

PHD PROGRAMME IN ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT



At HEC Liège, we are dedicated to achieving academic excellence in management and economic studies. We are a recognized player in the production and transfer of knowledge and we are committed to developing and educating highly qualified, productive scientists



We offer a single degree for doctoral studies in economics or in management:

PhD in Economics and Management

The School has strong partnerships with the Free University of Brussels (ULB, Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management), the University of Mons (UMons, Warocqué Faculty), the Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain), the University of Namur (UNamur) and the Saint-Louis-Brussels University. These partnerships guarantee our commitment to deliver a high quality doctoral programme.

Furthermore, HEC Liège has also significant research collaborations with other Belgian universities, such as KU Leuven and the University of Antwerp, as well as with first-class institutions such as HEC Montréal, Georgia Tech, Paris Dauphine and the University of Oxford among others. These collaborations extend to the neighbouring countries, namely Maastricht University (The Netherlands), the University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg), the University of Lille 1 and Université Paris I Panthéon –Sorbonne (France).

Our Doctoral programme offers the possibility to choose between the Management or the Economics track, which have their own thematic schools.

For both tracks, candidates are expected to:

- spend time in Belgium for undertaking the mandatory courses.
- complete their doctoral training within the first 2 years of their programme.

Fostering an international outlook, promoting research excellence, and driving scientific innovation, the programme offers courses in both English and French. Moreover, the programme welcomes a growing number of international guest professors every academic year.

Research at our School is conducted within the HEC Liège Research Unit, which is subdivided into 7 subunits associated with strategic research fields in which the school has significant experience and a critical mass of researchers, publications, teaching and corporate collaborations.



Business Analytics & Supply Chain Management

- Decision Support
- Analytical Methods
- Predictive Modeling
- Artificial intelligence
- Machine/Deep Learning
- Operations Research
- Computational Optimization
- Supply Chain Management
- Sustainable logistics
- Transportation



Changing Workplace & Strategic Human Resource Management

- Change management
- HRM innovation
- Social dynamics at work
- Organizational transformations
- Diversity and equality
- New ways of working



Economic Analysis & Policy

- Innovation and Productivity
- Competition Policy
- New Technologies and Regional Development
- Macroeconomic and trade Policies
- Inequality and public policies
- Energy and climate economics



Financial Management for the Future

- Climate risk modelling
- Asset & risk management
- ESG ratings and investor preferences
- Sustainable risk management
- Corporate finance



Social Enterprise and Collective Action for Transition

- Social & sustainable Entrepreneurship
- Transition
- Ecological economics
- Economic democracy
- Social impact assessment
- Business ethics
- Agroecology
- Post-growth
- Sustainable Value Chains



Strategic Marketing Innovation

- Sustainability and customer well-being
- Digital marketing and digital innovation
- Customer experience management
- Consumer engagement and empowerment
- Brand management
- Gamification
- Service interaction management
- Complex Service Settings (healthcare, insurance)



Strategy & Performance for the Society

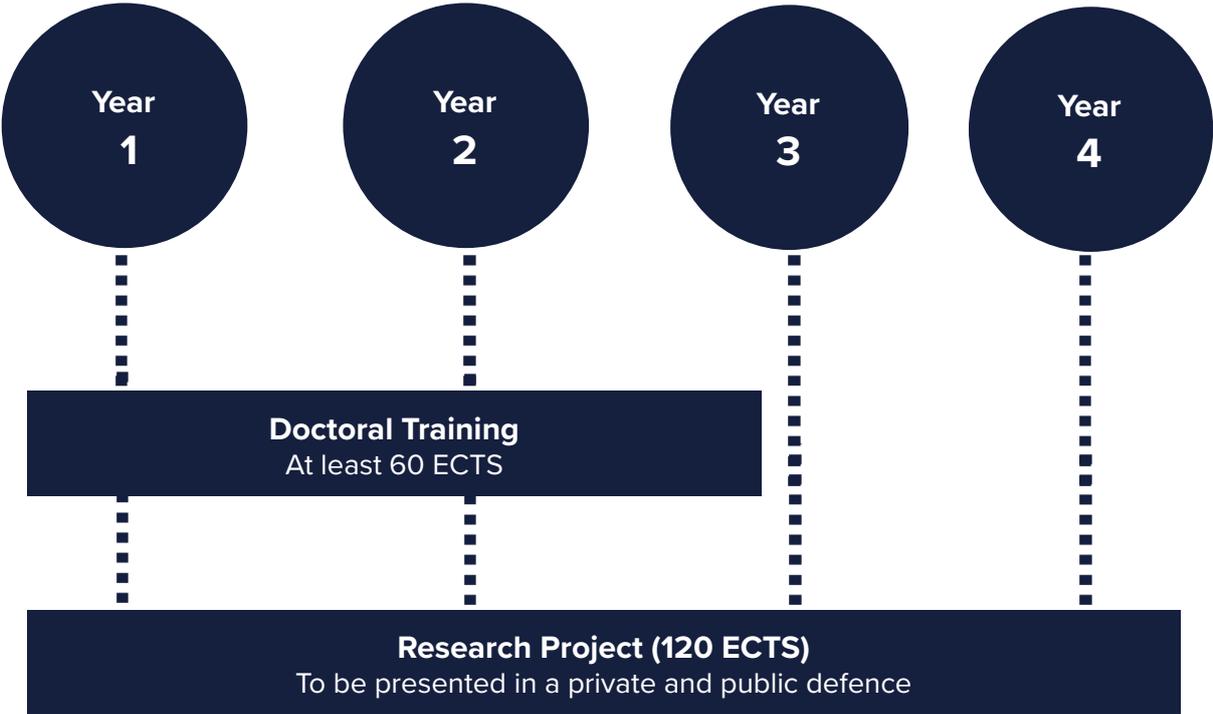
- Sustainability, Strategy, Accounting & Control
- Sustainable Organizational Processes Optimization
- Multi-Stakeholders Ecosystems
- Sustainable Smart Cities
- Impact Entrepreneurship and Assessment
- Entrepreneurial Cognition
- Sustainable Tax Management



HEC Liège fosters active interdisciplinary collaborations around three transversal themes: the digital transformation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship, in order to generate transformative research with high impact

Whether fundamental or applied, research at HEC Liège is focused on delivering knowledge with impact to our stakeholders

Programme Outline



Doctoral training overview						
Track	Management	Core learning 15 ECTS	Advanced courses 15 ECTS	Research activities & transversal skills 30 ECTS	Total	60 ECTS
	Economics	Doctoral courses 25 ECTS	Transversal skills 10 ECTS	Publications & scientific presentations 25 ECTS		



The Thematic Doctoral School of Management Sciences

Set up jointly by the University of Liège (HEC Liège), the Free University of Brussels (ULB, Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management) and the University of Mons (UMons, Warocqué Faculty).

The programme is organized around a general principle: the creation of value in an increasingly globalized world, as applied to the various fields of management: strategy, finance, marketing, supply chain management, information systems, organization, human resources, etc.

The Thematic Doctoral School of Economics

The thematic school of economics is developed in partnership with UCLouvain, UNamur, the Saint-Louis-Brussels University, and the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Our candidates have access to the doctoral training offered by the thematic school, and the remaining doctoral training and research is done at HEC Liège, where they receive support for their research during their doctorate.

Our programme provides rigorous training in applied econometrics.

Our candidates use empirical and applied theoretical analysis to evaluate policy-relevant issues. They apply different economic approaches to facilitate the decision-making process at the firm and at the government level.

Admission requirements

- Previous Bachelor's and Master's studies should amount to 300 ECTS or the equivalent.
- A Master's degree (120 ECTS or equivalent) with honors.
- For the management track, a Master's degree in management or a related field.
- For the economics track, a Master's degree in economics is mandatory.
- Agreement from one of HEC Liège professors to be your supervisor.
- A compelling and well-thought-out research proposal in a specialized field of economics or management.
- Proficiency in English at an advanced level.

When to apply?

You can apply anytime. However, to enrol in the current academic year, you must register no later than May of each year.

Tuition fees

Please visit www.hec.uliege.be/cms/c_8483902/en/hec-phd-in-economics-and-management for the current tuition fees.

Career Prospects

The PhD programme is conceived to enhance your personal competences, help you develop your critical thinking skills and equip you with the tools to face challenges (from a research, managerial or economic perspective) with a rigorously scientific mindset.

These competences will help you in any professional environment, whether you decide to pursue an academic path or develop a professional career in the private or public sector.

Some of the institutions where our alumni work now



Service Public
Fédéral
FINANCES



What our alumni say about us



“My PhD programme at HEC Liège was really multidisciplinary and encompassing. It has allowed me to work in an international environment where I deal not only with academics, but also with private-sector managers, public-sector officials and civil society representatives. I therefore recommend this programme”

Giovanni Esposito, Professor at the Free University of Brussels (ULB)



“I chose to do my PhD at HEC Liège because I felt supported by all the teachers that would finally be part of my committee. What I enjoyed the most was to be able to think ahead with the people who taught me everything I know about financial markets and instruments. Thanks to the dynamic created we developed new theories and have been able to publish them in high quality academic journals. The programme helped me enhance and develop my knowledge and work methodology.”

Daniel Capocci, CEO & Director, FARAD Investment Management



“I thoroughly enjoyed my time during my Ph.D. studies. The academic community was vibrant, my colleagues were incredibly friendly, and the faculty members were exceptionally supportive. What I believe a doctoral program truly excels at is fostering invaluable soft skills, namely resilience, patience, and rigor. These skills prove indispensable not only in the rigorous realm of academic research but also in any professional setting. I wholeheartedly recommend the Ph.D. programme at HEC Liège. The education I received was nothing short of excellent, and in my view the institution excels at creating an environment that strikes the perfect balance between professional development and a welcoming, private experience.”

Virginie Lurkin, Assistant Professor at HEC Lausanne



“What I enjoyed the most at HEC Liège was definitely the working environment: I made many good friends, and everyone was very welcoming from the first day. The doctoral programme helped me learn different approaches to research and to obtain skills. I would definitely recommend to do a PhD at HEC Liège; it might not be the easiest path (you have to work a lot!), but the rewarding breakthrough moments, and the opportunity of understanding and working on state-of-the-art research makes it definitely worth pursuing!”

Elisabeth Rodríguez-Heck, Optimization engineer at Gurobi Optimization



«In my view, pursuing a PhD allows to satisfy one’s intellectual curiosity by engaging in extensive research and critical analysis.

The doctoral programme helped me enhance and develop numerous skills that are not only valuable for a successful academic career but are also transferable to various professions in industry, government and beyond. Among others, my doctoral studies helped me develop my critical thinking, question assumptions and develop a deep understanding of complex issues; work on complex research problems and find innovative solutions to challenging questions; learn to conduct rigorous research; plan, execute, and manage complex collaborative projects and enhance my communication skills.»

Simon Hazée, Associate Professor at Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain)



About HEC Liège

HEC® Liège – Management School of the University of Liège (www.hec.uliege.be) is part of the top 1% of EQUIS and AACSB accredited business schools in the world. HEC® Liège is also part of the restricted circle of the Conférence des Grandes Écoles. It has also obtained recognition from the CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Institute for its Master's degree in Management with a specialization in Banking & Asset Management, an international reference of the highest level in the world of finance.

HEC® Liège's international vision is reflected in its multiple research activities in management and economics, its numerous partnerships with universities throughout the world and the increasing internationalization of its programmes and professors. With an Alumni network of over 18,200 graduates, the School develops numerous collaborations with companies. It is very active in the field of Executive Education with a wide range of tailor-made training courses for companies, additional training and an Executive MBA.

About Liège

HEC® Liège is located in Liège. Named as «Cité ardente» (Burning City) for its cultural abundance and its warm and festive atmosphere, Liège is a must-see Belgian destination. At the heart of the EU, Liège has the third inland port of Europe and the seventh freight airport in Europe. Recognized for its quality of life and rich historical heritage, Liège is ideally situated within the Meuse-Rhine Euregio, 30 km from Maastricht (the Netherlands) and 60 km from Aachen (Germany). It is less than 1.5 hours away from Cologne, 2.5 hours from Paris and 4 hours from London by high-speed train (TGV) starting from the magnificent train station designed by the renowned architect Santiago Calatrava.

For further information, please visit:

https://www.hec.uliege.be/cms/c_8483902/en/hec-phd-in-economics-and-management

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