

# Executive PhD Program in Management

Bridging Academic Rigor and Practical Relevance



University of Antwerp

Antwerp Management School

Management Center Innsbruck



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## welcome.

**Prof. Dr. Andreas Altmann**, Rector of the MCI:

"The Executive PhD Program is an important step in the evolution of MCI The Entrepreneurial School®. Together with our international partners we will mentor senior business professionals and managers with academic ambitions to achieve their career goals. We look forward to guiding the participants of the Executive PhD Program through the process of reaching the next level of academic qualification. This Executive PhD Program will support the PhD Students' career, will provide benefits to their companies and will create impacts on the economy and society we live in."

**Prof. Dr. Herman Van Goethem**, Rector of the University of Antwerp:

"This Executive PhD Program links the competencies of three internationally accredited higher education institutions, the University of Antwerp, the Antwerp Management School and the Management Center Innsbruck. The Executive PhD Program focuses on academic rigor and on relevance of the research endeavors of the PhD students. This program is designed to breed academically minded and at the same time practically oriented thought leaders in their field who will - upon defending their PhD thesis - receive a doctoral degree from the University of Antwerp."

**Prof. Dr. Steven De Haes**, Dean of the Antwerp Management School:

"I strongly believe that competitive and sustainable advantage in the business world can only be achieved through responsible decision-making throughout all activities and strategic decisions. I'm convinced that rigorous academic research with immediate relevance and impact on the real world is absolutely crucial for growth in a highly competitive environment. One of the main objectives of this Executive PhD Program is to make the shift from mere knowledge transfer to the broader development of responsible managers, leaders and 'Global Citizens' who create and transfer knowledge to improve both business, society and academia. "



Prof. Dr. Herman Van Goethem  
Rector of the University of Antwerp



Prof. Dr. Steven De Haes  
Dean of the Antwerp Management School



Prof. Dr. Andreas Altmann  
Rector of the MCI Management Center Innsbruck



## the executive phd program at a glance.

The Executive PhD Program in Management is a four-year, part-time research-based program for senior executives seeking to apply relevant knowledge and research skills to contemporary business problems in their industry or workplace. The program is a premium executive development program designed to be academically rigorous and intellectually challenging.

<b>PROGRAM &amp; DEGREE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive PhD Program in Management, jointly offered by the:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ University of Antwerp (UAntwerp)</li><li>◦ Antwerp Management School (AMS)</li><li>◦ Management Center Innsbruck (MCI)</li></ul></li><li>• PhD, Doctor of Philosophy, conferred by the UAntwerp</li></ul>
<b>TARGET GROUPS</b>	<p>Executives and senior business professionals who want to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• achieve a highly distinguished academic degree,</li><li>• combine their work experience with high-level academic research,</li><li>• learn from and collaborate with renowned universities,</li><li>• establish or strengthen links with the academic sector,</li><li>• pursue a career at the interface of academia and business,</li><li>• further develop their research skills and methods,</li><li>• broaden and deepen their intellectual capabilities.</li></ul>
<b>VENUES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Innsbruck, approx. 50%</li><li>• Antwerp, approx. 50%</li></ul>
<b>ADMISSION CRITERIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MBA, Master's level or equivalent university degree in a relevant field</li><li>• Minimum 10 years of relevant managerial experience</li><li>• Demonstration of academic and professional progression</li><li>• Pre-selected field of research which should show high potential for business and management research</li><li>• Two letters of recommendation (one academic and one business)</li><li>• Successful completion of the admission procedure</li></ul>
<b>SUPPORT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supervisor and doctoral committee</li><li>• Peer support through the cohort of PhD students</li><li>• PhD circles and workshops, conferences, doctoral colloquia</li><li>• Integration into the research groups at the participating universities</li><li>• Blended learning environment</li></ul>
<b>DURATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 years</li><li>• Part-time</li><li>• 11 on-site three-day seminars (5 in Antwerp, 6 in Innsbruck)</li><li>• Intense supervision process by two scholars</li></ul>
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English</li></ul>
<b>PROGRAM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quality assurance through the UAntwerp and the Antwerp Management School</li><li>• Didactical concept and definition of content and requirements through the UAntwerp and Antwerp Management School</li></ul>
<b>DOCTORAL THESIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspired by current business problems</li><li>• Based on critical literature review, contribution to management research and empirical research</li><li>• Public defense of the thesis before a committee of internal and external examiners at the UAntwerp</li></ul>



## features & goals.

### OVERVIEW

Transfer of knowledge is becoming the most important asset of the 21st century. The Executive PhD Program jointly run by the University of Antwerp (UAntwerp), the Antwerp Management School (AMS) and the Management Center Innsbruck (MCI) is a high-level program for executives and C-level managers with a strong ambition to bring state-of-the-art knowledge and excellent research skills into the workplace and society.

In order to thrive in today's complex, internationally competitive business landscape, organizations need leaders with interdisciplinary knowledge, with the ability to think in global terms, and with the acumen to design organizations that respond to a rapidly changing environment. The Executive PhD Program offered by the University of Antwerp (UAntwerp), the Antwerp Management School (AMS) and the Management Center Innsbruck (MCI) helps executives to develop capabilities to apply relevant knowledge and research skills to contemporary business problems.

Participants in the Executive PhD Program will acquire a new mindset and adopt the necessary methodological tools to approach the business issues they are confronted with in their organizations or in society.

The Executive PhD Program addresses the life-long learning aspirations of intellectually active and motivated professionals who already have a graduate degree in their field but want to continue their education on the highest level. The program is supported by the University of Antwerp, which will confer the PhD degree after a successful defense of the doctoral thesis.

Overall, the program has a major impact on participants' professional development in current careers and offers excellent opportunities for new career paths.

### PROGRAM FEATURES

The Executive PhD Program will be the pinnacle of the participants professional development. Over a period of 4 years, participants will increase those competencies which are crucial to intensify careers successfully. In particular, participants will:

- acquire the latest theoretical and practical insights in their field of management;
- develop the skills of advancing knowledge through methodologically robust applied research methods;
- demonstrate the ability to develop original contributions to existing knowledge;
- learn the skills needed to communicate knowledge in both academic and business environments, orally and in written form;
- gain broad insights into specializations through collaboration with experienced scientists in their specific research labs or knowledge centers;
- be embedded in two top international management schools and a highly ranked and accredited university.

## PROGRAM GOALS

The purpose of the Executive PhD Program is to advance the development and practice of effective organizational leadership by providing senior-level executives with:

- knowledge and expertise required to identify, understand and successfully tackle the interdisciplinary, big issues that characterize global business management today;
- skills in formal social inquiry required to define and address complex issues and to disseminate knowledge related to their profession to influence both corporate and public policies;
- an interdisciplinary, globally oriented perspective unavailable in traditional advanced degree programs;
- evidence based management skills and insights that will spur new solution-oriented thinking in organizations and in society;
- a unique learning opportunity that combines the latest academic knowledge with practical relevance and applicability;
- the ability to strengthen their critical thinking, improve solution-oriented assessment, and enhance their skills to underpin, defend and implement new ideas.

## benefits.

The program will have benefits for you and your career, for your company and for society at large.



### YOU

- Will be able to generate, interpret and transfer academic knowledge within your professional and academic network.
- Will master business research tools and methods and be able to independently apply them to practical business challenges.
- Will possess knowledge and experience in academic publishing and case writing.
- Will obtain a PhD from the UAntwerp, which is a highly ranked and accredited university.



### YOUR COMPANY

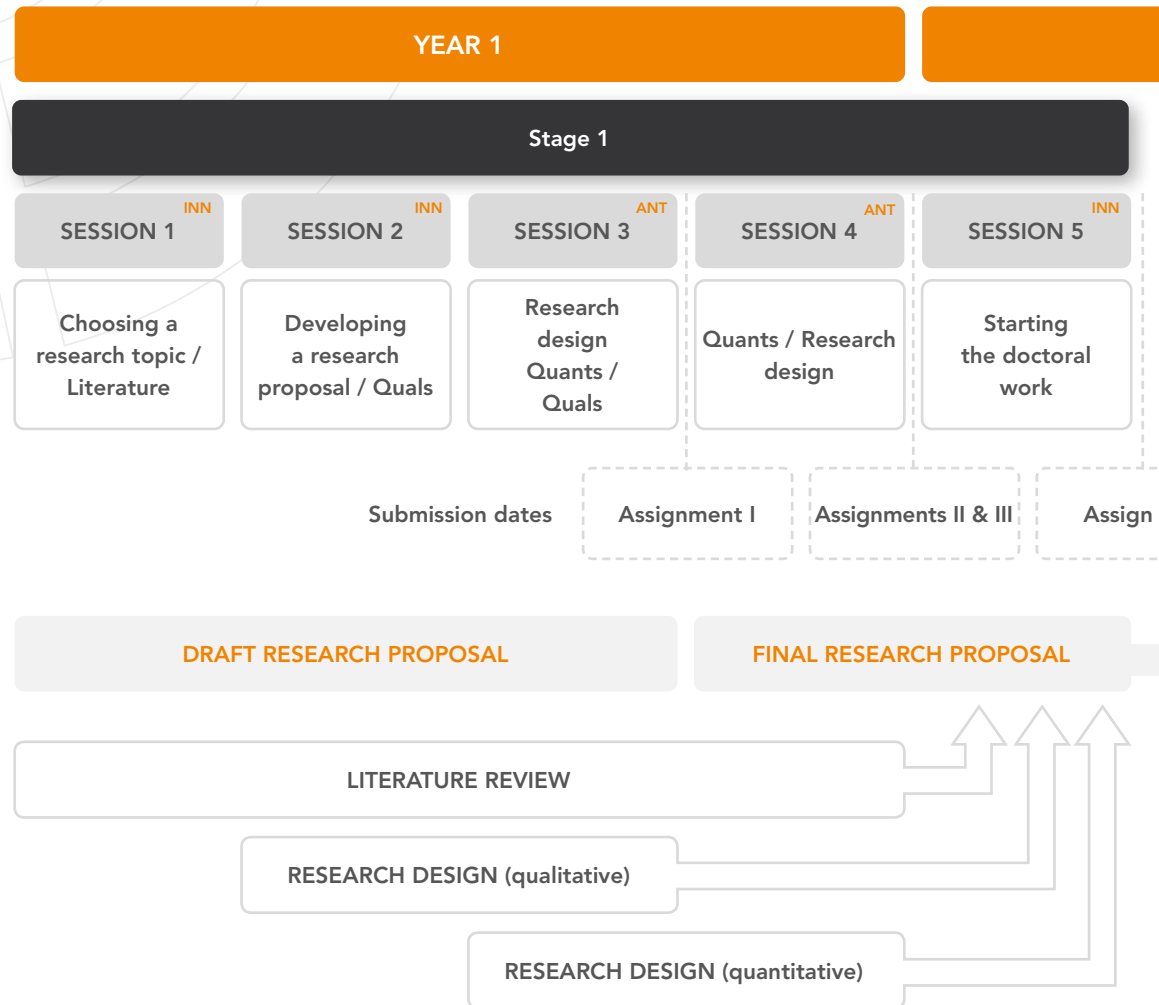
- Benefits from the insights and experiences you will bring to your company as a PhD candidate.
- Benefits from your ability to translate and apply newly developed and up-to-date knowledge to the specific context of your sector or business.
- Has the opportunity to capitalize on your enhanced business and leadership skills allowing future objectives and strategies to be met.



### SOCIETY

- Can benefit from you as an expert in your field to help change and improve your environment.
- As part of a community of global leaders you will forge solutions to society's most pressing challenges.
- As an opinion leader you will have a beneficial impact on the world you are living and working in.

## structure.



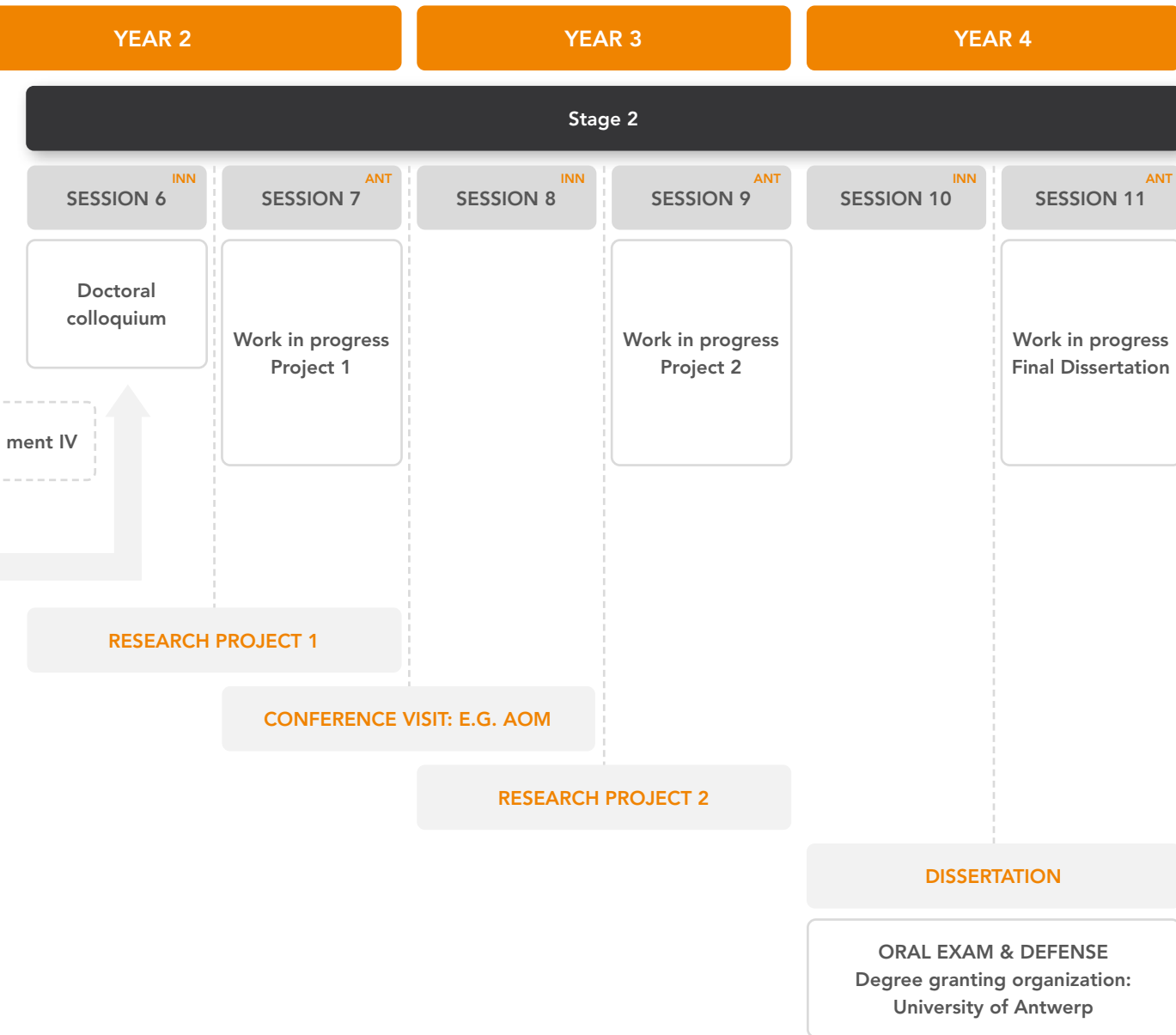
The program comprises two distinct stages:

### STAGE 1

Stage 1 is expected to last approximately 15 months. Participants acquire in-depth knowledge about quantitative and qualitative management research methods. Considerable attention will also be devoted to literature search and review and to the skills needed to transfer knowledge. They gain broad insights into their specialization through being embedded in the relevant research centers or research labs of the respective university.

Every intake is developed according to a 'cohort' principle with a network of faculty supervising, guiding and advising the entire intake. Successful completion of all modules and assignments provides all the elements required for an academically robust PhD research proposal.





### STAGE 2

With the acceptance of their PhD research proposal and the appointment of a PhD supervisor, participants progress to stage 2. Over a period of approximately 33 months, participants proceed with their research, write and eventually defend a doctoral dissertation. During this stage, participants are expected to grow their competencies in presenting, discussing and publishing their research. Participants are expected to attend doctoral Research Colloquia and seminars on academic publishing, writing teaching cases and facilitate case study discussions in academic and business environments.

INN = Innsbruck | ANT = Antwerp



## research fields.

The research priorities cover a wide variety of fields in business, management and economics. Participants of the Executive PhD Program will be embedded in the relevant research centers or research labs. They will have the opportunity to benefit from the intellectual stimuli provided by the research groups and will closely work together with supervising faculty.

Presently, the following research centers and research labs are maintained:

Asymmetric Information Research Lab	Center for Family Enterprise	Center for Reform Implementation in the Social and Health Sector	Corporate Social Responsibility
Creative Industries	Euro-China Center	Expertise Center Leadership	Interaction Research Lab
IT Alignment & Governance	Next Generation Industry	Next Generation Work	SME Innovation Network
Strategy Mergers & Acquisitions Research Lab	Supply Chains of the Future	Tourism Research	University Management Research
Expertise Center Smart Mobility	Sustainable Transformation	Digital Business & IT	Business Design & Innovation

For further information please contact: [executive.phd@mci.edu](mailto:executive.phd@mci.edu)  
or go to [www.mci.edu/executivephd](http://www.mci.edu/executivephd)

## admission.

### ADMISSION CRITERIA

The University of Antwerp (UAntwerp), the Antwerp Management School (AMS) and the Management Center Innsbruck (MCI) only admit participants to the Executive PhD Program with the intrinsic motivation and willingness to contribute to academic research and to become the next generation business leaders. Candidates must hold an MBA, a Master's degree, or an equivalent degree from an accredited academic institution and must have at least ten years of professional experience in the field of management. The program is taught in English thus an excellent knowledge of oral and written English is required.

Requirements for admission are the following:

- MBA, Master's level or equivalent university degree in a relevant field
- Minimum 10 years of relevant managerial experience
- Pre-selected field of research which should show potential for high relevance in applied business and interdisciplinary research
- Two letters of recommendation (one academic and one business)
- Successful completion of the admission procedure

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Find the application document at [www.mci.edu/executivephd](http://www.mci.edu/executivephd). There you also find the online application form. You will need to upload the following documents\*:

- Motivation letter in which you demonstrate your academic and professional progression
- Current resume / CV
- A copy of your passport
- A recent passport photo
- Outline of your pre-selected research field and an initial research idea. It should demonstrate high potential for applied business and interdisciplinary research and should link to the research priorities of UAntwerp, AMS or MCI
- Two letters of recommendation (one academic and one business)
- A copy of your MBA and/or Master's certificate and transcripts
- A scanned version of your TOEFL / IELTS scores (except for native English speakers or applicants who completed their undergraduate or graduate studies in a native English speaking country)

\*By applying and/or registering for the Executive PhD Program, you give the University of Antwerp, the Antwerp Management School and the Management Center Innsbruck the formal consent to check all of the provided credentials and documents. Once your application file has been accepted, intake interviews will be organized to get a better insight of your motivation and perseverance. All applicants are requested to present their initial research topic during an interview with one or more Faculty members of the Executive PhD Program.

## **management of the executive phd program.**

Renowned academics support the Executive PhD Program in maintaining quality standards at all levels, ensuring a continuous process of further development and anchoring the program into an international academic network.

### **ACADEMIC DIRECTORS**

Prof. Dr. Markus Kittler

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Academic Director of Executive PhD Program, MCI

Dr. Hugo Marynissen

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Academic Director of Executive PhD Program, AMS

### **PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Susanne E. Herzog

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Head of Executive Education & Development, MCI

## **faculty.**

The faculty teaching in the Executive PhD Program and supervising PhD theses are internationally renowned experts in their field of research. Moreover, based on their extensive experience both in academia and industry, faculty members can help to integrate practical relevance into academically rigorous theses.



## **tuition.**

The tuition fee for the Executive PhD Program amounts to

EUR 63,100\* (VAT exempt)

Year 1 & 2: EUR 37,100

Year 3 & 4: EUR 26,000

Additional year: EUR 7,000

\* Please contact us for individual payment arrangements

## **degree.**

There is a distinct difference between the Executive PhD Program and the PhD degree. The program prepares and supports every PhD candidate in the best way to achieve the required standards for obtaining the PhD degree.

The program is executed by the Antwerp Management School and by the Management Center Innsbruck, while the UAntwerp will issue the doctoral degree\*. In order to align both processes, independent Faculty Doctoral Committees of the University of Antwerp will formally assess the Executive PhD candidates.

At the end of the first stage of the Executive PhD Program (after fifteen months) there will be an evaluation of the candidates' progress and a formal assessment of the various assignments. This formal acceptance by the Faculty Doctoral Committee gives a green light for establishing the candidate's individual doctoral committee and for the candidate's start of the actual doctoral research in stage 2 of the program.

The decision of the faculty will be communicated to the participant by the central student administration at the University of Antwerp. This Faculty Doctoral Committee has decision-making powers in the following areas: the organization, quality assurance and supervision of the PhD Program, the decision on admission to the PhD, defining the content of any additional research, training necessary, the approval of the annual evaluation reports submitted by candidates and doctoral committees verification of whether PhD students have met the requirements of the doctoral program before submitting their doctoral dissertations.

The Executive PhD Program was submitted to the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ) in accordance with § 27 para. 1 and registered by the AQ in accordance with § 27 para. 6 HSQSG. The registration of the program in accordance with § 27 para. 6 HS-QSG does not ascertain equivalence with Austrian study programs and similar Austrian academic degrees. Graduates awarded with an academic degree from Belgium are entitled to use it in accordance with § 88 para. 1 of the 2002 law governing universities. The academic degrees awarded by the University of Antwerp are therefore recognized foreign degrees in Austria and may be used in official documents in accordance with § 88 para. 1a of the 2002 law governing universities.



## about the university of antwerp.

The University of Antwerp is a young, dynamic and forward-thinking university. It integrates the assets of its historic roots with its ambition to contribute positively to society.

The University of Antwerp develops, provides access to and disseminates scientific knowledge through research, teaching and service to society. It carries out these tasks in a spirit of academic freedom and responsibility.

The University of Antwerp espouses active pluralism. In that spirit, it stimulates critical research and teaching, reflection and debate on scientific, social, philosophical and ethical questions.

[www.uantwerpen.be/en](http://www.uantwerpen.be/en)



## about the antwerp management school.

The Antwerp Management School is a highly mission driven international business school that helps its customers to create sustainable value by shaping talent into becoming Global Citizens, mastering the art of decision-making and leading people.

To accomplish this mission, the Antwerp Management School delivers and develops state-of-the-art management knowledge, anchored in a business and organizational context (see 'Mission House' below). It is not about pure knowledge; it's about knowledge that is linked to practice. This is the fundamental basis on which they put three value pillars: self-awareness, global perspective and societal consciousness, that they believe are needed to become Global Citizens.

- Self-awareness: knowing your own strengths and weaknesses is a true leader's basis for success
- A global perspective: an open mind and a global understanding enhance a leader's grip on business issues and results in better decision-making
- Societal consciousness: tomorrow's leaders need to lead sustainable businesses, conscious of their impact on society

The Antwerp Management School strongly believes that designing higher education programs without all three pillars applied or solely focusing on knowledge transfer alone is preventing you from realizing your full leadership potential. The design philosophy for all their programs thus starts with this 'Mission House' at the base and they passionately promote responsible management, entrepreneurship, sustainability and leadership.

[www.antwerpmanagementschool.be/en](http://www.antwerpmanagementschool.be/en)









die unternehmerische hoch

## about the management center innsbruck.

The Management Center Innsbruck (MCI) was founded in 1995 as a spin-off of the University of Innsbruck, a public comprehensive, research-oriented university, founded in 1669.

The aim of the MCI was to strengthen the ties between academia and business, create an entrepreneurial drive for new activities and provide a flexible structure for academic innovation, complementing the portfolio of Innsbruck University.

The MCI acts as an autonomous academic institution based on a public-private-partnership concept and offers fully accredited Bachelor's, Master's & Executive Master's Programs, short courses, tailored trainings, applied research solutions and other academic services.

Since its inception, MCI has continued to successfully develop and currently enjoys the matriculation of more than 3,300 students. MCI employs 1000 internal and external faculty while partnering with 200 universities and employers with its students and alumni around the globe. Over the years, MCI has received numerous awards and accolades and was among the first universities in Austria to be conferred with the AACSB accreditation.

[www.mci.edu/en](http://www.mci.edu/en)

### TEAM & FACULTY (full-time equivalent)



### STUDENTS

# 3,407

including Executive Masters & Certificate programs;  
excluding Corporate Trainings, Seminars, Conferences

# 276

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