City, University of London is an independent member of the University of London which was established by Royal Charter in 1836. It consists of 18 independent member institutions of outstanding global reputation and several prestigious central academic bodies and activities.
In London, Cass Business School occupies a unique position between one of the great financial capitals – the Square Mile – and one of the fastest moving entrepreneurial and digital centres in the world – Tech City. This location exposes students to exceptional experiences and a wealth of learning, research and partnership opportunities.

Cass research has a real impact on how leading businesses operate, their strategic thinking and how organisations are managed. It also frequently influences the decisions of government policy advisers. In a rapidly changing business landscape, we use this constantly developing knowledge to guide the way we teach.

Academic excellence underpins everything Cass does and the research it publishes in the very best peer-review journals is reflected in its highly ranked degrees and applied to the problems it solves for its business clients. The Research Excellence Framework 2014 rated 84% of Cass Business and Management research within the top two categories of ‘world-leading’ (4-star) or ‘internationally excellent’ (3-star). This places Cass in the top six in the UK and highlights the world-class quality of Cass research.

OUR FACULTIES
We achieve our academic reputation through the world-class work we do in our three faculties and the expertise within them.

The Faculty of Finance is one of the largest and most respected in the world. It is home to leading academics with research expertise in all key areas of finance, including accounting, asset pricing, corporate finance, financial markets and regulation, international finance and shipping finance.

In the Faculty of Management we place great emphasis on making sure our theories are well founded academically and closely related to real-world practice. We research and educate in all the main areas of management studies, including strategy, entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, marketing, information management and organisational behaviour and human resources.

The Faculty of Actuarial Science and Insurance is one of the leading academic actuarial departments in the world. Our research covers a range of theoretical and applied issues in pensions, life and general insurance and health care. Particular avenues of research include insurance solvency, mortality and longevity modelling, risk management, dependency between risks, the impact of fair value accounting on insurance and the funding of social care.

Our renowned faculties comprise more than 100 research-active, world-leading experts, with more than half coming from outside the UK. Many of the School’s academics hold impressive credentials and come from strong industry backgrounds.
Executive PhD
Bridging the gap between the academic and business worlds

A UNIQUE DEGREE
Today’s business environment is fast moving, competitive and constantly changing. In order to survive and thrive, organisations need to be highly flexible, forward thinking and able to respond quickly to changes in the global market.

With a strong reputation for excellence in research and education, Cass has developed a unique Executive PhD. The programme is designed to be flexible, to enable busy executives to undertake a PhD, without having to take a career break. It is designed for senior executives working in industry, government or not-for-profit sectors who want a qualification that is highly practical and relevant to their organisation.

The Executive PhD aims to develop reflective practitioners with the ability to conduct rigorous, relevant and impactful research. It inspires you to develop new perspectives and approach change in a unique and innovative way.

FOR WIDE-RANGING PROFESSIONALS
A range of professionals will find the Executive PhD of considerable value, including:
- Finance professionals involved in risk management, control and internal audit in financial institutions
- Managers involved in strategic planning and change management in large organisations
- Investment and actuarial specialists
- Research staff working for regulators and financial institutions
- Marketing research managers and other functional managers tasked with analysing and understanding complex proprietary business data
- Professional accountants and lawyers with an interest in cutting-edge technical problems, such as the valuation of derivatives
- Human resource professionals seeking to upgrade their skills
- Policy-makers with an interest in researching the business policy environment
- Senior managers and consultants interested in deepening their understanding of international business and global supply chain management.

You will graduate with a doctorate from Cass Business School, City, University of London that is recognised worldwide. We are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the Association of MBAs (AMBA) and the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS).
Facilitating your cutting-edge research

AN INTELLECTUAL PLATFORM
The main aim of the Executive PhD is to facilitate cutting-edge research that will influence your organisation’s thought processes, approaches, profitability and insight.
This unique qualification will appeal to individuals who are at a critical point in their career, by helping them to change course or secure more senior positions. It offers an intellectual platform that is not normally provided just by the work environment and enables you to develop both your research capability and your career.
In order to participate in this programme you will have significant work experience and be able to demonstrate insight and understanding of your sector and organisation, which will enable you to develop an appropriate thesis proposal.

MORE THAN JUST A PHD
The programme fulfils the clear need for a research-based qualification for academically talented individuals who have chosen careers in non-academic organisations. It develops independent and critical thinking as well as skills to conduct rigorous research of the highest quality.
It is directed towards research that can make an impact on business, professional practice and broader business and society issues. It is a highly practical qualification that enhances the career and skills of the individual while providing the organisations they work for with valuable research input.
In addition, each PhD thesis will add valuable new knowledge to the scientific community – providing the impetus for additional research that can benefit society as a whole.

“Our rigorous research training programme and supervision from world-class researchers will provide great benefits to candidates and to their organisations. It will also benefit the wider research community by encouraging academic research with a highly practical application in today’s fast moving global business environment.”
Professor Bobby Banerjee, Programme Director

Benefits for you and your organisation

ENHANCE YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS
The Executive PhD offers wide-ranging benefits for programme candidates and the organisations that employ them. You gain a prestigious yet practical academic qualification, together with the skills you need to remain at the forefront of your field of expertise. You will be knowledge leaders in your field capable of solving contemporary and complex business problems.
The Executive PhD programme expands your expertise and skills in a number of ways. By the time you have completed your doctorate you will be able to:
- Conduct research as an independent researcher in an academically responsible and rigorous way
- Apply various research methods and choose the most appropriate approach for a particular practical problem
- Contribute to state-of-the-art knowledge by combining academic rigour with practical management relevance
- Present your research findings to your peers and comment on their work
- Write professional academic research papers and discuss research at a higher academic level.

DEVELOP YOUR CAREER
The Executive PhD is a key career development tool for senior executives working in the public, governmental, not-for-profit and commercial sectors. Recognised as a leader in your field, you will be looking for new opportunities to enhance your skills and academic status. As this programme has been developed for the executive market, the PhD thesis can be tailored to the particular focus and specialisms of individuals and the organisational contexts you work in.

RAISE YOUR RESEARCH PROFILE
Your Executive PhD will raise your profile in the research community by enabling you to publish your research and demonstrate your expertise in the international research arena. It will also enable you to consider teaching positions at reputable academic institutions. By undertaking this programme you will receive academic validation, demonstrate greater value to your organisation and develop career enhancing, transferable knowledge and skills. Meanwhile, your organisation benefits from a four-year research study that is tangible, actionable and relevant.
The Executive PhD is a four-year, part-time degree programme, with a thesis presentation in Year 4. It comprises 10, 40-hour residential weeks with additional private study.

YEAR 1 (FOUR WEEKS)
The first year is the introductory year where you will be exposed to a variety of topics. Classes will be held over four residential weeks during the year. Topics include research methodology, managing research projects, quantitative research methods, qualitative research methods, databases, and research seminars in accounting, finance and management. Supervisory meetings will also be scheduled during the residential weeks. You will also be presenting drafts of your research proposals at this time. At the end of Year 1 you are required to submit and present your final research proposals at this time.

YEAR 2 (TWO WEEKS)
The second year you will be working mainly on your thesis and we will offer customised coursework based on candidate needs. In addition to supervisory meetings, topics during the residential weeks include reading, writing and presenting skills, research seminars in accounting, finance and management, and advanced research methods. You will also be presenting early drafts of parts of your thesis.

YEAR 3 (TWO WEEKS) AND YEAR 4 (TWO WEEKS)
Thesis work will intensify in Years 3 and 4. During the residential weeks much of your time will be spent on working with your supervisors. In addition we will offer topics on reading, writing and presenting skills, research seminars in accounting, finance and management, and advanced research methods. You will also be presenting drafts of your thesis.

THESIS PRESENTATION AND DEFENCE
Following approval by your supervisory panel, you will be invited to defend your thesis at the end of Year 4 in front of an examination committee. Once this process has been successfully completed you will receive your doctoral degree.

Visit our website to learn about the research expertise of our academic staff: www.cass.city.ac.uk/research

Research topics of our current candidates include the following:
- Product Modularity, Collaboration and the impact on Innovation Performance in geographically dispersed R&D teams
- Making sense of investor needs: Using attribution theory to explain financial advisor investment advice for male and female high net worth clients
- The globalisation of Chinese state-owned multinational enterprises (SO-MNEs): guanxi and Liability of Foreignness (LOF)
- In Each Other We Trust: The Reality and Reasons Regarding Internal Control Deficiencies in Religious Organisations
- Islamic Philanthropy and Charity Giving in Muslim Societies
- A Development and Application of an Optimisation Framework for Market-Driven Academic Programme Portfolios
- Understanding the Role of Sustainability-Oriented Innovation In the Banking Sector for the Growth And Development Of MSMEs in Nigeria
- Art finance and advisory strategies
- A consideration of an insolvency process, the UK company voluntary arrangement (CVA) process
- The impact of extreme weather on commodity prices
- Healthcare Analytics applied to Value-Based Health Care Delivery: Development and Implementation of Patient Engagement Score (PES)
- Unprofitable tenants: the usual suspects? A case study of modelling tenant profitability
- Smarter Screens to Improve Retirement Behaviour
- Academic Entrepreneurship: Drivers for entrepreneurship at elite universities in the United States
- Essays in econometrics and political economy – An analysis of the dynamics of the African capital markets and economic growth
- The potential of Blockchain Technology for global payments: moving payments into the digital age
- Managing Ecosystems: the logic of “functional integration” for companies managing a portfolio of business models focused at building high value for their consumers
- The critical determinants of quasi-equity investments and firm’s capital structures – An Islamic banking perspective
- Enhancing Currency Hedging Regimes for Emerging Market Equity Portfolios
- Essays on Sub-Saharan African Financial Markets
- Bitcoins as currency – An evaluation from an economic and juridical perspective
- A Customisable Model of Lean Implementation based on Initial Conditions of Critical Factors
- In Each Other We Trust: The Reality and Reasons Regarding Internal Control Deficiencies in Religious Organisations
Our faculty

- Professor Costas Andriopoulos, Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Professor Charles Baden-Fuller, Centenary Professor of Strategy
- Professor George Balabanis, Professor of Marketing
- Professor Bobby Banerjee, Professor of Management, Programme Director
- Professor Fleura Bardhi, Professor of Marketing
- Professor Thorsten Beck, Professor of Banking and Finance
- Dr Pawel Bilinski, Senior Lecturer in Accounting
- Dr Barbara Casu Lukac, Reader in Banking
- Dr Alessandro Giudici, Lecturer in Management
- Professor Jean-Pascal Gond, Professor of Corporate Social Responsibility
- Professor Stefan Haefliger, Professor of Strategic Management and Innovation
- Professor John Hailey, Professor of Management
- Professor Feng Li, Professor of Information Management
- Professor Nikos Nomikos, Professor of Shipping Risk Management
- Professor Paul Palmer, Professor of Voluntary Sector Management
- Professor Jens Perch Nielsen, Professor of Actuarial Science
- Professor Kate Phylaktis, Professor of International Finance
- Professor Davide Ravasi, Professor in Strategic and Entrepreneurial Management
- Professor Jo Silvester, Professor of Psychology
- Professor Mohan Sodhi, Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management
- Professor Vangelis Souitaris, Professor of Entrepreneurship
- Professor Stephen Thomas, Professor of Finance
- Professor Giovanni Urga, Professor of Finance and Econometrics
- Dr Andrew Yim, Senior Lecturer in Accounting
- Dr Stefania Zerbinati, Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship

Key features

PROGRAMME DURATION
Four years (part-time)

COST
£65,000, excluding accommodation and travel.

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS
Participants will normally hold an excellent MSc, MBA or equivalent business-related degree with a minimum of five years managerial experience and must be able to make a credible time commitment to independent study, in addition to attending the training weeks.

PERSONAL QUALITIES
The Executive PhD will appeal to people who seek new insights in order to get ahead in their profession. You will be a critical thinker and keen to present and defend your point of view. Above all you will be inquisitive. Nothing will stop you from asking questions.

TIME COMMITMENT
Ten five-day, 40-hour residential training weeks, held from Monday to Friday. Four training weeks are held in Year 1 and two training weeks are held in each of Years 2, 3 and 4. Candidates will also be expected to carry out considerable independent study and finalise their thesis on their chosen research area in Year 4.

MORE INFORMATION
Please see the website for information on the application process. Applicants will be required to submit a research proposal (4,000 words) as part of their application.

The Cass Executive PhD Admissions Office
E: executive-phd@city.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)20 7040 5030
www.cass.city.ac.uk/executive-phd
City, University of London is an independent member of the University of London which was established by Royal Charter in 1836. It consists of 18 independent member institutions of outstanding global reputation and several prestigious central academic bodies and activities.

Cass Business School

In 2002, the School was renamed Sir John Cass Business School following a generous donation towards the development of its new Bunhill Row premises.

Sir John Cass’s Foundation

Sir John Cass’s Foundation has supported education in London since the 18th century and takes its name from its founder, Sir John Cass, who established a school in Aldgate in 1710. Born in the City of London in 1661, Sir John served as an MP for the City and was knighted in 1713.