



UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

DOCTORATE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (DBA) ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in your application, you must be able to demonstrate the following in your application form, personal statement and initial research idea:

- The potential to study at FHEQ Level 8. This would normally be indicated by the successful completion of a Masters' degree (FHEQ Level 7 equivalent), although candidates with strong professional experience may be considered.
- An ability to work collaboratively in exploring and developing experience and ideas.
- That you have relevant middles to senior level management experience. If you do not, but you have appropriate and sufficiently extensive experience in the business context, you may be considered at the discretion of the admissions tutors. Similarly, if you are in professional practice but who, in the opinion of the admissions team do not yet have sufficient or appropriate experience to draw on, may be deemed ineligible.
- A strong commitment to educational enquiry and critical reflection on practice as a means of professional learning.

The following points will also be taken into account in selecting candidates:

- Candidates will need to identify a proposed field of research within the broad field of business management at the application stage. Acceptance onto the programme will depend on support for the proposed field of research being available within the faculty.
- Applicants whose education was not in English must normally achieve the minimum required scores in IELTS (International English Language Testing Systems) - Academic Version or equivalent. Applicants must achieve at least a minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5 and a minimum IELTS score in each component (speaking, reading, listening, writing) of 5.5.

Guidelines for writing your Personal Statement

Your personal statement should provide details about your professional experience; details of your current role and give examples of your commitment to your personal and professional development. We are particularly interested to know why you think this is an opportune time in your professional development to take up the challenge of the DBA. We advise that a word count of around 800 words is appropriate for your personal statement.

Guidelines for writing your Initial Research Idea

At this stage of the application process we do not require a full research proposal. However, you should describe the research area or topic that you hope to investigate for your DBA doctoral research project. This document should be approximately 1,000 words in length and indicate:

- What is the nature of the problem or issue?
- Why is it problematic?
- Why is it appropriate to research into this topic at this time?
- What other research has also addressed the area you are interested in? (i.e. what is already known beyond your own organizational / personal experience about this issue?)
- What specific research questions or objectives would you need to address to tackle this problem or issue?
- Most DBA students undertake work-based research for their doctoral research project. In writing about your research idea please also indicate how you will gain access to any data relevant to your study.

After we have reviewed your application, personal statement and initial research idea, we may invite you to a selection interview.

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