Ph.D. in Management
Welcome to the Sabancı Business School Ph.D. Program!

Located in Istanbul, at the center of an emerging economic region and a hub, Sabancı University Graduate Business School Ph.D. program offers an intellectually and professionally stimulating environment for doctoral candidates to become internationally renowned researchers.

As a Ph.D. student at Sabancı Graduate Business School, you will be surrounded by faculty members dedicated to the quality of the Ph.D. program. This is an opportunity to be a part of top-notch research led by strong academic faculty who allocates considerable time for the development of our Ph.D. students.

The PhD curriculum is designed to offer alternative research methodologies and topics, yet provides the students with flexibility to explore their own interests. Whether you aim to join the next generation of academic researchers and teachers, or to build a successful career in professional life, we invite you to explore the possibilities in our Ph.D. program.

Nihat Kasap, PhD
Dean, Sabancı Graduate Business School

Director’s Message

The Ph.D. program at the Sabancı Graduate Business School aims to prepare students for careers in research and teaching in management. Since our program was first established in 2000, we have trained over 20 business scholars with specializations in organizational behavior, strategy, finance and operations management. Our graduates have taken positions as active researchers in leading universities and institutions or as research-driven practitioners in the industry.

The doctoral program at the Sabancı Graduate Business School offers a wide range of advanced-level courses on the different subfields of management, the opportunity to perform cutting-edge research under the supervision of the leading academics in their fields, a solid research infrastructure, research funding opportunities, and a supportive research culture.

Sabancı Graduate Business School is a perfect home for students who are motivated to achieve a deeper understanding of the inner workings of business, address today’s challenging problems using state-of-the-art research methods, and contribute to the extant management literature through rigorous research.

My colleagues and I are looking forward to welcoming you to the Sabancı Graduate Business School.

Şerif Aziz Şimşir, PhD
Ph.D. Program Director, Sabancı Graduate Business School
AACSB ACCREDITATION

Only 5% of the business schools are accredited by AACSB throughout the world. Sabancı School of Management has gained international recognition for its high quality of education from AACSB International - Association of Advance Collegiate Business Schools (USA) in 2011 and our accreditation is renewed in 2017 for 5 more years.

AACSB accreditation ensures students that the business school is providing a top-quality education. It also ensures employers that AACSB-accredited business school graduates are ready to perform on day one. Additionally, AACSB accreditation provides many benefits to the faculty and staff at its accredited schools by attracting higher quality students, providing greater research opportunities, and allowing for global recognition.

It takes a great deal of self evaluation and determination to earn AACSB Accreditation, and I commend Sabancı University for its dedication to management education, as well as its leadership in becoming the second university in Turkey to earn accreditation.

Jerry Trapnell
Former Executive Vice President and Chief Accreditation Officer (2004 - 2012) AACSB International

Program Structure

Students are required to fulfill course requirements in their first and second years. Course requirements depend on whether students have bachelor’s or master’s degrees. Students with bachelor’s degrees are expected to complete their coursework within six semesters, while students with master’s degrees are expected to complete their coursework within four semesters. Courses are divided into three categories: required courses, core area courses and elective courses. The following tables summarize the number of courses and credits that should be taken from each group.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With Master’s Degree</th>
<th>Number of Courses</th>
<th>SU Credits</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Area Courses</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Number of Courses</th>
<th>SU Credits</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Area Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After completing their coursework, students take their qualifier exams. Upon successful completion of this requirement, students start working with their thesis advisors and committees on their dissertation. Currently the SBS offers four concentration areas: Finance, Management and Organization, Business Analytics and Operations Management and Action Research. The dissertation committee meets on a regular basis to ensure a steady progress of the students’ dissertation. After having submitted the doctoral dissertation for review, the dissertation committee decides if the student can be admitted to the doctoral defense. Students are awarded their doctoral degrees when they successfully defend their dissertation during their public doctoral defenses.

We believe at the SBS that doctoral students should attain hands-on research experience before graduation. Hence, we require students to submit/publish papers at SSCI/SCI-indexed journals or present their research in international academic conferences before graduation.
## Core Areas

### Elective Area Courses (Sample List)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Business Analytics and Operations Management</th>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Action Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Academic Practices and Development</td>
<td>- Academic Writing for Graduate Students</td>
<td>- Complex Leadership</td>
<td>- Insider Action Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Core Area Courses

<table>
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<tr>
<td>- Professional Development Seminar</td>
<td>- Academic Practices and Development</td>
<td>- Complex Leadership</td>
<td>- Insider Action Research</td>
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### Effective As Core Content Sample list

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
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</table>

## Alumni Testimonials

### Ali Doruk Gündaydin
(Alumni, Class of 2010)

**Current Employment:** Sabanci University, Assistant Professor of Finance

After completing my M.S degree in Mathematical Finance, I was aware that the only way to fully comprehend the realm of Finance was to pursue a Ph.D. degree. This motivation led me to complete my degree in Sabancı Graduate Business School where I not only learned the theoretical fundamentals in Finance, but I had a chance to implement these theories into real life practices. Competent and dynamic business school environment and faculty are indispensable for this journey and Sabancı Business School provides enormous opportunities to those who are eager to become top-notch academics.

### Eda Aksoy
(Alumni, Class of 2010)

**Current Employment:** Koç University, Assistant Professor of Management and Strategy

Attending the Ph.D. program at the Sabancı Graduate Business School has been a privilege. It allowed me to interact with and learn from some of the best academicians in the field of Management and Organization and gain hands-on experience in all aspects of research, ranging from theoretical conceptualization to empirical data collection and analysis. The program has a rich and diverse curriculum that successfully incorporates micro and macro perspectives. The extremely high academic standards continually challenge students to achieve methodological rigor and theoretical originality in their studies and acquire a large array of skills that are essential for long-term academic success.

### Gül Demirtaş
(Alumni, Class of 2009)

**Current Employment:** OECD, Consultant

After working in the risk management industry for several years, I joined the Ph.D. program of Sabancı Graduate Business School. The program offered an optimal balance between theoretical and empirical courses, which built a strong foundation for my subsequent research career. After completing the course load, the finance faculty, who collectively had a diverse set of research interests, encouraged me to focus primarily on research and guided me in conducting high-quality research. The internationally well-connected and supportive faculty members, the solution-oriented administration, regular research seminars, the well-established university library and its subscription to leading financial databases formed the basis of an effective learning and research experience.

### Mohsen Bahrami
(Alumni, Class of 2014)

**Current Employment:** MIT, Connection Science, Post-Doc

Sabancı Graduate Business School is among top ranked business schools in Europe, offering various up-to-date graduate programs including a high quality Ph.D. program for those who plan to continue their ambitions in academia as well as those who are willing to find a job in industry. Highly educated and inspiring faculty members and staff, plus high-quality facilities have made Sabancı Graduate Business School, one of the best choices for those who wish to achieve a Ph.D. degree in business and management sciences. It was a great opportunity for me to finish my Ph.D. here such that I could acquire a postdoc position at MIT. I am currently working as postdoctoral associate at MIT, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS).
Sabancı Graduate Business School

Ozan Duygulu  
(Alumni Class of 2020)  

Current Employment: Sabancı University, Visiting Instructor

Sabancı Graduate Business School provides a unique venue for research enthusiasts thanks to the faculty, network and enriching atmosphere. The program for Ph.D. in management and organization makes sure the theoretical and methodological levels of the students are at the level of their international counterparts while also providing the necessary resources for Ph.D. candidates to find their own research interests and hence career development options. Information center and other units in the school enable the utmost infrastructure for researchers to enhance their global perspectives. All in all, Sabancı Graduate Business School is a place that flourishes one’s own passion and capabilities.

Student Testimonials

Betül Altunsu  
(Management and Organization)

I chose Sabancı University’s doctoral program in Management and Organization because of its excellent faculty and small community that provided me the opportunity to get personalized academic consultancy and support. The extensive curriculum and the research opportunities that were available to me during the past three years I have spent in the program allowed me to build a substantial theoretical foundation and gain hands-on research experience. The training I’ve got so far equipped me to confidently pursue an academic career as a contributing member of the reputable international community in my area of expertise. I would recommend the program to anyone who has a serious scholarly interest in Management and Organization studies.

Mustafa Öztekin  
(Finance)

The Finance Ph.D. program offered by Sabancı Graduate Business School is an intensive five year program. You spend the first two years to get a thorough comprehension of the theoretical and empirical foundations in Economics and Finance; and you practice them in the subsequent years during a dedicated research phase in a subfield of your preference. I, for instance, have chosen to conduct research in empirical asset pricing since the functioning of markets has always amazed me with its complexity and dynamic structure. As a 4th year student of the program, I can easily say that this program is one of the best in its domain not only locally but also at an international level thanks to the distinguished faculty members with exceptional academic track record and international exposure. Their ambition to cultivate Ph.D. candidates who could live up to the contemporary standards of becoming a successful Finance scholar is what makes this program unique.

Altuğ Tanaltay  
(Business Analytics and Operations Management)

While working in an academic position on computer programming education, having a number of various degrees on Political Science, Marketing and Information Technology, I was looking for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program to acquire both theoretical and practical background for the area of Data Analytics. Business Analytics Ph.D. program in Sabancı Graduate Business School appeared to be the best choice with the opportunity of combining my experience with recent theory and practice.

Arya Sevgen  
(Business Analytics and Operations Management)

Prior to joining Business Analytics and Operations Management Ph.D. program, I completed both my master’s and bachelor’s studies in industrial engineering. The courses I have taken at Sabancı University from different faculties have not only strengthened my background but also provided me great knowledge on the significantly growing field of Business Analytics. Sabancı University has the environment of having opportunities to combine various fields to work on and support future studies that has primarily made me prefer it.

Murat Karabulut  
(Action Research)

As a graduate of Sabancı University Executive MBA, I could not resist my urge to carry the knowledge I had gained from the faculty even further and I enrolled in the Action Research PhD Program. Being the first one at the PhD level in the field, the program aims to integrate with the business world through a distinctive approach. The program enables us to learn various traditions of Action Research from all over the world via its international network of professors. Every class comes as a source of joy and we, as students with managerial experiences from various backgrounds, enjoy being part of this program.
Fields of Study
Research interests of faculty members are indicated below their names.

Finance
The Finance specialization emphasizes rigorous analytical training in finance and prepares students to pursue careers either in the academia or in the financial industry. The main subfields in finance are investment, asset pricing, corporate finance, corporate governance and banking. The end goal in each of these fields is to understand the causal relationships between different factors that shape the players' decisions in financial markets, which provide powerful tool for investors, firm managers, regulators and the other decision makers.

- Ali Doruk GÜNAYDIN
  Ph.D., Sabancı University, Turkey
  Empirical asset pricing, international finance

- Ata Can BERTAY
  Ph.D., Tilburg University, Netherlands
  Banking, financial economics, macrofinance

- Bünayım ÖNAL
  Ph.D., Georgia State University, USA
  Corporate finance, board of directors, executive compensation, mergers & acquisitions, innovation, networks

- Emín AKDOĞU
  Ph.D., Washington University in St. Louis, USA
  Corporate finance, mergers & acquisitions

- Özgür DEMİRTAŞ
  Ph.D., Koç University, Turkey
  Supply-chain management, retail operations, revenue management, interface of operations management and marketing and scheduling

- Can AKKAN
  Ph.D., Cornell University, USA
  Finite-capacity scheduling of discrete-parts manufacturing systems, project scheduling, discrete optimization, timetabling

- Enes ERYARSOY
  Ph.D., University of Florida, USA
  Information Sciences, business analytics, and operations research

- Füsun ÜLENGİN
  Ph.D., Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
  Business Analytics, supply chain management, transportation models, decision making

- Melek AKIN ATEŞ
  Ph.D., Erasmus University, Netherlands
  Purchasing strategies, Buyer-supplier relationships, Supplier involvement in new product development, Green supply chain management

- Nihat KASAP
  Ph.D., University of Florida, USA
  Social Media Analytics and Data Mining, Mobile Technologies and M-Government Services, Pricing and Quality of Service in Telecommunication Networks, Generation Expansion Planning and Investments in Energy Sector, Mathematical Programming, Heuristic Design and Optimization

- Raha AKHAVAN - TABATABAEI
  Ph.D., Carolina State University, USA
  Disaster operations management, healthcare systems, medical decision making, production and maintenance systems, quality and reliability engineering, revenue management, transportation and logistics

- Tevhide ALTEKIN
  Ph.D., Middle East Technical University, Turkey
  Production planning problems in additive manufacturing, disassembly line design, assembly line design, design of reverse logistics networks and design of after-sales networks

Management and Organization
The field of Management and Organization is typically considered as comprising a division between a more macro orientation geared towards studying organizations and their higher level aggregates as well as the more micro-level concerns focusing on individual and group behavior within organizations. The Management and Organization specialization within the Ph.D. program at Sabancı University can accommodate students who wish to pursue any one of these lines of research as well as those who may wish to see ways to integrate the two.

- Ahmet Oncü
  Ph.D., University of Alberta, Canada
  Sociology of organizations, political economy, social theory

- Ayşe KOCABIYIKOĞLU
  Ph.D., Université Paris, France
  Managerial biases, overconfidence, incentives, and entrepreneurship

- Kerem KILIÇ
  Ph.D., HEC Paris, France
  Organizational behavior, human resources management, industrial relations

Business Analytics and Operations Management
Business Analytics and Operations Management is a field that has emerged from the need of explicitly addressing the decision-making issues that managers confront regarding the operations function of their organizations. With its continuously evolving nature, and especially with the increasing presence of big data in our lives and the endless possibilities to make humanitarian and commercial use of it through data-driven business decision-making, it has expanded from its foundations to include a wide array of subjects such as operations and manufacturing strategy, service operations, pricing, as well as supply chain design and management.

- Abdullah DASCI
  Ph.D., McGill University, Canada
  Supply chain management, logistics management, competitive retail location, business analytics

- Ayşe KOCABIYIKOĞLU
  Ph.D., INSEAD, France
  Behavioral operations management, pricing and revenue management, decision making under uncertainty

- Burak ÇÖKGÜR
  Ph.D., Koç University, Turkey
  Supply-chain management, retail operations, revenue management, interface of operations management and marketing and scheduling

- Can AKKAN
  Ph.D., Cornell University, USA
  Finite-capacity scheduling of discrete-parts manufacturing systems, project scheduling, discrete optimization, timetabling

- Enes ERYARSOY
  Ph.D., University of Florida, USA
  Information Sciences, business analytics, and operations research

- Füsun ÜLENGİN
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- Tevhide ALTEKIN
  Ph.D., Middle East Technical University, Turkey
  Production planning problems in additive manufacturing, disassembly line design, assembly line design, design of reverse logistics networks and design of after-sales networks

- Timothy S. KIELSLING
  Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, USA
  Strategic global human resource management, global business strategy, global marketing strategy, knowledge management

Action Research
Action Research (AR) is a methodology that uses “developing and creating together” for the desired future, which serves the common good of all stakeholders. Action research aims to advance the inquiry and provide immediate benefit to the field, to develop practical and pragmatic action knowledge, and to express new knowledge that will help us understand transformation processes and patterns. Knowledge creation in action research works on at least three levels: first-person, second-person, and third-person research. At the third level, the AR helps to connect to major institutional changes. Therefore, by its very nature, it is a common productive, participatory and collaborative process in which change processes are triggered and managed for the ends of research and action.

- Danilo STREECK
  Ph.D., Rutgers University, USA
  Sociological and philosophical foundations, global citizenship education, Latin American pedagogy, internationalization of higher education, participatory research methodologies

- Kemal KILIÇ
  Ph.D., University of Toronto, Canada
  Decision making under uncertainty, heuristic search and optimization techniques, data mining, decision support systems, bioinformatics, innovation management

- Melsa ARARAT
  Ph.D., Istanbul University, Turkey
  Corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, business ethics, gender issues in business, sustainability

- Öğuz BABURÜÇÜ
  Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, USA
  Strategy and organizational development, new paradigm organizational structures and processes, participative management and action research

- Zeynep Güler GOKER
  Ph.D., City University of New York, USA
  Deliberative and participatory democracy, gender equality actions
Sports Facilities

The campus has a multi-purpose sports hall which includes the following: a basketball/volleyball court with a spectator capacity of 1200 which can be turned into two separate training courts when required; three squash courts; a cardio-fitness hall; two aerobics halls; a table-tennis hall; a climbing wall for mountaineering; several halls for student clubs; and a cafeteria.

There is another sports hall on campus with a tennis court and a basketball court that is also suitable for playing volleyball, handball, badminton, and table tennis.

The walking and jogging track and the various exercise stations around the lake are particularly suited to those who enjoy keeping fit outdoors. The outdoor basketball court and bicycle racks in front of all the buildings on the campus are also available to all. In addition, two illuminated football fields, one with natural and the other with artificial grass, serve football enthusiasts and are amongst the most popular sports facilities on the campus.

LIFE AT SABANCI UNIVERSITY

Admission Requirements

We seek curiosity, intellectual ability, demonstrated excellence of academic work, motivation to perform rigorous research from doctoral program candidates. We gather information about candidates from their application files as well through face-to-face interviews.

- Online application form
- Official GMAT / GRE / ALES scores
- English Language Proficiency (TOEFL IBT / YDS; e-YDS / YÖKDİL / CPE / CAE / PTE)
- Updated CV
- Statement of purpose
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Official transcript
- 1 photo
- Copy of graduation certificate / diploma

Funding

There are a number of funding options for Ph.D. students. The full scholarship offered by the SBS includes a tuition waiver, housing, a monthly stipend, and health insurance. Scholarships are awarded based on academic merit.

Housing

A dorm room on campus is provided to each doctoral student when requested. The dorm rooms can accommodate one, two or four students. Doctoral students have priority in room allocation.

Office

An office and a telephone are provided to our doctoral students.

Laptop and Software Support

A laptop is given to each student during their education and technical and software support (including MS Windows and Office, SPSS, SAS, STATA) is provided by the Information Technology Unit of the university.

LIFE AT SABANCI UNIVERSITY

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The Information Center (IC)

The Information Center meets the information and documentation requirements of all Sabancı University academic and administrative staff, students and alumni. At the same time, the center offers its resources and facilities to other national and international institutions in order to support global research and scientific development.

The Information Center occupies 9,165 square meters covered areas in the campus. The Center has a shelf capacity of 300,000 volumes and seating capacity of 735 users. There are 480 Internet access points within the center, including 105 study carrels and 11 multifunctional rooms. All types of information resources are available in the Center Collections.
Apply Now

Ph.D. program at Sabancı University welcomes applicants with undergraduate and graduate degrees in economics, engineering, business administration or other related disciplines and a strong interest in doctoral studies. The admissions committee evaluates applicants with respect to their academic backgrounds and achievements, test scores and motivations to undertake advanced level studies in their desired fields.

For more information about the application process, please visit our website at: https://sbs.sabanciuniv.edu/en/phd-program

Contact Us

Do you have questions about the SBS Ph.D. program?

Contact us: Didem KOCAER
Ph.D. Program Coordinator
Sabancı Graduate Business School
Sabancı University Tuzla, Istanbul, 34956
Phone: +90-216-4839671
E-mail: didem.kocaer@sabanciuniv.edu

Dining

The University Center has a main dining hall with a seating capacity of 900, as well as private dining rooms for special occasions and a fast-food cafe. Additional cafes are located in the dormitory area, academic buildings and on the lake. Further more there are vending machines in the dorms and academic buildings.

University Center

Besides the dining hall and the café, the University Center has a conference/cinema hall, student clubrooms, multi purpose study rooms, a bank branch, a bookstore and a small market.

Health Facilities and Private Health Insurance

Students enrolled in degree programs have access to the health services offered by the University. A doctor and a nurse are on staff, with an ambulance service, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition students enrolled at the University receive a comprehensive Ak Hayat Health Insurance, the premiums of which are being undertaken by the University.

Transportation

Sabancı University is located 40 km from the center of Istanbul. The main entrance to the University can be reached by taking the E6, Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and the Bayramoğlu-Şekerpinar exit. After the toll-booths, the Şekerpinar exit leads to the Sabancı University sign posts and the university campus.

Regular shuttle services are provided between Istanbul and the campus. The departure and termination points from the City are 4. Levent and Kadıköy. For further information regarding the transportation schedule, please refer to our website.

The Sabancı University Performing Arts Center

Make Time For The Arts

The Sabancı University Performing Arts Center aims to contribute to the rich cultural life of Istanbul, particularly to the city's Anatolian side, and provide cultural and artistic services to the university's students and staff, as well as to all art appreciators in the region. The center's goal is to become a prestigious performing arts center renown for the quality. The center has a world-class acoustic design making it an ideal venue for art performances such as operas, theater plays, ballet performances and concerts. In a typical week the center offers three different events enhancing the quality of life of the entire community.