



Doctoral Programs: Key Points

Essential Information for Prospective Doctoral Candidates

You bring the experience. We develop the researcher.

Program Overview

Monarch doctoral programs are specifically oriented toward experienced working professionals in management, administration, leadership, business, and related fields. Candidates typically enter doctoral study with an MBA, MComm, MSc, MPhil Business Research, BComm, or similar academic background, together with meaningful professional experience.

Many prospective candidates assume that doctoral research is primarily intended for individuals who have followed a traditional academic pathway or who already possess extensive formal training in academic research. This is not the orientation of doctoral education at Monarch.

The Monarch doctoral process is structured around the experience and academic background of the business graduate and working professional. Candidates are guided through the transition from professional and managerial thinking to formal doctoral research. The development of the professional researcher, including research skills, the preparation and refinement of the research proposal, and the completion of the dissertation, is integrated into the doctoral journey.

Prior completion of an MPhil or a traditional academic research degree is not required. Candidates are expected to bring subject knowledge, professional experience, intellectual curiosity, and a willingness to develop as professional researchers capable of independent doctoral research.



Key Points

The following key points provide a concise overview of doctoral study at Monarch Switzerland. Prospective candidates are encouraged to review this information together with the relevant program page and supporting institutional documents.

1. Direct-to-Research Programs

Monarch doctoral programs are direct-to-research (thesis-only) programs focused on the development and completion of an original doctoral research project.

2. No Domain-Specific Coursework

Doctoral candidates do not complete traditional subject-based or domain-specific courses as part of the doctoral program. The program begins with research preparation and then moves into the dissertation stage.

3. A Prior Research Degree Is Not Required

Candidates are not required to hold an MPhil or another research-focused degree before entering a Monarch doctoral program. Most Monarch doctoral candidates enter with professionally oriented qualifications such as an MBA, MComm, MSc, BComm, or similar degree. The doctoral process is structured to develop the research knowledge and skills required to progress from an experienced business professional to a professional researcher capable of independent doctoral research.

4. Research Preparation Is Included in the Program

Candidates begin with Research Skills 1 and Research Skills 2, followed by the Research Proposal Perfecting module.

5. A Completed Research Proposal Is NOT Required to Apply

The formal research proposal is developed and refined after admission under faculty guidance. Thus, a research proposal is NOT required during the application phase.

6. Individualized Research Focus

Candidates develop their own research focus within the domain of the selected doctoral program rather than selecting from predetermined dissertation topics. This allows applicants to focus on a domain of genuine interest, thereby increasing the probability of success in the program. Research domains within management, administration, leadership, business, and the social sciences may be considered, subject to alignment with the selected doctoral program.



7. Master-in-Passing Award

The M.Phil. is awarded as the Master-in-Passing within Monarch doctoral programs. The award forms part of the doctoral pathway and applies to all doctoral programs, including dual doctoral degree pathways.

8. Dual Doctoral Degree Pathways Are Available

Selected pathways integrate a PhD with an applied professional doctorate within a coordinated doctoral research journey. Examples include: PhD-DBA, PhD-DOL, and PhD-DSS pathways.

9. PhD and Applied Doctorates Have Different Orientations

PhD programs emphasize original scholarly contribution and theory development, while applied doctorates emphasize professionally relevant research and practical organizational impact.

10. Rolling Admissions - Programs Start Each Month

Applications are accepted and reviewed throughout the year with the program structured around rolling admissions. That means, applicants may choose any month to start the program.

11. Designed for Working Professionals

The academic model is specifically structured for internationally based candidates who wish to continue working in a professional capacity while completing their studies.

12. 100% Online Completion Is Possible

All doctoral programs may be completed fully online. Candidates are not required to relocate to Switzerland.

13. Doctoral Workshops Are Available

Optional onsite doctoral workshops are offered several times per year in Switzerland for intensive research review, faculty interaction, scholarly discussion, and networking. Doctoral workshops are optional.

14. Approximately 15 Hours Per Week

Candidates should generally anticipate dedicating approximately 15 hours per week to reading, research development, writing, and related doctoral activities.

15. Standard and Extended Program Durations Are Available

Candidates may select between standard and extended program durations. The extended duration provides additional time for doctoral progression and carries a lower quarterly tuition charge, allowing candidates to select the study timeline that



best reflects their professional and financial circumstances. Please refer to the Monarch Tuition Policy document for additional information.

16. Monthly or Quarterly Tuition Payments Are Available

Candidates may select either monthly or quarterly tuition payment schedules. Payment options are designed to provide flexibility for working professionals managing their doctoral studies alongside ongoing professional and financial commitments. Please refer to the Monarch Tuition Policy document for additional information.

17. No GMAT, GRE, IELTS or TOEFL Required

Monarch Switzerland does not require aptitude examinations for doctoral admission. The admissions procedure will consider previous academic performance and professional history.

18. Approximately One-Month Admissions Process

The complete admissions process typically requires approximately one month, assuming all required documentation is received.

19. Tuition Is Candidate-Funded

Monarch Switzerland is a private institution that does not receive support from government agencies. Scholarships, stipends, and fully funded doctoral positions are not provided, and candidates are responsible for arranging their program financing.

20. Applications Are Non-Binding

Prospective candidates may submit an application for academic review without an obligation to enrol. Following review, successful applicants receive formal admission information for consideration.

