



MSM-ESAMI RTA DBA PROGRAM INFORMATION

Introduction

The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program enables participants to build theoretical insights, develop research skills and apply the insights and skills gained to the field of management. A distinctive feature of DBA research is its applied orientation and, as such, it draws on practical issues that organizations are confronted with. The DBA stresses interdisciplinary understanding and application of the knowledge, which is crucial for managing organizations in an increasingly complex and globalizing world.

Round Table Africa (RTA)

The MSM/ESAMI executed Round Table Africa (RTA) is an innovative action research program on sustainable business development in Eastern and Southern African countries. The RTA-DBA Program targets sustainable business development and governance by focusing at competitiveness, partnerships, and value chain analysis in the areas of agriculture, tourism, mining, manufacturing, and services.

The Value Chain Approach

The DBA program organized jointly by ESAMI and MSM within the Round Table Africa framework aims to enhance our understanding of how East African industries can be better integrated in the global economy by adopting a value chain approach. The particular interest is in identifying opportunities for upgrading small scale producers in agricultural, tourism, manufacturing and mining industries, thereby contributing to sustainable social and economic development in East Africa. The performance of public utilities that facilitate this process completes the picture. Two theoretical approaches are used in examining upgrading opportunities in value chains. The first approach draws on the rich body of literature on competitiveness at the level of enterprises and industries that are operating in global value chains though embedded in distinct economic and institutional environments that are nationally or sub-nationally defined. Key concepts here are clusters; lead companies; the role of governments in dealing with market imperfections; trade and industry policies.

The second approach looks at value chain partnerships, defined as voluntary and collaborative arrangements among government, private sector and NGOs that aim to enhance the institutional business environment for entrepreneurs operating in a particular value chain. Leading question is how partnerships may enhance the competitiveness of value chains as a carrier for sustainable development. Key topics within this line of research are multi-stakeholder collaboration management; public-private partnerships as governance model; and the upgrading of smallholders through institutional innovations (e.g. launch of producer groups, establishment of product quality standards).

Structure

Upon enrollment in the program, each DBA student opts for one of the two research streams (competitiveness or partnerships). As each research stream is accompanied with a list of references of seminal articles, students can get started right away in drafting their problem statement and theoretical framework, on a narrowly defined industry relevant to the program.

As the program aims to enhance sustainable social and economic development, sharing knowledge about the research findings to the actors concerned is a core element of our program. By presenting and discussing the conditions that currently hamper entrepreneurs to become competitive players in a value chain and opportunities to deal with these constraints,



the DBA program aims at improving the business environment through collective action. Hence, as an integral part of their research, students in our program have to organize multi-stakeholder meetings in which they present their (preliminary) research findings and ideas.

Program Overview

The DBA program involves several professors who are experts in one of the two research streams. They are highly motivated and capable to supervise the students enrolled in this program. Besides e-mail and Skype for regular exchange of ideas, students will meet their supervisors face-to-face in training modules and workshops throughout the program. The presentation of joint research papers at conferences is an explicit aim. A general overview of the DBA program is presented in the table below.

Year	Description	Output
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Courses on research methodology, value chains, competitiveness and partnerships ▪ Conducting literature review ▪ Writing MPhil thesis 	MPhil thesis
<p>MPhil defense: After all coursework has been completed successfully, students have to present and defend their MPhil thesis. The MPhil defense committee will decide on the student's capabilities to proceed into the DBA stage.</p>		
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Description of research setting ▪ Refinement of theory and methodology ▪ Data collection 	Organization of first multi-stakeholder meeting
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data analysis 	Submission of conference papers based on preliminary findings
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft thesis ▪ Draft advisory report on upgrading opportunities and measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organization of second multi-stakeholder meeting ▪ DBA thesis
<p>DBA defense: Students are required to defend the dissertation in front of a dissertation defense (examination) committee, consisting of MSM faculty, external faculty and external experts in the field of research.</p>		

Costs

Tuition fees	
1 st year	€ 6,000
2 nd year	€ 6,000
3 rd year	€ 4,000
4 th year ¹	€ 4,000
Total tuition for the Doctoral Program (4 years)	€ 20,000

The tuition fee for the 1st year has to be paid at least 4 weeks before the start of the program.

¹ Every subsequent year thereafter € 3,000 p.a. is paid up to six years in order to remain registered as a doctoral student at MSM.



Requirements

Educational background

Applicants must hold at least a Masters degree or its academic equivalent from a recognized university.

Proficiency in English

Applicants whose native or predominant language is not English must submit evidence of proficiency in the English language.

- Minimum TOEFL score: 85 (internet-based)
 250 (computer-based)
 600 (paper-based)
- Minimum IELTS score: 6.0

Commitment

Students are expected to participate and engage in:

- All courses during the DBA program, to be held at ESAMI, Arusha, Tanzania.
- Meetings with supervisors and fellow students

Internet facilities

Students must have access to sufficient internet facilities with a speed/capacity of at least 512 KB which allow:

- Down- and uploading database contents
- Using e-learning programs
- Using Skype
- Making internet conference calls
- Having access to MSM's literature databases

Selection Procedure

Date 2011	Description
15 February	Deadline for candidates to submit application form including all required documents
March/April	Face-to-face interviews with selected candidates in the region by ESAMI & MSM professors Interview topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of the submitted 3-page proposal ▪ Commitment to the program in terms of motivation, financial position and availability for course work
2 May	Start of the program