

FB8007I: DOCTORAL THESIS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Doctoral Thesis

Subject Code

FB - College of Business (FB)

Course Number

8007I

Academic Unit

College of Business (CB)

College/School

College of Business (CB)

Course Duration

Non-standard Duration

Other Course Duration

NA

Credit Units

0-30

Level

D8 - Professional Doctorate

Medium of Instruction

Chinese (Putonghua)

Medium of Assessment

Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Completion of the core taught DBA component

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The Doctoral Thesis aims to provide students with an opportunity to perform an independent piece of rigorous research at the doctoral level on a significant applied research problem in the context of the students' workplace or the students' professional practice in general. In addition, the Doctoral Thesis provides a platform on which interdisciplinary applied business research problems may be tackled with scholarly rigour.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify suitable applied business research problems and formulate them in an appropriate way amenable to rigorous research		x	x	x
2	Critically assess the relevant literature		x	x	x
3	Develop and / or apply appropriate theories and research methods to address the chosen research problems		x	x	x
4	Present the results of the research lucidly in a coherent and well structured written doctoral thesis		x	x	x
5	Make a substantial original intellectual contribution to business and management practice		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA 1	Doctoral Thesis	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Additional Information for LTAs

Each student will be assigned an academic supervisor each from CityU and the partner institution normally based on the match between the research interests of the student and the supervisors. Supervisors will be drawn from the academic staff of the College of Business, CityU and partner institution and are experienced in the conduct of high quality research and postgraduate dissertation supervision. Students should meet their academic supervisors regularly and are expected to carry out their thesis research under the close guidance of their academic supervisors.

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Doctoral Thesis	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	100	The use of generative AI tools is recommended. However, copyright compliance must be carefully considered to avoid legal risks.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Doctoral Thesis

Criterion

Examination of thesis will be conducted according to the Regulations Governing Professional Doctorate Programmes of CityU.

The research reported in the thesis may be based on problems in a specific business or organisation, or in the context of a specific industry or profession. The thesis must display a high level of intellectual accomplishment and innovation and must exhibit more than one of the following characteristics:

- Makes a substantial intellectual contribution to the candidate' s business (or organization) or to the candidate' s professional discipline; and
- Could be published in a mainstream professional or research journal.

The length of a thesis should normally be at least 80,000 words. An additional abstract written in English should be included in the thesis when it is ready for examination.

A Panel of Examiners should be formed to assess a student' s thesis and conduct an oral examination following the regulations governing professional doctorate programmes as stipulated by the School of Graduate Studies.

Pass (P)

"Pass" in a pass-fail course. Courses to be graded on a pass-fail basis for a programme are specifically identified under the programme in the course catalogue.

Failure (F)

cannot fulfil the course requirement

Part III Other Information

Reading List