Strategy and Entrepreneurship PhD Program

Leeds School of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Strategy and Entrepreneurship Program at CU Boulder:

Do you want to deeply understand how groundbreaking ideas become transformative companies? Or what separates businesses that thrive from those that fade away? At Leeds, our strategy and entrepreneurship faculty tackles these questions head-on—and we want you to be part of the journey.

We study business from birth to breakthrough and beyond.

From the spark of a revolutionary entrepreneurial idea, to the adaptation and growth, to the strategic decisions that shape global corporations, our research covers it all. Whether you're fascinated by startup culture, cutting-edge innovation, or how established firms stay ahead of the competition, you'll find your niche here.

Technology is changing everything—and we're studying how.

One of our signature strengths is technology and innovation management. We dive deep into how new technologies actually make it from the lab to the marketplace. Think: AI startups, biotech breakthroughs, clean energy ventures, digital platforms. We don't just read about disruption—we analyze how it happens.

Rigor meets relevance: Study problems that actually matter.

We deploy a variety of tools, from Machine Learning, LLMs, causal inference, to CEO surveys and ethnographic studies. And the impact we are interested in is not just purely financial, but encompasses purpose beyond profit, such as environmental sustainability and local community growth. We tackle big questions about innovation and entrepreneurship using diverse theoretical frameworks and research methods—which means you'll learn to think critically from multiple angles, a skill that sets top researchers apart.

Why get a PhD in Strategy and Entrepreneurship at CU Boulder?

- Intellectual Freedom! Study what you are passionate about!
- Great Topics! (Innovation, Emerging Technologies, Startups, Entrepreneurs, Sustainability, Digitization, M&A, Alliances, Platforms, Competitive Strategy, Corporate Strategy, Global Strategy, many more…).
- Amazing Training in Strategy, Innovation, Entrepreneurship Research
- Travel the world doing and presenting research (e.g., Canada, Chile, China, Germany, India, Italy, Hong Kong, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, US).
- Many types of research you can do.
- Great job market – cool jobs worldwide.
- High quality of life and meaningful work.
- If admitted, full tuition waiver plus stipend and generous research travel funding.

What's required

Below are the general requirements to complete a PhD in Business Administration (specifics vary between academic disciplines):

- **Coursework**
  Complete at least 30 credits of graduate-level work in your discipline.
- **Math Camp**
  Math Camp before the start of their first year is highly recommended.
- **Comprehensive Examination/Second Year Papers**
  Demonstrate comprehension of coursework through an examination or second year research paper in your academic discipline.
- **Teaching**
  Serve as a teaching apprentice for three sections of a course, then independently teach two courses of your own.
- **Dissertation Hours**
  Complete at least 30 credits of dissertation hours.
- **Dissertation Proposal Defense**
  Develop, present and successfully defend your dissertation proposal.
- **Final Oral Dissertation Defense**
  Demonstrate your expertise in the theory and methodology of your specific research in your academic discipline.

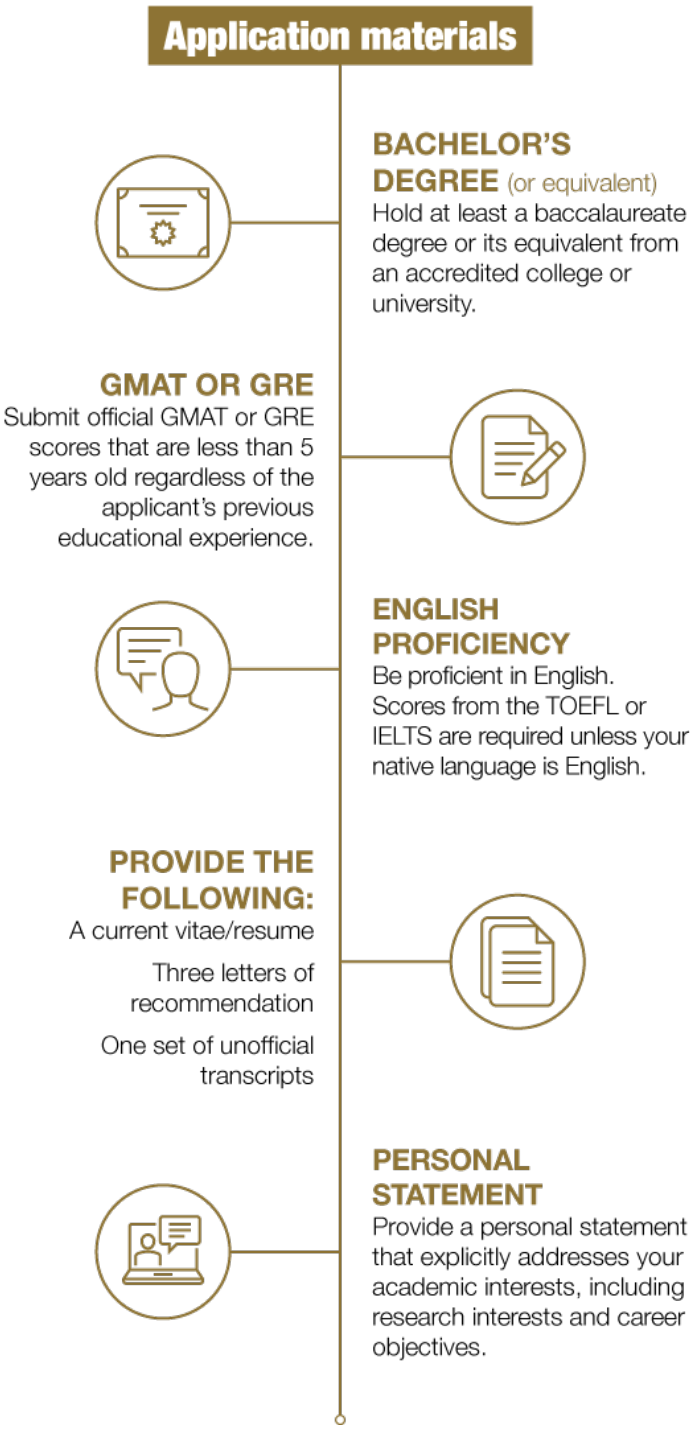
A career of distinction and impact

Our PhD students have won many prestigious research awards in the field, including the Winner of the Wiley-Blackwell Outstanding Dissertation Award of the Strategic Management Division of the Academy of Management, Winner of the National Federation of Independent Business Doctoral Dissertation Award of the Entrepreneurship Division of the Academy of Management, and Winner of the Robert J. Litschert Best Paper by Doctoral Students Award of the Strategic Management Division of the Academy of Management.

Our students have been placed as Assistant Professors at leading universities around the world in recent years, including Purdue University, Tulane University, University of Kansas, University of Tennessee, Indian School of Business (India), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), and Peking University (China), and many more.

Admissions Requirements

Our faculty look for applicants who have a strong command of research skills, as well as excellent written and verbal communication skills. Strong applicants are intellectually curious and highly motivated by academic inquiry. We are committed to increasing ethnic, cultural and gender diversity among our faculty, staff, and students as well as ensuring equal opportunity to all students.



The deadline to apply for admission is **December 15**. All applications received by that date are automatically considered for student funding.

Core Competencies of CU Boulder

- Our faculty work closely with PhD students on research projects, with an aim to develop them into independent scholars capable of conducting highest-quality research.
- Strong specialization in Strategy, Innovation, Technology Management, Entrepreneurship, Sustainability.
- Faculty doing many different types of work (quantitative, qualitative, etc.).
- Excellent research productivity
- In the heart of an amazing innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem (high-growth ventures, quantum computing, aerospace, AI, etc.).
- Large, influential alumni network.
- Excellent course work (Strategy, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Econometrics, Industrial Organization, Microeconomic Theory, Corporate Finance, Organizational Theory, Machine Learning), tailored to your interests!
- Collaborative culture
- Amazing place to live and spend your PhD years.
- Everyone wants you to be successful!

Learn more about the Strategy and Entrepreneurship Program at CU Boulder

leeds.ly/PHD-SEO

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