



The Business Foundations Certificate

The Business School
for the World®

INSEAD in collaboration with Sorbonne Université offers the Business Foundations Certificate (BFC) programme tailored for recent master or PhD graduates from the sciences, medicine, humanities, engineering and law.

The programme:

- provides an understanding of business that is complementary to applicants' disciplinary expertise,
- supports candidates' transition to a business career,
- facilitates aspiring entrepreneurs to fulfil the goal,
- helps you navigate and succeed in today's constantly changing, high-pressure and volatile business world.

This certificate will be offered:

- **In English by international faculty**
- **4 month part-time Business education (Fr & Sat) in Paris**
- **Gives access to INSEAD's Alumni Network**
- **Internship agreement**



The following are examples for the different topics usually covered during the program (changes might occur):

Prices and Markets

Ultimately, it is the prices paid and charged by an organisation that determine how economic value is divided between the business, its consumers and its suppliers. This course teaches you how to use structured thinking based on microeconomic theory to understand how economic fundamentals – such as demand, cost, market structure and government policy – shape the prices that prevail in a market.

Foundation of New Business Ventures

This course synthesises many of the fundamentals studied in the other classes as you examine the process of converting an opportunity into a profitable and sustainable new business. You will focus on the principles of building an enterprise on its own, in addition to the unique challenges of carrying out entrepreneurial activities within an existing

organisation (in other words how to start a business inside a corporation without “getting yourself killed in the process”).

Introduction to Financial Markets and Valuation

This course covers fundamental concepts in corporate finance and capital markets. The goal is to give you a set of tools and analytical frameworks that will provide useful, regardless of your eventual career. We cover basic valuation concepts and techniques such as “time value of money” and discounted cash flows (DCF). You will gain an understanding of how to make value-creating investment decisions and how to use the DCF approach to value a company.

Strategy

Why are some organisations consistently successful, while others are left behind? What can executives do to drive performance and growth in the face of intense competition, uncertainty or even radical industry disruption? This course explores some of the critical challenges you’ll face as a manager setting the path for your organisation.

Uncertainty, Data and Judgement

The goal of this course is to provide a solid foundation in probability and statistics for your management career. After all, most decisions are made under conditions of uncertainty. So you will need a framework for thinking about problems involving uncertainty and, building on this framework, tools for interpreting data.

Psychological Foundations of Leadership

The purpose of this course is to increase your effectiveness and skill in observing, understanding and leading behaviour in organisations. It is a class in applied behavioural science, which takes ideas and frameworks from psychology, social psychology and sociology – and explores their implications for leadership and managerial practice.

Fundamentals of Financial and Managerial Accounting

This course provides an introduction to both financial and managerial accounting. A large aspect of the course covers the fundamentals of financial accounting. The objective is to

examine the concepts and principles underlying the accounting and financial reporting process, including a focus on understanding the structure of the balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows, and developing the skills necessary to evaluate a firm’s financial position and its operating, investing, and financing activities. The course also introduces the core concepts of managerial accounting, with emphasis on the development and use of accounting information for internal decisions and control. Through the topics addressed, such as cost behaviour, product and service costing, relevant costs for decision-making, and financial and nonfinancial performance indicators, the objective is to understand how managerial accounting information is used to steer the business and assess whether strategy execution is on track.

Foundations of Customer Value Management

Imagine you want to start your own business to sell a new product or service. First you must understand the market you are going to operate in. How big is it? Is it growing? What is the competition like? But this knowledge is not helpful without a second step: understanding how customers make their choices and how to “segment” them. Third, you must develop your long-term marketing strategy– by choosing a target segment and defining the benefits of your product or service for these customers. Fourth you must make your tactical decisions – about how to communicate, deliver and capture the customer value. Finally you have to monitor performance continually. These steps are at the heart of marketing management.

Operations Management Fundamentals

This course offers a practical framework that explores the fundamentals of operations management. The experiential approach used in the course utilizes a series of hands-on simulations and case studies to allow participants to discover the fundamental operational trade-offs in matching supply and demand, and analyze options that will help address them in a competitive setting. By the end of the course, the participants will have developed an understanding of how the operations function contributes to value creation and capture in an organization.

Admission requirements and criteria:

- Graduates with a master or a PhD
- Proof of academic excellence
- Interest to transition to a business career
- Fluency in English
- None or little professional experience

Application process:

- Online application: early application deadline in April & late application deadline in June
- Interviews
- Scholarship* & admissions committee
- Review

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply with these supporting documents:

- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae
- Copy of diploma
- Accurate details of their financial situation (i.e.: Taxes assessment)

* Sorbonne Université offers funding support to graduates with a Master 2 or Doctorate within the last 3 years, from an institution that is a member of Sorbonne Université.



For further information: <http://inse.ad/BFC-INSEAD>

Contact: BFC.inseadsorbonne@insead.edu



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