The Kellogg School of Management
Established in 1908 as Northwestern University’s School of Commerce, the Kellogg School of Management is an educational leader and innovator. The school awarded its first doctoral degrees in 1927.

The full-time PhD and MBA programs are located at the Donald P. Jacobs Center, a six-story complex on Northwestern’s Evanston campus. Additionally, Kellogg has campuses in Chicago and Miami, as well as academic alliances with business schools worldwide.

PhD Overview
Kellogg’s PhD program is founded on intellectual rigor, the desire to develop useful frameworks and insights for the business environment, and a culture of collaboration. Our program trains men and women for academic positions in universities where they will discover and communicate new knowledge — making meaningful, enduring contributions to business and society.

Currently there are 137 doctoral students enrolled at Kellogg. Our students have access to 143 research faculty. Kellogg’s commitment to scholarly inquiry is evident in the school’s 20 research centers spread across several disciplines. Completion of the doctoral program typically requires five years of full-time study.

PhD Programs
Kellogg offers seven areas of study at the PhD level: Accounting Information and Management, Finance, Managerial Economics and Strategy (MECS), Marketing, Management and Organizations (MORS), Management and Organizations and Sociology (a joint program with the Kellogg School and Northwestern University’s Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences) and Operations Management. Kellogg also offers a JD-PhD degree that enables doctoral students to earn a law degree and a PhD degree concurrently.

PhD Training
Kellogg professors offer 50+ doctoral classes each year in which they share current knowledge and, more significantly to students, the process by which that knowledge was gained and the puzzles that remain. Kellogg students are provided with the skills necessary to succeed as scholars: the ability to think critically, facility with rigorous research methods, knowledge of the relevant questions in their field and the motivation to continue learning throughout their career. Our innovative curriculum furnishes students with the methodological and theoretical tools they need to move to the next level of doctoral education — designing their own research.

Financial Aid
Kellogg offers a five-year funding package: stipend, tuition scholarship, student health insurance, and a laptop computer. There are opportunities for our students to request additional funding in support of their research program (e.g. funding to present research at a professional conference). Kellogg students are encouraged to apply for external research grants and fellowships. Opportunities may be available through the Office of Fellowships at Northwestern University.

World-Renowned Research Faculty and Collaboration with Students
The faculty at the Kellogg School of Management includes trailblazing scholars whose research has redefined the study of management and contributed to fields such as marketing, finance, strategy, game theory, negotiations, operations management and accounting. The impact of their research has made positive change possible in organizations, markets and communities worldwide. Of our 143 research faculty, 64 hold endowed chairs and most serve in editorial positions at leading research journals.

Our professors encourage students to think courageously and creatively, and through their mentorship, Kellogg PhD students become involved in research early in their studies, pushing the boundaries of conventional wisdom and challenging traditional approaches. By the time our students reach the dissertation stage, they possess a thorough understanding of their field, the ability to identify opportunities for new insights, and the technical ability to turn those insights into published research. These experiences prepare students for productive careers in research and teaching and for positions of influence in academia, commerce, government and social enterprise.
Academic Community
As one of the nation’s leading private research universities noted for its interdisciplinary strengths, Northwestern University fosters a collaborative research environment across its broad range of academic communities beyond the Kellogg School of Management – economics, engineering, social psychology, and law – to complement their study of the fundamental disciplines that underlie business research. The richness of the curriculum within this collegial environment encourages close working relationships with students and faculty across disciplines. We believe that this approach helps magnify our students’ insights and perspectives as they are exposed to new ideas, possible thesis topics, and avenues of research. This flexible curriculum encourages students to create their own research plan under the guidance of Kellogg advisors and affiliated faculty, who can bring a unique perspective to the students’ dissertation research.

Kellogg’s commanding global presence in management education enables us to bring leading academics and practitioners from around the world to campus to share insights on emerging global markets and to address universal, critical issues in finance, healthcare, real estate, private equity and venture capital, technology, manufacturing, marketing and social change. In a similar fashion, our business conferences offer rare insights into the work of noted scholars and the practical perspectives of some of the world’s most successful business leaders. Also, each academic department sponsors a weekly seminar series. Distinguished scholars share their most current research with the Northwestern community and provide opportunities for scholarly discourse.

Research Resources and Support
As global leaders in research and knowledge creation, Northwestern and Kellogg provide its faculty and doctoral students with a broad array of research resources ranging from experimental facilities, servers for web surveys and high-end computational systems, to training in statistical and experimental applications and the use of business research datasets.

Students have access to datasets managed by Kellogg, such as Standard & Poor’s Compustat, Center for Research in Security Prices data, Datastream Research Services and SDC Platinum, as well as Northwestern University Library’s Social Science Data Services unit, which manages institutional subscriptions to some of the most important data repositories in the world.

Our research facilities include two experimental and behavioral laboratories with special areas for video recording, control and observation. Faculty and students draw from three subject pools that contain thousands of participants managed by our research support staff.

Our students learn effective ways to use these research resources for experimental and behavioral data collection, statistical data analysis and computational exercises. Empirical research, including econometric analysis, numerical simulations and conducting experiments and surveys, is an integral part of contemporary research endeavors. Over the years, more than two-thirds of the doctoral dissertations produced at Kellogg have included some empirical component.

Student Life
At the Kellogg School of Management and Northwestern University, our doctoral students have a wealth of resources and support networks to draw from: academic alliances, student clubs and organizations, professional development, and family and childcare.

Within Kellogg’s community of scholars, our doctoral students forge research partnerships with their fellow students and faculty that will last throughout their careers. To foster this collaborative environment, Kellogg student offices are within their chosen academic department so that they can easily interact with faculty and other students. Weekly departmental seminars and “brown bag” lunch seminars provide other opportunities to collaborate and socialize.

A thriving community of friends, spouses, partners, and children is a lively component of the Kellogg experience. Our students draw from the numerous community resources and housing options available to Northwestern students within the Evanston and Chicago area. At Northwestern there are student organizations and clubs, intramural sports leagues, and support services for international students, student parents, women, and students with disabilities. The Office of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs provides networking opportunities and support services to graduate students and celebrates the diversity of Northwestern’s student population. Professional development workshops, sponsored by The Graduate School, include writing tips, communication and presentation skills, dissertation boot camp, English as a Second Language (ESL), working with research advisors, teaching excellence, job market tips, and more.

The time spent at Kellogg has set the academic research agenda for our doctoral graduates in the coming years. As they enter the job market, Kellogg students boast a solid research portfolio: research papers that have been rigorously tested through seminar presentations, conferences, and discussions with faculty. As professors in their own right, our doctoral graduates will contribute their hard work and research capital to their employing research institution and the academic community as a whole.