



ABRI PhD Program in Business and Management

(Version 2021-03-03)

Introduction

Amsterdam Business Research Institute (ABRI) is the research institute of the School of Business and Economics (SBE) of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Established in 2009, ABRI builds on an extensive history of research and teaching at SBE. In line with the French meaning of *abri* – *shelter*, ABRI's objective is to offer an academic shelter to its research fellows for doing outstanding business research. The institute is organized around the core departmental research programs in business and management. These include: Accounting and Finance; Digital Innovation; Marketing; Operations Research and Supply Chain Analytics; Organizational Behavior & Human Resource Management; and Strategy and Entrepreneurship.

At the heart of ABRI lies its graduate education. The purpose of this education is to enable promising students who want to pursue an academic career in business studies to become part of the next generation of top researchers. ABRI seeks to accomplish this mission by organizing a coherent set of courses, workshops, and events that allow SBE to recruit, train, and place PhD candidates who become thought leaders in their fields.

ABRI has developed a vision for PhD education that allows SBE to maintain its vibrant research culture and further strengthen its excellence in recruiting, training, and placing PhDs in the domain of business and management.

The following sections present further details of the proposed program:

1. Program objectives and philosophy
2. Admission to the PhD program
3. PhD trajectory
4. List of ABRI courses
5. Curriculum for each ABRI track

Program Objectives and Philosophy

ABRI currently uses three routes through which students can obtain a PhD position at SBE:

- **Open Competition:** Each year, students apply with their own PhD proposal to one of ABRI's internally funded PhD positions. The focus is on students who completed a ResMSc, and preference is given to those in the BiS program. PhD positions are 3 years and typically don't involve systematic coursework given that students already have a ResMSc;
- **PhD vacancies:** Students who successfully completed their MSc studies can apply for a PhD position (typically 4 years) based on the project defined by a prospective supervisor and funded by NWO or other external constituents. They are required to complete 30 ECTS of training.
- **Self-funded:** Those with scholarships or other self-funded means to support their PhD can enroll as an external (part-time) PhD candidate.

Given the upcoming phasing out of the BiS program, we seek to develop a new approach towards ABRI's PhD program using several design principles:

- *Well-rounded knowledge and skills development:* all students, both those on internally funded projects and those on externally funded projects, undertake a structured set of course work that exposes them to cutting-edge theories and methods in their chosen field of business administration. In addition, they acquire a broad set of transferrable skills that allow them to excel in their PhD research and beyond. This should ensure a minimum, common knowledge and skills base among PhD graduates and lead to lower drop-out rates and better placement performance.
- *Consistent monitoring:* In addition to the assessment of candidates before selecting them for a PhD position, it can be effective to have consistent monitoring throughout the PhD trajectory. This provides a motivational mechanism for students to perform and make progress and improves investment returns by reducing drop-out rates. An additional selection instance after the first PhD year makes sure ABRI invests its resources into those students who show clear evidence of potential.
- *Lateral entry:* expand the number of routes through which candidates can successfully enter a PhD position at SBE. Rather than limit entry to ResMSc students, ABRI will primarily scout talented MSc students early on who may discover that they like to do business research and aspire for an academic career. Each year, a selected set of high-potential MSc students are invited to enroll in an honors master trajectory that allows them to start taking PhD-level courses, preparing them for applying for a full-time PhD position.
- *Demand- and supply-driven design:* ABRI is committed to a supply-driven, student-centered approach towards PhD education by selecting top-quality candidates. However, this does not exclude the possibility of encouraging ABRI research tracks to formulate specific research themes that can increase the visibility of the program and sharpen its distinguished profile. This demand-driven approach helps to ensure that PhD projects build on and extend the research expertise accumulated by the ABRI tracks.



The new ABRI PhD program seeks to achieve several key objectives:

1. Allow PhD candidates to accumulate state-of-the-art knowledge and skills that are relevant for their chosen research field and that allow them to become top researchers who generate impact in the field;
2. Strengthen the project management skills of PhD candidates, enabling them to make faster progress and reduce the time needed to complete their dissertations;
3. Create awareness among PhD candidates of the ethical principles that must be followed when conducting scientific research including standards of collecting, analyzing, reporting and storing data;
4. Provide monitoring mechanisms that ensure that the progress of PhD projects is being incentivized and tracked, allowing for timely interventions when signals indicate that problems start to emerge;
5. Increase placement performance by preparing PhD graduates for entry into the academic job market and supporting them in securing campus visits and job offers from top business schools.



Admission to the PhD Program

ABRI's PhD Program will offer three different types of PhD positions: 1) ABRI internally funded PhD positions (4 years full-time); 2) externally funded PhD positions (typically 4 years full-time); and 3) external (part-time) and scholarship PhD students.

Admission Criteria

Regardless of funding, the minimum admission criteria for all types of PhD positions are the same (in line with the SBE PhD Policy):

- At least a university master's degree
- A minimum GPA of 7.5 for the master's degree (or equivalent)
- A minimum grade of 8.0 for master thesis (or equivalent)
- Excellent English language skills (assumed for candidates with a degree from a Dutch university, candidates with a degree of a program taught in English, or candidates with IELTS 7.0)

The way in which PhD students are recruited depends on the funding of the PhD position.

Recruitment of ABRI internally funded PhD positions

The recruitment of the 5 PhDs for the different ABRI tracks takes place through an open competition announced in November. Marketing efforts will actively target relevant (research) master's programs at VU, other Dutch universities, and peer institutions abroad. ABRI tracks are encouraged to solicit applications for research areas that they want to emphasize in a given year. Candidates are NOT required to apply with a full research proposal, but they are required to submit a research statement that convincingly demonstrates the fit of their research interest with research domains relevant to the chosen ABRI track. Application deadlines will be at the end of January (in line with competing business schools). Applications will be forwarded to the ABRI track chairs, who will select the most interesting candidates for an interview. Shortlisted candidates may be asked to prepare one or several assignments, which test whether candidates possess the research skills (e.g., academic writing, coding, modeling, theory-building skills) deemed relevant for the specific ABRI track they apply to. These assignments thus help to create a ranking of candidates per track, not necessarily across tracks. Selection interviews involving an ABRI Board Member, ABRI Director, Doctoral Director, and a prospective supervisor will take place in February. The 5 best candidates are offered a position, preferably in line with a balanced distribution across the different tracks; however, candidate quality is the leading criterion.

Recruitment of externally funded PhD positions

The recruitment of externally funded positions is decentralized. The PI/prospective supervisor herself arranges the recruitment. Advice by the ABRI Doctoral Director is offered on request. Upon request, ABRI will also offer introductions to shortlisted candidates for recent ABRI positions who might be suitable for an externally funded position. When the PhD is appointed, the PhD coordinator and Doctoral Director will be notified so that the PhD candidate will be registered in Hora Finita, will be informed about the rules, procedures, and facilities at SBE.



Recruitment of part-time, external and scholarship PhD students

There is no central recruiting for these types of PhD candidates as they arrive on an ad hoc basis, typically through contacts with the supervisor. Only part-time PhD candidates who enroll for the ABRI part-time program follow a fixed application procedure with a deadline. Before appointing a part-time, external, or scholarship PhD candidate, advice by the ABRI Doctoral Director is offered on request. Upon appointment, registration with the PhD coordinator is mandatory. Registration in Hora Finita can be delayed during the first year.

ABRI Pre-PhD Research Training Program

Each fall, a selected set of high-potential MSc students will enroll in a research training program that allows for scouting and training talented MSc students. This exclusive program for top-level MSc students from both SBE and other institutions allows selected students to acquaint themselves with the opportunities associated with academic research in business studies. Students who discover that they want to pursue an academic career and conduct PhD research can apply for a full-time PhD position, either in January for internally funded positions or at a later moment in case of externally funded projects. More information about this program can be found in the appendix.

PhD Trajectory

Duration

The PhD trajectory typically takes 4 years. The initial appointment is for one year. After a positive assessment in the first year, the position will be extended for the remaining period. In the event of a negative assessment, the appointment will be discontinued. Part-time, external, and scholarship PhD students don't have an initial appointment; nevertheless, it is important to clearly define a moment and assessment criteria for a Go/No Go decision to affirm that the continuation of the PhD is in the mutual interest of the PhD student and the university.

Training and Supervision Plan

At the start of the PhD trajectory, the PhD candidate and supervisors develop a training and supervision plan (TSP). The TSP must align with the ABRI PhD program curriculum requirements and will be discussed with the ABRI Doctoral Director and documented in Hora Finita (within 3 months). The TSP will be updated every year as part of the annual assessment process, or sooner in case material changes to the planned research or training activities have to be made.

Course Work

All PhD candidates are required to complete course work to ensure that they acquire the knowledge and skills needed to deliver a high-quality dissertation and become a leading scholar in their field. The curriculum seeks to create coherence by establishing a clear set of standards related to the academic knowledge and research skills that PhDs graduating from a particular research track should possess.

PhD training will follow the curriculum of one of the ABRI tracks. All PhD candidates at the VU need to receive training at PhD level of at least 30 ECTS; however, ABRI tracks may specify a curriculum exceeding 30 ECTS. A deviation from the track curriculum is possible in cases where the PhD candidate already has met the learning outcomes of the suggested course (exemption), or when following an alternative course better serves the requirements of the PhD project without compromising the overall quality of the candidate's PhD education. Deviations from the default track curriculum will be agreed in consultation with the ABRI Doctoral Director. The individual curriculum needs to be specified in the TSP and registered in Hora Finita.

Curriculum Components

The curriculum for each track is developed by the track chairs in consultation with the ABRI Doctoral Director and ABRI Director and approved by the ABRI Board. The curriculum of each ABRI track entails courses on Academic Foundations (10 ECTS, shared across all ABRI tracks), Theory/Field courses (at least 5 ECTS), and Methods courses (at least 10 ECTS). This setup ensures that all PhD candidates acquire a well-rounded set of knowledge and skills needed to deliver a high-quality dissertation and become a leading scholar in their field. It also ensures that PhD candidates both acquire a common core set of knowledge and skills that any business researcher should possess while providing them ample opportunity to specialize in the theories and methods of their specific research field. Track chairs will seek to share courses across ABRI tracks (e.g., by creating a common track for quantitative or qualitative methods) or to share courses with other graduate schools or relevant networks (e.g., Limperg Instituut,



LNMB, etc.). ABRI tracks can specify the minimum course work required to be completed within the first year (20 ECTS are recommended).

Additional training components

PhD candidates are eligible to take skills courses offered by other graduate schools. These courses will count towards the minimum requirement of 30 ECTS; however, they don't qualify as a replacement of an Academic Foundations, Theory/Field, or Methods course specified in the track curriculum.

In addition to the formal course work, each PhD candidate is required to regularly participate in ABRI Research Seminars, and to give a presentation at an international academic conference deemed relevant for the ABRI track of choice (no credits will be awarded).

PhD candidates whose positions include a teaching component are expected to participate in the Mini-BKO, which develops their skills to teach and supervise theses. This teaching course consists of three components: Module 1 (basic teaching skills), Module 2 (advanced teaching skills), and Module 3 (thesis supervision). Module 1 is mandatory (no credits will be awarded); PhD candidates may choose to complete all three modules, which will earn them 4 ECTS.

Research Proposal

Within 9 months after the start of the PhD trajectory (within 18 months for part-time students), the candidate will submit a Research Proposal. The proposal needs to be defended in front of a select committee consisting of a member of the SBE Scientific Committee or ABRI Board, ABRI Doctoral Director, and one additional ABRI Fellow with relevant expertise. A clear grading rubric is used to maintain consistency in proposal assessment, and PhD candidates will be informed about the assessment procedures at the start of their trajectories. The committee will provide oral feedback on the proposal and can approve the proposal (with minor conditions) or reject the proposal. If rejected, the candidate will have the opportunity to submit a revised proposal within one month.

Go/No Go

Based on the PhD candidate's performance during the first year (as documented in the progress report and the updated TSP), the verdict on the research proposal defense, and advice of the ABRI Doctoral Director, the supervisors will evaluate the candidate in a Go/No Go interview. This interview should be taken very seriously. If there are any doubts concerning the performance of the PhD candidate, the Scientific Committee and the Doctoral Director can be contacted for advice. After a positive evaluation, the contract will be extended, and the candidate should generally be able to finish the PhD within the remaining duration of the contract.

For PhD candidates who don't have an employment contract (part-time, external, and scholarship PhD students), a similar Go/No Go interview should take place within one year (full-time students) or two years (part-time students). If there are serious doubts concerning the student's ability to complete the PhD within a reasonable time, a decision will be made to terminate PhD trajectory.

Ongoing monitoring

Students' progress in completing the course work and PhD research will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Data for assessing progress comes from several sources:

- *Individual meetings:* every year, one face-to-face meeting is held between the Doctoral Director and each PhD candidate and his/her supervisors. The goal of the meetings is to show that ABRI cares about the student's progress and supervisors' involvement, allowing all to identify and address potential issues early on;
- *Hora Finita:* this system tracks students' progress in completing required course work and documents all relevant information pertaining to each PhD project;
- *Student self-reflection reports:* students provide a written report on their progress and future plans. Performance can be measured by tracking the actual completion of milestones;
- *Supervisor recommendations:* supervisors report on their students' progress and inform the Doctoral Director about any relevant issues that might negatively impact the PhD trajectory.
- *PhD Survey:* the Doctoral Director sends out a simple online survey to all PhD students on a regular base to collect anonymized data about issues affecting the progress of PhD candidates in general.

Appendix 1: List of ABRI PhD Courses

Academic Foundations

- Philosophy of science (3 ECTS)
- Research integrity (including ethics and data management, 3 ECTS) → new
- Generating impact with academic work (2 ECTS)
- How to build an academic career (4 independent workshops, 2 ECTS) → new

Theory/Field Courses

- Specialization seminars
 - HRM/Organization behavior (5 ECTS)
 - Marketing (5 ECTS)
 - Strategy and Entrepreneurship (5 ECTS) → shared with UvA
 - Research in Digital Innovation (5 ECTS)
- Developing theory and theoretical contributions (5 ECTS) → shared with RSM
- Theory courses from other graduate schools and networks, e.g.
 - Limperg Instituut
 - Research master social psychology
 - ...

Methods Courses

- Generic quantitative courses
 - Quantitative data analysis in R (including programming in R, 5 ECTS)
 - Multivariate data analysis (5 ECTS)
- Generic qualitative courses
 - Designing qualitative research (5 ECTS) → shared with RSM
 - Qualitative data analysis (5 ECTS) → shared with RSM
- Specialized methods courses
 - Ethnography (5 ECTS)
 - Digital methods for exploratory research (5 ECTS)
 - Process research methods (5 ECTS)
 - Social network analysis (5 ECTS)
 - Experimental research (5 ECTS)
- Courses offered by other graduate schools and networks, e.g.
 - NLP (TI BDS)
 - Meta analysis (UvA)
 - SEM, scale construction (Tilburg)
 - Panel data, multilevel analysis (TI)
 - Patent research (KU Leuven)
 - ...

Optional Skills Courses

- Attractive academic writing (FSS)
- How to present your academic research (FSS)
- Time and project management (FSS)
- Communicating science (FSS)

Track Curriculum – Accounting

Academic Foundations – 10 ECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of science (3 ECTS) • Research integrity (3 ECTS) • Generating impact with academic work (2 ECTS) • How to build an academic career (2 ECTS)
Methods Courses – 10-15 ECTS
<p><u>Mandatory course</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative data analysis in R (5 ECTS) OR Designing qualitative research (5 ECTS) <p><u>Elective courses (at least one)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multivariate data analysis (5 ECTS) • Qualitative data analysis (5 ECTS) • Python (LI) (5 ECTS) • Experiments (LI) (5 ECTS) • Archival Data Analysis (LI) (5 ECTS) • Analytics and modelling for empirical researchers (LI) (5 ECTS) • Courses at other graduate schools and networks, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Structural equation modeling ○ EDEN doctoral course in accounting research methods ○ Panel data, multilevel analysis (TI)
Theory/Field Courses – 5-10 ECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Markets Research (LI) – Financial Accounting track (5 ECTS) • Advanced Financial Accounting (LI) – Financial Accounting track (5 ECTS) • Economics of Auditing and Assurance (LI) – Auditing track (5 ECTS) • Managerial Accounting (LI) – Management Accounting track (5 ECTS)

LI: Limperg Institute

Track Curriculum – HRM/OB

Academic Foundations – 10 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy of science (3 ECTS) Research integrity (3 ECTS) Generating impact with academic work (2 ECTS) How to build an academic career (2 ECTS) 	
Methods Courses – 15 ECTS	
Qualitative Track	Quantitative Track
<u>Mandatory courses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing qualitative research (5 ECTS) Qualitative data analysis (5 ECTS) <u>Elective courses (at least one)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnography (5 ECTS) Digital methods (5 ECTS) Process research methods (5 ECTS) [other courses] 	<u>Mandatory courses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative data analysis in R (5 ECTS) Multivariate data analysis (5 ECTS) <u>Elective courses (at least one)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experimental research (5 ECTS) Social network analysis (5 ECTS) Courses at other graduate schools, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural equation modeling Experience sampling design
Theory/Field Courses – 10 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialization seminar in HRM/OB (5 ECTS) Developing theory and theoretical contributions (5 ECTS) 	

Track Curriculum – Operations Analytics

Academic Foundations – 10 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy of science (3 ECTS) Research integrity (3 ECTS) Generating impact with academic work (2 ECTS) How to build an academic career (2 ECTS) 	
Methods Courses – 15 ECTS	
<u>Mandatory courses</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integer programming, TI Business Data Science (3 ECTS) Simulation & optimization, TI Business Data Science (4 ECTS) 	
<u>Elective courses (at least 8 ECTS)</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decomposition methods, TI Business Data Science (3 ECTS) Heuristic optimization methods, TI Business Data Science (3 ECTS) Advanced inventory theory, Beta Research School (1-4 ECTS) Quantitative modeling and analysis of supply chains, Beta Research School (1-4 ECTS) Randomized algorithms, LNMB (? ECTS) Cooperative games with applications to OR, LNMB (? ECTS) Markov decision processes, LNMB (? ECTS) [other courses] 	
Theory/Field Courses – 5 ECTS	
<u>Mandatory courses</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Perspectives of Operations Management, Beta Research School (2 ECTS) 	
<u>Elective courses (at least 3 ECTS)</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [other courses] 	

Track Curriculum – Marketing

Academic Foundations – 10 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy of science (3 ECTS) Research integrity (3 ECTS) Generating impact with academic work (2 ECTS) How to build an academic career (2 ECTS) 	
Methods Courses – 15 ECTS	
Consumer Behavior Track	Strategic Marketing Track
<u>Mandatory courses</u>	<u>Mandatory courses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multivariate data analysis (5 ECTS) Experimental research (5 ECTS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative data analysis in R (5 ECTS) Multivariate data analysis (5 ECTS)
<u>Elective courses (at least one)</u>	<u>Elective courses (at least one)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDEN doctoral seminar on consumer research (4 ECTS) EMAC doctoral colloquium (5 ECTS) [other courses] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDEN doctoral seminar on marketing models (5 ECTS) EMAC doctoral colloquium (5 ECTS) [other courses]
Theory/Field Courses – 5 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialization seminar in Marketing (5 ECTS) 	

Track Curriculum – Digital Innovation

Academic Foundations – 10 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy of science (3 ECTS) Research integrity (3 ECTS) Generating impact with academic work (2 ECTS) How to build an academic career (2 ECTS) 	
Methods Courses – 15 ECTS	
Qualitative Track	Quantitative Track
<u>Mandatory courses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing qualitative research (5 ECTS) Qualitative data analysis (5 ECTS) <u>Elective courses (at least one)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnography (5 ECTS) Digital methods (5 ECTS) Process research methods (5 ECTS) [other courses] 	<u>Mandatory courses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative data analysis in R (5 ECTS) Multivariate data analysis (5 ECTS) <u>Elective courses (at least one)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural equation modeling (5 ECTS) Experimental research (5 ECTS) Social network analysis (5 ECTS) [other courses]
Theory/Field Courses – 10 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialization seminar in research on digital innovation (5 ECTS) Developing theory and theoretical contributions (5 ECTS) 	

Track Curriculum – Strategy and Entrepreneurship

Academic Foundations – 10 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy of science (3 ECTS) Research integrity (3 ECTS) Generating impact with academic work (2 ECTS) How to build an academic career (2 ECTS) 	
Methods Courses – 15 ECTS	
Qualitative Track	Quantitative Track
<u>Mandatory courses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing qualitative research (5 ECTS) Qualitative data analysis (5 ECTS) <u>Elective courses (at least one)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnography (5 ECTS) Digital methods (5 ECTS) Process research methods (5 ECTS) [other courses] 	<u>Mandatory courses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative data analysis in R (5 ECTS) Multivariate data analysis (5 ECTS) <u>Elective courses (at least one)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experimental research (5 ECTS) Social network analysis (5 ECTS) Courses at other graduate schools, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural equation modeling Experience sampling design
Theory/Field Courses – 10 ECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialization seminar in Strategy & Entrepreneurship (5 ECTS) Developing theory and theoretical contributions (5 ECTS) 	

Appendix 2: ABRI Pre-PhD Research Training Program

Objectives

This research training program provides an opportunity for talented students graduating from regular master's programs to explore opportunities for an academic career. They will be able to earn a minimum of 21 ECTS of PhD level courses, while also getting the chance to work on a research project together with an ABRI Fellow and also working as a teaching and/or research assistant at an ABRI affiliated department. The objective of this program is to prepare MSc graduates for an ABRI PhD position. This is important for three reasons: 1) it allows SBE to retain talented students that we identify in the regular SBE master's programs; 2) it will increase the pool of talented applicants for available ABRI positions after phasing out of the BiS research master; 3) the program may result in a pipeline of potential PhD candidates who may be potential applicants for 3rd stream funded positions that often become vacant during the year when other graduates are not readily available.

Moreover, the program will provide ABRI and participants a sound basis for making an informed decision about their suitability for a PhD. Participants can follow PhD courses, carry out a research internship and work in a department as a research/teaching assistant, which provides them with a good impression of what life as a PhD candidate would be like. Likewise, the regular and close interaction of faculty members with the participants allows for a proper assessment of their potential for a PhD trajectory. Finally, the participants' commitment to invest in their research training, as well as the departments' offer of an assistant position, signals mutual commitment.

Application and Selection of Students

The ABRI Pre-PhD Research Training Program is open for enrollment to both internal (SBE) MSc students and external MSc students from other institutions. Admission will be highly selective (tentative capacity of 12 participants). Admission requires the recommendation of a faculty member (most likely, promising students will be identified throughout the thesis process, e.g., by their supervisors). An interview with the ABRI Doctoral Director will be part of the selection process. The application deadline will be the end of the academic year, but MSc students can apply earlier if they wish and, if admitted, they can start taking courses next to their regular MSc curriculum already.

The admission criteria will be comparable to admission criteria for research master's:

- Graduating from a regular master program at SBE (VU) or another Dutch/European master program in business, management, or related field of study
- GPA of 7.5 or higher (based on the bachelor's degree, available master courses)
- 1.500-word thesis abstract to demonstrate intellectual capabilities and writing
- Strong motivation and enthusiasm for pursuing a research-related career, expressed in a motivation letter
- Recommendation from two academics

Certificate

Participants will obtain a certificate for the course work they completed (minimum of 21 ECTS) as well as recommendation letters from ABRI Fellows who mentored them on their research projects and/or supervised them during their research/teaching assistantships.

Enrollment

Participants can enroll in the ABRI Pre-PhD Research Training Program in two ways. First, they may stay enrolled in their regular MSc program for a second year; they will not graduate even if they complete all courses of their regular MSc curriculum. This option allows participants to maintain student status and enjoy associated privileges. Second, participants may choose to graduate from their regular master's together with their cohort and then enroll as contract students. This option allows for attracting additional MSc students graduating from other institutions to the program, who seek a dedicated program that prepares them for applying for a PhD position. ABRI proposes EUR 2,100 as a fixed tuition fee for the complete program, with the possibility of offering tuition waivers to outstanding students.

Suggested Curriculum: ABRI Pre-PhD Research Training Program

Period 1: **Philosophy of science** (3 ECTS)

Period 2: **Introduction to qualitative research** (5 ECTS)

and/or

Quantitative data analysis in R (5 ECTS)

Period 3: **Research integrity** (3 ECTS)

Period 4: **Multivariate data analysis** (5 ECTS)

and/or

Qualitative data analysis (5 ECTS)

Period 1-4: **Research Internship** (5 ECTS)

In addition, students may be invited to take one of the specialization seminars taught in period 5 as an elective for their regular SBE MSc program.