DBA
ISM – WU

ISM
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
University of Applied Sciences

Crown your academic career with a DBA

Westcliff University (WU)

About WU

- Main campuses in Irvine, Los Angeles and Miami
- Regionally and globally accredited by WASC, ACBSP and CHEA
- More than 100 different nationalities
- 94% student satisfaction rate

Fields of Study

- Business
- Technology & Engineering
- Education
- Law

WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY
Educate. Inspire. Empower.

DBA
Doctor of Business Administration

General Information

- An internationally recognized research degree
- Further development of specialist knowledge and deep methodological capacity
- Duration: 2 years full-time, 3 years part-time
- Significant original research necessary
- Submission of a substantial research thesis as culmination of the degree

DBA Concentrations

- Strategic Leadership for the 21st Century
- Business Intelligence and Data Analytics
- Information Technology Management
- Applied Computer Science

Students choose **one concentration**.

Cooperation between ISM and WU

- Possibility for ISM graduates to apply for a DBA program
- Max. 5 to 8 candidates per year
- Preselection made by ISM
- Final admission depending on WU
- Jointly supervision (one supervisor each)
- Delivery of the programs according to WU' Policy and Code of Practice
- Administrative support provided by ISM

Program Structure & Sequence (60 credits)

Year One
- 6 core courses

Year Two
- 4 concentration courses
- 2 research courses

Year Three
- 2 research courses
- 4 dissertation courses

Admission, Requirements & Application

Admission Criteria

All applicants shall fulfill the following criteria:

- A master's degree, or equivalent, with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average
- Students from non-business backgrounds applying to the DBA program must take ORG 500 Organizational Behavior and FIN 500 Financial & Accounting Skills for Managers as prerequisite courses
- Diploma and Transcripts (2.0 UG and 2.5 Grad/PG) (3-year bachelor's degree accepted)
- Proof of English language proficiency: Exam Scores, MOI Letter, or REAL Pathway Program (IELTS 6.0, TOEFL 79, Duolingo 105)
- No GMAT, GRE, SAT required
- No doctoral project proposal required prior to admission
- Special **application portal for ISM DBA students**

Application Procedure

Step 1
Write a proposal
- Intended department of research
- Types of research methods to be used
- Relations to any previous research done in this field

Step 2
Send in your application
- Academic transcripts/ degree certificates
- Two reference letters & a motivational letter
- Proof of financial support
- Application Form & CV
- English proficiency

Step 3
Review
- Your application is reviewed by ISM.

Step 4
Interview
- If successful and if possible, an interview with a WU staff member is arranged.

Please note: All documents must be provided in English. Your proposal shall not extend 4–6 pages.

Online Student Start Dates 2025/26

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Start Dates	September 2nd, 2025	October 27th, 2025	January 5th, 2026	March 2nd, 2026	May 4th, 2026	June 29th, 2026

Important note: Please submit your application at least 8 weeks prior to your desired start date.

Program Fees

DBA Part-time

Duration:
- 3 years

Year	Total Fees incl. VAT
Application*	€2,500
1	€7,180
2	€7,180
3	€7,180
Total**	€24,040

DBA Full-time

Duration:
- 2 years

Year	Total Fees incl. VAT
Application*	€2,500
1	€10,770
2	€10,770
Total**	€24,040

Please note:
- The amounts are made up of the fees of ISM and the respective partner universities. These set their current fees independently of ISM and grant a discount to ISM participants. Please therefore check the current discounted fees of the respective partner university before submitting your application to ISM. ISM accepts no liability for the accuracy of the fee information on this page.
- Total tuition fees may be less if student transfers in 6 credits from an ISM doctoral seminar.
- Tuition fees at WU for the 1-credit mandatory EDU 701 Advanced Academic Study and Writing is an additional €384.
- Monthly payment plans are available upon request.
- Cost of fieldwork, travelling, publications, living expenses, housing etc. must be covered by students.

*ISM application becomes due as follows: €500 with signing of the contract, €1,000 after acceptance from ISM, €1,000 after acceptance from WU.
**Fees subject to change; incl. current Net VAT.; exchange rate from June 18th, 2025 (US$ 1 = €0.87).

We are there for you

Get in touch with us!

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