

DOCTORATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Programme Overview

This Dual Pathway Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme offers senior professionals a structured and accelerated route to a U.S. doctoral degree. Designed for experienced managers, entrepreneurs, and educators, it integrates the **OTHM Level 8 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice** with Westcliff University's DBA a professionally focused doctoral degree delivered **fully online** from California.

Upon successful completion of the OTHM Level 8 Diploma, eligible learners may apply to **transfer up to 30 credits** (50%) into the DBA programme at Westcliff University, significantly reducing the time and cost to complete the doctoral degree.

✓ Awarding Institutions:

- Stage 1: OTHM (UK Regulated Qualification – Level 8 Diploma)
- Stage 2: Westcliff University (USA – Doctor of Business Administration)

Programme Highlights

- **Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)** – an advanced doctoral degree with an applied research focus
- **Gold-Standard Accreditation** – WSCUC-accredited, with recognition from ACBSP, CHEA, and U.S. state education authorities, ensuring global credibility
- **100% Online Delivery** – designed for flexible, global access
- **Up to 50% Credit Transfer** from OTHM Level 8 Diploma (UK Ofqual Regulated)
- **Career-Focused** – designed for C-level executives, senior managers, and consultants
- **Terminal Degree** – highest academic qualification in business and management education

Programme Structure

✔ Stage 1: OTHM Level 8 Diploma

Delivered by: APEX ED

Awarded by: OTHM Qualifications (UK Ofqual regulated)

Duration: 12 months

Credits: 180 UK credits (equivalent to doctoral-level coursework)

Exit with Diploma and qualify for advanced standing into Westcliff DBA

✔ Stage 2: Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

Awarded by: Westcliff University, California, USA

Delivery Mode: 100% Online (synchronous live classes + LMS)

Duration: 18 - 24 months (with credit transfer)

Credits Required Post-Transfer: Approx. 30 US credits

Core Focus Areas:

- Research Design and Methodology (must be completed at Westcliff)
- Advanced Organisational Strategy
- Global Business and Innovation
- Dissertation/Applied Doctoral Project

Final award: DBA - Doctor of Business Administration (awarded by Westcliff University)

Accreditations and Recognitions

- ✔ Regionally Accredited by WSCUC (WASC Senior College & University Commission – U.S. Dept. of Education recognised)
- ✔ Approved by the California BPPE and Florida CIE for legal academic operation in the U.S.
- ✔ Accredited by ACBSP – Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (specialised business school accreditation)
- ✔ Listed by CHEA – U.S. Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- ✔ Globally Recognised – Accepted for academic and professional progression across North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East



OTHM L8 Overview

The objective of the OTHM Level 8 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice qualification is to develop strategic management and leadership skills for managers who have the authority and personal attributes to translate organisational strategy into effective operational performance. This qualification reflects current practice in Strategic Management and Leadership and allows learners to develop and expand their high-level understanding of strategic management and leadership in the workplace. This qualification is suitable for mature learners with a background in academic study or industry. The qualification has a clear work-related emphasis on practical skills development alongside theoretical fundamentals. The qualification will enable learners to become independent, self-directed learners with tools and motivation to continue learning, developing, and reflecting on practice throughout their careers.

Duration

The qualification is designed to be delivered over 18 months academic for full-time study, but it is also flexible in its delivery in order to accommodate part-time and distance learning.

Qualification Structure

The OTHM Level 8 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership consists of 5 mandatory units and 6 optional units making a combined total of 180 credits, 1800 hours Total Qualification Time (TQT) and 900 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for the completed qualification.

Entry Requirements

The OTHM approved Centre must ensure that learners are enrolled with integrity. Entry to the qualification will be considered on the basis of

- an up-to-date and comprehensive CV
- submission of a personal statement and
- centre interview to assess suitability and potential to achieve
- details of 2 referees or 2 references, one of which should ideally be an academic reference
- ability to demonstrate appropriate links to the practice the proposed research refers to.

If English is not your first language, either evidence that the master's degree was taught mainly or entirely in English, a minimum TOEFL score of 101 or a minimum IELTS score of 6.5, or an equivalent English language qualification.

Mandatory Units And Credits

✔ Mandatory Units

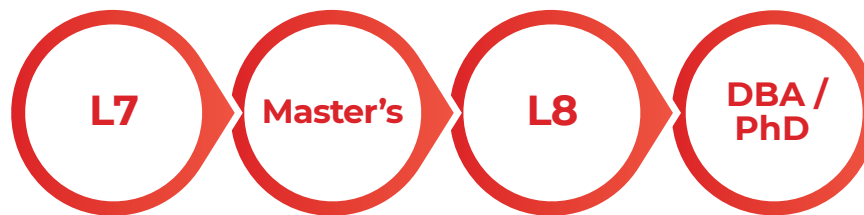
- Developing Strategic Management and Leadership Potential (20 Credits)
- Managing Strategic Change (20 Credits)
- Project Development, Planning and Management (20 Credits)
- Advanced Research Design and Methodologies (40 Credits)
- Developing Research Capability (20 Credits)

✔ Optional Units: Choose any THREE

- Globalisation and Corporate Governance (20 Credits)
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation (20 Credits)
- Strategic Human Resource Management (20 Credits)
- Supply Chain and Operations Management (20 Credits)
- Strategic Financial Management (20 Credits)
- Strategic Marketing (20 Credits)

Progression

Learners completing the OTHM Level 8 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice can progress to a university partner to discuss a research proposal for DBA/DProf/PhD or directly into employment in an associated profession. The qualification is approved and regulated by Ofqual (Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulation).



Equivalences

OTHM qualifications at RQF Level 8 portray practice skills and competencies that are rated in academic terms as being comparable to Doctoral Degrees and Vocational Qualifications at Level 8.



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Accreditation and Association



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APEX ED



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A Foundation For Life