

PhD in Operations Management at Singapore Management University

Applications for August 2027 Entry and Online Information Session on 12 October

If you want to use rigorous research to address real challenges in supply chains, AI, healthcare, platform operations and sustainability, consider the PhD in Operations Management at the Lee Kong Chian School of Business, Singapore Management University (SMU). The programme aims to admit around 3 outstanding bachelor's or master's graduates each year and provides systematic training in optimisation, analytical modelling and empirical research. PhD students can work with multiple faculty members, participate in regular research seminars and engage with visiting scholars from around the world as they develop their own research interests and methodological expertise.

Applications for August 2027 entry are now open. The deadline is 31 December 2026. Apply online: [SMU PhD online application](#)

Programme Training

The programme prepares students to conduct rigorous research independently. Coursework includes six foundation courses, two electives and four Advanced Research Topics courses. Students must also pass the PhD qualifying examination, defend a dissertation proposal and complete a PhD dissertation defence. The programme typically takes four to five years to complete.

Research areas: AI in operations, supply chains, platforms and markets, innovation, service operations, inventory, healthcare, sustainability and energy.

Tuition and Monthly Stipend

Admitted full-time students receive an SMU scholarship that covers their tuition fees, so they do not need to pay tuition personally. The scholarship also provides a monthly living stipend.

From 1 January 2026, the Tier 2 monthly stipends are as follows (in Singapore dollars):

Student status	Before qualifying exam	After qualifying exam
International students	S\$3,100/month	S\$3,600/month
Singapore permanent residents	S\$3,400/month	S\$3,900/month
Singapore citizens	S\$3,800/month	S\$4,300/month

Outstanding students may also apply for an additional scholarship, which can raise the monthly stipend to S\$4,300 for international students, S\$4,800 for Singapore permanent residents and S\$5,300 for Singapore citizens. [View official stipend information](#)

Our Operations Management Faculty

Operations Management has 24 faculty members, with a faculty-to-PhD-student ratio above 2:1. Their PhD training spans the United States (11), Europe (8), Singapore (4) and Canada (1). Their research covers AI in operations, supply chains, platforms, healthcare, sustainable operations and more. Students can collaborate with multiple faculty members according to their research interests.



International Research Exchange

From 2023 through September 2026, the group held 75 research seminars. Among 70 distinct speakers, 64 came from outside SMU: 29 from the United States, 11 from Europe, 5 from Hong Kong, 9 from other Singapore institutions and 10 from other regions. These seminars give PhD students opportunities to engage with scholars worldwide. [Explore the seminar series](#)

Research Publications 55th Worldwide • 42 Papers

In the UTD research ranking for five operations management journals (MS, OR, M&SOM, POM and JOM) over 2023–2026, SMU ranked 55th worldwide with 42 papers. These figures cover the specified journals and years, rather than all of the university's research output. [View the UTD rankings](#)

Graduate Placements

Recent graduates have taken faculty positions at the City University of New York, ShanghaiTech University, Singapore University of Social Sciences, Lingnan University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Wuhan University. Others have joined Grab, Biofourmis and Micron Technology in research and data roles.

Online Information Session on 12 October

Date and time: Monday, 12 October 2026, 4:00 p.m. Singapore time.

Speaker: Liang (Leon) Xu, Associate Professor and PhD Coordinator.

Zoom Meeting ID: 459 000 4858 | Passcode: nice day. [Join the Zoom meeting](#)



Programme Website

Scan for programme details,
courses and admissions
requirements

business.smu.edu.sg



Information Session Registration

Scan to register for the 12
October online session

business.smu.edu.sg