Key aspects of the program include:

1. **Generous Guaranteed Stipend:** A guaranteed stipend covering living expenses and tuition for at least the first four years of the program, assuming normal progress. A fifth year of funding is also available for students making satisfactory progress. The stipend is highly competitive.

2. **Personal Research Budget:** All students receive a personal research budget each year, which they can use for any research related expenses such as traveling to conferences, purchasing computer equipment etc.

3. **Minimal Teaching Requirement:** Unlike many programs, for which students are required to perform teaching assistant (TA) duties of up to 20 hours per week, Marshall only requires students to act as TA's for one semester and teach a class (as lecturer) for one semester before graduation. The primary aim of the teaching assignment is to gain experience before obtaining a faculty position.

4. **Personalized and Attentive Faculty Engagement:** Each year we admit a small and highly selective group of students. As a result, the faculty to student ratio is very high, resulting in a very personalized program that is tailored to increase students' achievements. Students are recruited by the department and can work with multiple advisors. Each student is carefully guided by a highly active, caring and dedicated group of faculty. The guaranteed stipend, low teaching load and congenial environment enable students to concentrate almost entirely on their research.

5. **Commitment to Integrating Diversity:** Our department has trained and graduated
successful female PhD students who have become tenure-tracked faculty at leading business schools around the world, including London Business School, Queen's University, University of Maryland, and many others. Female and minority students with technical and mathematical training are strongly encouraged to apply.

6. **USC:** Over the last two decades the University of Southern California has arguably experienced the most rapid improvement of any university in the United States and now ranks among the preeminent research universities in the world. USC combines the strength of a research university with the advantages of a small private college and is the oldest major private university in the West. In most years USC enrolls more international students than any other US university.

7. **Los Angeles:** USC's central location is minutes from downtown Los Angeles, with access to the Disney Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and many other cultural and culinary highlights. The beautiful beaches of Santa Monica and Manhattan Beach, hiking trails in the Palisades, unparalleled shopping, and Hollywood-style entertainment are all within a short drive or train ride from campus.

“So many faculty are actively involved in research, you can investigate any area with DSO. Whatever you want to study, you will find someone to work with you, and the range of coursework and students strengthens your weaknesses. With my research experience and the help of my advisors, I had enough samples of work to convince potential employers of my research abilities.”

-Vasiliki Kostami, Completed Ph.D. in Operations Management from USC Marshall in 2010, Currently an Assistant Professor of Management Science and Operations, London Business School

To apply our OM PhD program, please visit the USC Marshall graduate admission website: [https://www.marshall.usc.edu/admissions/applyonline](https://www.marshall.usc.edu/admissions/applyonline).

For more specific information about the OM PhD program at DSO department please contact:

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