DAPS | Doctorate of Advanced Professional Studies
Doctorat professionnel de formation continue

Professional Doctorate in **Applied Finance**

November 2025 > September 2027

Specialisation in International Wealth Management and Investments

GENEVA FINANCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE | GFRI

GENEVA INSTITUTE FOR WEALTH MANAGEMENT | GIWM

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

Direction

- **Prof. Rajna Gibson Brandon**, Professor of Finance, Geneva Finance Research Institute, University of Geneva, Co-Director of the DAPS and Managing Director of the GIWM
- **Mr Jun Yan,** President, GFD Institute, Co-Director of the DAPS

Steering Committee

- **Prof. Rajna Gibson Brandon**, Professor of Finance, Geneva Finance Research Institute, University of Geneva, Co-Director of the DAPS and Managing Director of the GIWM
- **Mr Jun Yan,** President, GFD Institute, Co-Director of the DAPS
- **Prof. Tony Berrada**, Professor of Finance, Geneva Finance Research Institute, University of Geneva, Switzerland

The Steering Committee works in consultation with professional partners and external stakeholders to ensure the relevance of the programme. It benefits from the administrative support of the Geneva Institute for Wealth Management.

The University of Geneva collaborates with GFD Institute (GFDI), a non-profit institute dedicated to advancing education, academia, the arts, and other key sectors. GFDI offers executive and postgraduate education in finance and investment, along with a range of training and exchange programs designed to develop leadership, innovation, and professional excellence among entrepreneurs and professionals.

Coordination

Antonella Romero, University of Geneva and GIWM

The DAPS in Applied Finance is a three-year high-level executive programme which aims to train entrepreneurs, investors and senior managers in analysing, anticipating, and conducting scientifically applied research in the field of international wealth management and investments

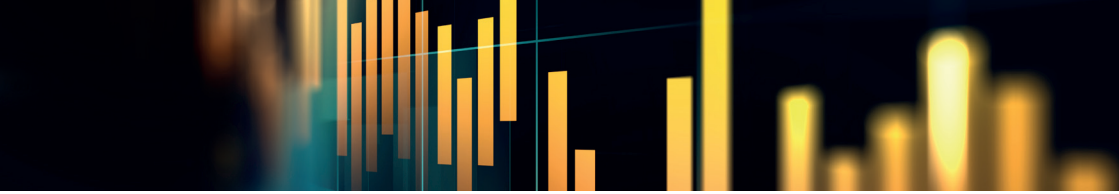
The Doctorate of Advanced Professional Studies in Applied Finance capitalizes on the worldwide recognition of Geneva as a centre of Wealth Management to offer a unique specialisation to train the wealth management professionals of tomorrow with a special emphasis on investment issues.

By engaging in applied research, the programme aims to train participants to become thought-leaders and highly competent professionals in international wealth management and investment practices.

The three-year high-level executive programme is delivered by the Geneva Finance Research Institute (GFRI), a centre of excellence in interdisciplinary research and teaching in Finance and a world leading centre in Sustainable Finance, in collaboration with the Geneva Institute for Wealth Management (GIWM), a non-profit Swiss foundation dedicated to promoting high-level executive education in finance and with the GFD Institute (GFDI). Consisting of ten modules taught by renowned professors and professionals in finance and law from Switzerland and China the programme provides academic excellence in the field of wealth management, a leading activity of the financial industry.

The programme aims to develop reflective practitioners with the potential to become experts in wealth management and investment practices, so that they become more proficient at managing within complex and increasingly competitive environments with a focus on international wealth management and investments. It supports entrepreneurs, investors and senior managers in analysing, anticipating and conducting scientifically applied research in international wealth management in innovative and rigorous ways.

Prospective graduates will benefit from solid knowledge in the fields of financial markets, international portfolio management, sustainable finance, social entrepreneurship, risk management, quantitative and qualitative methods of finance, along with analysis and modelling methods that will enable them to meet the challenges faced by companies in an increasingly uncertain and globalised environments.



Audience

Entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, senior executives, public officials and managers who want to learn about the latest academic and professional advances in finance, to understand and develop wealth management strategies that will consolidate their clients' prosperity while maintaining their sense of purpose.

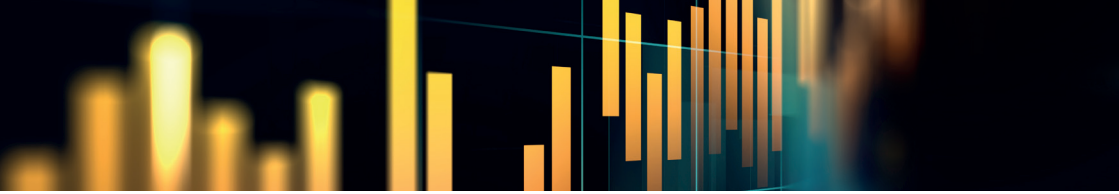
Objectives

- Sharpen and broaden skills in international wealth management and investments.
- Understand the current and future evolution of financial markets.
- Becoming responsible investors who care about environmental and social challenges.
- Face an increasingly competitive, globalised and uncertain world.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this programme, the participants will:

- Master advanced conceptual and quantitative methods and have financial expertise, specifically in International Wealth Management and Investments.
- Gain a deep understanding of banking, financial markets, as well as traditional, alternative, and international investments.
- Acquire evidence-based scientific research skills in the context of writing a professional doctoral thesis with academic integrity, focusing on some of the most innovative topics in International Wealth Management and Investments.
- Develop advanced written and oral communication skills, in particular through the writing and defence of their dissertation in Applied Finance.



Learning Methods

- Interactive teaching methods and access to cutting-edge applied research.
- Real-data and real-time analytic tools supported by an intuitive online platform.
- Exchanges with both academics and practitioners.
- Study trip and networking opportunities.
- Research and writing of a professional doctoral thesis.

Programme Structure

The programme is organised into 10 thematic modules (50 ECTS credits), 1 methodological module (5 ECTS credits) and the writing of a thesis in applied finance research (25 ECTS credits).

We offer an immersion into the Private Banking world with a Geneva Study Tour of one week that combines lectures in Private Banking with visits of some of the most prestigious financial institutions located in Geneva, including: Banque Edmond de Rothschild, BCGE, Julius Bär, Lombard Odier, Mirabaud, PwC, Swiss National Bank, UBS, and also Family Offices and Fintech companies, as well as opportunities to network with Swiss financial professionals.

Programme

Module 1 | Global Capital Markets and Investments

5 ECTS Credits

GFD Institute

Prof. HUANG Haizhou

Module 2 | Asset Allocation & Wealth Management

5 ECTS Credits

University of Geneva

Prof. Tony BERRADA
Prof. Olivier SCAILLET
Prof. Fabio TROJANI

Module 3 | Medical Technology and Innovation Investments

5 ECTS Credits

GFD Institute

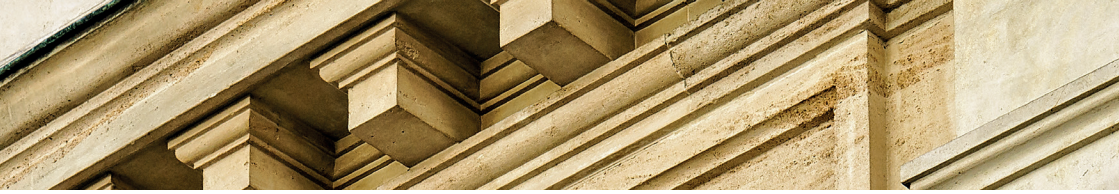
Prof. XU Anlong

Module 4 | Selected Topics in International Wealth Management

5 ECTS Credits

University of Geneva

Prof. Inès CHAIEB
Prof. Harald HAU



Module 5 | Fundamentals of International Investments

5 ECTS Credits

GFD Institute

Prof. HUANG Haizhou

Module 6 | Alternative Investments

5 ECTS Credits

University of Geneva

Prof. Rajna GIBSON BRANDON
Prof. Martin HOESLI
Prof. Jean-Charles ROCHET

Module 7 | Managing Sector Investments and M&A

5 ECTS Credits

GFD Institute

Dr NI Zewang

Module 8 | Dissertation Workshop on Research Methods in Finance

5 ECTS Credits

Workshop & Individual Work

Module 9 | **Sustainable and Ethical Finance**

5 ECTS Credits

University of Geneva

Prof. Philipp KRUEGER
Prof. Giuseppe UGAZIO

Module 10 | **Artificial Intelligence Applications and Investments**

5 ECTS Credits

GFD Institute

Prof. ZHENG Zibin

Modules 11 | **Dissertation Research Proposal**

5 ECTS Credits

University of Geneva

Modules 12 | **DAPS Dissertation (Defence)**

25 ECTS Credits

University of Geneva

Assessment

The programme is part-time. Each module, as well as the professional doctoral thesis, are assessed. The doctorate thesis focuses on a professional topic chosen by the student. Active and regular participation is required in all parts of the programme.

Professional Doctoral Thesis

An applied professional doctoral thesis must be submitted within 12 months following the end of the teaching programme. Participants are required to write their thesis in English. Under certain circumstances, participants may submit their thesis translated into English by accredited translators.

Professional Degree Awarded

The Doctorate of Advanced Professional Studies in Applied Finance with Specialisation in International Wealth Management and Investments / *Doctorat professionnel de formation continue en finance appliquée avec spécialisation en gestion internationale de patrimoine et investissements* is awarded by the Geneva Finance Research Institute (GFRI) of the University of Geneva. It corresponds to 80 ECTS credits. It is awarded to participants who meet the programme's assessment requirements and have fully paid their tuition fees.

Overview of the Professional Doctorate Degree at the University of Geneva

The Doctorate of Advanced Professional Studies in Applied Finance is the very first professional doctorate degree with a practical orientation to be delivered by a Swiss public university. From its onset in 2016, the ambitious programme of the University of Geneva was an immediate success, meeting the needs of the participants to full satisfaction.

The programme offers more than a general curriculum in Finance. By focusing on international wealth management and investments, a leading activity of the financial industry, the professional doctorate offers a worldwide unique specialisation. Ideally positioned at the heart of Geneva, the leading financial centre in wealth management, the programme is supported by unrivalled expertise in the field, with cutting-edge teaching delivered by renowned professors and researchers, in close collaboration with local and international professionals.

Subject to an international quality audit, the programme has a proven track-record of success. Since its launch, the programme has enrolled more than 500 participants. As of this writing, about 218 students have successfully defended their applied research and obtained their professional doctorate degree. The results speak for themselves, as the high quality of the participants' applied research has been recognized by means of publication in journals and monographs of some of their work.

To reach this level, the programme has developed an innovative teaching platform that combines theoretical modelling with their direct application in concrete real-data problems at the international level. This performant tool fosters hands-on approach by allowing participants to create their own trading or portfolio strategies, replicate case studies in any market, and conduct instant empirical analysis using state-of-aft methodologies for their own research.

Directed to enrich and enforce the knowledge and skills obtained in the classroom, the programme also offers a wide range of electives and extracurricular activities, during which the participants will gain insight into the latest trends and be inspired by the experiences shared by eminent scholars, experts, and peers. Bringing together the academic and the professional world, the programme and its surrounding activities thus provide networking and development opportunities to seize, while empowering participants to take greater mission-driven responsibilities in the shifting international landscape.

The Programme in Numbers

+500 Participants enrolled in the programme in the past 7 years

Characteristics

- **27%** Women
- **73%** Men
- **45** Years old on average

Educational Background

- **86%** Master | EMBA | MBA holders
- **10%** Ph. D holders

Professional Background

- **75%** Chairpersons | Presidents | Founders
- **10%** CEOs | Directors
- **60%** Controlling Stakeholders of Listed Companies

Sectors of Activity

- **45%** Finance Industry
- **25%** Manufacturing
- **15 %** Services
- **10%** Real Estate

A Growing Alumni Community

+215 Graduates, with a professional thesis of publishable quality

Practical information

Admission criteria

To be admitted to the programme, the students must comply with the following criteria:

- Hold at least a Master's degree from a university that is recognised by the University of Geneva;
- Have a minimum of 8 years of professional experience, or part-time equivalent, in banking, finance or in related industries;
- Be fluent in both English and Chinese.

Deadline
15 November 2025

Further Information
Number of participants: 50-60 participants

Modality
Contact the Coordinator

Location
Geneva, Switzerland and Greater China

Contact
Antonella Romero
daps-finance@unige.ch
T.: +41 22 810 87 55

www.unige.ch/formcont/en/courses/daps-applied-finance

Partnerships

GFD Institute (GFDI)

The GFD Institute (GFDI) is a non-profit institute dedicated to advancing education, academia, the arts, and other key sectors. The institute offers executive and postgraduate education in finance and investment, along with a range of training and exchange programs designed to develop leadership, innovation, and professional excellence among entrepreneurs and professionals.

Through their global initiatives, the GFD Institute aims to foster lifelong learning, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and meaningful impact in today's dynamic world.

Geneva Institute for Wealth Management (GIWM)

The Geneva Institute for Wealth Management is a non–profit foundation created to promote international partnerships with the University of Geneva – in particular with its centre for research in Finance, the Geneva Finance Research Institute (GFRI) – in post-graduate education, executive education, research and knowledge transfer in wealth management and related fields. GIWM participates in the promotion and development of the Swiss financial centre as a hub for excellence in Wealth Management.

https://giwm.ch/

Testimonials

"The University of Geneva's motto, 'Post tenebras lux', perfectly frames our journey. We are deeply grateful to this institution for welcoming us—entrepreneurs returning with hard-won experience. Here, where theory meets practice, we have evolved from 'practitioners' into 'thinkers'."

Mr Xu Tieliang

"I thought the dissertation process was a highlight of the study programme. I learned a lot in the process of preparing for the paper. Professor Hoesli guided me step by step and helped me to take the paper to a level that I couldn't believe I could get to."

Mr Ruibin Chen

"The University of Geneva's academic rigor provided an exceptional platform. Here, we mastered integrating financial theory with practice, understanding its vital role in sustainable enterprise. This scientific problem-solving approach is an invaluable career asset."

Ms Guo Meiling

"My doctoral degree in Applied Finance from the University of Geneva stands as a crowning achievement of my academic journey and a source of immense pride for my family."

Mr Zhang Xuezheng

Partnerships

GFD Institute (GFDI)

Geneva Institute for Wealth Management (GIWM)

Support

Geneva Financial Center (GFC)

swissuniversities

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE)

University of Geneva | CH-1211 Geneva 4

Tel: +41 (0)22 379 78 33 | info-formcont@unige.ch

www.unige.ch/formcont