

## Executive DBA of Université Paris Dauphine - PSL Holds Grand 2024 Graduation Ceremony in France | New Horizons, Renewed Brilliance

On the evening of September 18, 2024 (France time), the Executive DBA of Université Paris Dauphine - PSL celebrated its 2024 graduation ceremony on campus. Ten doctoral graduates, representing their cohort, donned the symbolic academic regalia under the proud gaze of professors, peers, and family, marking a defining moment of honor and achievement.



### Distinguished Attendees

The ceremony was graced by leaders and guests including:

- **Prof. El Mouhoub MOUHOUD**, Interim President of PSL and President of Université Paris Dauphine - PSL
- **Prof. Sophie MÉRITET**, Vice President (International Affairs and Student Mobility)
- **Prof. Nicolas BERLAND**, Vice President (Financial Resources and Partnerships)
- **Prof. Bernard FERNANDEZ**, Director of the Executive DBA China Program
- **Prof. Pierre Romelaer**, Academic Chair
- **Prof. Fan Yushun**, Deputy Director of the National CIMS Engineering Research Center at Tsinghua University

- **Prof. John HEARN**, Former Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney and Australian National University, Chair of the Institute of Management and Commerce (IMC)
- **Mr. Zhang Yingjun**, Executive Director of the Executive DBA of Université Paris Dauphine - PSL and General Manager of Zhuoer Education

This ceremony not only celebrated individual academic triumphs but also marked a milestone in the program's mission to cultivate scholar-entrepreneurs with global vision and transformative impact.



**Prof. El Mouhoub MOUHOUD** praised the graduates' scholarly rigor and the program's role in nurturing *"visionary scholar-entrepreneurs with global acuity and pragmatic wisdom."* He remarked: *"As both President of Université Paris Dauphine-PSL and Interim President of PSL, I am profoundly honored to witness this historic moment. Our graduates—leaders across industries—embody the fusion of academic brilliance and managerial prowess, publishing groundbreaking research and advancing their studies at world-renowned institutions. Their success underscores our program's global stature."*



**Prof. Sophie MÉRITET** highlighted the graduates' *"resilience, intellectual curiosity, and cross-cultural leadership,"* noting: *"This program exemplifies Sino-French academic synergy, setting a benchmark for global executive education."*



**Prof. Nicolas BERLAND** lauded the cohort's dedication: *"Balancing rigorous scholarship with professional demands is no small feat. Your research has redefined business paradigms, and your legacy will inspire future leaders."*



**Prof. FAN Yushun** reflected: *"This ceremony celebrates not just individual triumphs but the zenith of Sino-French educational collaboration. From its inception, this program has evolved into a crucible of intellectual and cultural exchange."*





**Prof. John HEARN**, drawing from his role as inaugural Dean of the Confucius Institute at the University of Sydney, emphasized: *"This program bridges nations through shared visions of cultivating globally minded leaders—a testament to education's power in fostering mutual understanding."*



### Graduates' Reflections: A Tapestry of Triumph

The 3–5-year DBA journey—a blend of rigorous inquiry and transformative growth—culminated in heartfelt speeches:

- Dr. LU Chen (2015 Cohort)**  
 “The program’s rigorous, exacting, and earnest ethos has elevated Chinese management scholarship. My gratitude extends to mentors like Prof. Pierre Romelaer and Prof. FERNANDEZ, who guided my empirical research. Today, I apply these insights to global educational innovation.”
- Dr. XIAO Lianglin (2015 Cohort)**  
 “Eighteen years of entrepreneurship taught me that strategic thinking transcends chaos. This program honed my ability to navigate complexity—an invaluable gift.”
- Dr. CHAI Xiaoqing (2017 Cohort)**  
 “This journey was a cultural odyssey: demanding yet enriching. We embraced the mantra: ‘Either travel far or read deeply—for growth knows no bounds.’”
- Dr. WANG Xiaorong (2017 Cohort)**  
 “This milestone is a collective triumph. I’ve discovered my lifelong passion for education and research—an adventure I now embark on with renewed purpose.”
- Dr. XU Rongning (2017 Cohort)**  
 “From skepticism to revelation: The program’s focus on solving real-world challenges transformed me. My heartfelt thanks to the faculty who supported me across continents.”

- **Dr. WANG Huaizhou (2018 Cohort)**

“Leveraging generative AI to address automotive industry needs exemplifies how DBA research drives innovation. This achievement belongs to all who guided me.”

- **Dr. HENG Yu (2019 Cohort)**

“Global perspectives and relentless curiosity—these are the program’s enduring gifts. Graduation is not an end but a launchpad.”

- **Dr. LIN Yousheng (2019 Cohort)**

“From Canada to Taiwan, the U.S., and finally France—this doctorate crowns my academic journey. Now, I translate theory into practice, guided by my beloved mentor Prof. FANG.”

- **Dr. WEI Chunling (2019 Cohort)**

“Mastery demands patience. Through relentless refinement, I found joy in the minutiae of research. My deepest thanks to Prof. FAN and Prof. FANG for their unwavering support.”

- **Dr. XU Meilin (2019 Cohort)**

“This journey gifted me resilience, humility, and a thirst for discovery. I carry these lessons into life’s next chapter.”



**Official Address by Prof. Bernard FERNANDEZ, Director of the Executive DBA Program at Université Paris Dauphine-PSL**

"To our graduates who have traveled afar to join this ceremony in Paris—a city steeped in history and modernity—I extend my warmest congratulations. Witnessing your academic milestones and hearing your reflections on this journey fills me with immense pride. This achievement is a testament to the collective efforts of our partners, especially the dedication of our Chinese faculty, and your own unwavering perseverance. Without your intellectual rigor and relentless effort, today's celebration would not be possible."

**Conferral of Degrees: A Ceremonial Triumph**

As the ceremony progressed, Prof. FERNANDEZ personally adjusted the doctoral tassels and conferred degrees upon each graduate. This ritual not only symbolizes academic recognition but also embodies the collective encouragement from mentors, peers, and families. Armed with renewed passion, these scholars now embark on new journeys to redefine leadership in an ever-evolving global landscape.





### Legacy of Excellence: 12 Years of Transformative Impact

Since its inception in 2012, the Executive DBA program has rigorously selected over **200 exceptional entrepreneurial scholars**, fostering a culture of evidence-based management research. To date, the program has yielded **nearly 80 high-impact doctoral dissertations** spanning critical domains such as:

Management Innovation & Organizational Transformation

Strategic Leadership & Dynamic Capabilities

Cross-Cultural Governance & Sustainable Business Models

Financial Technology & Risk Analytics

Digital Transformation & AI-Driven Decision Systems

This **doctoral research repository** stands as both a monument to past achievements and a catalyst for future breakthroughs in management theory and practice.

As we affirm: *“The completion of a doctorate marks not an endpoint, but a gateway to deeper inquiry.”* To our graduates, we reiterate our heartfelt congratulations. May you continue to bridge theory and practice, advancing management scholarship that empowers industries across China and the globe.