



RISEBA

UNIVERSITY
of Business, Arts and Technology

STRATEGY ON DOCTORAL EDUCATION

for 2018–2020



1. Doctoral education framework



“RISEBA University of Business, Arts and Technology”, hereinafter referred to as RISEBA University, uses the following as its framework for doctoral education:

- The guidelines of the European Foundation for Management Development;
- The EQUAL Guidelines for doctoral programmes in business and management;
- The requirements of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB);
- The requirements, standards and practices set by the European Doctoral Programmes Association in Management and Business Administration (EDAMBA); the Latvian Qualifications Framework (LQF) in accordance with the descriptions of knowledge, skills and competences;
- The best European professional practice in management and business administration.

2. Strategic goals for 2018-2020



RISEBA University is an open-type university, which means we are trying to attract the best local and international professors as faculty members and doctoral students’ supervisors in our doctoral education.

Our long-term strategy for educational activity is to ensure the full cycle of university education: bachelor studies, master’s studies and doctoral studies for each educational direction (faculty) at the university, namely business, audio-visual arts and architecture.

The strategic objective is also to provide highly professional researchers and specialists to the national economy and industries.

The strategic goals of the doctoral education are as follows:

- Continuous improvement of the existing doctoral programme in business management and consistently high quality of the programme should be ensured;
- The rate of defended doctoral theses in 2020 should not be less than 50% of the total number of doctoral students;
- A new doctoral programme in audio-visual arts will be launched in 2020;
- The number of matriculated doctoral students each study year should remain stable at not less than 15 students;
- To select the strategic partners, and prepare the agreements with them to launching new Doctoral Programme in Architecture not later than in 2022;
- The international visibility of doctoral education at RISEBA University should be increased.

3. Academic and professional objectives

The academic goals of RISEBA doctoral education are focused on the students acquiring the following knowledge, skills and competencies:

- To be able to analyse relevant scientific literature, conduct a critical-analytical literature review, and formulate relevant research questions and hypotheses with the aim of making essential contributions to their research fields;
- To be able to communicate about the results of the research, participating in international seminars, workshops, conferences, and exhibitions;
- To have the skills and competence to collaborate in international research groups, publishing research results in conference proceedings and top journals with high impact factors (indexed in the best scientific databases – Web of Science, SCOPUS, and EBSCO);
- To have the relevant knowledge, skills and competence to hold positions at leading academic and research institutions and work as leading researchers, heading international research and development projects and/or top managers or as highly professional business consultants in the corporate world, heading large international companies and thus contributing to local and international business.

The main tasks of the doctoral education:


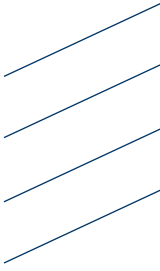
- Conducting and reviewing important research in the field of management in theory and practice: monographs, textbooks and publications, creative outcomes, and scientific publications, including but not limited to:
 - development of doctoral research projects and their implementation;
 - discussion of doctoral research results (including testing and reviewing results: publications and presentations at conferences, seminars, exhibitions, expositions and shows);
 - preparation and defence of the doctoral thesis.

Discussion of the research results at international conferences and seminars and in esteemed academic publications, and trade journals.

Doctoral students and young researchers will contribute to knowledge in their research field, have an impact on practice, policies and knowledge, and become expert researchers in either academia or a relevant industry.

They should be engaged in knowledge creation and transfer, be able to do highly professional targeted research for specific companies or organizations and participate in and contribute to applied practice-oriented research.

4. International opportunities and the target audience



We aim to become a truly international doctoral programme inviting the best visiting professors in relevant research areas from esteemed business universities throughout Europe and the world. Visiting faculty members come from Australia, Germany, Portugal, England, Finland, etc., and in the coming years we will continue attracting the best international professors from local and foreign universities as visiting faculty members and students' doctoral thesis supervisors.

Our target audience for doctoral education is national and international markets.

Strategic target markets include:

- EU states
- Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);
- African states

Current international students come from 10 different countries: Germany, France, Lithuania, Kenya, Belarus, Ukraine, Pakistan, Finland, Vanuatu and Georgia. The programme is delivered entirely in English and no knowledge of Latvian is required. Our goal for 2020 is to have at least 50% foreign doctoral students.

The total number of students in the doctoral programme Business Management should be not less than 80 in the year 2020; the total number of doctoral students in in the doctoral programme Audio-visual Arts should be not less than 10.

The policy regarding the size of student groups is to keep them small enough – up to 20 students in one study year – so that students can benefit from several advantages. We believe that the small size of the student groups is reasonable and legitimated by our willingness to stay very focused on research issues. Through such an approach we can ensure that students, faculty members, visiting professors and thesis supervisors have similar research interests in the relevant research areas.

By limiting the number of students, we can deliver more interaction between students and professors; they can work closely on a regular basis and lessons and discussions can be organized face to face and even one on one.

5. Research fields and strategy for collaboration with partners



The main research areas for the doctoral studies in business management include but are not limited to: general management, finance management, innovation management, and entrepreneurial management. The research areas could be adjusted, and new areas could be added according to the development of the economy and the social sciences.

Research areas in the new doctoral programme in audio-visual arts will be: new digital media, cross-disciplinary digital art, performing arts.

Every two years the Scientific Committee of RISEBA University reviews the List of Research Directions, formulated by RISEBA professors to be quite topical and reflect the main trends in sciences. Each research direction is led by RISEBA faculty member - the scientific head of the direction and the research direction team includes RISEBA faculty members, doctoral and master students and partners from other Universities. This approach allows doctoral students improve their research skills and get the practical experience in fundamental and applied research.

Our strategic goal for 2020 is to foster and strengthen the link with appropriate industries by conducting valuable applied research; carrying out applied research projects that contribute to the professional world; having a considerable impact on society and policymakers by publishing high quality working papers, scientific articles, books, and monographs, and organizing exhibitions and expositions on innovative research in the creative arts, etc. We have set the goal of impacting society and policymakers through participating in public discussions as well, thus sustaining professional practice in the corporate world.

The approach of collaborating with local and foreign universities is intended for joint scientific projects, involving doctoral and master's students as young researchers, accustoming them to and engaging them in research activities in the early study stage.

We plan to continue our collaboration in the business management area with strategic partner Kaiserslautern University of Applied Sciences (Germany), which has no doctoral study programmes of its own and can direct master's students and alumni to studies in the joint doctoral programme Business Management.

The strategy of introducing a new doctoral programme in audio-visual arts anticipates collaboration with two local Latvian universities: University of Latvia and University of Liepaja

RISEBA University has a collaboration agreement with the Latvian Academy of Sciences for strategic collaboration in various research fields.

6. Quality assurance



We consider the consistently high quality of the doctoral programme as one of the main strategic advantages. Under the Law on Higher Education Establishments, the programme director produces an annual self-assessment report for each accredited study programme in accordance with the RISEBA Regulations on Self-Assessment Report Development. The self-assessment report is discussed and approved by the Study Programme Committee every year. The approved self-assessment reports are published on the RISEBA website. Prior to the end of study field accreditation every 6 years, a detailed self-assessment report is provided that includes answers to certain questions according to Regulation No. 407 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia. The submitted self-assessment report is reviewed and the assessment process is organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia.

For information on the promotion process for students' Promotion Theses, see Appendix 1.

7. Research infrastructure



Our approach in developing the research infrastructure is to ensure our doctoral students and faculty members with modern and topical research support tools. Thus, we constantly provide the following:

- Access to the best scientific databases, ensuring remote access to Web of Science, SCOPUS, EBSCO and other databases;
- Acquiring and installing topical versions of software tools supporting quantitative and qualitative research, such as IBM SPSS, NVIVO, Smart PLS and others.

We encourage faculty members and doctoral students in their research through:

- participation in the scientific conferences held by RISEBA, such as the Annual Scientific Baltic Business Management Conference (ASBBMC); in various other international scientific conferences;
- publishing in the Journal of Business Management (JBM), indexed in EBSCO and Copernicus, and the new scientific journal ADAM Arts; in other academic, scientific and trade journals;
- attracting additional funding for support of research activities;
- organizing seminars and workshops for doctoral students on a regular basis;
- organizing seminars for Promotion Thesis supervisors on a regular basis.

8. Doctoral thesis supervisors



There is a policy and process in place for selecting and appointing supervisors.

- Presentation of the Research Directions by leading professors – seminars with the students to familiarize them with possible research topics;
- Discussion with professors about possible joint research;
- Preparing the Research Proposal; approval of the Research Proposal and research supervisors at the Doctoral Council;
- The supervisors may be faculty members / professors from the partner universities, visiting professors, or professors from other universities if their research direction best suits the doctoral student's research interests.

A further aim is having two supervisors for each doctoral thesis, thus ensuring rigorous research and valuable results.

9. Postdoctoral research



So that the development of research continues, we are encouraging our doctoral students to apply for postdoctoral research activities, including research projects announced by Latvian governmental institutions, the European Commission and other international and local funds. We believe that our doctoral programme alumni should work not only as faculty members in academia but also as leading researchers at companies and organizations.

10. Financial support of doctoral education



As a private higher education institution, RISEBA University receives no funding from the Latvian government. Our strategy is to provide doctoral students and faculty members with numerous activities free of charge.

We support our faculty members' and doctoral students' participation at the international scientific ASBBMC conference, which is free of charge for doctoral students and faculty members.

In case RISEBA faculty member or doctoral student has submitted a research paper for publishing in the JBM or ADAM Arts journals and after double-peer blind-review a paper is accepted, the publication is free of charge.

We value the contributions of doctoral thesis supervisors, who are rewarded in three payments for their work related to the specific stages of the Promotion Thesis's development and defence.

We value the contributions of RISEBA University faculty members to research. RISEBA will continue with the financial policy that envisages financial support for faculty members' research in various ways. Namely, RISEBA University compensates all expenses related to participation at international scientific conferences, pays bonuses for research papers published in top research journals and indexed in the Web of Science and SCOPUS databases, and ensures proofreading of papers accepted for publication in the RISEBA scientific journals JBM and ADAM Arts.

