



Stockholm School of Economics

Doctor of Philosophy Programs





BLOMANS GATAN





Bringing together extraordinary talent and real-life problems

Building on the Stockholm School of Economics' hundred-year history as a leading business school and its seventy years in PhD education, the SSE PhD Programs aim at providing a unique learning experience to current and future doctoral students. Our programs offer a high-class educational and research environment to those who have exceptional talent and ambition to attain more knowledge, regardless of their background. As a doctoral student, you study and conduct research in a challenging environment at the highest-ranked business school in the Nordic Region.

Research attracts people for a variety of reasons: the freedom and the flexibility in work, the challenge of solving problems, the stimulating environment of intellectual people, the possibility of travelling the world and meeting with bright minds, the true fascination of research, and the challenge to develop thought leadership in a specific field. Individual differences spur creativity and talent drives change. The combination of extraordinary talent, a creative environment, and real-

life problems builds a solid ground for advancement in economics, finance and business administration.

The overall objective of the SSE PhD Programs is to produce cutting-edge researchers. If you contribute your talent, your hard work and your curious mind, our faculty will provide high-quality supervision and an exciting environment, where real-life problems take center stage.

Welcome to SSE PhD!

Ingalill Holmberg

Associate Dean, SSE PhD Programs
Professor, Department of Management & Organization



“For me, one of the best things as a PhD student at SSE was the easy access I had to the faculty. With the help from more senior researchers I could develop my own thinking.”

HANNA SETTERBERG
Assistant Professor, Department of Accounting,
SSE PhD 2012



The SSE PhD Advantage

The Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) is the leading business school in Northern Europe. It was founded in 1909 through the initiative of the corporate world, and has evolved in close dialogue with industry and society at large. As globalization accelerates and new challenges arise, close relationships with business leaders, policymakers, politicians and experts, pave the ground for excellent research.

Although SSE is a small university, with a student body of 2,000 students, its close collaboration with top Swedish businesses has provided unique access to companies and opened up new research areas. The school's size allows for close faculty and student interaction in the various educational programs, and faculty are able to disseminate their latest research findings in the classroom and seminars. All SSE Faculty are active researchers, many of whom are among the leading experts in the world within their respective fields, and who contribute to the academic excellence of SSE's programs.

In 1999 SSE became the first business school in Sweden to receive the world's leading international accreditation for business schools, EQUIS, and it has maintained the accreditation ever since. The School also represents Sweden in the CEMS network, which brings together leading global business schools and multinational corporations.

Our faculty is on the Prize Committee of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, that nominates and selects the winners of The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The Laureates in Economics regularly visit SSE to give seminars to our students.

And last but not least, PhD Programs at the School do not charge tuition fees and all admitted doctoral students receive a tax-free scholarship, guaranteed throughout the program, conditional upon satisfactory performance.



“What's best about SSE for me? The exposure to cutting-edge research – from weekly internal and external seminars to conferences, covering topics that academics, policymakers, and practitioners are working on.”

VIKTOR THELL
PhD Student, Department of Finance

SSE PhD Programs

– an overview

The overall purpose of the doctoral programs is to give you a deepened and broadened theoretical and methodological knowledge alongside the experience of having completed a substantial piece of original academic work.

Since 1946, when the first doctoral degree was awarded at the Stockholm School of Economics, doctoral education has had a solid foundation within the School. Today three Doctor of Philosophy programs are offered in Business Administration, Economics, and Finance, all full-time, residential programs in English.

SSE PhD draws upon the competencies of some 30 full professors with different areas of expertise. Thus, in practice, each program offers a range of sub-specializations.

In order to receive an SSE Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree, you must earn 240 ECTS credits*, which corresponds to four years of full-time studies. These credits consist of a course component, including basic theory, methodology, and specialization courses, and a doctoral dissertation component.

After completing courses and conducting independent research for the dissertation under the guidance of one or more academic supervisors, you will become a criti-

cal and autonomous researcher/analyst with the ability to plan, lead, finalize and publish research projects.

Your research is considered an important part of the School's research output. For that reason, all PhD dissertations are printed and published by SSE. Each dissertation is presented through an SSE press release, and you are encouraged to generate publicity for your findings.

WHO CAN APPLY?

All our PhD Programs require that you have one university level degree, at least three semesters' worth (corresponding to 90 ECTS credits) of prior university level studies in the respective field, and one year of Master level studies or the equivalent. However, the specific admission requirements differ across the Programs, so please see the information on each respective program.

FAST TRACK WITH MSC-PHD PARALLEL ENROLLMENT

If you are a first-year Master student at SSE (excluding the Master Program in General Management), you



* European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System; ECTS corresponds to the Swedish term "högskolepoäng".

can apply and be admitted to the SSE PhD Program in the second year of your MSc studies, through the MSc-PhD parallel enrollment scheme. When admitted to the doctoral program, you begin the following Fall Semester in the PhD Program instead of continuing your second year studies within the MSc Program.

ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

Some 24 new students are admitted every year, and start the PhD Program with orientation days, usually towards the end of August. If you are admitted to a PhD Program, you will be offered a tax-free scholarship for 48 months, supervision by an academic supervisor, and a shared office at the department of your specialization.

LIFE AS A PHD STUDENT

As a PhD student you are highly integrated in the SSE research environment. Besides the shared office at SSE, you also have full access to premises, library, and IT resources. You attend and give presentations at the seminar series of your department and are welcome to attend seminars at other departments. As a doctoral student you have access to travel grants so that you can conduct research abroad and participate actively at international conferences.

At the same time your student status gives you access to the many discounts offered by membership in the Student Association of the Stockholm School of Economics, such as student housing, discounted student fares for public transportation, and rebates in stores, restaurants, museums, and sport club memberships. With its inner city location, SSE does not have a traditional campus, but the activities of the entire city of Stockholm are easily within your reach, including day courses, seminars, and workshops held at other Stockholm universities.



“Being a PhD student at SSE makes you feel like you matter. As a highly talented and committed student, you are a primary asset for this institution, which does its best to provide you with the right conditions to thrive and make a difference. As an SSE researcher, your work is immediately relevant to our corporate partners who want to get the most out of your research, but who give in return, by participating in your studies and providing unique empirical settings and data.”

MATTIA BIANCHI
Assistant Professor, Department of Management & Organization



“I came to SSE as a Master student and instantly fell in love with the school and the city. SSE is a landmark of a business school. This eases access to empirical data, an advantage we sometimes totally forget about. At the same time, it is a small school, which promotes personal contact between professors, PhD students, students and the many guest researchers we host every year. It is simply a nice place to work.”

CHRISTOPH SCHNEIDER
PhD Student, Department of Accounting

PhD Program in Business Administration

The SSE PhD Program in Business Administration prepares our graduates to be successful researchers or to advance in their chosen careers. Our 20 full professors who are active in the area of Business Administration are excellent teachers who keep up-to-date in their disciplines through research and publication. The doctoral program fosters close interaction between students and faculty, and every doctoral student belongs to a research group specializing in a particular field of research.

The four-year SSE PhD Program in Business Administration provides four program research areas:

- Accounting and Managerial Finance
- Management and Organization
- Marketing, Strategy, and International Business
- Asian Economy and Business

The 240 ECTS credits of the Program are divided into a course component (90 ECTS) and a dissertation component (150 ECTS). A specially designed course program, Stockholm-Uppsala Business Studies (SUBS), is run jointly with Uppsala University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and offers four mandatory courses (30 ECTS) in the first semester of the program.

You will be supervised by one SSE faculty member (primary supervisor) from the beginning of the program. After you have submitted a dissertation proposal in the second year, you will work with a supervision committee of 3-4 professors to complete your PhD dissertation. Research and conference travel is encouraged within the program.



“Research for me is to enjoy the luxury of following your curiosity wherever it takes you and to boldly go where no wo/man has ever gone before.”

MICHAEL DAHLÉN
Professor, Department of Marketing & Strategy,
SSE PHD 2001

“For researchers who take businesses as their focus of interest, SSE provides the necessary proximity to industry but also the legitimacy of being a reliable source of knowledge in this subject due to the School’s academic achievements and high reputation in education.”

NURGÜL ÖZBEK
PhD Student, Department of Marketing & Strategy





“The PhD program is often described as an intellectual journey. To me it has also been a journey in the most obvious and literal sense. So far my research has taken me to Beijing, Jerusalem, London, New York, Paris, Tokyo and many more places. Such trips develop your competence and build your international network. However, the most exciting part of the program is actually the regular day-to-day work at the office. That is exactly how rewarding the PhD program is.”

ERIK WIKBERG
PhD Student, Department of Management & Organization

ELIGIBILITY

If you have one university level degree, at least three semesters (corresponding to 90 ECTS credits) of prior university level studies in Business Administration and one year of Master level studies or the equivalent, you can apply to the PhD Program in Business Administration.

MORE INFORMATION

[PhD program in Business Administration »](#)
[Admission and Financial support »](#)

PHD PROGRAM IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – PROGRAM STRUCTURE

YEAR 1		YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
SUBS Mandatory courses (30 ECTS)	Elective courses (60 ECTS)				
	Thesis work (150 ECTS)				Defense



“What do I do? I try to understand the world better. I ask my own questions. I never want my working day to end. To attain this life, the only thing you have to do is to learn a scientific discipline. Mine is economics.”

TORE ELLINGSEN
Professor, Department of
Economics

PhD Program in Economics

The SSE PhD Program in Economics combines the advantages of a small department with close and informal connections to faculty with the breadth of courses and seminars associated with a larger department. A specially designed course program, the Stockholm Doctoral Course Program in Economics, Econometrics and Finance (SDPE), is organized by SSE jointly with Stockholm University for our PhD students in Economics and Finance.

We offer program research areas in:

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Applied Econometrics

The 240 ECTS credits of the Program are divided into a course component (105 ECTS), and a dissertation component (135 ECTS). The core courses (60 ECTS) of the SDPE program are compulsory and should be completed in your first year of study. Mandatory courses cover mathematics, microeconomics, macroeconomics, mathematical statistics and econometrics. In the second year you can choose from a large selection of elective courses (45 ECTS).

In the beginning of your second year of study, you find a subject field for your dissertation and decide on an SSE faculty member for your supervisor; you will be conducting dissertation research in your final two to three years. Research from SSE PhD dissertations is frequently published in leading journals, with the *Journal of Finance* and the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* as recent examples. Job placements of recent graduates include Cambridge University, the International Monetary Fund, Paris School of Economics and University College London.

Teaching experience is an integral part of the PhD Program in Economics, and you are strongly encouraged to do some teaching from the second year. Successful completion of teaching entitles you to a fifth year in the program.

Many PhD students spend one or two semesters visiting other leading universities in the US and Europe. SSE is also a member of the European Network for Training in Economic Research (ENTER) together with other prominent economics departments in Europe.



“SSE provides a very international, high quality research environment. Professors are leading experts in their fields. Funding is generous and allows PhD students to focus on their research.”

PAOLA DI CASOLA
PhD Student, Department of Economics

ELIGIBILITY

If you have one university level degree, at least three semesters (corresponding to 90 ECTS credits) of prior university level studies in Economics and one year of Master level studies or the equivalent, you can apply to the PhD Program in Economics.

MORE INFORMATION

PhD program in Economics »
Admission and Financial support »

PHD PROGRAM IN ECONOMICS – PROGRAM STRUCTURE

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
SDPE Mandatory core courses (60 ECTS)	Elective courses (45 ECTS)	Thesis work (135 ECTS)		Defense

“Research is both challenging and stimulating. If you are passionate about a topic and have a curious mind, it gives you a lot of flexibility in trying to understand the world. You are free to pursue the research questions of your choice and to choose how to analyze them. The challenge of finding answers to questions in an economic and financial environment that is constantly evolving makes research an exciting profession.”

PATRICK AUGUSTIN
Assistant Professor, McGill University, SSE PhD Finance 2013



PhD Program in Finance

The SSE PhD Program in Finance follows the standard US format: rigorous coursework in the first two years, and independent work on research projects that will make up the doctoral dissertation in the last two years. A specially designed course program, the Stockholm Doctoral Course Program in Economics, Econometrics and Finance (SDPE), is organized by SSE jointly with Stockholm University for our doctoral students in Economics and Finance. A dissertation from our program typically consists of several essays in one or several fields of financial economics, which are expected to be suitable for publication in international scientific journals – the main channel for communicating research results. A strong track record of placing our graduates in leading academic institutions around the world reflects the strengths of the program and the dedication of our faculty to support our doctoral students.

We offer program research areas in:

- Corporate Finance and Contract Theory
- Law and Finance and Corporate Governance
- Asset Pricing and Financial Econometrics
- Derivatives and Risk Management
- Behavioral Finance
- Market Microstructure
- Real Estate
- Mathematical Finance

In order to receive an SSE PhD degree in Finance, you must earn 240 ECTS. These credits consist of a coursework component (105 ECTS) and a dissertation component (135 ECTS). The coursework component consists of eight first-year compulsory courses (60 ECTS) integrated in the SDPE program, three second-year compulsory finance courses (22.5 ECTS), and elective courses (22.5 ECTS), where you can take more core finance courses, shorter mini courses on specialized areas in finance, or topic courses in economics.

Teaching experience and seminars are integral parts of the PhD program in Finance. From the second year you are strongly encouraged to do some teaching in addition to research assistance and to participate in finance seminars and workshops.

Also in your second year, you need to find a research subject and a suitable supervisor for your dissertation. You will spend your final years in completing your dissertation. Research and conference travels are encouraged, and travel stipends for mini courses and PhD workshops are often available through the Swedish House of Finance (SHoF).



“A great aspect of the PhD education at SSE is that the close ties of SSE top-tier researchers, all over the world, provide great possibilities for international collaboration, exchange and networking. Excellent research funding allows PhD students to attend courses and present their own research on the international stage.”

MARIANA KHAPKO
PhD Student, Department of Finance

ELIGIBILITY

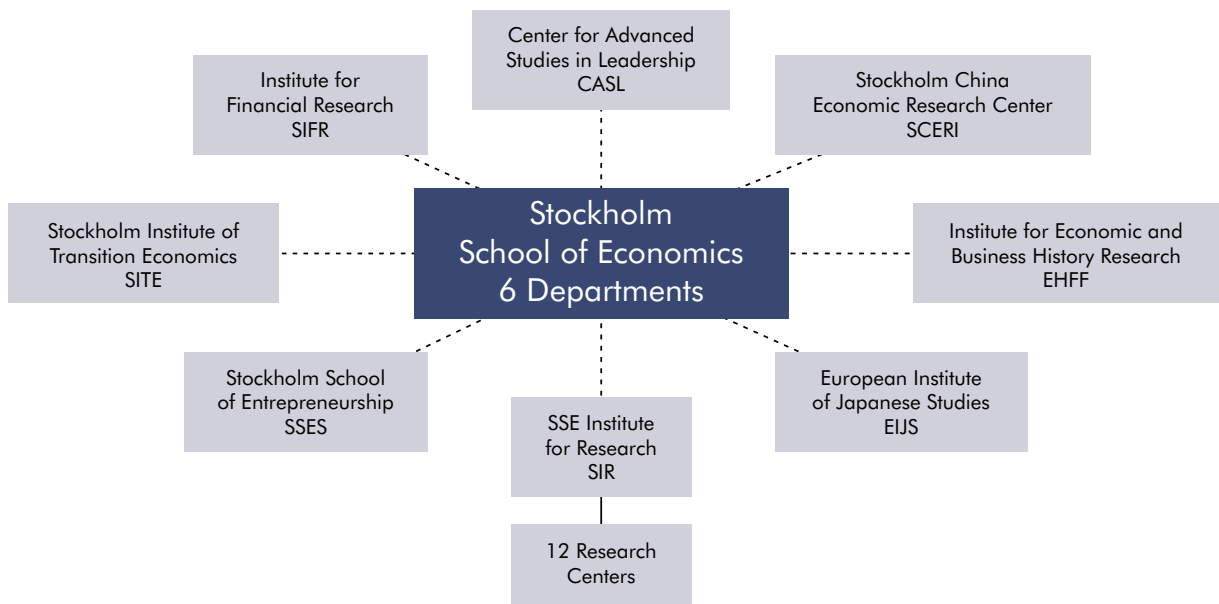
If you have one university level degree, at least three semesters (corresponding to 90 ECTS credits) of prior university level studies in Finance or Economics, and one year of Master level studies or the equivalent, you can apply to the PhD Program in Finance.

MORE INFORMATION

[PhD Program in Finance »](#)
[Admission and Financial support »](#)

PHD PROGRAM IN FINANCE – PROGRAM STRUCTURE

YEAR 1	YEAR 2		YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
SDPE Mandatory core courses (60 ECTS)	Manda- tory Finance courses (22,5 ECTS)	Elective Finance courses (22,5 ECTS)	Thesis work (135 ECTS)		Defense



The SSE family

The SSE family consists of six departments and more than 25 research institutes and research centers in Business, Economics and Finance.

As a PhD student, you will conduct research at one of the departments at SSE, or belong to a research group at one of the affiliated Institutes, or research centers, depending on your specialization and field of research interest.

The SSE research centers and their multitude of ongoing research projects and programs represent the strength, energy and diversity of the research conducted at the Stockholm School of Economics. With a history going back several decades, many of the research

centers have developed mature and strong academic environments and today exhibit theoretically and empirically comprehensive research agendas. Others consist of smaller or newer groups of researchers, often more focused and active within emerging or entrepreneurial academic fields. It is this mix and balance that gives the research conducted its unique character.

The Stockholm School of Entrepreneurship (SSES) is a collaboration between SSE and four other universities and is also a relevant body for research and development, but it engages in entrepreneurial development projects rather than in purely academic research: Stockholm School of Entrepreneurship (SSES) »

- DEPARTMENTS:**
- Department of Accounting »
 - Department of Economics »
 - Department of Finance »
 - Department of Law, Languages and Economic Statistics »
 - Department of Management and Organization »
 - Department of Marketing and Strategy »

- RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND RESEARCH CENTERS**
- Center for Advanced Studies in Leadership (CASL) »
 - European Institute of Japanese Studies (EIJS) »
 - Institute for Economic and Business History Research (EHFF) »
 - Institute for Financial Research (SIFR) »
 - SSE Institute for Research (SIR) »
 - Stockholm China Economic Research Center (SCERI) »
 - Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) »



Alumni

The SSE Alumni network reflects both academic excellence and an impressive placement record covering all sectors of society. Our 14,000 alumni, including 500 alumni from our doctoral programs, are spread all over the world, and SSE PhD alumni are prominent leaders in government and private industry, and take on important faculty positions in business schools around the world. The School's most outstanding alumnus, the late Professor Bertil Ohlin, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1977 for his groundbreaking contribution to the theory of international trade and international capital movements, the Heckscher-Ohlin Model.

Recent SSE PhD graduates have found employment in listed companies such as Ericsson AB; international policy bodies such as the IMF and the OECD; government departments and agencies such as the Swedish Ministry of Finance, the European Central Bank, the central banks of Italy, Poland, Sweden, and Thailand, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency SIDA; research institutes such as the Swedish defense research institute FOI, German Institute for Economic Research DIW Berlin, Kiel Institute of World Economy, Swedish National Institute of Economic Research Konjunkturinstitutet; and university positions at universities as far afield as Australia (University of New South Wales), Canada (McGill University), and Mongolia (National University of Mongolia), to Europe, as in Italy (Bocconi University), the UK (University of Cambridge), Spain (IESE Business School) and Russia (Higher School of Economics, Moscow), to more locally Uppsala and Stockholm Universities. Quite a few graduates are entrepreneurs and start their own companies, too.

After graduation, alumni are provided networking opportunities through the online SSE community AlumniNet and through an official LinkedIn group for students and alumni from SSE. AlumniNet also provides post-graduate career services, and information on job opportunities at our Corporate Partner companies. Internationally, there are alumni groups in the USA and the UK.



“Going into research provides a fantastic opportunity to develop a unique expertise in a specific area. You get a chance to engage with the pressing challenges of contemporary organizations and society and develop new knowledge about these challenges. As a researcher you have the rare opportunity to engage in depth with a knowledge area in order to not only understand or apply it but to move it forward.”

ANDREAS WERR
Professor, Department of Management & Organization,
SSE PhD 1999



Stockholm – a place to study

The capital and the largest city of Sweden with a population of 1.4 million, Stockholm is often said to be one of the most modern and open cities in the world. Excelling in the areas of sustainability, education, IT, social welfare, and culture, Stockholm is also one of the leading green cities according to the Global Green Economy Index. But above all, Stockholm is world-famous for being stunningly beautiful.

Water and the surrounding forests are never further away than a local subway or bus ride from the center city, as the capital is built on several large islands; the nearby Stockholm archipelago consists of more than 30,000 islands, several accessible by boat, public transportation or car.

However, in contrast to all the timeless natural beauty surrounding the city, international influences are quick to reach Stockholm. The latest trends within fashion, culture, art, and music quickly take root. Restaurants with cuisines from every corner of the world jostle with cafés, pubs, unique boutiques, sports events, galleries and museums.

Perhaps this sensitivity to novelty and innovation stems from Stockholm's position as one of the Nordic region's most prominent academic centers, with seventeen universities and almost 100,000 students and researchers. The Stockholm School of Economics, situated in the center of the city, plays a vital part in many interdisciplinary ventures with the other universities in the region.

And finally, Stockholm is also known for the legacy of Alfred Nobel. Stockholm and Sweden hold a special interest for researchers, and every year, on December 10th, millions of people follow the televised ceremonies from the Nobel Prize Awards and the gala banquet in Stockholm's City Hall. What other city can provide academia coupled with such glamour and prestige?



Photos: Stockholm, page 16: Peter Dahlgren. Conferment Ceremony, page 17, Börjesson Reklam AB.

This brochure was produced by the Program Office at SSE.



Stockholm School of Economics

The Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) is the leading business school in Northern Europe. For more than a century, SSE has educated talented women and men for leading positions within the business community and the public sector.

SSE offers bachelors and masters degree programs along with highly regarded PhD, MBA and executive education programs. SSE has earned a reputation for excellence both in Sweden and around the world.

The School is accredited by EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) certifying that all of its main activities, teaching as well as research, are of the highest international standards. SSE is also the Swedish member institution of CEMS (The Global Alliance in Management Education) and PIM (Partnership in International Management).

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