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.

Kellogg is housed in the Donald P. Jacobs Center, a six-story complex on Northwestern University’s Evanston campus, which has 17 classrooms, more than 50 group study rooms, conference rooms, a quiet study area, student lounges and administrative, faculty and PhD student offices. Kellogg also 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 141 doctoral students enrolled at Kellogg. Our students have access to 145 research faculty. Kellogg’s commitment to scholarly inquiry is evident in the school’s 25 research centers spread across several disciplines.

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

Working with our faculty, 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. Completion of the doctoral program typically requires five years of full-time study.

Financial Aid

Kellogg offers a five-year funding package: stipend, tuition scholarship, health insurance coverage, and a laptop computer. Additional financial resources are made available to students to conduct research: access to high-end computational servers, scientific software, and datasets; payment of subject fees for experimental research; travel budget to present papers at research institutions and to attend conferences.

World-Renowned Research Faculty and Collaboration with Students

The Kellogg School of Management is well known for both the breadth and depth of its curriculum and its excellence across all academic disciplines. Of our 145 research faculty, 61 hold endowed chairs and most serve in editorial positions at leading research journals. Our faculty 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.

Kellogg professors offer 50+ doctoral seminars 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. Our students receive training in statistics and research methodologies and are provided with a solid foundation in the academic literature of their field of study — the specialized knowledge and skills needed for high-level research.

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. Workings closely with faculty and peers within and across disciplines, our doctoral students refine their ideas and develop methods and models to address the practical problems the world of business faces.

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
At Kellogg we strongly believe in an interdisciplinary approach to PhD study that directly engages our students with the many programs found on Northwestern’s campus. To complement their study of the fundamental disciplines that underlie business research, our students attend classes in communication studies, economics, engineering, law, mathematics, statistics, political sciences, psychology, sociology, and much more. 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. Northwestern is also a member of the Traveling Scholar Program, which enables students to take classes within the Big Ten consortium and the University of Chicago for credit. 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. Additionally, 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
Learning effective ways to use research resources for experimental and behavioral data collection, statistical data analysis and computational exercises is an integral part of the doctoral program. Kellogg offers a broad array of research resources, ranging from experimental facilities, servers for web surveys and high-end computational servers, as well as all necessary software.

Doctoral students have access to software such as Gauss, MediaLab, Mathematica, Matlab, RATS, SAS, Scientific Workplace, SPSS and Stata. They also have access to datasets such as Standard & Poor’s Compustat, Center for Research in Security Prices data, Datameer Research Services and SDC Platinum, among many other data sources. The University Library’s Social Science Data Services unit manages institutional subscriptions to some of the most important data repositories in the world. Projects that demand a high-end computing environment can be carried out using the Kellogg School’s LINUX server or the LINUX-based Social Science Computing Cluster.

Doctoral students also can take advantage of the Kellogg School’s research support group within Research Computing, which offers consultancy services in statistical and experimental methods, as well as training in statistical and mathematical applications, and on the use of business research datasets.

The Kellogg School’s research facilities include two experimental and behavioral laboratories, equipped with audio-visual recording equipment, computer hardware and software. These labs are reserved for Kellogg faculty and PhD students. The laboratories consist of two large rooms with workstations and adjoining rooms for small-group experiments, as well as a special room for recording, control and observation. Kellogg actively maintains two subject pools, managed with SONA systems, a web based subject pool administration platform. The first subject pool has approximately 4,500 participants, mostly Northwestern University undergraduate students. The second subject pool, dubbed “eLab,” consists of local and non-local participants, recruited nationwide.

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 research environment, Kellogg students are housed within their chosen academic department so that they can easily interact with faculty and other students. Our students also work closely with colleagues in related fields at Northwestern that are located on campus near the Jacobs Center, the home of the Kellogg School and the Economics Department. 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, 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.