

D.PROF

Professional Doctorate

BUSINESS QUALIFICATION

A practice-based doctoral qualification for owners, entrepreneurs and senior executives at CEO and Director level.

11th Edition (2026)

AWARDING BODY & VALIDATED BY



RUSHFORD
BUSINESS SCHOOL

Switzerland, EU

STRATEGIC KNOWLEDGE & DELIVERY PARTNER



MAVERICK
Business Academy London
The People's Learning Partner

London | Sharjah, UAE

01 Programme Overview

The **Professional Doctorate (D.Prof)** is a uniquely tailored, practice-based programme for owners, entrepreneurs and top-level senior managers positioned at CEO and Director level, working within a global business context. The qualification is positioned as academically equivalent in level to a traditional doctorate in the business landscape.

D.Prof is a flagship concept that recognises the achievements of entrepreneurs, business owners, industrialists, academicians, philanthropists and senior-level management executives around the globe, conferring on them appropriate and accredited professional qualifications.

It is a doctoral-level degree for experienced professionals who want to translate their industry expertise into greater credibility, leadership and influence. Candidates draw their research question from their own practice and context, take an existing concept or problem in their industry, conduct research and recommend proposals or solutions. Candidates also draw on scholarly literature, so the work contributes to professional practice and to scholarly knowledge alike.

The programme combines professional reflection, research development, applied investigation, thesis preparation and final assessment. Doctoral work is presented as a portfolio rather than a conventional dissertation, allowing candidates to step outside the boundaries of the traditional research-writing framework. Recipients are carefully selected by the Board & Senate of Rushford Business School Switzerland after a diligent examination of their nomination and doctoral portfolio.

35+

Minimum age of applicant

5-7

Working days: target for academic approval

~45 hrs

Indicative research class structure

6-12

Months: accelerated or standard pathway

2 Parts

Integrated thesis: Part A and Part B

Who is D.Prof for?

Entrepreneurs

Business Owners

Industrialists

Academicians

Philanthropists

Senior Executives

02 Key Benefits

01

Real impact on the industry

Validate your unparalleled credentials and professional journey.

02

Wider networks and status

Expand your professional and business networks with enhanced social standing among peers and your business circle.

03

Economical and effective

An economical and effective way to achieve the highest level of education.

04

Innovator and disruptor

Entry to a prestigious professional business qualification on par with academia.

05

Exclusive Maverick access

Business boot camps, PhD and DBA pathways, global conferences, seminars and workshops.

06

Practical pedagogy

A practice-led approach that equips you to mentor future generations.

07

Build a strong profile

Publish your work as a doctoral portfolio and strengthen your professional profile.

03

Awarding Body and Collaborating Partners

Rushford Business School, Switzerland (EU)

Rushford Business School is the official name of the business school of the James Lind Institute, Geneva, Switzerland (founded 2004), and is part of the Rushford Education Group. It is a pioneer of transnational education with branch campuses and institutional tie-ups across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the Tasmanian region. Rushford is regulated by Swiss Education and awards academic, professional and graduate qualifications under its charter of incorporation. Its awards are professional European awards aligned to the European Qualification Framework, and certificates can be legalised in the UAE.

Awarding body and validated by

- Rushford Business School, Switzerland (EU)

Endorsed by

- The Private Office of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al Qassimi, UAE
- CICC UK: a semi-government organisation working closely with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce

Strategic knowledge and delivery partner

- Maverick Business Academy London (Campus Suite #201, Robot Park Tower, Sharjah, UAE)
- HALI Management Consultancy UAE (HMC): parent entity; regional assessor and verifier of D.Prof; Local Access Point

Exclusive recruitment partner (India and USA)

- AIMLAY

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Accreditations, Memberships and Recognition

Body	Details
EduQwa certification	Swiss quality label for further-education institutions, recognised and supported by the Swiss Confederation.
AACSB	Member of AACSB, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.
IACBE	Member of the International Accreditation Council for Business Education.
ICDE	Accredited by the international council ICDE, as stated in the programme brochure.
UN PRME	Signatory of the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education since 2020.
BGA	Institutional member of the Business Graduates Association.
QS Stars	5-star rating in online learning and teaching.
Other affiliations	Atheneum Liberal Studies, IFTDO and ISO certified.

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Entry Requirements and Admission Criteria

Criterion	Requirement
Age	Applicant should be 35 years of age or above.
Entrepreneur	A well-established business set-up over a minimum period of 5 years.
Senior executive	A senior management position for the last 10 years with a multinational organisation.
Philanthropist	Has made a recognised contribution to society.
Qualification	A relevant Master's or Bachelor's qualification is optional.
Referees	Four referee letters from employers or shareholders of the organisation currently or previously worked for (optional).

- Candidates should demonstrate substantial professional, entrepreneurial, business-ownership or senior management experience.
- Exceptional professional profiles may be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to review.
- Documents found to be materially false, fraudulent or unverifiable may result in rejection or a request for clarification.

Candidate document checklist

- Completed D.Prof / Rushford application form
- CV / professional profile
- LinkedIn profile, where available
- Passport / government ID copy
- Passport-size photograph
- Educational documents, where applicable
- Professional certificates, where applicable
- Evidence of professional / business experience
- Awards, achievements or professional accolades, where applicable
- Nomination letter (candidate-provided, using the approved sample)
- Recommendation / reference letters, where applicable
- Other relevant supporting documents

06

Admission Process and Workflow

The formal workflow collects the complete application package upfront to avoid unnecessary back-and-forth. The sequence below shows the end-to-end journey from enquiry to graduation.



Navy = admission and onboarding phase (steps 1-8) **Gold** = academic and completion phase (steps 9-15)

Stage 1: Enquiry

The recruitment team introduces D.Prof, explaining eligibility, structure, fees and the admission process. A CV or LinkedIn profile may be reviewed informally for an initial eligibility discussion.

Stage 2-3: Application and Maverick review

The candidate submits the completed application form with supporting documents. Maverick reviews the professional profile, experience and suitability against the entry requirements, and obtains any clarification needed.

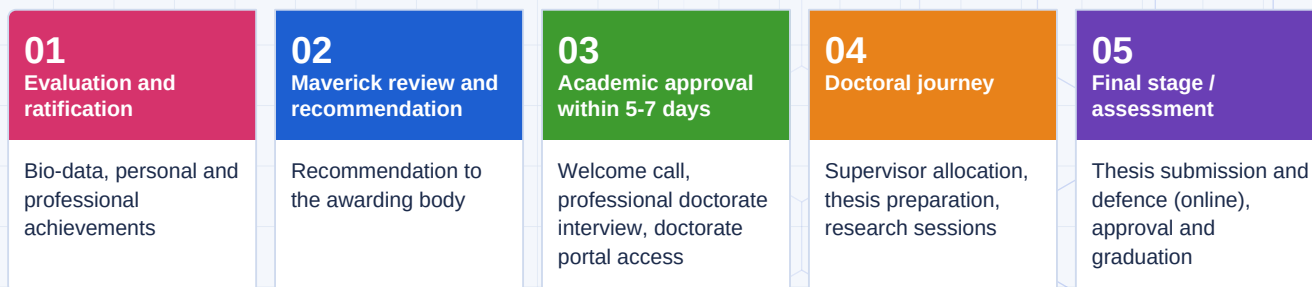
Stage 4-6: Recommendation and Rushford acceptance

Maverick submits its formal Review and Recommendation Letter. Rushford reviews the file and, subject to approval, issues the official Acceptance Letter. Target: 5-7 working days, subject to complete documentation.

Stage 7-8: First payment and onboarding

The candidate pays the first instalment (40%) within 48 hours of the Acceptance Letter and shares the payment confirmation. Maverick then sends the welcome communication and doctoral portal access, including research resources, e-books, case studies and templates.

Your doctorate journey



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Programme Structure and Modules

After onboarding, candidates progress through a professional, research-focused journey rather than a conventional assignment-based programme: they read, reflect, apply, investigate, develop, write, submit and defend. The principal academic output is one professional doctorate thesis / practitioner research project, developed in two integrated parts and supported by the five course modules below.

Code	Module	Purpose
DPROF 300	Personal and Professional Review	Develops an in-depth view of the trajectory of career, capacity and learning preferences, with deeper insight into own beliefs, actions and preferences. Establishes the context for doctoral-level professional reflection.
DPROF 301	Designing Practitioner Research	Introduces a comprehensive range of methods for effective workplace investigation and connects professional experience with a practical research area.
DPROF 302	Negotiated Experiential Learning	Enables a workplace project to be carried out using a recognised method, using the candidate's professional and business context as a structured source of learning.
DPROF 303	Practitioner Enquiry at Doctoral Level	Enables a detailed proposal for doctoral research project(s) by engaging with research methods and critical analysis at a deeper level.
DPROF 304	Practitioner Research Project	Discrete research projects forming the principal applied research component: a substantial and original contribution to organisational and professional knowledge.

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Thesis Structure

Candidates submit a single thesis in two integrated parts. The indicative thesis length is approximately 12,000-13,000 words; the final word count and detailed requirements are issued in the thesis guidelines.

PART A: Professional Journey / Business Leadership Portfolio

- Personal and professional journey
- Academic background and career progression
- Entrepreneurial / business leadership experience
- Major achievements and professional milestones
- Leadership philosophy and critical professional experiences
- Challenges, failures, lessons learned and development
- Social responsibility / professional contribution
- Future professional or business vision

PART B: Applied Practitioner Research

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Professional / Business Context
- Problem or Challenge
- Literature Review
- Conceptual / Leadership Framework
- Research Methodology
- Practitioner Investigation
- Analysis and Findings
- Application of Learning
- Recommendations / Business Application
- Professional Impact / Future Implications
- Conclusion
- References and Appendices

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Qualifying Interview and Research Support

Qualifying interview

The D.Prof qualifying interview combines the Personal and Professional Review with Designing Practitioner Research. It explores the candidate's background, career journey, leadership experience, business or professional challenges, achievements, lessons learned and future direction. The output sets the context for Part A and the applied research direction for Part B. A qualifying questionnaire is provided to the candidate in advance, and the interview may be documented or recorded where appropriate.

Research classes and academic support

- Indicative structure: approximately 45 hours, normally 15 sessions of 3 hours, over about 12 weeks.
- Sessions may be organised by cohort; recorded sessions can support candidates unable to attend live.
- Faculty and research support covers research development, thesis structure, review and academic guidance.
- A supervisor is allocated for the doctoral journey, with online research sessions and portal resources.

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Duration, Payment and Completion

Programme duration

Two delivery pathways are available: a **standard route of up to one year**, and an **accelerated route** that may be completed in approximately six months where the candidate completes all academic, research, assessment and university requirements within the required timeframe. Accelerated completion does not reduce academic requirements.

Payment structure

Instalment	Amount	Timing
First instalment	40%	After the Rushford Acceptance Letter; payable within 48 hours
Second instalment	35%	During the programme (timing confirmed at enrolment)
Final instalment	25%	Before the final thesis / research defence

Final submission, defence and completion

- The candidate completes and submits the required thesis / practitioner research output.
- The submission is reviewed and assessed according to the approved academic process.
- The candidate completes the final assessment / defence (online) as required.
- Successful completion is followed by the university completion, approval and graduation process.
- Verification and transcript arrangements may be provided after completion where applicable.

Contact

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