

Ph.D. Handbook

The Ph. D. Programme in Corporate and Territorial Competitiveness, Innovation and Sustainability (CETIS) complies with the requirements set under the Royal Decree 99/2011, of the 28th January.

It is offered as a joint programme with the Universidad de [Deusto](#) University and with the [IQS School of Management \(Universitat Ramon Llull\)](#)

The Ph.D. programme is born within the initiative Aristos Campus Mundus 2015 (ACM 2015), committed to “socially responsible and sustainable innovation”. This program has also signed an advanced strategic cooperation with the following three universities: Universidad de Deusto, Universidad Pontificia Comillas and the Universitat Ramon Llull. This enables exchange of students and faculty between members within the network.

The ACM 2015 project was awarded the qualification of Campus of International Excellence in the European regional category in the Ministry of Education’s 2011 call for applications. Its aim is to foster academic excellence promoting high quality research while achieving full “glocalisation” of the university projects which call for a joint commitment to responsible and sustainable social innovation.

The Ph.D. programme is aimed at students who want to have a full academic career or to conduct R+D+i tasks in the public or private sector. Candidates can pursue the Ph.D. full time (3 years) or part time (5 years).

Entry requirements

Entry requirements are set out according to the [Royal Decree 99/2011](#), of 28th January regulating official Ph.D. studies. This implies that applicants must have an valid undergraduate degree (BSc or BAs) and a MSc or MRes or MBA having completed 240 credits.

Applicant profile

Admission is competitive among candidates and subject to the decision by the Academic Commission. The Academic commission will screen candidates according their merits, in particular:

- Fit of Bachelor degree and/or MSc/MBA/MRes with the research lines of the programme (10% respectively)
- Grades obtained in the Bachelor degree (15%) and the MSc /MRes degree (15%)
- C1 English (5%). This level implies that the student is capable of understanding a wide range of extensive, often demanding texts. It also requires that students are capable of fluently expressing themselves and that they are able to flexibly and effectively use the language for social, academic and professional purposes. Students should also be capable of producing clear, well-structured, detailed texts about complex matters, displaying a correct use of organisation and articulation skills.
- Fit with the research lines of the faculty. It is a requirement for admission that a member of faculty has accepted to supervise your work. An interview with a potential supervisor is necessary to discuss your lines of research and an assigned faculty doctor previous to admission. Please bear in mind that finding a potential supervisor does not ensure admittance into the programme.

- Previous research experience (publications and projects) (5%)
- Other merits (continued training, professional or voluntary experience, periods abroad) (10%)
- Motivation and potential performance in the programme (professional targets, motivation, attitude and personal maturity, expected dedication to the programme) (10%)
- Previous research grant (10%)

Applicants must submit the required documents to demonstrate that the underlined required merits are satisfied ([Information about the documents to be submitted](#)). Also, an interview will be held to assess the maturity, capacity, motivation and availability of the candidate. Acceptance as a candidate also depends on the extent to which resources and expert supervision can be provided for a given research proposal.

Application period

April 15 - May 31

Upon admission, the Academic Commission will assign a supervisor to the doctoral student. The supervisor must be a Ph.D. with accredited research merits. Applicants are encouraged to contact Ph.D. faculty members to discuss their intended research project. Having a suitable supervisor is one of the requirements for acceptance.

Fees Enrolment:

Fees for academic tuition (from admission to thesis defence):

Full-time students: €3,170 per academic year, payable in two instalments of €1,585 each.

Part-time students: €2,635 per academic year, payable in two instalments of €1,317 each.

Fees for complementary training courses (for those students who require them): ~~€134~~ per credit.

Schedule

Second week of September. A course calendar will be sent to candidates upon registration.

Taught courses

Taught courses will take place Monday to Friday from 4pm to 10pm.

Candidates are expected to do at least six workshops during the Ph.D. and attend two research seminars per year. As shown in the table below, some of these courses are compulsory and others are elective. All candidates are expected to attend courses and seminars for, at least, 6 mid-days during the academic year. These seminars are usually held in the afternoon-evening.

Candidates having not received Master level training in research methods must do a supplementary 12 credit-course. This initial course will be taught intensively in four months (from September to December). These candidates must be available for a minimum of four afternoons-evenings per week during the first semester (September to December). This initial course is composed of 6 modules: Epistemology, Qualitative Methods, Quantitative analysis, Literature review, Conceptualization, and Academic writing and Publication. Students failing any of these courses cannot continue in the programme.

Workshops

Compulsory	Ethics and research.	This course aims to contribute to the creation of a research environment based on rigor and transparency within the writing process. The seminar teaches the ethical standards guiding research activities. Furthermore, the seminar provides an opportunity to discuss the social impact of academic research and offers general guidance for applying ethical criteria at every stage of the Ph.D thesis.	10 hours First-year students
Compulsory	Doctorate and Scientific Investigation at Comillas	This course teaches the main principles underlying the scientific publishing process including research ethics and research diffusion (ORCID, ResearchGate, Academia Google, Scholar). It also provides an introduction to intellectual property and plagiarism. Students are also deeply informed about the rules that are applied in the Ph.D program at Comillas and about methodologies for topic selection research.	20 hours. First-year students
Compulsory	Bibliographic management workshop	This course teaches the required scientific information searching methodologies using the library resources available at Comillas. The student learns how to access and look for information in scientific sources such as Scopus, Web of Science, Dialnet or Google Scholar. The course also allows the student to learn how to measure the quality of scientific publications via impact indexes such as Journal of Citation Reports (JCR) or Scimago Country and Journal Rank. Additionally, the seminar sheds light into the relevance of research diffusion resources and academic social networks such as ORCID or Researchgate.	15 hours First year students
Elective	Introduction to structural equation modelling	This is an applied course designed for the student to understand the principles underlying causal relationships in economic variables by means of structural modelling. This involves understanding the advantages of using structural equation models and learning how to specify, and estimate structural models. Regression diagnostics are also covered.	15 hours course
Elective	Essential researchers' tool kit: basic econometric models with Stata	This is an introductory econometrics course mainly covering theory and application of regression analysis. Logit models are also considered. The seminar provides a revision of methodologies for the application of panel and time series estimation. Software used: Stata.	20 hours
Elective	Academic writing	This course teaches the fundamentals of effective academic writing in English. Instruction focuses on the process of writing and publishing scientific manuscripts. Grant writing will also be addressed. The purpose is to teach students how to write effectively, concisely, and clearly. Instruction at a later stage focuses on the preparation of an actual scientific manuscript or grant.	12 hours

Compulsory	Critical thinking	This seminar introduces the relevance of the application of critical thinking in the academic research process. The course is presented in two stages. First it instructs the student to develop research questions under critical thinking. This implies learning the techniques for determining whether the right questions are being asked. In a second stage, the students learn how to choose the appropriate research methodologies to address the research question in hand. This is done by exploring a range of techniques that generate solutions to problems once they are confirmed.	12 hours
Elective	Research resources (searching and using)	The course is designed to teach the student how to do efficient literature search using mainstream data sources such as Scopus, EbscoHost or CSIC. The seminar will also instruct how to assess the quality of research using impact indexes rated under the ISI web of Knowledge and SCImago.	10 hours
Elective	Meeting management	The seminar aims to develop communication skills. The student learns to efficiently organize work meetings by preparing clear and concise agendas as well as identifying the adequate participants. This requires sound time management skills as well as appropriate use of electronic resources.	10 hours
Elective	Assertive	The seminar aims to develop the interpersonal communication process, so that student learns to actively follow academic discussions, to receive and provide feedback to academic work. The course also teaches how to do articulated academic presentations, reporting clearly the contributions of their work.	10 hours
Elective	Publishing in scientific journals	Students are expected to present systematically the different sections of a scientific article. This includes a literature, description of methodology and results, and articulation of contribution. It also requires that the student applies rigorously previously acquired citation and writing skills.	10 hours
Elective	Management and sharing of knowledge	This seminar aims at improving team level research skills. The course is designed in a context where the students are expected to share knowledge through the organization of conferences, workshops, and seminars.	12 hours

In addition to formal workshops, the University offers a number of research seminars and special workshops, such as the seminars offered by the Escuela Internacional de Doctorado, the Brown Bag Seminar where faculty from this and other universities present their own work, or the PhD International Seminar Series with invited international faculty, inter alia. Students are encouraged to take part in these activities to enhance their training.

Research activities

In addition to the courses, Ph.D. students are expected to work proactively and industriously in their research projects guided by their supervisors. Every year students must present their work once to other students during the research seminar held biannually (January and June). This is an opportunity to receive feedback from peers and faculty so that their work is improved.

Students are required to present their work at a national or international conference at least once before defence.

Students must have a paper accepted for publication in a journal indexed in Journal Citation Reports or in Scimago Journal Rank before defence. Taking into account that the publication process is lengthy, students are encouraged to plan ahead so to meet this requirement.

Students are encouraged to take part in doctoral colloquium held in other universities. Candidates are strongly encouraged to do a research stay (usually between 2 and 90 weeks) in other universities, preferably in one of our partner's in the Aristos Campus Mundus network.

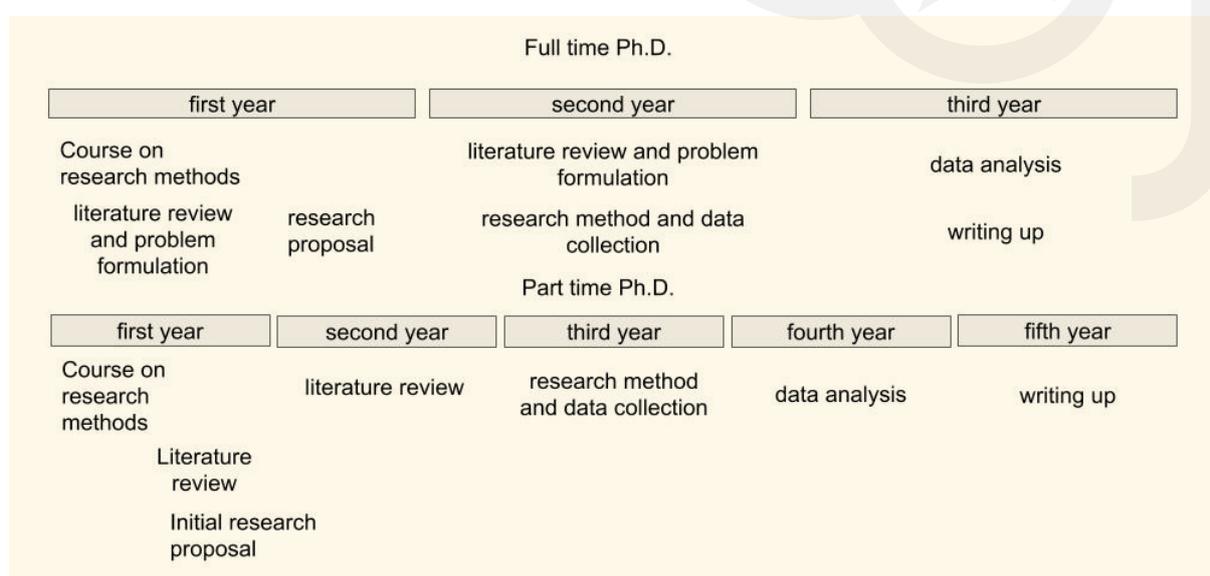
Evaluation

At the end of the first academic year, students are required to present a research proposal to the Academic Commission that will be defended orally. The student can be given a pass to the next stage or asked to redo the proposal again within the following six months. If she/he is unable to improve the research proposal after the second deadline, the student will be asked to terminate the programme.

At the beginning of every academic year students are asked to present their work plan for the intended year. At the end of every academic year students must provide the Academic Commission with a self-assessment progress report. Their performance is assessed on the basis of this self-assessment and the evaluation report provided by the supervisor(s). With these inputs, the Academic Commission decides whether the doctoral candidate continues with the programme. Candidates that do not show sufficient progress are usually given six months to show improvements; failure to show a significant improvement after six months results in termination of the programme.

Once the dissertation is complete and once the candidate meets the required research activities (e.g. participation in a conference or paper accepted for publication), the Academic Commission will require two external evaluators to do an assessment of the dissertation. If this assessment is favourable, the dissertation is admitted for defence; if it is not, the student is asked to do the necessary changes.

The viva is usually held with a five-member jury; three of them must be external to the university and/or the ACM network. All jury members must have accredited research experience and at least three must have expertise in the field of research.



Nº of new places available:

12 places

Main location:

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

C/ Alberto Aguilera 23

Comillas Pontifical University

Duration:

3 years (full time)

5 years (part time)

Research lines

The Ph.D. is structured on two broad lines of research: Competitiveness (Economic and Territorial; Management of Organisations) and Sustainability. We offer research lines in any of the Economics and Management areas

Marketing, retailing and Consumer Behavior

- Sales management
- Retailers' brand
- Sustainable consumption
- Healthy eating
- Tourism
- Advertising
- Communication of CSR

Strategic management

- Corporate governance
- Social entrepreneurship
- Internationalization
- Ethics and CSR

Human Resource management

- Leadership
- Management of HR in an international context

Economics

- Latin American Economy
- Reconciliation Economy
- Vulnerability and inequality

Finance

- Behavioral finance
- Asset pricing and factor investing
- Sustainable and impact investing

Accountability

- Accounting and sustainability

Doctorate Coordinator:

[Carmen Fullana](#)

Academic Commission:

Carmen Fullana

Isabel Figuerola-Ferretti

Carmen Valor

For more information:

[Juan Jose Barbachano Herrero](#)

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