



WE GUIDE YOU
TOWARDS YOUR
FUTURE

What you should know about VGSF:

1

STANDARD PHD FORMAT

Structured Program

Our program matches the US and international standard format. The curriculum consists of two parts: coursework to provide students with the skills and tools needed to conduct research and independent research projects closely supervised by the faculty.

2

MENTORSHIP

Dedicated Supervision

VGSF has an open-door approach that encourages dialogue and helps you choose your research focus and supervisors. At VGSF you are more than a student; you are a colleague and a member of our community.

3

EXPERTISE

Research Excellence

Our faculty members are leading experts in their respective fields and collaborate with renowned experts and academics from all over the world who are regularly invited to VGSF for guest lectures or seminars.

4

CAREER NETWORK

Top Placements

We have built a worldwide network with our graduates. Our students have secured top-level jobs in excellent institutions such as the University of Chicago, Bocconi University, NHH Norwegian School of Economics and the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

5

FUNDING

Fully-funded Positions

VGSF students are employed by one of the partner universities and receive a competitive monthly salary as well as subsidies to attend conferences.

Curriculum

The PhD program is a 5-year, full-time program that is structured into **coursework** and **research**. The coursework is further divided into core and elective courses, which equip you with the tools to develop your ideas into innovative research in the field of finance. In the first and second year, you deepen your research interests and **choose your supervisor(s)**. From the third year onwards, you focus on research.

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
Core and Elective Courses					
Focus on Research					
Choice of Supervisor(s)					
Weekly Research Seminars					
Annual VGSF Conference					
Travel Grants for Conferences					
Job Market Training					

Connecting to the World

The program includes **weekly research seminars** hosting top international academics, who present their current work. These seminars introduce you to innovative research ideas and a wide network of finance scholars.

Training for your Career

You obtain extensive advice for your research and its presentation. At the annual **VGSF Conference**, you present your research and receive valuable feedback from the entire VGSF faculty. You get **travel grants** for your paper presentations at conferences. In the fifth year, we prepare you for the **job market** with specific training sessions and mock interviews.



Our Graduates are placed all over the World



VGSF provides an inspiring learning and research environment that lays the foundation for an international academic career. Our placement history speaks for itself; our graduates work in highly recognized departments and organizations all over the world. Our program combines comprehensive training, close supervision, and plenty of opportunities to gather and exchange ideas with faculty members and international top scientists. At VGSF, we mentor and work with talented students to address cutting edge-topics and to carry out state-of-the-art research in finance.

Alexander Mürmann
Program Director

RESEARCH AREAS

- Corporate Finance
- Asset Pricing
- Financial Intermediation
- Market Microstructure
- Banking and Credit Risk
- Insurance Economics

3in1

Three in one

VGSF is run jointly by three of the best academic institutions in Vienna.





Requirements

Postgraduate degree

Successful completion of a master's program or a relevant equivalent program at a recognized Austrian or foreign postgraduate institution.

Applicants who expect to finish their master's by the end of the coming academic year (summer semester) are also welcome to apply.

GRE or GMAT

You must submit a GMAT or GRE score that is no more than five years old.

English language proficiency

Candidates whose native language is not English are required to demonstrate their English proficiency by submitting a valid English test or by holding a degree from an institution at which English is the language of instruction.

Applicants should submit

- 1 Statement of purpose outlining why they are interested in completing a PhD program
- 2 Degree certificates and official transcripts
- 3 Curriculum Vitae
- 4 GMAT or GRE scores
- 5 Proof of English proficiency
- 6 Two recommendation letters

Application Deadline

Applications and all accompanying documents should be submitted by **January 11, 2026**.

For more information about the program, requirements or admissions, please contact us.

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