Instructions for Applicants to the emlyon PhD program

Admission

Admission to the **emlyon business school PhD program** is open to applicants showing evidence of strong intellectual ability and sincere commitment to and interest in academic research. Applicants are required to have demonstrated basic knowledge in management and organization, usually by the completion of a Bachelor degree or higher qualification (a master's degree is a plus) in Management, or in related disciplines (Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Philosophy...). Otherwise, students might be required to take additional courses during the first 2 years of the program.

The core theory courses cover organization theory, strategy, and entrepreneurship, but many PhD students develop dissertations that intersect with other disciplines like sociology, political science, or anthropology (to name a few), or other management sub-disciplines like international business, innovation, HR, AI, or critical accounting (among others). You can check our students' projects here and find information about our alumni here. You can also learn more about our international faculty here and our research centers here.

Deadline and Commencement

The deadline for applications is January 31st. Applications received after that date will not be considered. Exemptions can be provided for missing documents as long as they are justified in advance. Shortlisted candidates will be invited an online interview, tentatively scheduled for February 19. Candidates are advised of admissions decisions by the end of February. The PhD Program starts on September 1st and entails five years of full-time study. All PhD students are fully funded for this duration (with a scholarship and a part-time employee contract granting employee benefits).

What do you have to include in your application package?

1. **An up-to-date CV**
2. **A statement of purpose** that explains the candidate's motivations for pursuing the PhD program at **emlyon** business school. The students can include in this document any information they deem relevant to their application.

3. **A five-page research project proposal** including the following sections:
   - The aim of your proposed research project
   - The research question that will be pursued
   - The positioning within the scientific literature
   - The alignment of the project within emlyon's research landscape (notably with research centers and interests/expertise of faculty)
   - The possible methods to be deployed
   - The possible contributions

   The purpose of the proposal is to evaluate your current skills and motives. We seek to assess if you have an initial understanding of how research is done and why research is attractive to you. Naturally, your research interests will change once you engage with the program.
4. **A copy of a research paper**: your Bachelor or Master thesis, or any research-based document that shows your research and writing skills, regardless of its connection to your research project proposal.
5. **Degree certificates and transcripts of grades:** An official academic transcript from the last attended college or university is required. The degree certificate is not sufficient. The transcript will show courses, grades, degrees received, with mention of rank or distinction if applicable. A certified translation will be required for any transcript in a language other than English or French. When the transcript is not standard, accompanying explanations, preferably from the university administration, will be appreciated.
6. **Admissions Tests**: GMAT or GRE test is required, and test scores should be less than four-year-old, but they are only one evaluation criterion among many. We grant two exemptions: (1) students from **emlyon** business school pre-experience programs and from Master 2 Etudes et Recherche en Management (ERM), co-administered with IAE Université Lyon 3 and IAE Université de Saint-Etienne, qualify for exemption if they send their CV and grade transcripts to perrier@em-lyon.com two weeks before the application deadline. (2) Citizens from countries in which the test is unavailable are exempted from the management test requirement. To register for the GMAT Test or GRE test: www.mba.com or www.ets.org/gre.html
7. **Language test:** Our program is 100% taught in English. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to take a test. **TOEFL**, **Cambridge**, **IELTS** or **TOEIC** tests are acceptable. Test scores should be less than four-year-old. In the

past, admitted students held a level equivalent to or superior to C1 in the Common European Framework (**CEFR**). Besides native English speakers, we exempt applicants who can demonstrate significant academic or professional experience in English-speaking countries, institutions, or settings. For instance, a Bachelor or Master degree 100% taught in English, high-school education in English, two years or more working experience in an English-speaking country constitute significant experience. Also, citizens from countries in which English tests are unavailable are exempted from the management test requirement. If you would like to be exempted, please explain the grounds on which this exemption should be granted in the dedicated section in our questionnaire. If any doubt/question, please write to perrier@em-lyon.com at least two weeks before the application deadline.

8. **Letters of recommendation**: Applicants should have a minimum of two letters of recommendation from professors who can evaluate the applicant's academic ability and potential for research. Optional non-academic recommendations may also be submitted.