

# Degree structure and coursework

The Aalto Doctoral Programme in Business, Economics and Finance is a doctoral degree programme offered by the Aalto University School of Business.

## Fields of study

The programme offers doctoral training in the following fields of study:

- Accounting
- Business Law
- Economics
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Information Systems Science
- International Business
- Logistics
- Management Science
- Marketing
- Organization and Management
- Organizational Communication

Students are requested to elect one of these fields of study as their major area of specialization when applying to the programme.

## Degree title

Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration)

## Language of the degree

Finnish, English

## Scope of the programme

The curriculum of the programme consists of 60 ECTS credits of coursework, including studies that develop students' transferable skills, and independent research leading to a doctoral dissertation.

## Expected completion time

4 years of full-time study

8 years of part-time study

## Programme Director

Professor Johanna Moisander

The program director is in charge of the planning, execution, assessment, and development of the programme.

## Objectives and intended learning outcomes

The Doctoral programme in Business, Economics and Finance is designed for highly motivated and ambitious aspiring business, economics and finance scholars who have excellent analytical, critical thinking, communication, and interpersonal skills and who are willing to serve as the future leaders of the world of higher education and academic research.

The programme provides doctoral students with the knowledge, skills, and capabilities that they need to succeed in demanding, high-level positions in universities, research institutions, think tanks, and other research organizations at regional, national, and supra-national levels.

The graduates of the doctoral programme will demonstrate:

- competence to carry out independent and original academic research
- deep and broad discipline-specific knowledge of their field of research
- mastery of the scientific research methods in their respective fields of research
- deep understanding of research ethics
- good project management skills
- enhanced pedagogical and academic leadership skills, and
- strong communication and interpersonal skills.

To achieve these objectives, all doctoral students are requested to make and implement a study plan, research plan, supervision plan, financial plan, and an optional career plan under the guidance of their dissertation supervisors and academic advisors. The supervising professor is also responsible for the supervision arrangements of the doctoral student.

[1] [Aalto University Policies on Curriculum Design for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, section 1.2](#)

## Structure of the programme 2022-2024

The curriculum of the Doctoral Programme in Business, Economics, and Finance consists of compulsory coursework (60 ECTS credits) and independent research leading to a doctoral dissertation in the student's chosen field of study. The coursework comprises required and elective courses in basic research training and in the student's chosen field of study. Specific degree requirements vary with the student's chosen field of study.

Doctoral students are required to report regularly on their progress at departmental research seminars.

### Doctoral dissertation

The dissertation for a Doctor of Science (Economics and Business Administration) degree can be a monograph or an article- or essay-based dissertation. The dissertation is expected to advance knowledge in the student's chosen field of study. The scope and general quality requirements of doctoral dissertations are specified in the Degree Regulations on Doctoral Education decided by University Academic Affairs Committee on August 1, 2018.

Before completing the doctoral degree, it is possible to also complete a Licentiate of Science (Economics and Business Administration) degree. The degree requirements of the Licentiate degree are specified in the Degree Regulations on Doctoral Education decided by University Academic Affairs Committee on August 1, 2018.

All students are strongly recommended, however, to work directly towards the doctorate, DSc (Econ.).

### Program specialization areas

The programme has three general program specialization areas with specific degree requirements: Business, Economics, and Finance. The degree requirements for each of the programme specialization areas are specified in the following three chapters.

## Doctoral dissertation

Doctoral students are recommended to work directly towards the doctorate, DSc (Econ.). The doctorate consists of 60 ECTS credits worth of course work (common core studies and specialization area studies) and the doctoral dissertation.

- Accounting: ACC.DISS Doctoral Thesis
  - The students are obliged to present their research proposal for doctoral dissertation at the research seminar, and to report regularly on their subsequent progress at the seminar (see disciplinary studies section).
- Business Law YRI.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Economics ECON.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Entrepreneurship MNG3.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Finance FIN.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- International Business: MNGT2.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Information Systems Science ISM2.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Logistics ISM3.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Management Science ISM.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Marketing MARK.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Organization and Management MNGT.DISS Doctoral Thesis
- Organizational Communication MNGT4.DISS Doctoral Thesis

## The Licentiate Degree

The Licentiate Degree consists of 60 ECTS credits of studies and licentiate thesis

The Licentiate thesis is an important part of Licentiate Degree. In the thesis the student must show expertise in his/her chosen field of science and capability for independent and critical application of scientific methodologies.

### Licentiate thesis

It is possible to complete first a Licentiate degree (Lic.Sc.). Its requirements are a licentiate thesis and 60 ECTS credits of course work (common core studies and specialization area studies).

- Accounting ACC.LICT Licentiate Thesis
  - Students are obliged to present their research proposal for the licentiate thesis at the research seminar, and to report regularly on their subsequent progress at the seminar (see disciplinary studies section).
- Business Law YRI.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Economics ECON.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Entrepreneurship MNG3.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Finance FIN.LICT Licentiate Thesis
  - We do not recommend a licentiate degree. Doctoral students (D.Sc (Econ.) degree) can, however, first produce a licentiate thesis. A Lic.Sc degree consists of the same course work as a doctoral degree.
- International Business MNGT2.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Information Systems Science ISM2.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Logistics ISM3.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Organizational Communication MNGT4.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Organization and Management MNGT1.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Management Science ISM1.LICT Licentiate Thesis
- Marketing MARK.LICT Licentiate Thesis