“Our students benefit from a large faculty-to-student ratio relative to other PhD programs. This means more attention—and the ability to work with multiple faculty before deciding on a dissertation topic.”
—Minyuan Zhao, Associate Professor of Strategy

At Olin, we believe that great Strategy and Entrepreneurship PhD candidates have a fundamental drive to impact business practice. Our students, like our faculty, have diverse undergraduate training, including economics, chemistry, engineering and mathematics. We strongly promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research among PhD students and faculty across business disciplines and with other areas and schools at Washington University. Our faculty hold top editorial positions in nearly all of the major journals in the field including Strategic Management Journal, Organization Science, Management Science, Strategy Science, and Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal.

The Center for Research in Economics and Strategy (CRES) advances the understanding of firms and markets by supporting scientific research employing state-of-the-art analytical and empirical methods. Intended for publication in top-tier academic journals, CRES-sponsored research addresses substantive questions in many areas of economics and strategy. In addition to research assistance, which includes PhD student funding and data collection, CRES supports frequent presentations of internal and external research, national and international short-term visitors, CRES Fellows and a website that includes extensive research listings.

Collaborative Research—Strategy and Entrepreneurship Faculty and PhD Students

Working Papers:
• Chen JS, Elfenbein DW, Posen HE, Wang MZ*. “Pivot Rules for (Overconfident) Entrepreneurs”
• Knott, Anne Marie, and Leonardo Kluppel*. “Are Ideas Getting Harder to Find: Comment.” Available at SSRN 3681036 (2020).

Published Papers:

Awards received by PhD students while in our program:
• Ming zhu Wang (PhD 2022 expected): Robert J. Litschert Best Doctoral Student Paper Award, AoM STR Division – 2020
• Trey Cummings (currently at Johns Hopkins University): Organization Science Dissertation Finalist; AoM _STR division best dissertation finalist; AoM_TIM division best dissertation finalist
• Leo Kluppel (currently at Ohio State University): SMS Best Conference PhD Paper Prize, 2017
• Tim Gubler (currently at Brigham Young University): Robert J. Litschert Best Doctoral Student Paper Award – 2015; Strategic Human Capital Division Best Paper Prize, Strategic Management Society, Denver, CO 2015; Sumantra Ghoshal Best Paper Award, BPS Division, Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA 2017
• Carl Vieregger (currently at Drake University): SMS Best Conference Paper prize
• Erin Scott (currently at Massachusetts Institute of Technology): Kauffman Foundation Fellowship ($20,000); Organization Science Dissertation Proposal (2nd place)

*Indicates current or former student
CHAIR: Daniel W. Elfenbein  
Professor of Organization and Strategy  
PhD, Harvard University  
Research interests: Governance of complex transactions; markets for intellectual property; innovation and technological change; university-industry technology transfer; incentives in organizations

Nicholas S. Argyres  
Vernon W. & Marion K. Piper Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California - Berkeley  
Research interests: Strategy and structure; vertical integration, contracting and inter-organizational arrangements; internal organization structure; industry evolution

Seth Carnahan  
Associate Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of Maryland  
Research interests: Strategy, entrepreneurship, human capital

Tarek Ghani  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California - Berkeley  
Research interests: How market and institutional frictions affect firm strategy in emerging economies; behavioral barriers that impede adoption of new financial technologies; how aligning firm incentives with public sector goals can address corruption

Anne Marie Knott  
Robert and Barbara Frick Professor of Business  
PhD, University of California - Los Angeles  
Research interests: Innovation, R&D, entrepreneurship

Jackson A. Nickerson (Emeritus)  
Brookings Non-resident Senior Fellow in Government Studies and Frahm Family Professor of Organization & Strategy  
PhD, University of California - Berkeley  
Research interests: Business strategy organization choice and performance, corporate survival, new institutional economics, intellectual capital management, management of innovation and technology, and leadership

Lamar Pierce  
Professor of Organization & Strategy  
PhD, University of California - Berkeley  
Research interests: Business strategy and public policy; fraud and corruption; ethics; incentives in organizations

Oren Reshef  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, University of California - Berkeley  
Research interests: Competitive strategy and business economics; digital economy and platform strategy, innovation, and social inequality

Ulya Tsolmon  
Assistant Professor of Strategy  
PhD, Duke University  
Research interests: Managerial labor markets; governance of multi-unit firms; strategic human capital; innovation strategy

Minyuan Zhao  
Associate Professor of Strategy  
PhD, New York University  
Research interests: Interactions between firm strategy and external environment in a global context