Lancaster University is an established leading UK university with a world-class reputation for excellence in research and teaching. Lancaster is consistently ranked among the top 20 in all three major UK university league tables, and continues to build a growing reputation both nationally and internationally.

LUMS is among an elite group of global business schools to be quadruple-accredited by AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA and the Small Business Charter. Its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are ranked regularly among the best in the UK and the world.

The Financial Times and the Economist Which MBA? rankings place the Lancaster full-time MBA among the top 100 globally, with the FT ranking the Lancaster MBA second in the world for the teaching of Corporate Strategy.
Welcome from the
Doctoral Director
Dr Marian Iszatt-White

As the Doctoral Director for Lancaster University Management School (LUMS), I am delighted that you are considering undertaking doctoral studies with us. Studying for a PhD is a challenging and rewarding journey, and one that has the potential to change your life.

As you consider taking on this journey, I would encourage you to browse our web pages to get a sense of the breadth and depth of academics and other doctoral researchers within the School; they come from all over the world and from a wide range of different backgrounds. Our researchers are all here with the aim of making a contribution to the body of knowledge of their discipline. That’s what a PhD is and this is what we will help you to achieve if you decide to join us.

Our commitment to high-quality research is reflected in the lively research environment of LUMS, the exceptional quality of which has been demonstrated by our performance in the research evaluation exercises carried out since 1996. This excellence has been confirmed by the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) that recognised LUMS as the most research-intensive business school in the UK, with 80% of our research activity seen to be world-leading or internationally excellent.

As we await the outcome of the 2021 REF exercise, we are confident of maintaining the high standards we achieved in 2014. As a doctoral researcher, you will be a vital component of the research community within which this excellent performance is generated, and this environment is one which supports doctoral researchers in producing the very best work of which they are capable.

Attaining your PhD is not easy – nor should it be if it is to reflect the quality and standards which, we hope, will lead you to choose to study at LUMS. You will need to be committed and focused – able to take responsibility for your own learning - whilst, at the same time, being open to guidance from your supervisors. You will have many claims on your time, yet will need to prioritise your PhD if you are to complete it within a sensible timeframe and to a high standard.

As well as completing your PhD, we will encourage you to access the wealth of resources designed to prepare you for becoming an active member of the wider research community and for developing a successful post-doctoral career, whether in academia or elsewhere. Wherever your doctoral journey leads you, a Lancaster PhD is worth striving for and I am certain you would find your time with us both rewarding and happy.
Welcome from the Associate Dean for Research

Professor Katie Mason

The opportunities and advantages of being part of the dynamic, international and cutting-edge research environment that is LUMS, are many and varied. From the doctoral community itself, that spreads across the University, our international campuses, to participation in Methods North West, you will be able to carve out a route and experiences that work for your particular interests. You will become part of, not just LUMS, but a global doctoral community with opportunities to take part in international doctoral symposiums and workshops, and to join in with your Department’s, the School’s, and University’s various seminar series.

You will also benefit from our International Visiting Scholars’ programme that have seen us welcome many world-leading scholars from around the globe, including Nobel prize winners. All this, we hope will nurture and grow your intellectual curiosity and academic commitment, helping you build the academic, business and policymaker networks you are seeking so that your research can make a real difference to our society and environment. We hope you will take the opportunity to flourish in our exciting and progressive environment, and we look forward to welcoming you as a new member of Lancaster University Management School’s research community.
Why doctoral research at LUMS?

Links to business
We have strong relationships with the wider business community, across organisations large and small, in a range of industries and throughout the world. Our PhD programmes provide the opportunity to build relationships with these organisations, addressing real-world business and societal issues through in-depth collaboration and research over the short and long-term.

Collaborative Approach
For more than 50 years, we have helped our PhD students test tools and techniques developed through their research in the real world. The modern world needs researchers with minds of their own, and we believe strongly in the value of critical thinking, so you will be encouraged to question, reflect on and challenge current practice, and shape the practice of the future.
George Wang
Senior Lecturer in Finance

As a proud member of the LUMS research community, my research interest is in the area of empirical asset pricing and investments, with a particular focus on mutual funds, hedge funds, factor investing, Chinese capital markets and the application of graph theory and machine learning in investment.

My work has been disseminated at top international conferences and academic journals. I have also shared my expertise by reviewing for several major journals in the field. I have recently served as a principal organizer for both the “Role of hedge funds and other collective investments in the modern world” conference in Manchester and the “Mutual funds, hedge funds and factor investing” conference in Lancaster.

I currently supervise DBA and PhD students in fund management, exchange traded funds, Chinese capital markets, machine learning and graph theory based investment strategies.

If you are interested in taking a look at my research, it can be accessed and downloaded through SSRN.
Dakshina Di Silva  
Professor of Economics  

My research focuses on Industrial Organization, Auctions, Bond Markets, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, Networks, Regional and Urban Economics, and Applied Microeconomics. The research on auctions analyzes how bidding behavior is affected by strategic interactions of firms and policy changes, whilst research on multi-unit auctions has investigated whether Treasury securities should be sold through uniform or discriminatory auction mechanisms and the effects of auction rules on financial market stability and volatility.

Some of my research on environmental economics examines strategic firm location in the context of environmental justice, while other studies examine how a board director’s networks and past environmental performance affect her/his appointment to a board and firms’ environmental performance. My research on urban economics and regional science has focused on the effects of university knowledge spillovers on high tech firm start-ups, geographic concentration and firm survival, agglomeration and firm growth, migration on regional wages, and spatial correlation on bidding behavior in procurement auctions. Some of these research have been published in the American Economic Review, the American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, and the European Economic Review.

In inter-disciplinary research with the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center at TTU (now the National Wind Institute), I have studied topics related to labour, natural hazards, and renewable and non-renewable energy economics. These projects have attracted federal and local funding.

One of the resultant papers, entitled “Do Localities Benefit from Extraction of Local Natural Resources?” was awarded the IAEE’s Energy Economics Education Foundation’s “Best Paper” prize published in The Energy Journal in 2020. Further, I was the founder and am now a co-organizer of the annual Auctions, Competition, Regulation, and Public Policy Conference at Lancaster and was a co-organizer of the Network of Industrial Economists (UK) Winter Conference in Lancaster in December 2013.

In addition to your thesis, an oral examination will form an integral part of the assessment of your doctoral research.

Programme Structure  
The programmes below include a range of advanced modules and include both advanced theory and applied economics. This lays the foundations for conducting high-quality research and preparing the doctoral thesis.

Duration  
Full time 4 Year(s)  
Part time 48 Month(s)

Academic Requirements  
A relevant UK Masters degree with the minimum of 65% overall and 65% in the dissertation, or a non-UK Masters degree, graded at the equivalent level.

We may also consider non-standard applicants, please contact us for information.

Economics (Integrated)  
This is a 4 year PhD programme and is target to students who have not yet acquired a solid postgraduate training in economics. In your first year, you will follow one of the two MSc Programmes run by the Department, either the MSc in Economics or the MSc in Money, Banking and Finance (MBF). From your second year onwards, you will follow the regular Economics PhD structure.

In addition to your thesis, an oral examination will form an integral part of the assessment of your doctoral research.

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Sophie Alkhaled
Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship

I am an Associate Professor in Entrepreneurship in the Department of Entrepreneurship and Strategy. Born to British and Syrian parents and raised between the Middle East and Europe led me to become fascinated by gender and how its construction in society impacted local socio-political and economic development across country contexts.

My passion and intrigue on the topic led me to study for a BSc in Psychology at Lancaster University, followed by the MSc in Management at Lancaster University Management school, where I was realised I could merge my degrees into a PhD research project. I then undertook my PhD at The University of Aberdeen and went on to a postdoctoral research position at Stockholm Business School focused on gender, entrepreneurship and empowerment in the contexts of Saudi Arabia and Sweden.

I joined Lancaster in 2016, and in 2017 I was awarded Pump Priming funding by the Management School and I was also supported by the University’s Global Challenges Kick starter Fund.

These were invaluable in allowing me to delve deeper into exploring the area of gender, entrepreneurship and poverty alleviation, specifically women’s refugee-entrepreneurship in Jordan, the Zaatar refugee Camp and the UK.

The department of entrepreneurship and strategy has been an incredibly supportive community, providing me with feedback in departmental seminars, and sometimes, over a coffee in our social room or down the corridor!

Our vibrant research community is always ready to welcome PhD students, and I am personally looking forward to receiving your PhD applications and working with you in this area of research soon!

Entrepreneurship
Management (Entrepreneurship and Strategy) PhD

Do you want to focus your research on entrepreneurship, strategy, leadership, family business or innovation, and benefit from cutting-edge insights from research-active staff? We are the most research-intensive business school in the UK, according to the latest Research Excellence Framework. In our welcoming environment, ideas can flourish and connections can be made.

Our PhD programme connects you with the following leading research centres and research forum to develop your expertise:

• The Centre for Family Business
• The Centre for Leadership Studies and Practice
• The Academy for Gender, Work and Leadership

We pride ourselves in offering a strong learning environment. You will have access to state-of-the-art computing facilities, IT support and dedicated office space. There will be opportunities to participate in various seminar series, workshops and conferences. You will also be able to access advanced training courses, including those delivered by the Economic and Social Research Council-funded North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP).

As we have a strong focus on practice, we will expect your doctoral research to have impact for practitioners as well as being theoretically thorough.

As a PhD student, you will study topics related to research design in management, including qualitative and quantitative research methods, Subject experts will guide and supervise you during your PhD programme.

In addition to your thesis, an oral examination will form an integral part of the assessment of your doctoral research.

Programme Structure
The programmes below include a range of advanced modules and include both advanced theory and applied economics. This lays the foundations for conducting high-quality research and preparing the doctoral thesis.

Duration
Full time 3 Year(s)
Part time 4 Year(s)

Academic Requirements
A relevant UK Masters degree with the a minimum of 65% overall and 65% in the dissertation, or a non-UK Masters degree, graded at the equivalent level.

We may also consider non-standard applicants, please contact us for information.

PhD in Management - Entrepreneurship and Strategy Pathway

This course includes compulsory modules covering topics related to research design in management, and qualitative and quantitative research methods.
Juliana Sutanto

I joined Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) in August 2015 as Professor in Information Systems. With my computing background, my research integrates design science and behavioural science. I am currently doing research on data-informed decision and policy-making, digital transformation, health information systems and information systems for disaster management. Across these topics, I am actively engaging with local and international stakeholders as I am not only pursuing research publications but also aspiring to make real impacts in organizations and societies. LUMS supports me in realizing this ambition through the engagement and partnership development support and impact acceleration fund.

My research on data-informed decision and policy-making is about how the private and public organizations can extract value from their data. The digital transformation research is helping an organization towards its transition to Industry 4.0. The research on health information systems begins with an understanding of the effective use of telemedicine application in one country. The findings inform a telemedicine design in another country. The workshop is instrumental in successfully acquiring research fund to design a Decision Support System for natural disaster response. The university’s collegial atmosphere and collaborative space nurture interdisciplinary research. Besides research collaborations, I am co-supervising doctoral students with colleagues from other disciplines in LUMS. The students benefit from the cross-disciplinary learning that encourages a multi-lens understanding of a research problem. Serving in the editorial board of leading journals in Information Systems allows me to impart valuable knowledge to my doctoral students that will help them at present and in their future academic career.

Management Science

Management Science PhD

Do you want to use advanced technical skills to solve problems in the world of management science? Join our global group of high potential scholars using quantitative analytical skills to address complex modern problems. Our innovative research focuses on Operations Research, Management Science, Business Analytics, Operations Management, Information Systems and Project Management. We have particular strengths in the following areas:

- Marketing Analytics and Forecasting
- Health Systems
- Information Systems
- Supply Chain Management
- Optimisation
- Simulation and Stochastic Modelling
- Transport and Logistics

As part of our friendly and thriving community of staff and students, you will enjoy access to state-of-the-art databases, a research training seminar series, dedicated office space, scientific computing facilities, and IT support. You will exchange ideas and holistic views through workshops, conferences, seminars and communal group working, and benefit from the support of a final year student during your first few months to help you settle in.

We take the lead through our research centres including the Centre for Marketing Analytics and Forecasting, the Centre for Productivity and Efficiency, the Centre for Technological Futures and the Centre for Transport and Logistics. Our staff incorporate insights from their latest research into their teaching, and their links with industry will also help to boost your career prospects. For example, we regularly hear about exciting opportunities for data scientists. You will receive specialised support by two supervisors as you research and write your thesis. In addition to your thesis, an oral examination will form an integral part of the assessment of your doctoral research.

Programme Structure

The PhD in Management Science includes two PhD pathways known as Business and Management and NATCOR. We also have Integrated PhD (1+3), MPhil and MRes opportunities.

Duration

- Full time 36 Month(s)
- Part time 48 Month(s)

Academic Requirements

A relevant UK Masters degree with the a minimum of 65% overall and 65% in the dissertation, or a non-UK Masters degree, graded at the equivalent level. We may also consider non-standard applicants, please contact us for information.
Leighanne Higgins  
Senior Lecturer in Marketing

I am a Senior Lecturer in the Marketing Department, having joined the department in January 2014. My research interests lie within the area of consumer culture theory, with specific interest in sacred consumption, focussing on the consumption of religious pilgrimage, and consumer vulnerability.

Since 2016, I have researched the commercial and marketplace access inequalities facing consumers living with disability. The research project I am most excited about currently is my Marketplace and I: Commercial Experiences of Disability Explored through Art project. This project began in 2019 and adopts an art-based methodology to challenge the perception of ableism. The project collaborated with consumers living with disability from across the UK, witnessing them create personal artwork(s), which represent their commercial experiences in marketplace settings. The artworks were publically exhibited in Lancaster throughout December 2019, and are set to be re-exhibited at Rural Arts in Yorkshire this Summer, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2022.

I am currently working to develop the artworks into an Ableism Awareness Training Workshop that can be utilised by companies. Developed by persons with disabilities, this training will educate companies and employees on ableism to help promote better and more inclusive marketplaces.

Further, through the exhibition at the Fringe, I hope to understand how art can help to change and transform public perceptions towards disability. Simply put, my research aims to shatter the ability-disability dichotomy and dominance of ableism that permeates current UK and global organisations and societies.

I hope through my research to transform positively the lives of persons with disability and those close to them.

Marketing

Marketing PhD

Would you like to join one of the largest groups of marketing academics in the UK? Become a part of the most research-intensive business school in the UK, according to the latest Research Excellence Framework, where we have a lively research ethos and seek doctoral students who can build on our success.

Our research interests are particularly focused within specialist areas including Business Marketing; Market Studies; Consumer Behaviour; Consumer Culture Theoretics; Branding and International Marketing. We are also interested in work that covers innovation, sustainability, historical aspects of marketing, and bottom of the pyramid markets.

Furthermore, our department is linked to the Centre for Consumption Insights, which is a platform for our staff to engage in specialist research that centres on the transformative aspects of consumer research and consumption-related phenomena of pertinence to culture and society. Topics of interest here include consumer vulnerability, diet and health, the environment and family.

As a member of this PhD programme, you will have access to state-of-the-art databases, dedicated office space, scientific computing facilities, and IT support. We offer a research training seminar series, workshops and conferences to create the ideal environment for innovative thinking.

Many of our staff work closely with marketing practitioners. This allows us to make sure our research is relevant to commercial and public-sector organisations, as well as to the academic community. You will receive support by a specialist supervisor as you research and write your thesis.

In addition to your thesis, an oral examination will form an integral part of the assessment of your doctoral research.

Programme Structure

The research training of the PhD in Marketing includes compulsory modules covering topics such as qualitative and quantitative research methods. You will also participate in a series of skill seminars which are not compulsory but highly recommended.

Duration

Full time 3 Year(s)  
Part time 4 Year(s)

Academic Requirements

A relevant UK Masters degree with the a minimum of 65% overall and 65% in the dissertation, or a non-UK Masters degree, graded at the equivalent level.

We may also consider non-standard applicants, please contact us for information.
Our Academic Departments

Our Academic Departments

Theo Vurdubakis
Professor of Organisation and Technology

I am Director of the Centre For Technological Futures (CTF) at the Lancaster University Management School. The School, CTF, and Lancaster University as a whole are keen to promote research designed to address the complexities of contemporary social and business challenges, challenges that defy disciplinary and geographical boundaries and involve diverse stakeholders. My own research has been concerned with understanding the role that technological practices and artefacts play in contemporary processes of social organisation and disorganisation. My recent (and ongoing) theoretical and empirical work has therefore focused among other things, on the handling of complexity; the role of ICT infrastructures in contemporary organising (including technologically mediated warfare); the problems posed by technological waste; the management of ‘sustainability’ and on current attempts to control Amazonian deforestation.

Organisation, Work and Technology
Management (Organisation, Work and Technology) PhD

A PhD in business or management is highly valued in many professions as well as an increasingly key qualification for those wishing to pursue an academic career in management studies. It can provide a springboard into the next level of career opportunities. If you're contemplating this path, why not choose to study with the UK’s most research-intensive business school, according to the latest Research Excellence Framework?

Research in the Department of Organisation, Work and Technology sets the agenda for debate in key issues such as human resource management and employment relations; ethics, sustainability and management; information, technology and society; management, organisations and society; and leadership organisations and society.

Staff in the department are drawn from a range of backgrounds including human geography, human resource management, organisation studies, history, philosophy, and sociology. Our interdisciplinary community brings humanities and wider social science perspectives into management research – something that's widely acknowledged as crucial in reshaping management research and education.

During your PhD, you will be part of a fantastic research environment including our extensive library facilities and electronic resources. We also run a strong seminar series and workshops to encourage collaboration and cross-fertilization of ideas.

You will be able to access advanced research training courses run by the Economic and Social Research Council-funded North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP).

As a PhD student you will be appointed two subject experts/supervisors to help guide you through the process of researching and writing your thesis. In addition to your thesis, an oral examination will form an integral part of the assessment of your doctoral research.

Programme Structure
Duration
Full time 3 Year(s), Part time 4 Year(s)

Academic Requirements
A relevant UK Masters degree with the a minimum of 65% overall and 65% in the dissertation, or a non-UK Masters degree, graded at the equivalent level.

We may also consider non-standard applicants, please contact us for information.
Our Academic Departments

Professor Jan Bebbington
Director of the Pentland Centre for Sustainability in Business

I trained as an accountant and was thrilled and amazed to find out that I could combine my professional skills with my desire to work towards the protection of the natural environment. My own PhD was on accounts of (non-financial reporting) and accounting for (full cost accounting) sustainable development. I still work on the intersection between accounting tools/techniques and social/environmental issues: now captured under the Sustainable Development Goals. I also have the pleasure to be the Director of the Pentland Centre for Sustainability in Business where I support colleagues and PhD students (from across the University) who research business and sustainability intersections. At the same time, researching and understanding the world is not sufficient for me, I also want to change the world. To do this I work alongside businesses as well as professional accounting bodies. The PhD projects I am/have supervised reflect these interests and include:

- The extent to which stock exchanges are able to capture ecological risk through their listing requirements and the different levels of ecological risk on different exchanges (through the company mix that are listed on them)
- The links between tax havens, hidden beneficial ownership of companies and environmental damage
- Integrating the SDGs into continuing professional accounting education

Of course, these are just some of the wide array of PhD projects that are possible and your own ideas on projects that connect sustainability concerns and business (with a link to accounting – conceived of in its broadest sense) would be of interest to me. I am currently very keen to better understand ‘modern slavery’ reporting and whether it reduced harm to people in supply chains; ideas of stewardship for natural resources and how this could be accounted for; as well as the norms emerging from various disclosure regulations for companies and investors. In examining these issues, I use mainly qualitative methods. Be in touch should you find that array of ideas interesting and exciting.

The Pentland Centre for Sustainability in Business

The Pentland Centre for Sustainability in Business is a research centre delivering stimulating research on sustainability in business.

Our mission is to deliver world-class transdisciplinary research and undertake engagement to support and advance the mainstreaming of social and environmental sustainability into purposeful business strategy and performance.

Our strategic aims are to:

- Support achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement;
- Identify and articulate business models to support a transformation of business-as-usual;
- Demonstrate how a strategic focus on sustainability risks, challenges and opportunities can drive both financial and non-financial performance; and
- Articulate the nature and impacts of changing stakeholder values.

We will achieve these aims by engaging with businesses, policymakers, academics and other stakeholder groups.

We work in partnership with individual businesses, as well as professional and business associations, to support their sustainability ambitions. To discuss ways that we might work with you or your organisation, please contact the Centre Director via email.
Professor Jane O’Brien
Director for the Centre for Health Futures

As Centre Director for the Centre for Health Futures, I lead a highly engaged team of academics that works in partnership with our local Integrated Care System. The Centre’s vision is to be a centre for excellence in research, innovation and professional development for health and care organisations.

We work in partnership, to apply both academic and practice perspectives to innovate for better patient care and a healthier population. My own work is in integrating higher education with the needs of work, including development programmes which meet the needs of healthcare staff and their organisations with a focus on facilitating experiential learning and changes to practice.

I am passionate about enabling our research to ‘make a difference’ to the health and care of our local population and I am working with a highly engaged group of colleagues across all disciplinary perspectives in LUMS who share this commitment.

For example, Mike West CBE is Professor of Organisational Psychology at LUMS and has authored, edited and co-edited 20 books and published more than 200 articles on innovation, leadership, and culture in healthcare.

His most recent work (published in 2020) involved leading a review commissioned by the Royal College of Nursing Foundation into the mental health and well-being of nurses and midwives across the UK. Another colleague, Professor Ant Hesketh, has recently been leading on a major new independent review of HR and OD practice commissioned by the NHS and aimed at ensuring the best possible working experience for staff. Partnering with Ernst & Young (EY), the Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development (CIPD), LUMS and consulting firm Clever Together, the review seeks to coalesce the best ideas from around the world from leading global commercial and public sector organisations to enable the NHS to deliver world class people practices for generations to come.

Centre for Health Futures

The Centre for Health Futures aims to be a hub for excellence in research, innovation and professional development for health and care organisations. Working in partnership, we apply both academic and practice perspectives to innovate for better patient care and a healthier population.

The Centre for Health Futures focuses on business and management perspectives, contributing to Lancaster University’s wider expertise and aims through the Health Innovation Campus and collaboration with colleagues in other Faculties.

We should like to thank the Integrated Care System, Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria and the Innovation Agency North West for their financial support. We are working collaboratively with them to develop some strategic priorities. We are also working with other agencies locally as part of the Innovation Agency North West SEED Health alliance.

Our region’s distinctive geography, with small cities, medium-sized towns and a great rural expanse, provides a novel focus for our work. There are specific challenges in delivering health and care in an area with post-industrial economic and social problems. We have the opportunity to share our expertise nationally and globally where similar issues arise.

The challenges we face include:
• Delivering high-quality, sustainable services in sparsely populated areas;
• Health inequalities and poor health outcomes with wider impacts on productivity and the economy;
• Difficulties in staff recruitment and retention.
How to apply

All applications must be made via our online application system. Here, you will complete an online form, upload your supporting documents and track the progress of your application. The online system will require you to provide your undergraduate and masters degree transcripts, two references (at least one should be an academic reference), and a research proposal, which will help us identify an appropriate supervisor(s) for your areas of research.

Allocating a supervisor

Matching you with a supervisor is an important step to create a long lasting relationship that will shape your doctoral studies. We recommend reading the LUMS staff profiles and some of their research papers to find potential matches for your interests. As part of your application, you can mention the member of staff who is closest to your interests, and we will invite them to consider supervising you. Our places are limited, so it’s best to apply early and be flexible in your research topic.

Fees and funding

There are multiple opportunities for PhD study available through Lancaster University, UK research councils, and through various other organisations.

Available funding that can be applied for includes:

• LUMS Scholarships
• Investors in Excellence Doctoral Scholarship
• Economic and Social Research Council’s (ESRC)
• Commonwealth Scholarship
• Departmental Scholarships

Please visit our website for the latest information.