4.1.2 Degree Requirements

Admission requirements

1. An outstanding Bachelor’s degree (in relevant disciplines)
2. Ability to pursue research in the candidate’s proposed field of advanced study

Please note that you will need to upload the following supporting documents (size limit: 10MB) as part of your online application.

1. Your Research Proposal or Statement of Purpose *
2. A copy of your undergraduate/graduate degree scroll
3. A copy of your undergraduate/graduate degree transcripts/mark sheets **
4. A copy of your Test Taker’s GMAT/GRE score report ***
5. A copy of your IELTS/TOEFL score report (if the medium of instructions for your university studies is not in English) ***
6. A copy of your resume *
7. A copy of your passport or NRIC *
8. A passport-size photograph
9. Publications (if any) *
10. Two Referee Reports ****

*Documents will have to be combined into a single file and upload to “Work Experience” section.

**The official transcripts and attested copy of degree scroll for your application will be required after you are offered a place in the NUS PhD programme. The official transcripts must be sent to NUS Business School directly from the University and the official transcripts must be in English.

***You also need to indicate your GMAT/GRE and TOEFL/IELTS results in the application portal under the “Other Tests” section. Your official score report must be sent to the NUS Business School directly. GMAT/GRE code is 7219. TOEFL code is 9082 Department Code 02. IELTS code is 0677.

****Two referee reports are required to complete your application. The two referees can come from either the academic sector or from the industry sector. Once referee has been assigned, an automated email will be sent to the referee. You could also initiate to send out the online referee form to your two referees before you complete your online application. The referee will have to complete a referee report form within a 14 days timeline.

For supporting documents that has been uploaded as part of your online application, please do not mail hardcopy documents to the PhD Programme office.

Please fill in the declaration section last. Please ensure ALL sections are complete before you submit the
Curriculum structure and requirements

Year 1 and 2: Coursework, Summer Paper and Qualifying Examination

Coursework: PhD students take a total of 10-12 doctoral level courses. Some of these courses are core courses conducted by the department. The remaining courses are electives conducted in other departments or faculties. For instance, students frequently take their electives in statistics, economics, sociology, psychology, computer science and industrial engineering.

Summer Paper: To help the PhD students kick-start their research early, a summer paper requirement will be introduced into the programme. All first-year students (starting from the AY06/07 cohort) will be required to submit a summer paper at the end of their study in Year 1.

Qualifying Examination: After finishing their coursework, students take a qualifying examination, usually at the end of the second year. A qualifying examination is a comprehensive test of the student’s knowledge of the field and is made up of paper(s) set by the department. Passing the qualifying examination is the signal for the student to embark on the dissertation.

Year 3: Proposal Defense: After clearing the qualifying examination, the doctoral student begins to put together a proposal for the thesis. The proposal is an original idea for investigation put forth by the candidate, after an extensive study of the topic. The student is expected to detail the research question and also provide an outline of the study design. The proposal needs to be defended before the thesis committee and other examiners.

Year 4: The Dissertation: The doctoral candidate begins the final leg of the dissertation following the successful proposal defense. The dissertation is finally evaluated by internal and external examiners. Following this examination, there is an oral defense of the thesis before final submission. The PhD is awarded when the candidate meets all the requirements of the programme and the dissertation is awarded a passing grade by the examiners.