

# Experiential PhD

## Overview

The future of research will be collaborative. Researchers across academic institutions, industry, government, and other organizations will team up to solve complex real-world problems. Researchers will require technical proficiency as well as the ability to work with others, form teams, manage projects, and more—skills that go beyond the classroom. At Northeastern University, every PhD student and postdoctoral research associate has opportunities to acquire experiences beyond traditional research. Exposure to and integration with our many partners through unique programs in authentic settings from laboratories to startup companies to nonprofit institutions leads to greater impact and broader career opportunities, both within and beyond academia.

The LEADERS Program (p. 1) is designed to enable researchers to develop professional skills through authentic career exploration opportunities at organizations in industry, government, and the nonprofit sector. Beyond the comfort zone of their own university research group, PhD students and postdoctoral research associates encounter new experiences that help shape their research perspective. They also bring fresh ideas and talent to their host organizations. Northeastern is one of the only universities in the world to offer students in all of its research-based doctoral-degree programs the option to learn and pursue research outside of their primary research group. These real-world placements are highly flexible and customizable, tailored to meet the needs of both Northeastern's PhD students and postdoctoral research associates and our institutional partners.

The Industry PhD (p. 2) is a first-of-its kind research-based doctoral program for full-time master's-level employees. Designed with input from external partners, employees pursue a research-based doctoral degree while maintaining their job and conducting research at the employer site. This enables employees to acquire new skills that will help them to advance in their careers and provides the organization with an opportunity to invest in their future leaders. By working closely with Northeastern faculty, employees will explore their research from a broader scientific perspective, enabling them to appreciate the research foundation of their day-to-day work and to pursue new areas of research for the company.

Experiential PhD opportunities offer robust benefits to both students and institutional partners. Students solve complex problems as part of their education and chart careers as future innovators. Our institutional partners receive many benefits as well, including:

- A deeper engagement in rapidly evolving fields of research
- Access to university facilities and senior faculty expertise
- Opportunities for senior leadership to mentor and copublish with students and to serve on their dissertation committees
- A chance to recruit emerging talent
- Opportunities to partner with Northeastern, an entrepreneurial research university known for its innovative collaborations with academia, government, and industry

## Experiential PhD Leadership, Graduate Certificate

At Northeastern University, PhD students and postdoctoral researchers enjoy a uniquely broad range of immersive opportunities to expand critical inquiry, learn, perform original research, and chart a path to professional success. Experiential PhD opportunities enable PhD students to step outside the comfort zone of their campus research group where students can pursue challenging, creative, customized assignments within industry, government, or the nonprofit sector that inform and enhance their pursuit of a research doctorate. Experiential PhD gives postdoctoral researchers the opportunity to bring new skills to their positions at Northeastern.

This Graduate Certificate in Experiential PhD Leadership aims to:

- **Challenge students to address complex problems** through experience within the context of real-world needs and challenges faced by industry, government, or nonprofit-sector organizations, broadening students' view of stakeholders and impact, shaping the very questions they raise and answer.
- **Equip students for a lifetime with the cultural agility, creativity, and professional skills**—public speaking and communications, meeting goals and expectations (e.g., project management for personal and professional purposes), teamwork, leadership, peer influence, leading from the middle—that they will need to translate their findings into impactful solutions.
- **Enrich every student's research group and, ultimately, fields of expertise** by fostering a collaborative, entrepreneurial, innovative approach to knowledge creation that expands their network far beyond academia to include intellectual and professional mentors and collaborators.

This graduate certificate designed for PhD students across all of Northeastern's research-based PhD programs provides students embarking on an experiential PhD, as well as postdoctoral researchers working in an area within one of Northeastern's research-based programs, with the preparation, project delivery, and guidance for contextual integration within the context of leadership development. All students pursuing this leadership certificate will be mentored by their sponsor supervisor and dissertation advisor(s).

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

A grade of B or higher is required in each course.

## Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
PHDL 7600	Leading Self and Others	4
PHDL 7660	Experiential PhD Challenge Project 1	4
PHDL 7662	Experiential PhD Challenge Project 2	4
PHDL 7666	Contextual Integration	0

## Program Credit/GPA Requirements

12 total semester hours required

Minimum 3.000 GPA required

## Industry PhD

The Industry PhD is a first-of-its kind research-based doctoral program designed with input from external partners to provide a pathway for full-time master's-level employees. Designed with input from external partners, employees pursue a research-based doctoral degree while maintaining their job and conducting research at the employer site. This enables employees to acquire new skills that will help them to advance in their careers and provides the organization with an opportunity to invest in their future leaders. By working closely with Northeastern University faculty, employees will explore their research from a broader scientific perspective, enabling them to appreciate the research foundation of their day-to-day work and to pursue new areas of research for the company.

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The Industry PhD is applicable to any of our 35 doctoral programs. Applicants should follow the requirements of the program to which they are applying. In addition, the following Industry PhD terms (<https://phd.northeastern.edu/industry-and-experiential-phd-program/>) apply.