

DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Identification of the evaluated doctoral degree programme

Name of the programme	Business Economics and Management
Guarantor	doc. Ing. Bc. Petr Suchánek, Ph.D.
Form	Full-time, part-time
Language	English
Faculty	Faculty of Economics and Administration

Information on the evaluation meeting

Date of the On-Site Visit: 12-14 October 2022

Members of the Evaluation Panel:	Institution
<i>Jaromír Kovářík (chair)</i>	University of the Basque Country
<i>Renáta Kosová</i>	Imperial College London – Business School
<i>Emma Galli</i>	Sapienza University of Rome
<i>Jana Fídrmuc-Palagova</i>	University of Warwick – Warwick Business School
<i>Tom Broekel</i>	University of Stavanger Business School

Date of the separate meeting with students of the evaluated degree programme: 13 October 2022

Student representatives:
<i>Zuzana Opatrná</i>

Doctoral Degree Programme Development Plan

Based on the outputs of the Evaluation Report and On-Site Visit, the following objectives have been identified and formulated for the further development of the evaluated doctoral degree programme (please indicate the objective of the doctoral degree programme development, the proposed measures, and the expected date of implementation of the measures).

Summarizing comments:

Under the general recommendations (for all degree programmes), it was recommended to provide clear guidance on the rules and requirements for doctoral programmes. Communication with students in this regard has been improved at both faculty and departmental level. Students currently receive a range of information at the start of their studies (first day) both directly from the staff of the Science and Research Department and from the Head of Department and the Chair of the Departmental Board. There has also been a modification of the admissions procedure, which is more unified by the presence of the Vice Dean for Studies in all admissions committees, with the admission of the student in the hands of the committee, where the thesis supervisor has only one vote, i.e. his/her power in the admissions procedure is significantly reduced. The current topics are written in English so as to increase the proportion of students coming from abroad. Topics are also advertised on international servers so as to reach relevant prospective students directly. The aim here is to reach a higher number of international students.

In view of the recommendation to conceive the dissertation as a set of three articles, this form is currently preferred, i.e. students are instructed at the start of their studies (and then repeatedly during their studies) that they must submit three articles accompanied by a related and connecting text as part of the dissertation. The aim is therefore to achieve the submission of the dissertation in the form of three articles.

With regard to the gradual dampening of the study programme, there is no room for deeper changes in the structure of (mainly compulsory) courses. On the other hand, however, the courses in the first year of study are mainly focused on deepening students' knowledge and skills, and the quality of the courses is also continuously improved to match the level of doctoral studies. The aim is therefore to increase the quality of the courses in the doctoral programme to match international standards.

Currently, students are required to complete at least one study abroad placement of one month, and students are recommended (from the beginning of their studies) to complete a study placement of one semester. Also, participation in internal seminars and presentations is set as mandatory for students. In addition, from 2022 onwards, students present their research progress (dissertation) to members of the faculty or department at least once a year, either at a PhD conference at ESF or in front of the departmental board. Students are also encouraged to participate in summer schools and high-quality international conferences, and the faculty and department also support this type of activity financially (also in the form of specific research).

In the current study and examination regulations, there is also already a formal performance requirement based on the completion of compulsory (but also compulsory elective) courses for continuing in doctoral studies, as students have only a limited number of re-enrolments in a course and set maximum deadlines by which they must complete (pass) the course. Supervisors of doctoral students have been instructed to allow their students to change the topic of their dissertations to be in line with the research being conducted. In this respect, students are advised to rather modify (refine) the topic, especially in the first years of study.

External trainers are not currently used (with one exception - however, this was originally an internal trainer) and the use of external trainers is not envisaged for the future. Assistant professors (with a Ph.D. degree) currently have the option of supervising one Ph.D. student after approval by the departmental board, and this option has been and is currently being used.

In the recommendations targeted specifically to the study programme, it was recommended to establish a traditional Business programme with different specialisations that will be aligned within the programme, i.e. business economics, strategy/management, corporate finance, organisational behaviour, marketing, operations management/IT, etc. This should lead to increased chances of attracting more international students and teachers. Within this framework, the newly announced topics are oriented to the above areas to correspond with the standard content of the Business programme. The aim is therefore to create thematic specialization (according to the individual dissertations), since, in view of the gradual dampening of the programme (see below), substantial changes in the programme content do not make sense in such a short time interval. In this respect, new topics have already been announced, which have attracted a number of international applicants in autumn 2023.

Due to a different faculty policy (see below), it does not make sense to offer specialised courses or modules in the programme, as their introduction would correspond with the term of the dampening of the degree programme. On the other hand, it is proposed to include students in the research activities of the department or individual supervisors in order to increase the quality of publications of PhD students. Thus, the aim is to increase students' publication activity in quality journals (in FORD 5.2) through closer collaboration with supervisors. Significant progress has already been made in this direction (during 2023) for a significant number of students.

The development plan is significantly determined by the decision of the faculty management to terminate the programme in 2027 or not to extend its accreditation in 2029. The faculty management has decided to create a joint doctoral programme in Economics, Management and Finance, which should be accredited in 2025 (the first students should be admitted from spring 2026). With its launch, the existing doctoral programmes (including this one) will then be gradually phased out (no new students will be admitted and the programme will only serve to complete the studies of existing students).

Structured chart:

<i>The objective of the degree programme development*</i>	<i>Measures leading to the objective implementation</i>	<i>Implementation of measures (year or cycle)</i>
<i>To develop the concept of profiling the field of business economics and management into a joint doctoral programme</i>	Based on the thematic specialization of individual supervisors, select key general topics in the field of business economics and management to be developed in the new doctoral programme	2023 - 2025
<i>Increase student publication activity in quality journals (in FORD 5.2)</i>	Closer cooperation with the supervisor in joint research and publication activities	2023 onwards
<i>Increase the proportion of international students</i>	Listing of topics in English and promotion of doctoral studies	2023 onwards

	through advertisements in English	
<i>Achieve the submission of a dissertation in the form of three articles</i>	Motivate students to prepare and publish articles during their studies so that it is easier for them to produce a dissertation of three articles.	2024 onwards
<i>Improve the quality of (mainly compulsory) courses</i>	Motivate teachers to improve the quality of teaching, use subject surveys.	2023 onwards
<i>Termination of the programme (non-renewal of existing accreditation)</i>	Phase-out of the programme after the accreditation of the new joint doctoral programme (from spring 2026)	Expected termination of the programme in 2027 (no later than 2029 - end of accreditation)

* Add another line if needed