



## Duke Strategy PhD Conference 2026

May 18, 2026

### Call for Papers

Application deadline: Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT

[Apply here](#)

Dear PhD Students,

We are cordially inviting you to the **Duke Strategy PhD Conference 2026**. This student-run conference will be held in person on **May 18, 2026**, at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business in Durham, NC. Full information about the conference is available at [www.dukestrategyphdconference.com](http://www.dukestrategyphdconference.com).

The conference will include a social dinner on the evening of May 17, followed by a keynote lecture and paper presentations on May 18 to an audience of students. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for Strategy PhD students to share their work with other PhD students, obtain feedback, network with peers, and improve their presentation skills.

We welcome papers related to **innovation, strategy, and entrepreneurship**. By bringing together advanced doctoral students embracing various perspectives, approaches, and methodologies, we hope to create an environment that fosters intellectual exchange and collaboration.

We invite applications from PhD students in Strategy and related fields who have already passed their preliminary examination. We particularly encourage applications from students at different stages of developing their job market papers (or other solo-authored papers), from early drafts to more advanced working papers. Applicants should ensure that their submission discusses the motivation and context, research question, theoretical framework, data and empirical strategy, preliminary results, and any planned future work (if applicable).

Please [apply here](#) by **Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT**. Applications will be evaluated by Duke Strategy PhD candidates. Decisions will be communicated by April 6.

This conference is organized by Strategy PhD Candidates from Duke's Fuqua School of Business and sponsored by Duke Strategy Area and the Fuqua School of Business. There are **no registration fees**. Participants will arrive on the afternoon of May 17, and we will kick off the conference with a social dinner. Thanks to the generous support of the Duke Strategy Area and the Fuqua School of Business, we will cover the cost of one night of accommodation at the [JB](#)

[Duke Hotel](#) on campus (or an alternate hotel near campus) for each presenter. Breakfast and lunch on the conference day, May 18, are covered too. Presenters will be responsible for all other travel expenses. Information relevant to planning a visit to the Fuqua School of Business is available [here](#).

We hope you will join our community of rising strategy scholars. Included below are answers to some frequently asked questions. If you have additional questions, please contact the members of the Student Organizing Committee at [strategy-phd-conference@duke.edu](mailto:strategy-phd-conference@duke.edu).

We hope to see you in person in May 2026!

### **Student Organizing Committee**

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### **Supporting Faculty**

Sharon Belenzon

**This event is supported by the Fuqua School of Business (Dean's Office).**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

A more complete list of questions and answers is available at [www.dukestrategyphdconference.com](http://www.dukestrategyphdconference.com)

### **What is the conference program?**

The **Duke Strategy PhD Conference 2026** will start on Sunday, May 17, 2026, with a social dinner at 7:00 p.m. in Durham, NC. The main conference will occur between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, at the Fuqua School of Business. Breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks will be provided.

The program will include a **keynote lecture** and up to **10 paper presentations**. To stimulate discussion, each presentation will be assigned a **discussant** among the presenters. Paper presenters should prepare a 20-minute presentation, followed by 5 minutes of discussion by the assigned discussant, and 5 minutes of Q&A with the audience. Discussants should read the assigned paper and prepare a few questions and constructive comments to share with the presenter and audience members.

The presentations and discussions will take place between PhD students. Faculty will not be present. A detailed conference schedule will be published before the event.

### **Who can apply?**

We invite applications from PhD students in Strategy and related fields who have already passed their preliminary examination and/or have advanced to candidacy. We particularly encourage applications from students who are in the early stages of preparing their job market papers (or other solo-authored papers).

### **What is the cost of attending?**

There are no submission or registration fees thanks to the generous support of the Duke Strategy Area and the Dean's Office, Fuqua School of Business. We will cover the cost of one night of accommodation at the [JB Duke Hotel](#) on campus (or an alternate hotel near campus) for each presenter. We will also cover dinner the evening before the conference, as well as breakfast and lunch on the day of the conference. Presenters will have to cover their other travel expenses.

### **How do I submit my application?**

Apply online [here](#). The application deadline is Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EDT. We will communicate decisions by April 6.

### **My project needs polishing, can I still submit my work?**

Yes! Working papers and early-stage projects are both welcome.

### **If my paper gets accepted, what will I have to produce, and by when?**

Presenters are required to submit either a draft paper or draft presentation slides by Sunday, May 3, 2026. This will allow us to share the materials with the assigned discussant (selected from among the presenters) at least two weeks prior to the conference.

The final version of the presentation slides is due by Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST.

Both the draft materials and the final presentation slides should be submitted to [strategy-phd-conference@duke.edu](mailto:strategy-phd-conference@duke.edu).

### **Can I attend the conference without an accepted paper?**

Yes, we welcome attendance from graduate students in Strategy and other related areas. To help us plan for the conference, RSVP no later than Thursday, April 30, 2026, by emailing [strategy-phd-conference@duke.edu](mailto:strategy-phd-conference@duke.edu).

**Can I participate if I study outside the U.S.?**

Yes, we welcome students from everywhere. The conference organizers can provide a letter acknowledging the accepted paper and upcoming presentation. We are unable to assist further with visa or other travel requirements.

**Can I participate remotely?**

Face-to-face interaction among participants is essential for obtaining feedback, networking with peers, and improving presentation skills. Consequently, attendance is only possible in person.

**I have additional questions, who can I contact?**

For additional questions, please send an email to [strategy-phd-conference@duke.edu](mailto:strategy-phd-conference@duke.edu)