




Workshop:
Attracting and Supporting International and
Canadian Doctoral Students

CFBSD Associate Deans Research Conference 2016


University of Calgary

April 17-19, 2016



Key Elements of the PhD Program

- Program content and structure
- Research resources in the school
- Faculty supervision capacity
- Funding support for students (including tuition)
- Financial support for student development (conference travel, research)
- Recruitment initiatives to attract and retain high quality students
- Program completion time
- Placement of graduates



PhD Program at JMSB

Program content and Structure


- ▶ 90 credit program
 - ▶ Courses 24 credits; comprehensive exams 6 credits; thesis 60 credits
- ▶ Program divided into 3 phases
 - ▶ Phase I: Qualifying courses
 - ▶ Phase II: Minimum 8 courses (2 required +4 specialization+2 support)+ Comps
 - ▶ Phase III: Thesis
- ▶ Program is part of the Joint PhD Program of all 4 universities in Montreal
- ▶ Phase II Committee: Supervisor + 2 members (1 from joint program)
- ▶ Phase III Committee: Supervisor + 2 members (1 from joint program)
- ▶ External examiner for final thesis defense
- ▶ Program time limit: 6 years



PhD Program at JMSB

Research resources and faculty supervision capacity

- ▶ Subscription to a large number of databases (CRSP, COMPUSTAT, Datastream, SDC Platinum, etc.)
- ▶ Obtain specialized databases with additional funding from Office of Research
- ▶ Approximately 110 tenured/tenure-track faculty; only a small percentage engaged in supervision of PhD students
- ▶ Part of supervision support met from Joint Program
- ▶ Tenure-track Assistant Professors allowed to supervise/co-supervise since the past 2 years



PhD Program at JMSB

Funding and Other Student Support


- Guaranteed funding for first 3 years + full tuition
 - Funding support doubled over the past 5 years
- Faculty contribute to funding from their research grants
- RAs and TAs in the department
- University fellowships and scholarships
- Canadians/PRs apply for Tri-Council grants
- PhD Thesis research grants
- Conference travel support once per year from PhD Office
- Additional conference travel support from SGS



PhD Program at JMSB

Recruitment and Retention

- International recruitment visits by university teams
- Promotion of the program within Concordia/JMSB MSc Program
- Fast track from the MSc Program
- Faculty contacts and networks
- University Open Houses and Information Days
- **Program Website**
- Retention has not been a major issue since funding increased



PhD Program at JMSB

Completion and Placement

- ▶ Program completion times have remained a challenge
- ▶ Average completion time has been > 6 years
- ▶ Comps completed within 2.5 years; delay is in the thesis phase
- ▶ Most graduates are placed in universities – Canada, U.S., home country