



**TEC** | Tecnológico  
de Costa Rica

School of Business Administration

# Doctorate in Business Management

Developing research with a critical attitude, leadership and ethical behavior.

# 1. Why study in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica is a Central American country with one of the oldest democracies in Latin America. It is a country without an army that has decided to invest in education instead of arms since 1949.

This historical democratic legacy in which Costa Ricans have lived has allowed Costa Rica to present itself to the world as the second most peaceful country in Latin America and the first in Central America, taking 40th place in the 2018 Global Peace Index (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2018).

This Costa Rican lifestyle has made us recognized worldwide as one of the happiest countries in the world, according to the 2018 Global Happiness Report.

As a result of strong social inversion, Costa Rica currently holds one of the best primary and secondary education systems in Latin America, which ensures a high academic level for national and exchange students (World Economic Forum, 2017).





## 1.1. Four reasons to study Business Management in Costa Rica<sup>1</sup>

1. It is the country with the greatest capability of innovation in Latin America.
2. It takes first place in business sophistication in Latin America.
3. The quality of the Costa Rican education system takes first place in Latin America.
4. The quality of business schools in Costa Rica takes first place in Latin America.

The idiosyncrasy of the Costa Rican, which is characterized by his or her charisma and kind treatment to foreigners, its stable political history, its high quality of education, and its excellent business climate all make Costa Rica a unique destination in Latin America for postgraduate studies in business.

In this context, the Doctorate in Business Management is an opportunity to consolidate your training in business management and advance yourself professionally and academically.

<sup>1</sup> Based on results from the Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum 2017-2018.

## 2. Who are we?

The Tecnológico de Costa Rica (TEC) is a higher education institution with more than 45 years of experience in teaching, research and outreach. Currently it is one of the most prestigious universities at the national level – TEC has extensive international recognition due to its contribution to the socioeconomic development of Costa Rica through the formation of highly qualified human expertise and scientific production.

The School of Business Administration (SBA) of TEC has more than 40 years of experience, and its operation has been characterized for its academic excellence in the education of business professionals. This has allowed its graduates to advance to both a national and international level.

In the field of research, the SBA oversees the Research Center for Administration, Economy and Technological Management (CIADEG), which manages the scientific work of the School. In addition, it publishes a business-focused journal called TEC Empresarial, which divulges the results of research completed by national and international contributors.



# 3. Doctorate in Business Management (DBM)

The Doctorate in Business Management arose in response to public interest in Costa Rica and other Latin American countries for the generation of novel, useful knowledge of business management, particularly SMEs, which are an important economic engine of the Latin American region.

It is a program of high academic demand oriented toward the development of expertise in scientific research that permits changes in the method of thinking in order to offer innovative and creative solutions to challenges faced by organizations.

## 3.1. Entry Profile

Researchers, university professors, business executives and consultants that have a master's degree in a branch of economic sciences or related areas, with an interest in scientific research as a method for solving problems in business.

## 3.2. Exit Profile

The Doctor in Business Administration will be a professional capable of:

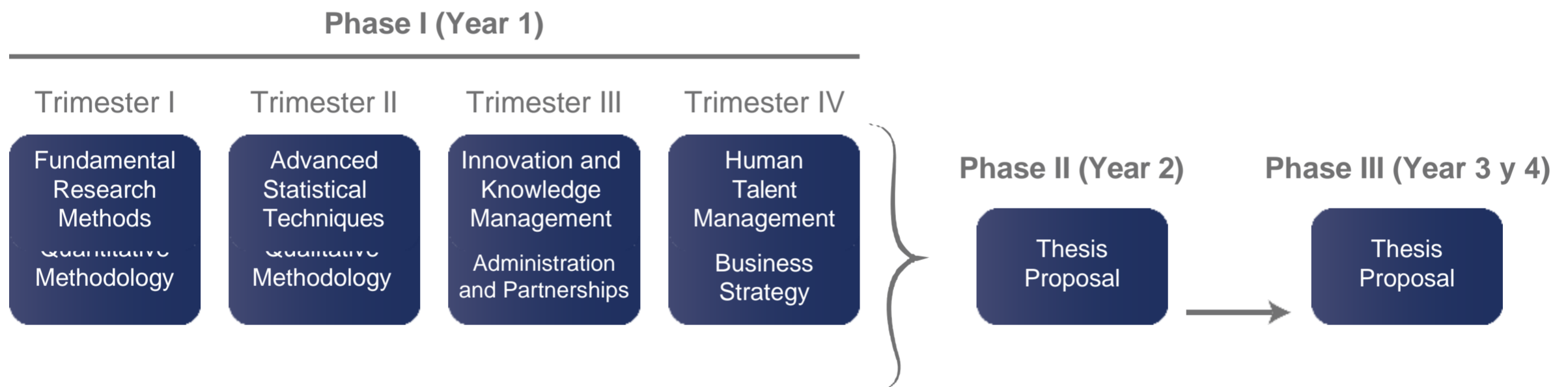
1. Developing research proposals in the field of business management;
2. Evaluating research proposals at a national and international level;
3. Participating in international research networks on the development of research projects;
4. Issuing critical analysis concerning national and regional subjects of interest in the field of business management;
5. Offering services as a consulting specialist in the solution of problems related to business management.



### 3.3. Program Structure

The program has a duration of four years and is divided into three phases:

1. *PHASE I*: One-year duration – consists of eight courses which focus on advanced topics of business administration and management, as well as scientific research methods. The duration of each course is one trimester, which implies 40 hours of attended classes and the rest of time dedicated to out-of-class work. Two courses are taken per trimester;
2. *PHASE II*: One-year duration – the period in which the student should formulate his or her thesis proposal with the accompaniment of a faculty advisor.
3. *PHASE III*: Two-year duration – the period in which the student develops and defends his or her doctoral thesis before an evaluating board.





### 3.4. Course descriptions

#### **Fundamental Research Methods**

Analyzes the fundamental aspects of the scientific method. Begins with the study of the different focuses of research and applicable methodologies in the field of business management.

#### **Quantitative Methodology**

Statistics act as a very valuable tool for the generation of knowledge in scientific research. This course provides the fundamentals of quantitative research techniques for research and a few basic statistical packages that are required to execute quantitative research.

#### **Advanced Statistical Techniques**

This course consists of the analysis, use and preparation of scales, as well as the application of multivariable analysis techniques for the interpretation of research results in the field of business management.

#### **Qualitative Methodology**

In this course, the student will learn to value the utility of qualitative research in the field of business management, formulate all of the stages of the research project, and understand the diverse potential methodology designs in this research focus.

## Innovation and Knowledge Management

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Today, the management of innovation and knowledge are crucial factors for the survival and evolution of businesses in an environment growing more and more competitive each day. In this course, students will deepen their understanding of the most current trends in advancing the integration of innovation and creativity as a part of organizational strategy.

## Strategic Administration and Partnerships

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In the globalized and changing current business environment, the challenges faced by companies are often beyond reach, requiring the use of interorganizational partnerships. A greater understanding is necessary to migrate from an individual administration to a collective management of relations and transactions. This course will cover the utilization of networks, clusters, consortiums and other methods in order to promote cooperation between organizations.

## Human Talent Management

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Human talent is the most valuable asset for organizations and the source of their sustainable competitive advantage in the long run. In this course, students will be able to familiarize themselves with the new trends in human talent management and the future perspectives on scientific research in this field.

## International Business Strategy

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The constant dynamism and change of the economy provoked by globalization and the technological boom prompts companies to create and develop practices and/or models that allow them to confront the challenges arising from global competition. For this reason, this course covers the phenomenon of strategic international business management and the lines of research in this field.

## Thesis Proposal

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In the thesis proposal, students will formulate a research idea that has the potential to provide new understandings in the field of business management. The proposal should possess a strong theoretical support and a rigorous methodological design that ensure the quality of the desired results. This phase is completed with the accompaniment of a faculty advisor.

## Doctoral Thesis

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Consists of the execution of the thesis proposal. It is a research project in which students, with the guidance of a faculty advisor, work to provide the solution to a problem that pertains to the scientific work in the field of business management through the creation of new knowledge. It concludes with the public defense of the research before an evaluating board.





### 3.5. Location of Studies

The attended classes take place in the Torre Condal building, located in San Pedro de Montes de Oca, San José. It is located approximately one hour from the Juan Santamaría International Airport.

International students can carry out phases II and III from their residence country.

### 3.6. Academic Internships

An academic internship is an extracurricular activity that is an indispensable requirement to ensure that the student is prepared to graduate. The goal of academic internships is to expand the student's knowledge and research skills.

The student is responsible for selecting the institution (national or international) where he or she will conduct the internship, as well as financing the associated costs. It should have a minimum duration of one week.

### 3.7. Professors

The program holds a team of national and international professors from countries such as Germany, Argentina, Colombia, Spain, France, Finland, United States, Mexico and Peru, all with a doctorate degree and extensive experience in research and academic publications.

This diversity of professors provides an international view of the current state of business research to students that both widens their horizons and provides an opportunity to construct the base of a network of international contacts that will be of use in the future.





### 3.8. Program Admission

#### Admission Requirements:

1. Master's degree (academic or professional) in economic sciences or a similar area, recognized by CONARE;
2. Proficiency in the English language – the majority of reference and support materials will be in this language;
3. In the case that the native language is not Spanish, proficiency should be certified.

Applicants will be selected by the Postgraduate Council of the School of Business Administration, which reserves the right to evaluate all submitted applications. Its goal is to ensure that those selected have a suitable educational and professional training level for the program.

The Postgraduate Council will use the following selection criteria:

1. Academic record from master's studies;
2. Experience in research-related work;
3. Publications containing research results and/or outreach impact;
4. Professional experience;
5. English proficiency;
6. Personal essay.

### 3.9. Program Costs

The program has a cost of \$21,000, which is paid gradually, when the student registers for his or her course schedule.

| Description                       | Cost in dollars |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Phase I (\$1,500 per course)..... | \$12,000        |
| Phase II.....                     | \$3,000         |
| Phase III.....                    | \$6,000         |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>                 | <b>\$21,000</b> |

Additionally, the student should budget approximately \$800 (total amount) for the payment of the student identification, registration, insurance policy and the student wellbeing fee, during the four years of studies.

## 4. Benefits of studying at TEC

1. Access to scientific article databases: Emerald, EBSCO Host, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, ProQuest, among others;
2. Digital book libraries: Cengage, Pearson, Ebrary and Digitalia;
3. Reference managers: Refworks and EndNote;
4. Networks of international contacts for the completion of academic internships;
5. National and international professors with renowned experience in research;
6. Prestige and international recognition.

## **More information:**

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