Programme Specification for

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

(Various Topics & Specialism)

Online Hybrid Delivery, Part/Full Time

NOTE

This document should be viewed in addition to the **Ph.D. Schedule** document, which can be downloaded from the Courses webpage, and can be found in the Teaching & Learning section of the relevant Ph.D.

Programme Code	BU/PHD/01
Awarding Institution	Birchwood University, USA
Mode of Study	Full-Time (or Part-Time), Hybrid Online Learning
Total Credit Hours	60 Credit Hours
Duration	2 years (with extension, maximum 5 years)
Version	v.1.6.3
Last Modified	2026

Contents

1. Programme Title

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in:

- Ph.D. in Computer Science
- Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence
- Ph.D. in Education
- Ph.D. in Management & Leadership
- Ph.D. in Cyber Security
- Ph.D. in Business Administration
- Ph.D. in Digital Transformation
- Ph.D. in Finance and Banking
- Ph.D. in Healthcare
- Ph.D. in International Law
- Ph.D. in Diplomacy and International Relations
- Ph.D. in Islamic Finance

2. Awarding Institution

Birchwood University is authorized by the Commission of Independent Education (CIE) in Florida, USA. The University is located at 6100, Lake Ellenor Drive, Suite 100E, Orlando, FL 32809, and holds a recognized position in the global education landscape, specializing in various disciplines.

3. Duration and Mode of Study

Field	Details
Duration	2 years (with extension, maximum 5 years). Full-time and part-time pathways are available.
Mode of Study	Hybrid Online Learning
Credit Hours	60 Total Credit Hours
Delivery Language	English

4. Programme Overview and Features

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) offered by Birchwood University is a globally recognized doctoral qualification representing the highest level of academic achievement. It is designed for seasoned professionals and scholars who seek to make an original and significant contribution to knowledge within their chosen field. The programme enables learners to deepen their expertise in their area of interest by meaningfully applying theory to practice. It encompasses core managerial competencies, advanced research skills, and the technical expertise essential to excel in today's global marketplace, whether candidates choose a professional career path or scholarly pursuits.

A key focus of this degree is ensuring that the dissertation aligns with practical, real-world research, generating insights that can meaningfully benefit industries and organizations worldwide. The programme is delivered by highly qualified industry-expert faculty who combine cutting-edge academic knowledge with practical experience, sharing insights on contemporary research issues and helping candidates understand current research trends and their applications. The programme blends interactive sessions with comprehensive virtual support, enabling participants to balance their professional commitments alongside their Ph.D. studies.

Programme Focus

- Research with Real-World Impact: Designed for professionals aiming to conduct research that addresses practical business and organizational challenges.
- Advanced Theory and Practical Application: Integrates rigorous academic theory with hands-on application across business, management, finance, technology, and related fields.
- Industry-Expert Faculty Guidance: Mentorship from experienced faculty with strong industry insight and awareness of current global trends.
- Progressive Skill Development: Step-by-step mastery of advanced concepts through a structured, practice-focused curriculum.
- Early Dissertation Integration: A strong emphasis on dissertation development from the very beginning, ensuring a clear and efficient path to completion.
- Cohesive, Outcome-Driven Learning: Theme-based learning that directly connect coursework to research goals and professional outcomes.
- Leadership and Ethical Scholarship: Develops advanced analytical thinking, ethical research practices, and leadership capabilities for senior academic and industry roles.
- Flexible Learning Structure: Supports work-study balance while enabling meaningful, globally relevant research.

5. Programme Objectives

The Ph.D. programme at Birchwood University is designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Develop Advanced Knowledge: Strengthen expertise in a chosen academic or professional field, building on undergraduate and master's-level learning.
2. Conduct Original Research: Prepare students to carry out independent research that adds new knowledge to their discipline. This includes analyzing existing literature, identifying gaps, and proposing innovative solutions or theories. Students enhance skills in academic writing, publishing research findings, and effectively communicating complex ideas to varied audiences, including scholars, policymakers, and the public.
3. Methodological Expertise: Ensure students gain advanced knowledge of research methodologies and techniques, enabling them to conduct rigorous empirical and theoretical investigations.
4. Ethical and Responsible Research: Instill an understanding of ethical considerations in research, including integrity, bias, and responsible data use. Encourage contributions to the advancement of knowledge through high-quality, ethical scholarship.
5. Leadership and Collaboration: Prepare students for leadership roles in academia, industry, or other sectors by emphasizing teamwork, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the practical application of research to solve real-world problems, drive innovation, and inspire societal change.

6. Entry Requirements

Applicants for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programme typically hold a master’s degree in a related field. However, we also welcome experienced professionals who may not hold a master’s degree but have a good standing bachelor’s degree and can demonstrate significant professional or industry experience in a related role.

- Applicants should have a bachelor’s degree and/or a master’s-level professional qualification, or equivalent experience / certifications.
- You should be working in, or have access to a professional setting in an area related to your research topic, in order to conduct research.
- You will be required to attend an interview and/or submit a portfolio of work/CV for consideration.

For applicants whose first language is not English, an English language qualification or proficiency test is required.

Note that the acceptance of any student is solely at the discretion of the PLI Academic Admissions Panel, in accordance with the institutional policies and procedures.

7. Programme Structure

The Ph.D. programme is structured across four phases, totaling 60 credit hours. The curriculum integrates core research methodology training, thematic academic content, progressive dissertation development seminars, and doctoral capstone activities. Each phase builds upon the previous, ensuring a coherent and progressive pathway from initial research conceptualization through to dissertation defense.

Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours
SEM 7600	Project Seminar 1	2
RES 7700	Preparing a Literature Review	3
RES 7710	Research Methods and Analysis Theory I	3
ITM 813	Information Data Management	3
SEM 7610	Project Seminar 2	2
ECO 7800	Resource Economics	3
RES 8700	Research Methods and Analysis II	3
DAT 8800	Data Analytics and Analysis	3
SEM 7620	Project Seminar 3	2
FIN 7810	Project Valuation	3
SUS 7820	Sustainable Business Practices	3
RSK 7830	Predictive & Risk Modeling	3
SEM 7630	Project Seminar 4	2
LDR 8900	Strategic Leadership	3
PMP 8910	International Project Management	3
SEM 9600	Project Seminar 5	2
INT 9700	Global Management and Organizational Theory	3
DIS 9840	Doctoral Data Analysis	4
SEM 9610	Project Seminar 6	2
INT 9710	International Immersion	3
DIS 9850	Doctoral Defense	5
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS		**60**

Phases

Field	Details
Phase 1	**Foundation** Orientation, Research Literacy & Professional Context.
Phase 2	**Proposal Development** Dissertation Proposal & Analytical Toolkit.
Phase 3	**Research Execution** Advanced Methods, Leadership & Full Dissertation Work.
Phase 4	**Doctoral Defense** Final Write-Up, Submission & Defense.

8. Course Descriptions

SEM 7600 | Project Seminar 1

Project Seminar 1 introduces doctoral candidates to the foundational expectations of the Ph.D. journey at Birchwood University. Students engage in structured academic discussions, proposal-thinking exercises, and topic-refinement activities that support the early stages of dissertation conceptualization. Emphasis is placed on identifying real-world problems, aligning them with scholarly research gaps, and understanding the standards of doctoral-level inquiry. By the end of the seminar, learners develop a preliminary research direction and gain clarity on research design pathways that will be expanded in later seminars.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the structure, expectations, and academic rigor of doctoral-level research.
2. Identify and articulate real-world problems suitable for doctoral research.
3. Analyze scholarly literature to identify potential research gaps.
4. Formulate preliminary research ideas and questions aligned with doctoral research standards.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of possible research methodologies and design approaches for dissertation work.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Faculty-led seminars and lectures
- Guided research discussions
- Topic development and refinement exercises
- Peer review and collaborative learning activities
- Independent research exploration
- Feedback on preliminary research ideas

RES 7700 | Preparing a Literature Review

This course provides an in-depth exploration of scholarly literature review techniques essential for doctoral research. Students learn to evaluate, synthesize, and critique academic sources using systematic and thematic review methods. The course emphasizes building arguments grounded in existing scholarship, identifying gaps, and organizing literature into coherent conceptual frameworks. Learners also develop skills in using academic databases, citation management tools, and evaluating the credibility of sources. By the end, candidates craft a well-structured literature review foundation for their dissertation.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Conduct systematic and thematic literature searches using academic databases.
2. Critically evaluate and synthesize scholarly sources relevant to their research topic.
3. Identify and articulate research gaps within the existing body of literature.
4. Construct a coherent conceptual framework supported by scholarly evidence.
5. Apply citation management tools and academic referencing standards.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Independent study and academic database research
- Seminars on evaluation and synthesis of academic sources
- Workshops on citation management and referencing
- Peer review of draft literature reviews
- Faculty-guided formative feedback

RES 7710 | Research Methods and Analysis Theory

This course introduces students to advanced research methodologies, theoretical foundations of inquiry, and the philosophical underpinnings of academic research. Topics include qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches, research design logic, sampling strategies, instrument development, and reliability and validity testing. Students also explore ethical considerations in research and learn how to align methodology with research objectives. The course prepares learners to construct robust methodological frameworks for their doctoral work.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research paradigms.
2. Apply research design logic to the development of a doctoral-level methodology.
3. Design appropriate sampling strategies and instruments for data collection.
4. Assess the reliability and validity of research instruments and findings.
5. Apply principles of research ethics across all stages of the research process.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Lectures on research paradigms and philosophical foundations
- Workshops on instrument design, sampling, and ethical compliance
- Peer discussion on methodological choices
- Independent study and supervised methodological planning
- Formative feedback from faculty

ITM 813 | Information Data Management

This course explores theoretical, managerial, and practical approaches to computers and information technologies used for problem solving and decision making. Key topics include business intelligence, Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 ecosystems, mobile and electronic commerce, search engine and social media analytics, and information systems and their components. Students examine system properties, information types, and the strategic use of computer networks within organizations. The curriculum also covers system analysis, information flows, transaction processing, database management, telecommunications trends, and technical alternatives. Learners gain hands-on experience with standard software tools, including spreadsheets, database systems, and specialized applications relevant to their field.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of information systems components and their organizational functions.
2. Apply principles of business intelligence and data management to support research and decision-making.
3. Evaluate digital ecosystems and emerging technologies relevant to their field of study.
4. Use standard software tools for data organization, analysis, and presentation.
5. Integrate information management principles into doctoral research design and methodology.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Lectures on information systems and digital ecosystems
- Hands-on software application exercises
- Case study analysis of information management in organizations
- Independent research and applied projects
- Faculty-guided discussions and feedback

SEM 7610 | Project Seminar 2

Project Seminar 2 advances the doctoral student's progress from initial research conceptualization toward a fully developed dissertation proposal. Building on the foundation established in Project Seminar 1, this course focuses on refining the research problem, strengthening the purpose and significance of the study, and enhancing the alignment between research questions, theoretical foundations, and methodological direction. Students critically engage with literature to validate the relevance of their topic, identify research gaps, and structure a coherent conceptual or theoretical framework. The seminar guides learners in evaluating methodological options, assessing feasibility, and ensuring that proposed research aligns with Birchwood University's academic and ethical standards. By the end of the course, students produce a draft dissertation proposal.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Refine and articulate a well-defined research problem and purpose statement.
2. Align research questions with a coherent theoretical or conceptual framework.
3. Critically evaluate methodological options in relation to the research aims.
4. Produce a draft dissertation proposal meeting doctoral academic standards.
5. Assess feasibility and ethical compliance of the proposed research design.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Faculty-led seminar sessions with structured feedback
- Peer review of draft research proposals
- One-to-one supervisory guidance
- Independent literature engagement and writing
- Collaborative workshops on proposal refinement

ECO 7800 | Resource Economics

This course equips students with advanced microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis techniques essential for effective business decision-making. Emphasis is placed on applying economic concepts, theories, and analytical tools to real-world business challenges. Key topics include legal and practical considerations in financing decisions, market structures, pricing strategies, and resource allocation. The course also examines managerial strategy, public policy implications, competitive dynamics, market power, and how firms respond optimally to government regulation. Through these areas, students develop a comprehensive understanding of how economic forces shape business strategy and operational outcomes.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply advanced microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts to business decision-making.
2. Analyze market structures, pricing strategies, and resource allocation in organizational contexts.
3. Evaluate the impact of public policy and government regulation on firm behaviour.
4. Integrate economic theory into doctoral research frameworks relating to business strategy.
5. Critically assess competitive dynamics and market power within global and local settings.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Lectures and readings on economic theory and application
- Case study analysis of real-world economic challenges
- Seminars on policy implications and strategic economics
- Independent study and analytical exercises
- Faculty-guided formative assessment and feedback

RES 8700 | Research Methods and Analysis II

Building on Research Methods and Analysis Theory I, this advanced course deepens students' competencies in empirical research design, data collection, and analytical techniques. Learners explore multivariate analysis, regression modelling, structural equation modelling, qualitative coding techniques, and mixed-methods integration. The course emphasizes the application of analytical tools to complex, real-world research problems. By the end, students are equipped to execute rigorous dissertation-level research with methodological clarity and academic precision.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply advanced empirical research design principles to dissertation-level inquiry.
2. Conduct multivariate analysis, regression modelling, and structural equation modelling.
3. Integrate qualitative coding techniques with quantitative data within a mixed-methods framework.
4. Select and justify appropriate analytical tools for complex research problems.
5. Execute dissertation-level research with methodological clarity and academic precision.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Advanced lectures and workshops on empirical methods and analytical tools
- Hands-on exercises in statistical software and qualitative coding
- Case-based discussion and peer review
- Supervised independent research practice
- Formative feedback from faculty on methodological choices

DAT 8800 | Data Analytics and Analysis

This course equips doctoral students with practical and theoretical skills in data analytics for evidence-based decision-making. Learners engage with statistical software, explore descriptive and inferential analytics, and understand the application of data-driven insights to research questions. Key topics include predictive analytics, data visualization, machine-learning foundations, and advanced statistical modeling. Emphasis is placed on integrating analytical outcomes into academic research and managerial problem-solving.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply descriptive and inferential analytics to research and organizational challenges.
2. Use statistical software for data analysis and visualization.
3. Evaluate predictive analytics models and machine-learning foundations relevant to doctoral research.
4. Integrate data-driven insights into academic research frameworks and managerial decision-making.
5. Demonstrate advanced statistical modeling skills appropriate to dissertation-level analysis.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Practical sessions using statistical software packages
- Lectures on predictive analytics and machine-learning concepts
- Data visualization workshops
- Applied research exercises linking analytics to dissertation topics
- Faculty feedback and formative assessment

SEM 7620 | Project Seminar 3

Project Seminar 3 guides students through refining their dissertation proposal, developing research questions or hypotheses, and aligning methodology with the identified problem statement. Candidates receive faculty feedback, engage in peer review, and strengthen the academic rigor of their emerging dissertation chapters. The seminar emphasizes scholarly writing, technical structuring, and preparing for dissertation proposal submission.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Produce a refined dissertation proposal with clearly articulated research questions or hypotheses.
2. Demonstrate strong alignment between the research problem, theoretical framework, and methodology.
3. Apply scholarly writing conventions to emerging dissertation chapters.
4. Incorporate peer and faculty feedback to strengthen academic rigor.
5. Prepare documentation for formal dissertation proposal submission.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Faculty-led feedback and structured review sessions
- Peer review of dissertation proposal drafts
- Workshops on scholarly writing and technical structuring
- One-to-one supervisory guidance
- Collaborative discussion of research design decisions

FIN 7810 | Project Valuation

This course emphasizes furnishing students with a robust comprehension, both theoretically and practically, of the fundamental tools utilized in equity valuation and stock selection. Valuation methodologies covered comprise dividend discount models, cash flow models, and valuation based on multiples. Students also explore financial modeling, capital budgeting, risk evaluation, sensitivity and scenario analysis, and the assessment of economic value creation, developing decision-making capabilities relevant to both academia and industry.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of managerial valuation concepts such as time value of money, risk and return, dividend discount models, discounted cash flow models, relative multiples, cost of capital, sensitivity analysis, and industry-specific valuation techniques.
2. Interpret and explain the features of valuation models, including their theoretical foundations and practical applications in corporate finance, and analyze equity valuation methods, cash flow projections, and discount rates.
3. Apply managerial valuation concepts to solve real-world problems by performing company valuations, forecasting financials, and evaluating investment opportunities.
4. Analyze and evaluate different valuation models, their functionalities, and their applications in mergers and acquisitions, capital budgeting, and strategic decision-making.
5. Synthesize different managerial valuation concepts to create integrated valuation frameworks, design scenario-based analyses, and utilize tools like DCF and multiples to perform advanced equity assessments and reporting.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of managerial valuation techniques in supporting business decisions and analyze the limitations and advantages of various models under uncertainty and market conditions.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Lectures on valuation theory and financial modeling
- Practical case studies involving real-world company valuations
- Workshops on DCF analysis and scenario modeling
- Independent study applying valuation frameworks to dissertation topics
- Faculty assessment and formative feedback

SUS 7820 | Sustainable Business Practices

This course explores sustainability strategies that organizations adopt to enhance environmental, social, and economic performance. Students analyze global sustainability frameworks, ethical business models, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles, green innovation, and circular economy practices. The course emphasizes the intersection of sustainability and competitive advantage, preparing doctoral candidates to incorporate sustainable thinking into their research and leadership practice.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze global sustainability frameworks and their application to organizational strategy.
2. Evaluate ESG principles and ethical business models within contemporary organizational contexts.
3. Assess the relationship between sustainable practice and competitive advantage.
4. Apply concepts of green innovation and circular economy thinking to research and professional practice.
5. Integrate sustainability considerations into doctoral research frameworks and leadership approaches.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Lectures and seminars on sustainability theory and ESG frameworks
- Case study analysis of organizational sustainability strategies
- Group discussions on circular economy and green innovation
- Independent research connecting sustainability to dissertation themes
- Faculty-guided assessment and feedback

RSK 7830 | Predictive & Risk Modeling

This course develops predictive models and assesses risk within organizational and research contexts. Students examine time-series forecasting, risk-assessment frameworks, probability modeling, Monte Carlo simulation, and early-warning systems. The course covers predictive modeling techniques including regression, decision trees, and neural networks, as well as machine learning applications for fraud detection and continuous auditing systems. Legal, ethical, and regulatory considerations, including GDPR, CCPA, IESBA Code of Ethics, and emerging AI regulations, are also addressed. Through hands-on modeling exercises and case-based analysis, learners gain proficiency in quantitative tools to mitigate risk and support strategic decision-making.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of predictive and risk analytics concepts including descriptive, diagnostic, predictive, and prescriptive analytics.
2. Interpret the evolution of risk-based approaches, analyze audit risk models, and construct risk heat maps and Monte Carlo simulations for quantitative risk assessment.
3. Apply predictive modeling techniques (linear regression, logistic regression, decision trees, neural networks) to solve research and organizational problems.
4. Analyze and evaluate different analytics tools and machine learning algorithms, assessing their functionalities and applications in risk management and strategic contexts.
5. Synthesize predictive and risk analytics concepts to design comprehensive risk management strategies, including fraud detection systems and ESG assurance analytics.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness, limitations, and ethical implications of analytics in organizational decision-making, including data privacy compliance and algorithmic bias mitigation.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Lectures on risk theory and predictive modeling techniques
- Hands-on exercises using Python and R for statistical modeling
- Case studies on major risk events and organizational analytics (e.g., Enron, Wirecard)
- Workshops on Monte Carlo simulation and risk visualization
- Independent capstone project applying analytics to a real-world research problem

SEM 7630 | Project Seminar 4

Project Seminar 4 supports doctoral candidates in completing the initial chapters of their dissertation, including the introduction, literature review, and methodology. Building on prior seminars, this course emphasizes academic alignment, conceptual clarity, and methodological consistency. Students engage in structured presentations, receive faculty assessment, and refine their dissertation drafts to strengthen scholarly rigor. By the end of the seminar, candidates will have a solid foundation in their dissertation work, ensuring readiness for formal proposal approval and the commencement of full data collection and analysis.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Complete well-structured introduction, literature review, and methodology chapters.
2. Ensure alignment of research objectives with conceptual frameworks and methodology.
3. Demonstrate conceptual clarity and consistency across dissertation content.
4. Integrate feedback from faculty and peers to enhance academic rigor.
5. Apply scholarly writing and technical formatting to dissertation chapters.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Faculty-led guidance and structured feedback sessions
- Peer review and collaborative discussion of dissertation drafts
- Scholarly writing and chapter development workshops
- Structured dissertation presentations and critique
- Individual mentoring and faculty supervision

LDR 8900 | Strategic Leadership

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of strategic leadership principles and their application in complex organizational environments. Students explore the intersection of leadership theory, organizational behavior, and strategic management. Topics include visionary leadership, decision-making under uncertainty, change management, ethical leadership, organizational culture, talent development, and the strategic use of leadership to drive competitive advantage and sustainable organizational growth. The course also addresses the growing impact of technology and digital leadership, and introduces classic and contemporary leadership theories, including transformational, transactional, and servant leadership approaches.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of strategic leadership concepts such as leadership styles, organizational vision, decision-making frameworks, change management, ethical leadership, and talent development.
2. Interpret and explain the features of strategic leadership, including its role in organizational performance, culture formation, and stakeholder management, and analyze how leadership decisions impact organizational structure and strategy.
3. Apply strategic leadership concepts to solve real-world organizational challenges by evaluating leadership scenarios, designing change management plans, and assessing strategies for leading diverse and cross-functional teams.
4. Analyze and evaluate different leadership models, organizational frameworks, and strategic tools and their applications in driving innovation, managing conflict, and achieving organizational objectives.
5. Synthesize different strategic leadership concepts to create leadership development plans, design organizational change strategies, and utilize tools like SWOT analysis and stakeholder mapping to perform advanced leadership and strategic planning assessments.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of strategic leadership approaches in addressing organizational challenges and opportunities, and analyze the limitations and advantages of various leadership styles and change management methodologies.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Lectures on leadership theory and strategic management frameworks
- Case study analysis of leadership in complex organizational environments
- Workshops on change management, ethical decision-making, and talent development
- Independent study and practical leadership strategy development
- Faculty-guided seminars and formative assessment

PMP 8910 | International Project Management

This course focuses on the application of the principles and practices of strategic management and international project management. Students learn to identify, analyze, and evaluate corporate objectives and strategies in order to select, develop, and deploy resources to improve the organization's competitive position across products, services, financing, technology, personnel, and markets. The course emphasizes cross-border project execution, including managing international timelines, diverse regulatory frameworks, virtual multicultural teams, and global resource sourcing. As a culminating requirement, students develop a comprehensive strategic management plan for a chosen product, service, or organization.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create comprehensive project plans that incorporate international timelines, resource allocation across multiple countries, and integration of diverse regulatory frameworks to ensure seamless execution in cross-border environments.
2. Lead and motivate virtual teams from varied cultural backgrounds, applying cross-cultural communication strategies and conflict resolution techniques to foster collaboration and productivity in global settings.
3. Identify, analyse, and mitigate risks unique to international projects, such as geopolitical instability, currency fluctuations, and legal differences, using advanced risk assessment tools tailored to global operations.
4. Align project management processes with global standards such as PMI's PMBOK adapted for international contexts, including ethical considerations and sustainable practices in multinational enterprises.
5. Source and manage resources, including human capital, materials, and technology, from international suppliers while navigating trade agreements, tariffs, and supply chain disruptions to achieve cost efficiency.
6. Measure and report on project outcomes using key performance indicators (KPIs) that account for cultural nuances and global stakeholder expectations, enabling data-driven decisions for future international initiatives.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Lectures on strategic management and international project management principles
- Case studies on cross-border project execution and global organizational challenges
- Workshops on risk management, financial integration, and cross-cultural leadership
- Independent development of a strategic management plan as the capstone deliverable
- Faculty assessment and structured feedback

SEM 9600 | Project Seminar 5

Project Seminar 5 guides doctoral candidates through the data collection, coding, and preliminary analysis stages of their dissertation. Building on prior seminars, this course emphasizes best practices for managing datasets, maintaining research integrity, and applying analytical tools in alignment with the chosen research methodology. Students receive individualized feedback from faculty mentors to ensure their research remains aligned with doctoral standards and institutional expectations. By the end of the seminar, students have a structured dataset, preliminary analyses, and a clear plan for full data analysis.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Collect and organize research data systematically and ethically.
2. Apply coding techniques and preliminary analyses consistent with the chosen methodology.
3. Maintain data integrity and adhere to ethical research standards throughout the data collection phase.
4. Use analytical tools effectively to generate preliminary insights relevant to research questions.
5. Integrate faculty feedback to improve data handling and analytical approach.
6. Develop a structured plan for full data analysis in subsequent dissertation stages.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Faculty-led guidance on data collection and coding techniques
- Workshops on analytical tools and preliminary data analysis
- Peer discussion and feedback on data management strategies
- Individual mentoring and progress review sessions
- Case studies of doctoral-level data collection and analysis practices

INT 9700 | Global Management and Organizational Theory

This course examines advanced theories that shape global management and organizational behavior in modern enterprises. Students explore cross-cultural leadership, global strategic frameworks, institutional theory, organizational change, multinational structures, global talent management, and emerging international business trends. The course integrates theoretical depth with practical business realities, preparing doctoral candidates to analyze global organizations from both scholarly and managerial perspectives.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze advanced theories of organizational behavior and their application in global management contexts.
2. Evaluate cross-cultural leadership approaches and their implications for multinational structures.
3. Apply global strategic frameworks and institutional theory to real-world organizational challenges.
4. Assess trends in global talent management and emerging international business practices.
5. Synthesize scholarly and managerial perspectives on global organizational change for doctoral research purposes.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Advanced lectures on global management theory and organizational behavior
- Case studies of multinational organizations and global strategic challenges
- Seminars on cross-cultural leadership and institutional theory
- Independent research integration linking course content to dissertation themes
- Faculty-guided formative assessment and discussion

DIS 9840 | Doctoral Data Analysis

This course develops advanced competencies in analyzing dissertation data using appropriate statistical or qualitative techniques. Students receive training in software such as SPSS, R, or NVivo (depending on methodology). Topics include advanced modeling, thematic coding, hypothesis testing, interpretation of findings, and preparation of academic-quality results chapters. The course ensures students can produce rigorous, defensible dissertation analyses.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Select and justify appropriate data analysis techniques aligned with the dissertation methodology.
2. Apply advanced statistical or qualitative software (SPSS, R, NVivo) to analyze dissertation data.
3. Conduct advanced modeling, thematic coding, and hypothesis testing with methodological precision.
4. Interpret and present research findings in a clear, academically rigorous manner.
5. Produce well-structured results chapters that meet doctoral academic standards.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Practical sessions using SPSS, R, NVivo, or other appropriate software
- Workshops on advanced statistical modeling and qualitative coding
- Individualized faculty guidance on dissertation data interpretation
- Peer review of results chapters for methodological rigor
- Formative and summative assessment tied directly to dissertation progress

SEM 9610 | Project Seminar 6

Project Seminar 6 prepares students for the final stages of their doctoral journey, including finalizing dissertation chapters, editing, preparing for defense, and aligning all components with institutional requirements. Students engage in mock defenses, clarity-building sessions, and scholarly writing workshops. The seminar ensures readiness for formal evaluation by the dissertation committee.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Finalize all dissertation chapters to institutional and academic standards.
2. Demonstrate readiness for the formal doctoral defense through mock defense participation.
3. Apply editorial refinement and scholarly writing skills to produce a polished dissertation.
4. Align all dissertation components with Birchwood University's institutional requirements.
5. Communicate research findings clearly and persuasively to an academic committee.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Mock defense sessions with faculty feedback
- Clarity-building workshops on oral presentation and communication
- Scholarly writing and editorial revision sessions
- Peer review and collaborative critique of final dissertation drafts
- One-to-one faculty supervision and dissertation readiness review

INT 9710 | International Immersion

This course provides students with exposure to global business environments, cross-border managerial practices, and multinational organizational structures. The immersion includes virtual or in-person engagement with international institutions, case studies on global markets, and applied research activities. Students gain firsthand insights into cultural diversity, international policy environments, and global strategic decision-making, enhancing both academic and professional competencies.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of global business environments and cross-border management practices.
2. Engage with international institutional contexts through virtual or in-person immersion activities.
3. Apply insights from cultural diversity and international policy to research and professional leadership.
4. Analyze multinational organizational structures and global strategic decision-making frameworks.
5. Integrate international immersion experiences into the doctoral research context and dissertation conclusions.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Virtual or in-person engagement with international institutions and case studies
- Applied research activities in global market contexts
- Reflective sessions connecting immersion experiences to research and professional goals
- Faculty-guided discussion and formative assessment
- Independent research and analytical reporting

DIS 9850 | Doctoral Defense

The Doctoral Defense represents the final academic milestone of the Ph.D. journey. In this course, students defend their dissertation before the academic committee by presenting research findings, methodological rigor, and scholarly contributions. The defense evaluates the originality, depth, and impact of the dissertation. Successful completion signifies mastery of doctoral-level research and readiness to contribute to academic, policy, or industry leadership.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Present the aims, methodology, and findings of their doctoral research with clarity and academic rigor before a formal academic committee.
2. Defend the coherence, originality, and contribution of their research in response to expert questioning.
3. Demonstrate deep understanding of relevant theoretical and methodological frameworks underlying the dissertation.
4. Critically evaluate the research's implications, limitations, and ethical dimensions in scholarly dialogue.
5. Communicate doctoral-level research effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Preparation and mock defense sessions with supervisory committee
- Workshops on academic presentation, visual aids, and delivery
- Faculty coaching on responding to examiner questions and critiques
- Peer review and collaborative feedback on presentation clarity and confidence
- Independent refinement of slides, notes, and oral responses

9. Assessment Framework

Assessment within the Birchwood University Ph.D. programme is continuous, formative, and summative. Each course employs a graded assessment scheme, and students must achieve a minimum of 60% across all grading components to pass a given course. The general assessment framework across taught courses is as follows:

Assessment Type	Weightage
Quizzes	20–25%
Assignments (written essays, case analyses, applied projects)	45–50%
Case Study Analysis / Class Discussions	15–20%
Attendance and Participation	5–10%

Note: Weightings may vary by individual course. Please refer to individual course guides for specific grading breakdowns.

Dissertation Assessment

The dissertation (developed progressively across the Project Seminar sequence and culminating in DIS 9840 and DIS 9850) is assessed against the following criteria:

- Originality and contribution to knowledge in the chosen field
- Research quality, including methodological validity and ethical compliance
- Theoretical depth and command of relevant literature
- Quality of data collection, analysis, and interpretation
- Coherence and structure of written chapters
- Quality of oral presentation and defense

Academic Integrity

All work submitted must be the student's own. Birchwood University's academic honesty policy applies across all courses. Presenting another's work as one's own, or failing to acknowledge sources appropriately, constitutes an act of plagiarism and will result in an automatic failing grade for the course. Students are expected to engage with standard academic practices including proper quotation, citation, and formal acknowledgement of all sources used.

10. Accreditation and Award

Birchwood University is authorized by the Commission of Independent Education (CIE) in Florida, USA. The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree awarded by Birchwood University represents the highest level of academic achievement and affords holders the title of 'Doctor' / 'Dr'.

Graduates may be invited to attend an official Birchwood University graduation ceremony upon successful completion of the programme, and may request their certificates to be apostilled (legalized) in the USA for international use and recognition. The apostille process is handled directly by Birchwood University and is subject to additional legal fees and terms.

11. Contact Details

For more information, prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the admissions team or visit the official website. Detailed course guides, reading lists, and additional learning resources may be provided upon enrolment.

Field	Details
General Enquiries	info@premierlearning.org
Admissions	apply@premierlearning.org
Course Webpage	https://www.premierlearning.org/doctoral-research-degrees