

# EDBA

Executive Doctorate of  
Business Administration

2026 Admission

HALIFAX ~ CANADA



AACSB  
ACCREDITED

PRME

BSIS  
IMPACT

[sobey.smu.ca/edba](https://sobey.smu.ca/edba)



Sobey School  
of Business

Saint Mary's University



## Cultivating research professionals

A first for Atlantic Canada, the full-time Sobey EDBA brings the possibility of development and support for senior leaders using evidence-based approaches to conduct practice-oriented research. Designed for seasoned executives, the program offers an impressive credential that will not only distinguish their value in the job market but also reward them with critical knowledge and skills to succeed in today's complex business environment.

- EDBAs are distinct from PhD-style programs, focused on both academic rigour and knowledge transfer/mobilization.
- EDBA graduates learn an evidence-based approach that applies a problem-solving framework to overcome assumptions and ground analysis in objective criteria.
- The EDBA educates business and organizational leaders to create, conduct, and disseminate applied research to their organization, industry sector, profession, and/or government policy.

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### AACSB & EQUIS accredited

A mark of quality, and a distinction achieved by only 1% of business schools worldwide.

### BSIS

The BSIS designation confirms that the Sobey School's impact reaches far beyond its economic contribution and positively influences the business and cultural life of the region

### PRME champions

Sobey School is one of a select group of schools designated as PRME Champions in the Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative by the United Nations.

## Program details

Students can complete the program in three years, with two years of coursework followed by a semester of courses with an experiential learning foundation, and then two semesters to complete an applied research project (dissertation).

Experienced instructors create dynamic learning environments by delivering quality classes remotely. The program is delivered in four modules over three years in a hybrid format. Candidates will be on-site three times a year (for three days each time), with all other participation completed online.

Students must successfully complete 11 courses (33 credit hours), including a DBA dissertation.

In addition to course work, students must complete three significant projects to advance to the next year of study.

- **Year 1:** Conduct a mini REA and problem statement.
- **Year 2:** Develop an Applied Research Project proposal and successfully defend it to a three-member faculty committee.
- **Year 3:** Conduct and defend a DBA dissertation

### Required courses include:

- Translating knowledge
- Synthesizing research evidence
- Diagnosing problems and generating options
- Developing an applied research proposal



**Visit [sobey.smu.ca/edba](https://sobey.smu.ca/edba)**

for details on residency requirements and course lists.

# Admissions

## Admission requirements

- An MBA degree or equivalent master-level degree (eg., Master of Public Administration) with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.3 scale) or GMAT as appropriate.
- We prefer a candidate to have approximately 15 years of senior managerial and/or executive work experience.
- If your first language is not English, you must submit an official TOEFL iBT® or IELTS. Tests cannot be more than two years old. We require an overall IELTS score of 7.0 with no band below 6.5.
- You must provide a letter of intent and be available for an interview if required.

## Application deadlines

Applications must be submitted by May 1 of intake year (or later if space allows).

## Need more information?

Visit [sobey.smu.ca/edba](https://sobey.smu.ca/edba)



## Program tuition

Canadian students: **\$75,000**

International students: **\$75,000**

*(To be paid in nine installments, three times per year.)*

*Subject to change for 2026 admission*

## Studying in Canada

As an international student, you may be required to obtain a study permit issued by the Canadian government's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) department prior to beginning your studies. You may apply once you receive your official letter of acceptance from Saint Mary's University. We recommend applying early for your permit as processing times can vary.

## Questions?

Visit [smu.ca/international/welcome](https://smu.ca/international/welcome)



## Flight times

**MONTREAL** - 1 hr 29 min

**TORONTO** - 2 hr 05 min

**NEW YORK** - 2 hr 41 min

**BOSTON** - 1 hr 19 min



“ The flexible EDBA program meets the needs of highly active business leaders. The Sobey School of Business EDBA helps you achieve greater success in leading change and creating sustainable outcomes for your organization. As we seek to bridge the gap between research and practice, the demand for EDBAs has continued to grow.

- Wendy R. Carroll, PhD, CPHR  
Academic Director, EDBA Program

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## Expand your network and career

As a member of the Sobey School of Business community, you benefit from Atlantic Canada's home for research excellence and knowledge mobilization. Our six active research centres explore cutting-edge topics in retail innovation, social impact measures, co-operative accounting and management, the economics of immigration, entrepreneurship and much more. In addition, you will meet and learn from the Sobey School's world-class researchers and educators from around the globe.

### Sobey research centres

- David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services
- Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity
- Centre for Leadership Excellence
- Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives
- International Centre for Co-operative Management
- Arthur Irving Centre for Entrepreneurship



## Sobey School of Business

Established in 1934 as the Faculty of Commerce at Saint Mary's University, the Sobey School of Business is Atlantic Canada's largest and most respected business school. Internationally respected, the Sobey School of Business holds both EQUIS and AACSB accreditation, an earned distinction held by only 1% of business schools worldwide. Here, you'll embark with over 2,200 students on a fast track to your future, with small class sizes, a close-knit campus and over 85 full-time faculty members.

With over 27 percent of undergraduate students and over 57 percent of graduate students originating from 75 different countries, the Sobey School of Business is widely admired as an institution that integrates and fosters global perspectives among its students and within the community. The Sobey School of Business, through active learning and the creation and mobilization of scholarships, prepares citizens of the world to lead entrepreneurial, sustainable businesses and communities.

### Saint Mary's University

Ideally located in the vibrant city of Halifax, Saint Mary's University is home to a diverse and inclusive community of over 6,500 faculty, staff and students, and boasts a global network of more than 55,000+ alumni. Founded in 1802, Saint Mary's is one of the oldest universities in Canada. We offer a unique experience, combining world-leading research with a close-knit community. Saint Mary's is known for its engaged faculty and students, entrepreneurial spirit and impactful research that reaches beyond campus walls and into the wider community. Our students, researchers and faculty share the desire to work towards a future that is inclusive, sustainable, diverse and resilient—a World without limits.

## Resources for teaching and learning

As a doctoral student at the Sobey School of Business, you will have access to the SMU Library and its extensive complement of databases (WRDS, OECD, Gartner and more).

## Expand your studies at Saint Mary's

Sobey Doctoral students are encouraged to take additional courses through other faculties at Saint Mary's University. The Sobey School also has several agreements with international universities, allowing doctoral students and faculty to participate in exchanges with the Hanken School of Economics in Finland and the University of Jyväskylä in Finland.



**50+**  
Graduates

Over 50 doctoral students have graduated from the Sobey PhD in Business Administration (Management) program.

**25+**  
Years

For over 20 years, Sobey has delivered a flexible, rigorous and innovative doctoral program designed for working professionals.

**30+**  
Years

The Sobey School of Business has extensive alumni and executive networks after serving the executive market for over 30 years in Atlantic Canada.





## An active, collaborative research culture

The Sobeys School is dedicated to fostering doctoral student success, helping you develop and improve as a researcher and teacher. As a doctoral student, you will be among a community of researchers with a strong publication record.

### Sustainable Development Goals in research

Sobey is a proud signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative of the United Nations. PRME provides a framework for academic institutions to advance the broader cause of corporate social responsibility and incorporate universal values into curricula and research. Sobey doctoral students and faculty engage in research on a variety of important issues that tie into many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the poverty-climate change nexus, social entrepreneurship, the role of gender in venture capitalism and much more.

### Faculty research expertise

Our faculty are research experts in diverse areas of management. From diversity and inclusion to decision-making and organizational change, Sobey faculty are engaged in research that directly impacts the local and global business communities.



**Sobey School  
of Business**

Saint Mary's University

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