Directives for the PhD in Management

The present directives provide specific guidance on the PhD in Management programme at Università della Svizzera italiana, coordinated by the Institute of Management and Organization (IMO). Articles are numbered in the same sequence as in the corresponding Regulations for the degree of PhD of the Faculty, which these directives complement.

2. Degree title
The PhD programme in Management confers the title of PhD in Management; or, in Italian, Dr.sc.ec. con specializzazione in Management.

4. Graduate Studies Committee
In principle, the director of the PhD programme in Management is a member of the Graduate Studies Committee, acting as a representative for the programme.

7. Admission Requirements
A Master's Degree in a relevant area.

9. Doctoral programme
30 ECTS is the total of credits a candidate has to obtain to complete the PhD programme in Management, which consists of the following compulsory PhD-level courses:

- Research Methods I
- Research Methods II
- Econometrics
- Building Management Theories
- Social Networks and Organizations
- Micro-organization Theory
- Macro-organization Theory
- Strategy
- Advanced Topics in Management
- Management and Organization Seminars

In addition to the prescribed courses listed above, PhD candidates are encouraged to take field courses to broaden and improve their methodological and theoretical skills in areas related to their research. PhD-level courses may be chosen either from the range of USI doctoral programme or at other higher education institutions, with the approval of the thesis director and after consulting the PhD programme director. As a rule, candidates are to complete their coursework within the first two years of registration.
13. Progress review
In addition to coursework performance, a PhD student’s progress is evaluated based on the presentation and the defense of her/his PhD dissertation proposal. The dissertation proposal is a written document that highlights the main elements of the research that the candidate will develop in the dissertation. The defense of the dissertation proposal is a process through which the candidate discusses in front a commission the most important aspects of the dissertation proposal. The PhD candidate must have her/his PhD Proposal accepted by the committee to continue the PhD programme. Students whose PhD proposal is not accepted are excluded from the PhD programme. The submission of the proposal document shall take place not later than 3 months after receiving the grade of the last Ph.D. Exam. Ideally, this shall take place before the beginning of the third year of studies in the PhD programme. Students are, in any case, encouraged to report on their work in progress regularly.

Additional information are available here:
https://www.eco.usi.ch/en/study-economics/phd-doctoral-studies/phd-management

Please note:
As per point 9, students of the doctoral programme in management are expected to take part in the seminars run by the Management Institute, as well as in any associated activities (for instance, in meetings held with guest speakers).