

PhD

(Accounting, Finance and
Management Specializations)

Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration

2025 Admission

HALIFAX ~ CANADA



sobey.smu.ca/phd



**Sobey School
of Business**

Saint Mary's University



Cultivating research professionals

For over 20 years, the Sobey PhD has delivered a flexible, rigorous and innovative doctoral program designed for working professionals. The Sobey PhD is housed in the largest and most comprehensive business school in Atlantic Canada, and produces enthusiastic, research-experienced, and well-published graduates who are eminently employable and capable of making an impact on business research in Canada and beyond.

- Offers a unique, multi-paradigmatic approach exposes students to debates across management and organization studies.
- The programs' goal is to develop enthusiastic, research-experienced, and well-published graduates who are eminently employable and capable of making an impact on business research in Canada and beyond.
- The PhD utilizes a unique team of leading scholars who work with students to develop their ideas for presentation, and publication.
- Through a program of invited speakers, students are exposed to cutting-edge ideas from some of the leading scholars in the field of management and organization studies.

AACSB & EQUIS accredited

A mark of quality, and a distinction achieved by only 1% of business schools worldwide.

CEBMa

The first business school in Canada to formally pursue a Center for Evidence-Based Management certification.

PRME champions

Sobey School is one of a select group of schools designated as PRME Champions under the Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative of the UN

ICD-DEP

Sobey School collaborates with the Institute of Corporate Directors to offer an internationally recognized Directors Education Program.

Admissions

Admission requirements

- Students entering the doctoral program must have a Master's degree from a recognized university in the field intended for specialization or related field (e.g., accounting, finance, economics, management, or industrial organizational psychology), or an IEIMBA.
- For Accounting specialization, a corresponding professional accounting designation (e.g., CPA) and 3(+) years of professional experience can be used in lieu of a graduate degree.
- Normal minimum requirements for admission are a grade point average of 3.6 on a 4.0 scale (high B+ to A-) and GMAT score of 600, or an equivalent GRE score. GMAT or GRE should be no more than 5 years old at the time of application.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting an official TOEFL iBT® or IELTS. Tests cannot be more than two years old. We require an overall IELTS score of 7.0 with no band below 6.5.
- Other Saint Mary's University general graduate standards and procedures apply to this program.

Application deadlines

February 15: International applicants

February 15: Canadians/permanent residents

Estimated program fees

Canadian students: **\$9,490**

(To be paid in installments twice a year)

International students: **\$17,278**

Fees subject to change



Questions?

Contact Sobey Graduate Programs Admissions
sobeyphd@smu.ca

Studying in Canada

As an international student you are required to obtain a study permit issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada before you arrive in Canada. You may apply once you receive your official letter of acceptance from Saint Mary's University by email. Apply early for your permit as processing times can vary.

International students are permitted to work part-time (on or off campus) while studying in a full-time degree program. Additionally, international students may qualify for up to a three-year post-graduate work permit in Canada as part of the Canada Experience Class. The Saint Mary's University International Student Centre can assist you with the work permit process.



Questions?

Visit smu.ca/international/welcome



Program details

The PhD Business Administration program accepts applications for three streams: **Accounting, Management and Finance.**

Required Foundational Core Courses:

- Management Thought and the Management Environment
- Introduction to Research Methods in Business Administration
- Quantitative Research Methods
- Multivariate Statistics for Research in Business Administration
- Qualitative Research Methods or Advanced Empirical Methods
- Directed Readings

Foundational Core Courses:

- Doctoral Seminars in Accounting Research and Theory I and II
- Doctoral Seminars in Finance Research and Theory I and II
- Doctoral Seminars in Organizational Behaviour and in Organizational Theory and Design

In addition, two (2) graduate-level electives, subject to approval by Program Coordinator.

The program is designed to be completed in 48 to 60 months. Coursework can be completed within 24 months of enrollment and comprehensive exams must be completed no later than 28 months into the program. The remaining time in the program will vary depending on the nature of the dissertation research.



“ The multi-paradigmatic program offered me the flexibility to explore wisdoms from within my own cultural traditions. I was blessed to have a compassionate and wise dissertation supervisor and dissertation committee who not only respect my attempt to employ decolonized research approaches, but who have also offered constructive critique to inspire my contemplative learning journey. ”

- Shelley T. Price, PHD. 21'
PhD Graduate, Sobey School of Business



Expand your network and career

As a member of the Sobey School of Business community, you will be based in Atlantic Canada's home for research excellence and knowledge mobilization.

Sobey Research Centres

- David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services
- Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity
- Centre for Leadership Excellence
- Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives
- International Centre for Co-operative Management

Expand your network through on-campus and virtual events with leaders from diverse fields of research and practice. Meet and learn from the Sobey School's dynamic faculty members, who are nationally recognized industry experts and active with the local and regional business communities.



Sobey School of Business

Established in 1934 as the Faculty of Commerce at Saint Mary's University, the Sobey School of Business is Atlantic Canada's largest and most respected business school. Internationally respected, the Sobey School of Business holds both EQUIS and AACSB accreditation, an earned distinction held by only 1% of business schools worldwide. Here, you'll embark with over 2,200 students on a fast track to your future, with small class sizes, a close-knit campus and over 85 full-time faculty members.

With over 40 percent of undergraduate students and over 57 percent of graduate students originating from 75 different countries, the Sobey School of Business is widely admired as an institution that integrates and fosters global perspectives among its students and within the community. The Sobey School of Business, through active learning and the creation and mobilization of scholarships, prepares citizens of the world to lead entrepreneurial, sustainable businesses and communities.

Saint Mary's University

Ideally located in the vibrant city of Halifax, Saint Mary's University is home to a diverse and inclusive community of over 6,500 faculty, staff and students, and boasts a global network of more than 55,000+ alumni. Founded in 1802, Saint Mary's is one of the oldest universities in Canada. We offer a unique experience, combining world-leading research with a close-knit community. Saint Mary's is known for its engaged faculty and students, entrepreneurial spirit and impactful research that reaches beyond campus walls and into the wider community. Our students, researchers and faculty share the desire to work towards a future that is inclusive, sustainable, diverse and resilient—a World without limits.



50+
Graduates

Over 50 doctoral students have graduated from the Sobey School of Business.

20+
Years

For over 20 years, the Sobey PhD has delivered a flexible, rigorous and innovative doctoral program.

30+
Years

The Sobey School of Business has extensive alumni and executive networks serving the executive market for over 30 years in Atlantic Canada.

Resources for teaching and learning

As a doctoral student at the Sobey School of Business, you will have access to the SMU Library and its extensive complement of databases (WRDS, OECD, Gartner and more) as well as the SMU STUDIO for Teaching and Learning. A "University Teaching" course is available for doctoral students with no teaching experience as they prepare for undergraduate instruction while in the program.



Expand your studies at Saint Mary's

Sobey Doctoral students are encouraged to take additional courses through other faculties at Saint Mary's University. The Sobey School also has several agreements with international universities, allowing doctoral students and faculty to participate in exchanges with the Hanken School of Economics in Finland and the University of Jyväskylä in Finland.





An active, collaborative research culture

The Sobey School is dedicated to fostering doctoral student success, helping you develop and improve as a researcher and teacher. As a doctoral student, you will be among a community of researchers with a strong publication record and external funding success.

Sustainable Development Goals in research

Sobey is a proud signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative of the United Nations. PRME provides a framework for academic institutions to advance the broader cause of corporate social responsibility and incorporate universal values into curricula and research. Sobey doctoral students and faculty engage in research on a variety of important issues that tie into many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the poverty-climate change nexus, social entrepreneurship, the role of gender in venture capitalism and much more.

Faculty research expertise

Our faculty are research experts in diverse areas including accounting, economics, finance, management, and marketing. Sobey faculty are engaged in research that has a direct impact on the local and global business communities.

A key goal of our strategic plan

Our five-year strategic plan, Elevating Impact, embodies the vision and aspirations of the Sobey School of Business. One of the key goals is to foster an environment of intellectual discovery that inspires research excellence, encourages collaboration and serves society. Research by our doctoral students helps drive this goal forward.



**Sobey School
of Business**

Saint Mary's University

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

923 Robie Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 3C3

Contact: sobeyphd@smu.ca
Call: +1-902-420-5010



sobey.smu.ca/phd