

S&P PhD Program Curriculum AY 2026–2027

Coursework:

- 5 Field core courses offered by S&P Department:
 - BBP6781 Seminar in Strategic Management (4 units, taught by S&P in alternate years)
 - [BBP6794](#) Seminar in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (2 units, taught by S&P in alternate years)
 - [BBP6791](#) Seminar in International Business (2 units, taught by S&P in alternate years)
 - Special Topics in Strategy I (2 units, taught by S&P in alternate years)
 - Special Topics in Strategy II (2 units, taught by S&P in alternate years, or an equivalent Strategy course offered by SMU or NTU)
- 2 Discipline foundation courses:
 - Organization Theory (4 units, offered in collaboration with SMU (spring) and NTU (fall))
 - RE6010 Applied Microeconomic Theory (4 units, taught by the Real Estate Dept. Students may substitute this requirement with an approved higher-level microeconomics or industrial organization course.)
- 3 Research method courses
 - [EC5303](#) Econometric Analysis (4 units, taught by the Economics Dept. or an equivalent econometrics course offered by BIZ)
 - [BZD 6004](#) Applied Econometrics 2 (4 units, taught by Finance Dept.)
 - [BZD6012](#) Experimental Methods for Behavioral Research (4 units, taught in collaboration with M&O Dept.)
- 2 Elective courses (8 units total)
 - Selected from PhD courses in other departments or schools (including SMU or NTU) or an independent study supervised by an S&P faculty. Recommended electives include Advanced Topics in Strategy (offered by NTU), Social Networks (taught by the Sociology Dept.) and Machine Learning and AI in Marketing (4 units, taught in collaboration with Marketing Dept.)

Program structure

Year 1 (AY 26/27)	Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Paper (First Draft)
	Seminar in Strategic Management	Organization Theory (SMU)	
	Applied Microeconomic Theory	Applied Econometrics 2	
	Econometric Analysis	Special Topics in Strategy I	

Year 2 (AY 27/28)	Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Paper (Final Submission) & Qualifying Examination
	Seminar in Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Special Topics in Strategy II	
	Seminar in International Business	Elective*	
	Experimental Methods for Behavioral Research	Elective	

* Electives may be taken at any point during the year, depending on availability.

Year 3 (AY 28/29)	Dissertation Phase (Each student should have identified a faculty advisor)	
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Year 4 (AY 29/30)	Dissertation Phase	Deadline for dissertation proposal
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Year 5 (AY 30/31)	Dissertation and Job Market	Deadline for dissertation defense
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REQUIRED COURSEWORK

The curriculum comprises 40 units, which is a minimum requirement. Students can take additional classes with approval from the department. Research Methods courses may vary from year to year depending on availability. In addition to curriculum-specific coursework, students are required to complete the following two general requirement modules: [NG5001](#) (Academic Communication) and [NG5002](#) (Research Ethics).

After coursework, students take a qualifying exam. After exams, students move to the dissertation stage. Students should graduate in five years.

SUMMER PAPER

All first-year students (starting from the AY06/07 cohort) will be required to submit the first draft of their summer paper at the end of their study in Year 1. Students are required to submit the final draft of their summer paper before attempting their Qualifying Examination.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

The exam consists of both course-specific and integrative questions. A passing grade on the Qualifying Examination before end of your 2nd year is required to continue in the PhD program.

THESIS ADVISOR

During the first year of study, PhD students do not have formal supervisors; they are encouraged, however, to get to know the research faculty they work with as advisors and mentors. By the end of the second year of study, each student should have identified a faculty member to serve as his or her thesis advisor. At any point in time, students and faculty members can request a change in their roles within supervisory relationships—a student can request a change in thesis advisor, and a faculty member may choose not to serve as a given student's thesis advisor.

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL & DEFENSE

Students can submit their dissertation proposals at any time after passing the QE. They should defend and pass their dissertation proposals no later than the end of their fourth year of study and submit their dissertation for defense before the end of their fifth year.

The main body of the dissertation must showcase the student's own work, demonstrating the scope and rigor of a solo-authored study.

CONFERENCES

The department generally supports attendance at one major field conference per year (e.g., the Academy of Management Annual Conference, the Strategic Management Society Conference, or the Consortium on Competition and Cooperation). This allowance increases to two conferences in years four and five. Attendance at regional conferences or conferences outside the field requires departmental approval and is not typically supported.

Appendix

Examples of NUS Business School Elective Courses from AY2025/2026 Semester 2

Course offerings are subject to change from year to year. Students will be notified each semester of the courses available.

Dept	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	LECTURER NAME	UNITS
ACC	BAA6002C	Current Topics in Empirical Accounting Research I	A/P She Guoman	2
ACC	BAA6002D	Current Topics in Empirical Accounting Research II	Asst Prof Daniel Rabetti	2
DAO	BDC6223	DAO Proseminar	A/P Wu Yaozhong	4
DAO	BDC6303	Queues and Stochastic Networks	Prof Zhang Hanqin	4
FIN	FIN6006	Corporate Finance	Prof David Reeb (main) A/P Alminas Zaldokas	4
MNO	BMO6018A	Behavioural Ethics	Asst Prof Chen Anjier	2
MNO	BMO6026A	Groups and Teams	Asst Prof He Tianyu	2
MNO	BZD6011	Advanced Quantitative Research Methods	Prof Remus Ilies	4
DRE	RE6007	Topics in Real Estate	A/P Fan Yi	4
DRE	RE6005	Real Estate Economics Research Seminar	Prof Lee Kwan Ok (main) A/P Fu Yuming, Prof Qian Wenlan	4

Examples of SMU course offerings

The Graduate Office will notify students of external courses offered each semester ahead of the module registration period.

Year 1 (2026/2027)

Term 1

MGMT754 - Innovation and Entrepreneurship – Reddi Kotha & David Gomulya

MGMT730 - Pro-Seminar in Strategic Management – Various Instructors

Term 2

BSRM707 - Applied Statistics Using STATA – Ilya Cuypers & Gokhan Ertug

MGMT709 - Organization Theory – Gokhan Ertug

MGMT755 - Social Network – Gokhan Ertug

Year 2 (2027-28)

Term 1

MGMT705 - Seminar in Strategic Management – Heli Wang

Term 2

MGMT725 - Advanced Topics in Strategy and Entrepreneurship – Various Instructors

MGMT706 - International Business – Daphne Yiu

Examples of NTU course offerings

The Graduate Office will notify students of external courses offered each semester ahead of the module registration period.

Year 1 (2026/2027)

Organizational Theory (Sem 1) - Lai Si Tsui-Auch

Strategic Management (Sem 1) -- Siddharth Natarajan

Entrepreneurship (Sem 2) -- TBA

Advanced Topics in Strategic Management (Sem 2) -- Shivaram Devarakonda