

Competency profile MSc in Business Administration and Philosophy

3. The Study Board has developed a competency profile, which describes the expected learning outcomes of this degree programme. Please see appendix below.

Competency profile for CM(phil)

Purpose and academic profile

At CM(phil) you are taught to leverage philosophical reflection and argumentation as well as in-depth business knowledge in efforts to identify, analyze, and find solutions to pressing issues in business and society. Practically, you learn how to use philosophy to identify problems in businesses and practice solving them. Theoretically, the program concentrates on applying philosophical thinking to business studies, in economic theory as well as organization and management studies. The program uses philosophy to engage with businesses at three levels. On an individual level, the program teaches you how to think philosophically about theoretical assumptions central for understanding the way people act and make decisions in business settings. On an organizational level, the program teaches you how to use philosophy to rethink the way that businesses are managed and organized. On a societal level, the program teaches you how to reflect on the social contexts, natural environments, and markets in which businesses operate. The program also teaches you how the above three levels are interconnected.

As its core, the program integrates business administration and philosophy. By activating philosophy within the context of business administration, you learn how to make thinking productive for engaging with complex problems confronting businesses today. In particular, you cultivate the ability to ask fundamental questions within a business setting that opens up for new ways of thinking about, for example, competing sets of values and ethical dilemmas relating to the economic, social and environmental performance of firms. By doing so, you are able to work with problems relating to the habits of human behavior in firms, how firms are organized and the environment in which firms operate. On this basis, you learn to navigate and work agile in a world that is not one-dimensional, but rather complex, uncertain and ambiguous.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the programme, the student is expected to know/be able to:

- Place business in a wider societal and environmental context. By combining business administration and philosophy, you gain knowledge about the broader societal and environmental context in which organizations operate. Such contexts are comprised of financial institutions, government agencies and other significant stakeholders on both a global and local level as well as the natural surroundings.

- Identify actual problems in business settings. With the use of philosophical thinking, the program teaches you how to identify problems in business settings. What at first glance appears as a problem might only be the symptom that indicate an underlying cause. To find the real source of a problem demands that you can look beyond surface effects and explore underlying cause. To do so, you learn how work analytically with different forms of data and reflect on the underlying assumptions of given knowledge.
- Use thinking to find creative business solutions. Finding the problem is the first step towards proposing a solution. Therefore, finding creative solutions is a natural consequence of engaging in philosophical thinking. Philosophy has already been a reflection on basic questions, such as “What should I do?” or “How should we organize society?” The programme brings this reflection into the world of business by activating the ability to reflect on different courses of actions, modes of organization, and responses to problems.
- Use rigid thinking to make responsible decisions in business. Having the capacity to make responsible decisions therefore require the ability to consider multiple perspectives and considerations. Towards this end, the program teach you how to consider the wider implications that decisions have for the environment, society and the social surroundings. For example, you learn how to apply conceptual tools to empirical cases from business and society (e.g., diversity, sustainability, and labour market concerns) in order to propose responsible decisions.
- Navigate competing demands in an increasingly complex world. Making responsible decisions presuppose the ability to consider multiple points of view as well as a short term and long term perspective. By combining business administration and philosophy, you cultivate the ability to consider multiple interests and take into consideration conflicting perspective when making decisions. You learn how to make decisions under uncertainty in a world that is increasingly complex and deal with ambiguous situations. For example, you learn how decision-making in business and in financial markets are not necessarily driven solely by rational considerations but also by habits, norms, and emotions.
- Make complex knowledge comprehensible without simplifying it. In this program, you acquire an analytic competency to deal with ambiguity and being critical towards the underlying assumptions of knowledge production. You also learn to translate knowledge between different fields of expertise. To do so, you learn to learn to independently discuss and apply complex theoretical knowledge by engaging in projects with others. In doing so, you learn to communicate and make advanced knowledge understandable for a wide audience.

