

WHAT OUR RECENT GRADUATES SAY

"My expectations about studying at Otago have been met beyond belief. I wanted an adventure and I have certainly achieved that and more. An adventure due to personal growth and development, I studied the concept of adventure, with a view to starting an adventure business, and I experienced adventure as part of my data collection. I got to travel across New Zealand and internationally to look at successful businesses and participated in all sorts of wonderful activities."



Cherie McConville
Head of Client Services, University of Otago
Doctor of Business Administration

"Great university, great staff and it feels like home to me. I'm very happy and very comfortable – in a good way – at Otago. The university has provided me with all sorts of unique opportunities, such as having my business used as the inaugural case study for the MBA Case Competition, which included 28 students from around New Zealand. The DBA will hopefully help me with gravitas. By that I mean, as a subject expert, it will help me to knock down some doors."



Jim Wilkes
Major shareholder in Triple Nine Farms (start-up) and owner of the consultancy Troika
Doctor of Business Administration

CONTACT INFORMATION

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otago.ac.nz/dba

POSTGRADUATE



BUSINESS SCHOOL
Te Kura Pakihi



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Doctor of Business Administration

The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is a doctoral level degree designed for business professionals who are looking for a challenge.



Fuel your growth with one of the most advanced degrees available in the field of business.



DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (DBA)

Develop an advanced toolkit of critical thinking and research skills needed for strategic planning and decision-making, while being exposed to practical business environments. Continue to work while you study and find solutions to specific business challenges within your workplace as part of your degree. Graduate with a DBA and demonstrate your commitment to continual learning, leadership excellence and professional development.

Why Otago?

Choosing the right university is an important decision. Your choice of university may have a significant impact on your life. The University of Otago is New Zealand's first university and prides itself on its long tradition of excellence. University of Otago graduates are highly regarded by employers.

The Otago Business School ranks in the top one per cent of business schools worldwide with both AACSB and EQUIS accreditation. Acknowledged internationally as a centre of excellence in business and economics, it is New Zealand's leading business school for research.*

*PBRF Quality Evaluation (latest evaluation 2018).

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT THE DBA

- Three years full-time or six years part-time.
- Six taught papers plus applied thesis.
- Applicants normally need to have completed a bachelor's honours degree or a master's degree in a business discipline and have at least 10 years of experience as a business professional.
- Distance taught online with on-campus workshops.
- Applications close for annual intake on 1 November each year.
- Study commences in the second week of January and runs until the second week of December.

Programme aims

The programme aims to support students to resolve critical problems for businesses and industries through the application of research and theory in a business environment. Develop your critical thinking and problem-solving skills and apply your new toolkit to your own experiences and skills.

The degree is structured to allow candidates to continue working and focus on specific business problems within their own workplace. Your DBA project will provide your company with a valuable piece of research and consultancy tailored specifically to its needs.

Entry requirements

A) Every applicant must either:

- i) be a graduate with a bachelor's honours degree and a postgraduate diploma, or a master's degree in a business discipline, or
- ii) in exceptional cases, have alternative equivalent qualifications acceptable to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Commerce).

B) Candidates will be selected on the basis of their previous academic record (normally with a grade average of at least B+), their graduate experience and academic achievements, their commitment to the field of business, evidence that they are committed to ongoing education, and reports from three referees.

C) Every applicant will normally have at least 10 years of experience as a professional in business and demonstrate evidence of leadership in their field.

Career opportunities

The DBA has been developed to address the needs of industry and employers – producing graduates with industry experience, problem-solving and data analysis skills, and the ability to undertake applied research. Graduates will have a wide range of career opportunities in industries within New Zealand or internationally. These may include roles in middle and upper management and as management consultants. Employers recognise the advanced degree and acknowledge higher salary requirements as DBA graduates bring increased value to an organisation.

DEGREE STRUCTURE

The programme of study consists of six 20-point taught papers over the first year of enrolment, followed by a two-year thesis. Papers are block taught one at a time with each block consisting of eight weeks of teaching plus four days of on-campus workshops.

DBA students take the following three compulsory papers, select three elective papers and complete a thesis:

Compulsory 20-point papers:

- BDBA 905 Research Methodology I
- BDBA 906 Research Methodology II
- BDBA 907 Socially Responsible Business

Electives focus on areas such as organisational leadership and psychology, global and sustainable practices, marketing, finance and strategy. Visit our website to see the full options: otago.ac.nz/dba

Thesis information for all candidates

Preparation and submission of a scholarly work, based on applied research investigation, which demonstrates academic prowess and the integration of practice with business theory. It may include a professional business case, reporting improvement or development of a specific business area.