Ph.D. Programmes
# University of St. Gallen (HSG): degree courses

**Bachelor of Arts HSG (B.A. HSG)**
Business Administration, Economics, International Affairs, Law, Law and Economics  
Programme language: English and German

**Master of Arts HSG (M.A. HSG)**
- Business Innovation
- Marketing, Services and Communication Management
- Accounting and Finance
- Strategy and International Management
- Business Management
- Management, Organization Studies and Cultural Theory
- Banking and Finance
- Economics
- Quantitative Economics and Finance
- International Affairs and Governance
- International Law
- Law
- Law and Economics

Programme language:
- Business Innovation: German
- Marketing, Services and Communication Management: English and German
- Accounting and Finance: English and German
- Strategy and International Management: English
- Business Management: German
- Management, Organization Studies and Cultural Theory: German
- Banking and Finance: English
- Economics: English and German
- Quantitative Economics and Finance: English
- International Affairs and Governance: English and German
- International Law: English
- Law: German
- Law and Economics: German

**Ph.D. Programmes**

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<td>Accounting</td>
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This brochure focuses on the Ph.D. programmes. Please consult our website for brochures and information about the other programmes.

[www.unisg.ch](http://www.unisg.ch)
Education at the University of St. Gallen (HSG), one of Europe’s leading business universities, provides you with an optimal preparation for the future.

The University of St. Gallen is more than just an educational institution; it is a place of inspiration that stimulates you to think. You will acquire up-to-date knowledge that is of great practical relevance, and gain valuable insights. This will enable you to make an important contribution to social and economic progress and to your own personal development. “From insight to impact” is not just our message; it is a promise against which we can be measured.
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Welcome to the University of St. Gallen (HSG)

Dear Candidate,

The HSG is considered to be one of the leading universities for management, economics, law, social sciences and international affairs in Europe.

In our Vision Statement for 2020, the University expresses its ambition to develop thought leadership on a global scale for our key areas. Our Ph.D. programmes are an important element of our academic approach and our overall reputation as a place for cutting-edge research.

We strive to continually strengthen both solution-oriented basic research and rigorous applied research here at the University. We take advantage of synergies between both areas in order to create attractive Ph.D. programmes in various fields at the highest academic standards.

This brochure will give you a more detailed insight into our University and our Ph.D. programmes. I hope I have the opportunity to see you at the HSG in the near future.

Professor Dr. Thomas Bieger
President of the University of St. Gallen (HSG)
The University of St. Gallen (HSG)

Internationality, practical relevance and an integrative view have been characteristic of the University of St. Gallen ever since it was established in 1898. Today, we are educating more than 8,000 students in management, economics, law, social sciences and international affairs, and successfully so: according to the current rankings, the HSG is among Europe’s leading business universities. Holistic education at the highest academic level has earned us the international seals of approval of the EQUIS and AACSB accreditations. Thanks to an increasing number of English-language programmes, we are also attractive for international students. In our Bachelor’s, Master’s and Ph.D. programmes, just over 34 per cent are international students from 80 nations.

Research at the HSG
At the HSG, we conduct basic and applied research at a high level in a wide range of areas. It is conducted in five schools: the School of Management, the School of Finance, the School of Economics and Political Science, the Law School and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. For the most part, this research takes place in the approx. 40 institutes and research institutes, as well as in about 80 chairs.

The HSG’s institute model differs greatly from other universities in Switzerland. This federal concept reflects the exceptional academic nature of the HSG and its research. Groups and teams conduct research with the aim of making a contribution to the University’s top European position and the HSG’s typical cooperative organisation culture. A comprehensive insight into the research is provided by the Alexandria Research Platform.

www.alexandria.unisg.ch

As a place of research, we offer young and experienced academics attractive working conditions, and we specifically support up-and-coming researchers. Thus there is a possibility for young academics to be employed on the research staff or as assistants at institutes and chairs while working towards a Doctor’s degree, so laying the foundations for their later academic careers.

Our focus when supporting the new generation of academics is on career and research-funding opportunities. Closely connected with this are questions of research strategies, vocational guidance and career planning. If young researchers opt for an academic career, we support them in developing subject-related and transferable skills. This includes, for example, our GSERM Global School in Empirical Research Methods.

www.unisg.ch/en/forschung/nachwuchsfoerderung

We fund and foster research
Young researchers are supported through various instruments which are available both intramurally and extramurally, such as the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and EU research programmes. Ph.D. students and postdocs will find the SNSF research scholarships of particular interest. Information about the possibilities in the
field of personal support and project support at the University of St. Gallen can be obtained from the Research Promotion Team, which is the most important contact for HSG researchers and young researchers.

校园

The campus of the University of St. Gallen presents itself as a clearly structured, compact development with a modern infrastructure. The campus is also a place of culture and art: works by artists such as Arp, Miró, Braque, Cucchi, Giacometti and Richter are engaged in a unique dialogue with the buildings designed by the architects Walter M. Förderer and Bruno Gerosa.

图书馆

Our open-access library contains more than 600,000 books, volumes of journals and non-books (DVDs, audiobooks, CDs), more than 130,000 e-books as well as 1,000 printed journals and provides access to over 30,000 electronic journals.

运动

To keep mind and body in balance, the HSG offers a wide variety of courses ranging from aerobics, football, basketball and volleyball to tennis and yoga.

executive education

The institutes do not only stand for excellence in research but offer consulting services and act as leading providers of executive education in German-speaking Europe. As such, the portfolio of study options is completed by a full- and part-time MBA and several Executive MBA programmes.
Ph.D. studies at the University of St. Gallen (HSG) give Ph.D. students the necessary preparation to apply both theory and practice in their later work. The methodology that is essential for this task is reinforced in the lectures and seminars during the coursework stage and research stage, and is refined individually when doctoral students write their thesis.

Coursework stage
The coursework stage lasts a maximum of four semesters and consists of:

- Methodological and specialist courses, which serve to deepen subject knowledge and teach methodological skills.
- Preparation of the research proposal. In it the thesis project and the methodological approach must be described and the evidence of initial research results must be provided.
- Colloquium on the research proposal. It will be assessed by the thesis committee and the colloquium will be conducted within eight weeks. At the colloquium the research proposal will be presented before the thesis committee with a question and answer session regarding content and methodology and it is not open to the public. The thesis committee will decide whether or not to accept the research proposal.

Research stage
The methodological and theoretical part of the Ph.D. studies takes centre stage in the research stage. It lasts a maximum of six semesters and consists of:

- Thesis-related seminars which may provide the opportunity to present and discuss the current status of the research and give a platform for an academic exchange with fellow students and faculty.
- Writing the doctoral thesis, which must be the Ph.D. student’s own scientific achievement that provides evidence of advanced specialist knowledge and the mastery of scientific methods. It can be submitted in the form of a self-contained book (monograph) or individual essays (cumulative thesis).
- Defence. The thesis has to be defended before the thesis committee. Ph.D. students have to provide evidence as to whether they satisfy the requirements implied by the doctoral thesis. The defence is open to the public and lasts about an hour.

Graduation
The Senate awards the degrees at a graduation ceremony. The degree certificates are presented by the president. The following degrees are awarded:

- Management: Doktor oder Doktorin der Wirtschaftswissenschaften (Dr. oec. HSG) or Doctor of Philosophy in Management (Ph.D. HSG)
- Finance: Doktor oder Doktorin der Wirtschaftswissenschaften (Dr. oec. HSG) or Doctor of Philosophy in Finance (Ph.D. HSG)
- Economics and Finance: Doktor oder Doktorin der Wirtschaftswissenschaften (Dr. oec. HSG) or Doctor of Philosophy in Economics and Finance (Ph.D. HSG)
- International Affairs and Political Economy: Doktor oder Doktorin der Staatswissenschaften (Dr. rer. publ. HSG) or Doctor of Philosophy in International Affairs and Political Economy (Ph.D. HSG)
- Law: Doktor oder Doktorin der Rechtswissenschaft (Dr. iur. HSG) or Doctor of Philosophy in Law (Ph.D. HSG)
- Organizational Studies and Cultural Theory: Doktor oder Doktorin der Sozialwissenschaften (Dr. rer. soc. HSG)
or Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Studies and Cultural Theory (Ph.D. HSG)

**Working and studying**
During their Ph.D. studies some students work at their professor’s institute, others write their thesis extramurally. To attend the seminars, however, the students have to come to St. Gallen. The way Ph.D. students structure their Ph.D. studies is something they have to discuss with their supervisor before they take up their studies.

**Application process**
To apply, you will have to fill in the online application on our website. During this process, you will be informed about the documents you have to submit. Once you have entered your data, uploaded the required files and paid the admission fee, your application for a Ph.D. programme is complete. If it is accepted, you will receive confirmation by e-mail.

When you are in possession of this confirmation, it is your own responsibility to find a professor to act as supervisor for your doctoral thesis. This professor will have to submit the form for the supervisor’s letter of recommendation to the Ph.D. Office within the online application time frame; this is a prerequisite for admission to Ph.D. studies. You can find an overview of the various institutes and of the professors and their fields of research on our website.

If you meet all the requirements, you may be admitted unconditionally. If your admission is subject to certain conditions such as supplementary work, your admission is conditional until they have been fulfilled.

**Online application time frame:**
To start in September (Autumn Semester):
1 February to 30 April of the current year.
To start in February (Spring Semester):
1 September to 30 November of the preceding year.
Extended deadlines are applicable for research assistants at the HSG’s institutes.

**Ph.D. Office**
The Ph.D. Office ensures the smooth running of the administrative side of your Ph.D. studies: from the application and registration until the award ceremony. We are the point of contact for prospective Ph.D. candidates and assist Ph.D. students in all questions relating to their studies.

**Fiorella Schmucki**
**Brigitta Scheitlin**
**Anna Schlegel**

University of St. Gallen (HSG)
Ph.D. Office
Dufourstrasse 50
CH-9000 St. Gallen
Switzerland
+41 (0)71 224 22 20
phd@unisg.ch
www.phd.unisg.ch
Admission criteria

Admission to Ph.D. studies at the University of St. Gallen (HSG) is contingent on a Master’s degree obtained from a university. Applicants must have obtained their Master’s degree in consecutive degree courses, i.e. Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree must be in the same field of studies. The entirety of the studies (Bachelor’s and Master’s Levels) must amount to a minimum of 270 ECTS credits, with a minimum of 60 ECTS credits earned for the Master’s degree. You must be able to demonstrate a Swiss grade average of at least 5.00 (Germany/Austria 2.00; US GPA 3.5).

Admission on the basis of a Master of Advanced Studies (MAS, Master of Business Administration [MBA], Executive Master, etc.) is precluded. Admission with a Master’s degree in a different major is possible. In such a case, supplementary work from our Master’s Level will be required.

All external applicants must provide clear evidence that they would be accepted for a Ph.D. programme at their home university. If their university of origin does not offer Ph.D. studies in their major, they cannot be admitted to Ph.D. studies at the University of St. Gallen.

Please note that some programmes have special admission regulations. You can find specific information about individual programmes and further detailed information about admission on our website: www.admissions.unisg.ch

Contact
For any questions regarding the admission criteria please contact:

Beat Rigamonti
Hans-Joachim Hartung

University of St. Gallen (HSG)
Admissions and Crediting Office
Dufourstrasse 50
CH-9000 St. Gallen
Switzerland
+41 (0)71 224 39 31
admissions@unisg.ch
www.admissions.unisg.ch
Financial information

Living costs
Ph.D. students’ living costs vary according to their lifestyles and how they structure their studies. Some students commute to St. Gallen for their studies, others live in St. Gallen and work at their professors’ institutes. Students living here spend on average approx. CHF 25,000 per year.

Tuition fees
When you register for your doctoral studies, you will be charged an application and processing fee of CHF 250. This fee is not reimbursable.

Semester fees
– For matriculated domestic students in a regular semester CHF 626
– For matriculated foreign students in a regular semester CHF 1,076

Examination fees
– For the submission of the research proposal CHF 300
– For the submission of the doctoral thesis CHF 600

Accommodation
We do not offer on-campus housing. Generally, students share an apartment or rent a small one (from CHF 500/month and CHF 650/month, respectively). The HSG’s Student Mobility offers a limited number of rooms in a student residence against a brokerage fee (exchange@unisg.ch). The Student Union provides more information on the housing market:
www.myunisg.ch

Food
A regular menu at the on-campus cafeteria costs about CHF 8. You can find all kinds of restaurants and snack bars in town.

Travelling
Students are advised to obtain the Swiss Federal Railway half-fare card in order to save 50% on public transport tickets. It is available for CHF 185 and valid for one year.

Visa process
Most students who come to Switzerland must obtain a visa prior to entering the country. Please contact the Swiss Embassy in your home country at an early stage to find out about the relevant procedures and documents to be submitted.
In some cases students must prove that they have sufficient financial means for their stay in Switzerland. Therefore they will have to transfer money (currently CHF 24,000) into a Swiss bank account and submit the bank statement with the other documents to the Embassy to obtain the visa.
www.eda.admin.ch

Moving to St. Gallen
Various items of information about moving to St. Gallen and about health insurance schemes for students can be found on the website of the City of St. Gallen. International students are required to take out a Swiss health insurance unless the Swiss authorities accept their original one. Costs will amount to at least CHF 100 per month.
www.stadt.sg.ch

Scholarships and grants
The University of St. Gallen’s Advice Center for Study Funding offers information on funding options and living costs.
www.studyfunding.unisg.ch

Swiss grants
Switzerland offers research, Ph.D. and post-doctoral scholarships to international students. Interested parties should contact both the Swiss Embassy in their home country and the HSG’s Federal Grant Officer Helen Obrist (helen.obrist@unisg.ch).
www.sbfi.admin.ch

Funding Finder
Are you looking for financial support for your studies? Or do you need funding for your research? The Funding Finder will help you to find all the relevant funding types of scholarships, student loans, grants, awards, prizes and other financial help that can advance your personal career.
http://funding.unisg.ch/

Money-earning opportunities
You can find vacancies for doctoral students in our job portal, on the websites of the institutes and through the Career Services Center (CSC-HSG). As a rule, Ph.D. students may have a part-time job of a maximum of 70% at an institute. Foreign students must satisfy various requirements in order to take up a job. Human Resources will be glad to inform you about the permits and documents required.
www.csc.unisg.ch
www.hrs.unisg.ch
Ph.D. Programme in Management (PMA)

The Ph.D. Programme in Management (PMA) brings together all the important research streams of management science. Our students can select one of four specialisation areas: Accounting, Business Innovation, General Management, and Marketing. All these specialisation areas are offered by our large School of Management, which stands for an integrated and holistic education in business administration. The HSG’s School of Management strives to be one of the leading business schools in Europe. Students are sure to find an attractive, international learning environment that is relevant for their future research-based careers in academia and industry.

Structure of the Ph.D. Programme in Management

The Ph.D. Programme in Management (PMA) is the largest Ph.D. programme at the University of St. Gallen and provides preparation for a research-based career in academia and industry. Thanks to the broad orientation of the School of Management, Ph.D. students can choose from among four specialisations: Accounting, Business Innovation, General Management, and Marketing. Each specialisation offers a unique course curriculum providing both the necessary methodological background and in-depth subject knowledge concerning the chosen field of specialisation. The Accounting and General Management specialisations are taught in English. Advanced proficiency in English is required. The Business Innovation and Marketing specialisations are mainly offered in German. Advanced proficiency in both languages is advisable for these two specialisations.

The programme is divided into a coursework stage and a research stage. The purpose of the coursework stage is to deepen methodological skills and provide specialised knowledge. Depending on the chosen area of specialisation, two compulsory and a minimum of two elective courses need to be completed. Elective courses can be selected either from the range of methodological courses of the Ph.D. Programme in Management or the Global School in Empirical Research Methods. Ph.D. students finalise the coursework stage by preparing and presenting a research proposal to their thesis committee.

The research stage focuses on the writing of the thesis and is accompanied by at least

“I joined the HSG for the Ph.D. Programme in Management, specialising in Business Innovation. The programme as such was well-structured and absolutely efficient and focused. The contents combined the fundamentals and innovative topics which supported my further career in management consulting. The HSG community, but also close collaboration with industry partners and international top-tier universities enabled me to extend my personal and professional network. Last but not least: for somebody who enjoys nature and the outdoors — such as myself — St. Gallen, with the nearby lake and mountains, is just a great place to be. All in all, for me, the PMA programme was the perfectly right thing to do.”

Jan Saat, Ph.D.
Senior Manager, zeb
Graduation year: 2010
## Ph.D. Programme in Management (PMA)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research stage 2nd year +</th>
<th>Accounting</th>
<th>Business Innovation</th>
<th>General Management</th>
<th>Marketing</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th>Coursework stage 1st/2nd year</th>
<th>Programme-specific Method Courses</th>
<th>Method Courses from the Global School in Empirical Research Methods</th>
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<td>Accounting Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting Theory</td>
<td>Business Innovation</td>
<td>Design Science Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Management</td>
<td>General Management</td>
<td>Introduction to Scientific Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Introduction to Scientific Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
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</table>

**Min. 2 elective courses**
three doctoral colloquia in order to discuss research progress and to gain new insights from colleagues and faculty members. The research stage is finalised by submitting the thesis to the thesis committee and defending it in an oral examination.

**Specialisations**

**Accounting**

The Accounting curriculum does not only include accounting theory and research methods but also deals with theoretical and practical aspects in the fields of management accounting, auditing and corporate finance. Our objective is to provide Ph.D. students with relevant knowledge that transcends their previous education. Rather than focusing on theoretical problems alone, the specialisation area aims to combine practical issues with quantitative and qualitative research methods. This specialisation area is aimed at all graduates who would like to concentrate on accounting, management accounting, auditing and corporate finance, and who intend to acquire special skills for senior positions in business or qualify for an academic career in this area.

**Business Innovation**

Ph.D. students interested in phenomena that cannot be adequately explained with the help of social research methods alone, might have a deeper look at our Business Innovation specialisation. Our main objective with this specialisation is to investigate the active, goal-oriented and systematic innovation of organisations and administrations that is enabled by new types of artefacts.

Based on state-of-the-art theories (for instance, from information or communication science), business innovation results include conceptualisations, methods, products, reference models or the implementation of prototypes (such as information or logistics systems). Since artefact construction often requires available theories to be extended and adapted, our courses and seminars in the Business Innovation specialisation do not only cover design science research, but also relevant aspects of social science research. Business Innovation therefore addresses all graduates who are interested in topics such as information management and business engineering, technology and innovation management, media and communication management, and logistics management, and who aim at rigorously developing and explaining the emergence of new innovative business solutions.

**General Management**

Our General Management specialisation emphasises the in-depth understanding of all the factors that have a significant impact on the performance and sustainable success of corporations. Ph.D. students will become immersed in an exciting research field, which has created an impressive list of theories and methods enabling the exploration of often disordered and complex linkages among relevant organisational problems. Ph.D. students will be confronted, for instance, with topics such as business strategy and competitive dynamics, corporate, alliance and network strategy, strategy processes and renewal, and entrepreneurship.

The specialisation in General Management provides Ph.D. students with the necessary and relevant knowledge to make a valuable, novel contribution to the field of strategy and management. Research is about entering “uncharted waters”. It requires the twin ability of “disciplined imagination”. As a consequence, our General Management specialisation will expose you to existing

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“Looking back today on my decision to pursue a Ph.D. in Management, it’s undisputable how much this programme at the intersection of innovation management, information management and general organisation management has contributed to my sound understanding of the complex challenges of business transformation and my career in this field. Both the academic rigour and the perfect integration with practitioners through the concept of competence centres set the perfect scene for careers in business and academia. With my management role in business development for SAP Switzerland and its customers, there couldn’t have been a better fit.”

René Fitterer, Ph.D.

Head of Industry Business Development, SAP (Schweiz) AG

Graduation year: 2010
theories of management research, and to main research streams of the discipline, as well as to the quantitative and qualitative research methods that will enable you to make this journey.

Marketing (in German)
Ph.D. students interested in qualified research in marketing, services and communications management should have a deeper look at our Marketing specialisation. With the courses and seminars of this specialisation we prepare our Ph.D. students to detect and understand early on all the important issues for mastering current and future challenges raised by marketing in trade and industry, as well as in society. Our Marketing specialisation enables Ph.D. students to pursue the independent management of long-term, innovative and complex projects and to successfully position themselves in the international scientific community or in marketing practice.

To be successful in our Marketing specialisation, you will have to be interested in the dynamics of markets and customers, and be capable of analytical and synthetic thinking, as well as having perseverance.

Contact
For any questions regarding the content and the structure of the Ph.D. Programme in Management please contact:

pma@unisg.ch
www.pma.unisg.ch
Ph.D. Programme in Finance (PiF)

The Ph.D. Programme in Finance (PiF) is tailored towards a high-quality and internationally orientated education in financial research. It prepares students to pursue an academic career or to take up an applied research position in a central bank, an international policy institution or in the financial sector. The PiF is offered by the School of Finance of the University of St. Gallen, one of the largest finance groups in continental Europe. Our faculty has expertise in a wide variety of topics ranging from asset pricing and banking to corporate finance and market microstructure.

In the PiF programme, students learn the quantitative and qualitative methods of modern finance research. Our large finance faculty and the resources devoted to the Ph.D. programme allow for a broad range of core electives. Ph.D. candidates can expect close faculty guidance while pursuing their own research. They publish their research in well-known international scientific journals and present them at international conferences.

The PiF programme welcomes excellent graduates of Master’s programmes in finance, business administration, economics, mathematics, physics or engineering.

Faculty
The research activities of the School of Finance faculty cover topics such as asset pricing, banking, behavioural finance, corporate finance, derivatives and computational finance, energy finance, insurance, macro finance, market microstructure, real estate finance, and systemic risk.

Coursework stage
The courses of the PiF programme ensure that graduates have the necessary fundamental knowledge to pursue their own original research. The coursework stage lasts between two and four semesters during which candidates have to take two compulsory subjects (Asset Pricing and Corporate Finance) and six core electives. The core electives cover topics such as Computational Finance, Energy Finance, Financial Derivatives, Financial Intermediation, Market Microstructure, Spatial Economet-

“Still hungry to learn more and to further polish my formal skills after my graduate studies, I decided to extend my academic career with a Ph.D. in Finance at the University of St. Gallen. During this time, not only did I get the chance to deepen my understanding of academia and to publish my Ph.D. papers in renowned academic journals, but I also acquired a skillset that has helped me in my professional career. The skills I developed during my Ph.D. studies have distinguished me from other ambitious people in a highly competitive professional environment.”

Otto Huber, Ph.D.
Global Head of Liquidity Risk Management at Credit Suisse
Graduation year: 2011
Ph.D. Programme in Finance (PiF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework stage</th>
<th>Research stage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 compulsory subjects</td>
<td>2 brown-bag seminar presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 core electives</td>
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rics, and Systemic Risk. The menu of core electives can be completed with topics and methods courses from other Ph.D. programmes of the University of St. Gallen as well as from other universities or summer schools.

During the coursework stage Ph.D. students submit a research proposal to their thesis committee. This proposal forms the basis for their own research.

Research stage

During the research stage Ph.D. candidates focus on writing their doctoral thesis, which consists of at least three scientific articles. In addition, they are expected to give two presentations in the PiF brown-bag seminar where they receive feedback from the faculty and their fellow students on their own research. The research stage lasts between four and six semesters.

Contact

For any questions regarding the content and the structure of the Ph.D. Programme in Finance please contact:

pif@unisg.ch

www.pif.unisg.ch
The School of Economics and Political Science is a leading economics department in Europe that is well-known for its research and teaching. The Ph.D. Programme in Economics and Finance (PEF) at the University of St. Gallen trains students to achieve academic excellence in the areas of economics, econometrics and finance with a particular focus on policy-relevant theoretical and empirical research. Graduates are regularly selected for very reputable academic and non-academic positions.

**Coursework and research stages**

The programme is designed to ensure that students acquire advanced knowledge of main areas of economics and finance. The curriculum starts with intensive courses (coursework stage), followed by two to three years of advanced studies and the students’ own original research with topics chosen from three specialisations: economics, econometrics and finance (research stage). Courses are challenging and cover a broad range of topics including theoretical and empirical research methodology. Students benefit from an international environment with English being the exclusive programme language. Each year, distinguished visiting professors from European and US universities teach in our programme. During the research stage students attend Ph.D. and literature seminars, which offer a forum for active scientific exchange between students and PEF faculty. A research-oriented and internationally established faculty offers experienced advice to and close supervision of Ph.D. students writing a doctoral thesis that consists of three essays. After successfully defending the thesis, students are awarded the degree of a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics and Finance (Ph.D. HSG).

**Cumulative thesis**

The thesis in the Ph.D. Programme in Economics and Finance has to be written as a cumulative thesis that consists of at least three publishable essays. At least one paper is a single-authored paper and represents a notable contribution to the thesis as a whole. The overall quality and style of the three papers should be the same as that required by renowned international academic journals. The thesis has to be written in English.

"The PEF provides not only an outstanding methodological education but also an excellent research community and environment. Thanks to the closely knit network at the HSG, I could develop my work through collaborations, discussions, seminar presentations and informal interactions. Thus I received support not only from my supervisor, but also from fellow Ph.D. students, other HSG professors and guest lecturers. The PEF also helps and encourages students to expose their work to a broader audience, for example in conferences and workshops or during a research stay abroad."

**Petra Thiemann, Ph.D.**
Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Economics Department of the University of Southern California (USC Dornsife Institute of New Economic Thinking)
Graduation year: 2015
Ph.D. Programme in Economics and Finance (PEF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialisations</th>
<th>Coursework stage</th>
<th>Research stage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>2 core elective courses in student’s own specialisation</td>
<td>3 compulsory Master’s courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>2 core elective courses in another specialisation</td>
<td>3 literature seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econometrics</td>
<td>2 other core electives</td>
<td>3 Ph.D. seminars</td>
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Ph.D. courses from partner universities/programmes
Creditig of Ph.D. courses from our partner programmes at the University of Frankfurt, the University of Constance and the University of Lugano is possible. You may also attend NCCR FINRISK courses or the Gerzensee programme. Please check in advance which courses can be credited.

The Study Center Gerzensee is a foundation of the Swiss National Bank and offers postgraduate education to central bankers and to Ph.D. students in economics. The Ph.D. courses cover the core curriculum of a U.S. style Ph.D. programme as well as recent developments in various subfields of economics. The courses provide economics students with a solid background for their thesis, and they serve as an important pillar of higher education in Switzerland.

Financial support
Financial support and generous employment opportunities are available: our doctoral students may teach at the Bachelor’s Level and they are offered very attractive research assistant jobs.

Career perspectives
Our Ph.D. programme prepares students for top academic as well as non-academic careers that require a good education in economics, finance and quantitative methods. Our graduates are regularly selected for very reputable positions (research departments of well-known institutions and international organisations, national banks, etc.).

Target group
Our Ph.D. programme is aimed at outstanding students holding a Master’s degree in economics, finance, financial economics, econometrics, or an equivalent degree. We expect our students to be fully committed, creative and talented, and to enjoy interaction with other students and faculty. The students must be proficient in English and have sufficient knowledge in their desired field of specialisation.

Contact
For any questions regarding the content and the structure of the Ph.D. Programme in Economics and Finance please contact:

pef@unisg.ch
www.pef.unisg.ch
The Ph.D. Programme in International Affairs and Political Economy (DIA) provides you with the ideal platform for writing your doctoral thesis in the fields of political science, economics with a focus on economic policy, public management, and international and European law. The DIA is run by the School of Economics and Political Science, which is distinguished by internationally recognised research work in the two disciplines of economics and political science and by high-quality teaching and consulting work.

In the Ph.D. Programme in International Affairs and Political Economy, the focus is on a thesis to be written on the basis of original academic research on a specific problem in the fields of politics, economics, public administration or international law. Such a problem may be policy-oriented, have a fundamental theoretical bent or involve an interdisciplinary approach. The DIA programme provides the requisite research qualifications and reinforces the foundations of disciplinary knowledge in the chosen subject. Moreover, the DIA promotes the skills necessary for a scientific dialogue with neighbouring disciplines.

Our programme is aimed at graduates who hold the Master’s degree in International Affairs and Governance or a Master’s degree in economics, political science, public management or law. DIA students can prepare themselves for an academic career or an analytically demanding specialist or management function in the private, public or non-profit sector. The DIA programme thus takes into consideration that it is not only the scientific community but also society as a whole that is in need of highly qualified decision-makers with a research-based and problem-oriented education.

Faculty
Professors from the four disciplines of economics, political science, public management, and public international and European law are involved in teaching in the DIA programme. In addition, other professors from the University of St. Gallen as well as from other universities are engaged as lecturers or as supervisors for thesis projects.

“For me, the Ph.D. Programme in International Affairs and Political Economy was challenging, yet supportive to my specific needs and professional goals. What I appreciated the most was the individualised learning environment and a demanding faculty with a strong research focus. The way I practise today as a researcher, lecturer and public sector consultant reflects the programme’s basic philosophy – problem driven but yet interdisciplinary.”

Dr. rer. publ. HSG Labinot Demaj
Manager, Behavioral Lab of the University of St. Gallen
Graduation year: 2015
Curriculum
Courses ensure that as a graduate of the Ph.D. Programme in International Affairs and Political Economy, you will possess the required in-depth knowledge both in interdisciplinary fundamentals and in your main discipline and field of specialisation. You begin your studies with the coursework stage, which lasts a maximum of four semesters and consists of two compulsory and two core elective courses.

In the compulsory Philosophical Foundations of Social Science Analysis course, we explore the theoretical and normative principles of the social sciences and law. Awareness of the methodological challenges in the academic study of economics, public management, political science and international law is enhanced in the Method seminar.

The choice of your core elective courses depends on your thesis specialisation: you will attend a literature seminar related to a particular discipline. This ensures that you possess broad specialist knowledge in your main discipline. Likewise, you will complete a field seminar more specifically focused on the topic of your thesis.

Research proposal
During the coursework stage you must submit a research proposal for the doctoral thesis. The thesis committee will conduct a colloquium with you on this proposal. The thesis committee will decide on the acceptance, rejection or return for revision of the research proposal.

Research stage
In this stage, which lasts a maximum of six semesters, you will focus on writing your doctoral thesis. In addition, you will attend an essay seminar and a dissertation seminar, where you will present the interim results of your doctoral thesis depending on your arrangement with your supervisor. You can submit the thesis in the form of a complete book (monograph) or several articles (cumulative doctoral thesis). You should decide on the format with your supervisor. You will finish your Ph.D. studies with the defence of your doctoral thesis.
Ph.D. Programme in Law (DLS)

As is reflected by its academic structure, the HSG conceives of itself as a university with an interdisciplinary approach. On the basis of this concept, the Ph.D. Programme in Law (DLS) provides a consolidation of legal education with respect to legal problems of an economic or other interdisciplinary background. The Ph.D. in Law is taught by the Law School of the University of St. Gallen. The members of the Law School are actively engaged in research and regularly publish legal assessments of current issues in business and society.

The coursework stage is intended to provide you with an awareness of the problems surrounding the generation of substantial academic work, as well as with the methodological and specialist tools required for this task. You will have to attend courses in two different fields. Attendance at one of these two courses can be replaced by a publication in a legal journal that has been awarded an appropriate grade.

Courses are offered in the following fields:
- Fundamentals (legal and political philosophy, legal history, contemporary legal history, legal theory, legal sociology, legal psychology)
- Methods (methodology, comparative law, legal hermeneutics, legislative theory)
- Law and Economics, or interdisciplinary issues

Research proposal and colloquium
The research proposal helps you to formulate your own research activities (research questions) clearly and to present the initial findings of your thesis. In the colloquium about the research proposal, the supervisor

“The University of St. Gallen combines academic excellence with pragmatism and provides the ideal conditions for the development and target-oriented implementation of solutions to challenging questions. The methodological competence and leadership skills acquired at the HSG are an outstanding basis for professional activities in a demanding environment. For me, the HSG is a place of inspiration where the way leads to the goal and where personal responsibility is not only demanded but actively encouraged through attractive conditions.”

Dr. iur. HSG Patrick Eggimann
Consultant, Business Broker AG, Zurich
Graduation year: 2015
and co-supervisor will decide whether to accept or reject the research proposal for the thesis, or to return it for revision.

Research stage
During the research stage, you will not have to attend any seminars. In order to foster your ability to present your research projects and your research findings, to face a critical discussion of them and to integrate possible criticism into your work, we offer Ph.D. colloquia. At the research stage, you will also have an opportunity to attend research workshops where you can work on a specific research project under the direction of a faculty member. This is intended to enable you to effect the practical implementation of scientific ideas. In addition, a didactic module enables you to take part in tutorials and attend training courses at the Centre for Didactics in Higher Education (HDZ).

Research programme
For Ph.D. candidates who are particularly interested in an academic career, the Law School also offers a supplementary research programme. In addition to the above components, the successful completion of the research programme will require the completion of a Ph.D. colloquium, a contribution to a research project, and proof of teaching experience.

Student profile
Our Ph.D. Programme in Law is aimed at graduates of legal Master’s programmes who would like to reinforce their legal training with regard to legal problems with economic or other interdisciplinary backgrounds.

Practice and science
The degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Law (Ph.D. HSG) awarded by the University of St. Gallen is acknowledged both in legal practice (law offices, courts of justice, companies) and in the scientific community. As a rule, a doctoral thesis written at the HSG is of both practical and theoretical relevance. At the Law School of the University of St. Gallen, there is no contradiction between theory and practice.
The Ph.D. Programme in Organization Studies and Cultural Theory (DOK) constitutes a curriculum with an interdisciplinary and international orientation and systematically integrates the HSG’s core and contextual subjects. As most of today’s problems have cultural roots, they can only be apprehended adequately through an understanding of the constitution processes of historically grown and socially incorporated forms of practice, language and institutionalisation. The DOK is offered by both the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the School of Management.

Only if a society’s or an organisation’s cultural foundations and premises are taken into account seriously, will we be able to come to terms effectively with the central challenges of these living and working contexts in the present and in the future. The cornerstone of the DOK consists in a systematic utilisation of theories from different fields of the humanities and social sciences to reflect on, and interpret social and organisational challenges and to develop innovative and attractive options for the future. The programme aims to initiate and extend an understanding of the relations of society and culture, on the one hand, and organisations and institutions as important subsystems of society and culture, on the other hand.

Courses
We offer a small selection of demanding and work-intensive courses. The DOK programme sets great store by enabling students to think and research in interdisciplinary terms. Confrontation with academic worlds other than our own is a genuine constituent of education at the coursework stage and in the courses. The DOK courses are deliberately designed to provide opportunities for as broad as possible an examination of fields of research in the area of Organization and Culture. To integrate the Ph.D. students in research practices as soon as possible, the courses are embedded in the DOK faculty’s research foci: for example, reflexive practices of organising, transcultural workspaces, art mar-

“The DOK combines numerous academic disciplines. Doctoral students are both taught a well-founded understanding of the interaction between individuals, organisations and society, and provided with insights into the diversity of applicable empirical research methods. Working with Prof. Schultheis and the HSG’s Institute of Sociology, as well as the intercommunication with teachers and doctoral students in the DOK course, strengthened and reinforced my social and ethical awareness.”

Tina Maria Sturm, Ph.D.
Co-founder of Sturm & Sturm GmbH, Consultant in Change Management
Graduation year: 2012
Ph.D. Programme in Organization Studies and Cultural Theory (DOK)

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<tr>
<th>Coursework stage</th>
<th>Research stage</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 courses</td>
<td>Individual participation in conferences, colloquia, publishing activity to promote students’ research.</td>
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kets, managing pluralistic organisations, business ethics and cultures of expertise. In the context of this profile area, there are regular colloquia in which faculty members and Ph.D. students discuss these topics with invited guests.

The programme requires doctoral students to possess a high degree of personal motivation and to engage in an intense involvement in the research activities of the faculty members participating in the programme. Because of this Ph.D. programme’s interdisciplinary and highly reflexive approach to studying organisational and cultural phenomena, a significant number of its students already possess relevant experience and have careers in enterprises, NGOs or administration.

**Career opportunities**
DOK studies will provide you with options for careers in industry, administration and academia. You can define your own specialisations within the curriculum.

**Careers in industry:**
The DOK offers broad, interdisciplinary training in general management. It particularly increases the career opportunities of such graduates who will later work in environments with sophisticated demands on their cultural understanding. This includes professional environments in other geographical cultural settings (global management) as well as in non-profit organisations, public organisations, social ventures, NGOs, health organisations, etc.

**Academic careers:**
This programme offers a systematic analysis of fundamental humanities and social science theories with particular emphasis on their potential for problem analysis in management theory. It also emphasises thorough training in qualitative, context-sensitive and hands-on research methods. It is of central importance to understand research itself as a cultural practice in which epistemological, conceptual and methodological issues are to be seen as one inseparable unit.

**Contact**
For any questions regarding the content and the structure of the Ph.D. Programme in Organization Studies and Cultural Theory please contact:

dok@unisg.ch
www.dok.unisg.ch
Ph.D. Exchange

The Ph.D. Exchange programme at the University of St. Gallen is a service that aims to attract and motivate Ph.D. students for an exchange term in order to enhance young academics’ research skills. The Ph.D. Exchange of the HSG coordinates and supports this exchange for incoming and outgoing Ph.D. students.

Target group
Especially at the thesis stage, when students may be engaged in collecting data and preparing a draft of their thesis, as well as at the last stage of their Ph.D. project (completion and publication stage), Ph.D. candidates might use an exchange for an inspiring input at one of St. Gallen’s partner universities. An exchange provides a possibility of meeting international experts and students at other renowned universities worldwide, gives students the opportunity to access special and important empirical data and, last but not least, to derive inspiration from a new cultural environment.

Procedure
Ph.D. students who are interested in this programme are invited to contact us at least nine months before the exchange they have in mind. They have to submit proposals which include three preferences for universities (institute, programme) considered for the exchange, their curriculum vitae, a motivation letter, an abstract of their Ph.D. project, a time frame, and (possibly) a selection of coaches who will assist them in their research.

Contact
Dr. Hans-Joachim Knopf
Ph.D. and Faculty Exchange
University of St. Gallen (HSG)
External Relations and Development
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CH-9000 St. Gallen
Switzerland
+41 (0)71 224 31 07
hans-joachim.knopf@unisg.ch

Student commitment

The Student Union
The Student Union is the official student representative body at the University of St. Gallen (HSG) and the umbrella organisation of the nearly 120 associations and initiatives. Its representatives and the students work towards the realisation of their ideas and contribute to the development of the University. The HSG supports such students’ efforts and, in particular, encourages them to assume personal responsibility.

DocNet
DocNet is the largest club and network for all doctoral students, Ph.D.s and postdoctoral scholars at the University of St. Gallen (HSG). Founded by a group of doctoral students in 2001, DocNet has more than 600 members from different research departments and disciplines.

• We help our members to connect with peers from various disciplines.
• We organise diverse social, cultural, sports and career events.

• We build a bridge to businesses.
• We assist our members in their academic careers with various platforms and events, including the DocNet Symposium.

www.docnet-hsg.ch
GSERM Global School in Empirical Research Methods

The GSERM Global School in Empirical Research Methods, founded by the University of St. Gallen in 2013, is a new integrated programme teaching methodology for Ph.D. students and postdocs from all over the world. GSERM offers an attractive course-based learning atmosphere with a focus on different aspects of empirical research. Participants can choose from different courses offered as block seminars by internationally renowned lecturers. These courses are each worth 4 ECTS credits. We offer about 30 different Ph.D. courses on various levels of quantitative and qualitative topics over a period of 3 ½ weeks in June. To give our students a more rounded experience in Switzerland, an attractive social and sports programme is included. Due to the great success of GSERM in the last few years, GSERM will also be offered in different destinations in the future.

Contact
GSERM Global School in Empirical Research Methods
Dufourstrasse 50
CH-9000 St. Gallen
Switzerland
+41 (0)71 224 34 17
gserm@unisg.ch
www.gserm.ch
The Central Institute Building of the University of St. Gallen.
Career perspectives

Career Services Center
(CSC-HSG)

The Career Services Center of the University of St. Gallen is the central contact point for our students with regard to their entry into professional life. The CSC team consists of coaches and career advisers who have extensive know-how from various industries and fields. Their aim is to support students in their career planning and in the realisation of their career steps according to their requirements. For this purpose, they offer individual consultations and workshops about various topics, such as the professional drafting of application documents, interview training, preparation for interviews and personal stock-taking and decision-making. The CSC-HSG has a library with brochures about topics relevant to careers. Our students can also profit from the Career Management Handbook Application and career planning – competent and practical.

The CSC-HSG also supports international students in their entry into professional life in the Swiss labour market. It provides them with information about particular features of Swiss labour law and culture.

The career and event platform www.hsgcareer.ch provides our students with a job database offering internships, traineeships and regular jobs. In addition, students can input their profiles on the platform and thus directly introduce themselves to potential employers or register for CSC-HSG events. Besides the various workshops, this also includes the HSG TALENTS Conference, the HSG Banking Days, the HSG Consumer Goods and Retail Days and the HSG Industrial Career Day.

www.csc.unisg.ch

HSG TALENTS Conference

The HSG TALENTS Conference is the HSG’s official recruiting event. It provides our students with the excellent opportunity to establish contact with more than 100 national and international companies, to market themselves and to extend their network. The HSG TALENTS Conference is one of the biggest events of this type in the German-speaking area.

www.hsgtalents.unisg.ch

HSG Alumni

HSG Alumni is the official organisation of former students of the University of St. Gallen. With about 24,000 members and over 160 Alumni Clubs on 5 continents, it is one of Europe’s leading associations of this type. It reinforces the alumni’s lifelong bonds with the University, as well as the networks among its members, by means of numerous events and information platforms.

www.alumni.unisg.ch

Contact

Gerd Winandi-Martin
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Career Services Center (CSC-HSG)
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www.csc.unisg.ch
Together with the Abbey District, which also includes many late medieval merchants' houses with the famous St. Gallen oriel windows, the Abbey and the Abbey Library have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site ever since 1983.
Living in St. Gallen

St. Gallen offers its approximately 80,000 inhabitants a historically valuable old town. The narrow streets with their many shops, cosy restaurants and bars at every corner create a wonderful atmosphere. The Abbey District with the baroque cathedral and the Abbey Library is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and thus of international significance. Further cultural highlights are provided by performances in the City Theatre, the Concert Hall and at the St. Gallen Festivals, as well as by exhibitions in numerous museums. One event that is particularly popular with many students is the St. Gallen Open Air, during which the Sitter Valley is transformed into Switzerland’s biggest tent city for three days.

History
St. Gallen became affluent through the textile trade. Although textile production has since moved to other parts of the world, St. Gallen is still a centre of textile design and prototype development. Once 90% of the worldwide embroidery production was traded by St. Gallen merchants. The need for professional education soon became evident, and in 1898, St. Gallen merchants founded a commercial academy, which later evolved into the University of St. Gallen.

Dreiweihern – relaxation just outside St. Gallen
St. Gallen lace – timeless and modern

The City Lounge in the Bleicheli Quarter, which was designed by the artist Pipilotti Rist and the architect Carlos Martinez in the context of a commission of the Raiffeisen Group.
Living in Switzerland

As a federal republic with a system of direct democracy, Switzerland enjoys a high degree of political stability. Its position as a neutral country allows it to play an important humanitarian role in world affairs and to act as a mediator between conflicting parties. Switzerland is the home of various international organisations such as the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Switzerland’s economy is based on a highly qualified labour force. The main areas include micro-, hi- and biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, as well as banking and insurance know-how. Swiss companies are extremely competitive in world markets. The best-known export items are watches, chocolate and cheese, but in fact mechanical and electrical engineering and chemicals together account for over half of Swiss export revenues. Consultancy, banking, insurance and tourism are also a significant part of the export trade.

Political stability and a flourishing economy allow for a high standard of living (e.g. security, lifestyle and employability) at affordable prices. Contrary to general opinion, the cost of living is lower than in, say, London, Paris or Rome.

An increasingly large number of companies are moving their European headquarters to Switzerland to take advantage of the favourable business and living environment.

Switzerland’s international reputation as a research centre is beyond dispute. The high standard of the two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, of the 10 cantonal universities and of research institutes in Switzerland attracts many scientists and students from overseas.

Facts about Switzerland

- Population of 8.24 million (23.8% foreign nationals)
- Surface area of 41,285 square kilometres
- 4 national languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh
- Most competitive economy in the world
- One of the highest annual per capita GDPs worldwide: USD 87,475 (IMF, 2014)
- Low unemployment rate: 3.2% (2014)
- Zurich scores second highest worldwide for quality of living
Have a look at the HSG film!

Love, Loss, and Other Lessons Learned

The film is not only based on the University’s Vision 2020 but also on the experience of studying. Issues like the HSG’s international but also regional orientation, research and practice, innovation and creativity, as well as personality development and student life, appear as central elements in the film. And at the same time, it shows: the University is also a school for life.

The HSG film won a Gold Dolphin Award at the Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards 2014.

www.youtube.com/HSGUniStGallen
Rankings and accreditations

Financial Times Ranking
• Masters in Management:
  • 1st place among the best business universities worldwide with the Master in Strategy and International Management
  • 4th place among the best business universities worldwide with the CEMS Master in International Management (CEMS-MIM)
• Masters in Finance: 10th place among the best business universities worldwide with the Master in Banking and Finance
• Top European business school: 4th place among business schools in Europe

CHE Ranking
• Excellence Ranking Economics Master’s Programmes
• Business administration: top group in German-speaking Europe
• Economics: top group in German-speaking Europe
• International relations: top group in German-speaking Europe

Handelsblatt Ranking
• Business research: 1st place in German-speaking Europe
• Economics research: 10th place in German-speaking Europe

Accreditations
The University of St. Gallen is committed to maintaining its high standard of education, which is internationally recognised, as well as its excellent quality of service on campus – these two aspects are considered to be ongoing for the HSG. It is for this reason that the HSG has introduced comprehensive measures of quality assurance and development. It also subjects itself to the scrutiny of the highest international quality standards by independent experts for the purpose of accreditations. Thus the HSG has earned the EQUIS (2001) and AACSB (2003) accreditations and consequently has obtained the two most demanding international seals of approval for business schools.

EQUIS
The European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) is a seal of approval that has been awarded by the Foundation for Management Development (EFMD, Brussels) ever since 1997 to institutions that meet its standards of quality. These standards include general criteria such as national ranking and resources, internationality and links to the business world.

AACSB
The International Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) was founded in 1916 as a special agency designed to advance B.A. and M.A. programmes. Besides leading American business schools, the best international business schools have also been granted accreditation since 1997.
This brochure contains information about the Ph.D. programmes of the University of St. Gallen (HSG). Please consult our website for information about the Bachelor’s or Master’s Level and Executive Education. The relevant brochures can also be ordered on or downloaded from our website.

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