articles in top academic journals, however, we also encourage doctoral students to consider how their research can influence management practice. We warmly welcome cross-disciplinary research. To help develop the above-mentioned skills and facilitate publishing in top journals, doctoral students work closely with faculty in the unit.

The International Business Unit at Aalto is one of the leading and largest international business units globally. Currently about 15 doctoral students are enrolled in the program and the program has had over 60 graduates. While the IB unit has high goals and standards, it is also a unit that values interaction, a nice atmosphere, and having fun and believes that such an environment helps to foster good research.

We welcome doctoral students interested in any topic inside of international business to apply to our doctoral program. However, we have particular competence in the following areas: management of companies operating internationally; international people management across various markets; sustainability, including social and cultural, in cross-border business and partnerships; qualitative research methods; and effective management practices in large transforming economies like Russia and China.

Degree requirements

General research studies 18 ECTS

Please see General research Studies for course selection.

Research field studies 42 ECTS

The objective of the Research field studies is to develop specific competences related to discipline and field of research. The core of the International Business PhD Program is taking part in the NORD-IB Doctoral Program which is a set of six short doctoral courses totaling 30 ECTS run collectively by leading schools in the Nordic region. Taking part in NORD-IB facilitates both learning important IB knowledge and networking with scholars from around the Nordic region and beyond. For more information see: http://nord-ib.tek.uu.se/

IB doctoral students are also required to take 12 credits of research methods/ statistics courses either as part of their General Research Studies or their Research Field Studies. These courses could be courses like: Qualitative research: Principles and practices (90L54609), Quantitative Empirical Research (30E00500), the EIASM EDEN Seminar on Case Studies in Business and Management Research, a course on structural equation modelling, a course on multi-level modelling, Advanced Statistical Research Methods (TU-L0040), or courses from the Global School in Empirical Research Methods (GSERM) held in St. Gallen, Switzerland or Oslo, Norway (note: that many courses at GSERM are fewer than 6 credits so you may have to take two courses). The course Statistical Research Methods (TU-L0022) can be taken instead of Quantitative Empirical Research (30E00500).

Research field studies in IB must include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getting started (a required course for IB doctoral students)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nord-IB Doctoral Program organized by the Nordic Research School of International Business</td>
<td>30</td>
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9 credits of courses such as additional courses from the Aalto BIZ General Research Studies section, an additional research methods or statistics course such as a course from the Global School in Empirical Research Methods (GSERM) in held in St. Gallen, Switzerland or Oslo, Norway, or another individually agreed upon course. As part of these credits students are recommended, but not required, to take the course 21L11109 Perspectives on Organization. Students may also consider taking the 3 credit course Moving Forward. Please note that is possible, but not required, to take more than 60 credits of courses during doctoral studies. Most IB students decide to take more than 60 credits of courses.
At least one national international business research tutorial (e.g., the FIGSIB tutorial at the Vaasa Conference of International Business) or in individually agreed cases a corresponding international tutorial in international business

*In exceptional cases, the NORD-IB Program can be substituted with an individually agreed corresponding combination of doctoral courses organized by Aalto BIZ, other universities or graduate schools/networks. In this case, 26L30111 Theories and Research in International Business (or if this is not available, an individually agreed similar IB-focused core course from Aalto or elsewhere) has to be included.

**International Business courses and tutorials outside the School of Business**

We encourage our students to participate actively in international courses, workshops and conferences. Furthermore, we welcome students to consider doing a part of their studies or research at a foreign business school or university. Some key sources of information are listed below.

- The Academy of International Business: http://aib.msu.edu
- Academy of Management: http://aom.org/
- The European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM): http://www.eiasm.be
- The European International Business Academy (EIBA): http://www.eiba-online.org
- The Finnish Graduate School of International Business (FIGSIB): http://www.kataja.eu/graduate-schools/the-finnish-graduate-school-of-international-business-figsib
- The Finnish Doctoral Program in Business Studies (KATAJA): www.kataja.eu
- The Nordic Research School of International Business (NORD-IB): http://nord-ib.fek.uu.se
- UKI Chapter of the Academy of International Business (AIB): http://www.aib-uki.org
- The Scandinavian Consortium for Organizational Research at Stanford and Harvard https://scancor.org/

**Contact**

International Business programme is organized by Department of Management Studies.

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Other contact information is listed on page Contact.