



# MBA APPLICATION GUIDE 2020-21





Are you considering an MBA? In our BusinessBecause MBA Application Guide 2020-21, we list the latest MBA application deadlines for the world's top business schools and provide you with an exclusive, step-by-step guide to a successful MBA application.

BusinessBecause is a trusted source of information and inspiration for worldwide business school applicants, supporting through every step of the business school journey.

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# Introduction

Is it worth pursuing an MBA? It's the question we're hearing the most from **BusinessBecause** users right now.

The **coronavirus pandemic** has closed business school campuses, shifted admissions timelines, and forced MBA students around the world into studying online.

The future is uncertain. If COVID-19 continues, even by the fall 2021 intake the full-time MBA experience may be a little different, with hybrid learning—part-online, part-offline—and classes divided into smaller groups.

However, we at BusinessBecause believe that the **long-term value of an MBA** will remain.

The MBA is still the world's most popular graduate management degree. **Employers** hire thousands of MBA graduates each year. **93%** of MBA alumni say they would still pursue their degree knowing what they know now. Often, it's at a time of crisis when applications to MBA programs increase.

In our **BusinessBecause MBA Application Guide 2020-21**, we list the latest full-time MBA application deadlines for the world's top business schools to help you plan your business school application for a 2021 start.

We explain how to navigate the different MBA application rounds this year; guide you through the key components of a successful MBA application; and provide exclusive insight and application tips from leading business school admissions directors.

Read on and ace your MBA application!



**Marco De Novellis,**  
Editor,  
BusinessBecause

# Planning your MBA application



## Planning your MBA application

The MBA application cycle is typically divided into several rounds, although every business school is different.

The traditional three-round application process has been extended to four, and even five, at some business schools.

Whatever your situation—and especially if you’re an international applicant or want to stand the best chance of getting a scholarship—you’ll need to understand what the different application rounds mean.



### **Early Action Round:** September/October 2020\*

Just a handful of business schools have an Early Action (EA) (or Early Decision (ED)) round, but if you’re decided on your number one target school and it offers an EA round, this is when you should apply. Early application conveys that you would take that school’s acceptance above all others. Some schools also offer tuition fee discounts if you apply early.

Be aware that some schools’ EA rounds are more binding than others. Columbia Business School, for example, makes its ED candidates sign a statement of commitment promising to withdraw all other applications and decline all other offers upon admission. UVA Darden also has a binding deadline this year.

*\*Application deadlines vary by school and may fall outside of these dates which are intended as a general guide.*



## Round 1 September/October 2020

If you're number one school doesn't have an EA or ED round, you should consider applying in Round 1 (R1).

More spaces in an MBA class are filled with each passing deadline, and schools will have less scholarship money to award. As a general rule, the earlier you apply, the more chance you have of getting accepted and getting a scholarship.

Applying in R1 demonstrates that you are serious about a school and have been planning your application for some time. International candidates should strongly consider applying in R1 to allow time to apply for student visas.



**“Strong candidates have a habit of leadership in past and current endeavors, analytical appetite and curiosity, and a penchant for contributing to the success of a community. We want to get to know each applicant and to try to understand how s/he will contribute in our classrooms and community.”**

**Chad Losee**, MBA admissions director,  
Harvard Business School



## Round 2 December 2020/January 2021

Round 2 (R2) is often more competitive than R1 with more applicants and fewer places remaining.\* At some schools, R2 is final application round for internationals. If you want a scholarship, it's a good idea to apply by R2.

By R2, many schools will have already filled a portion of their class with candidates, so you need to take care to demonstrate how you're different and how you can add to the diversity of the class.

Are you an entrepreneur with a background in sustainable business? Have you spent your entire career in the public sector? Are you from an emerging market looking to contribute to the development of your country after an MBA?

You can succeed in R2 with a strong profile and a strong sense of career direction, and especially if you come from a **less traditional MBA background**.

*\*Note that R2's competitiveness can vary by school as some schools have larger R2 pools where they admit more applicants.*



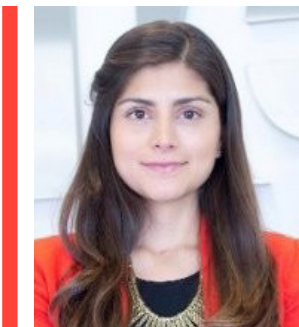
### Round 3 March/April 2021

Applying in Round 3 (R3) or later isn't easy as most seats in the MBA class have been filled by this point. You risk missing out on your top choices, particularly if you're targeting big-name business schools in the US.

You should ask yourself **four key questions** before applying in R3: Is it the right time? Do I have enough time? Do I offer something different? Are my target schools right for me?

If you can answer 'Yes' to these questions, you can still be successful in R3 or later at many schools—including those big-name US. In R3, unique profiles with strong **GMAT scores** become even more important, and you need to make a convincing argument in your application as to why you waited to apply in R3.

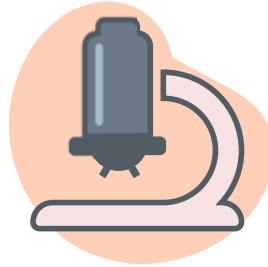
After the final application round, some schools will still accept applications on a rolling basis.



**“An MBA is a journey that is meant to transform the way you face new business challenges; this pandemic and its consequences on our economy is one of them. Deciding to move forward with one’s original plans when all we hear around us is pessimism takes courage, but don’t put a hold on an education that will train you for the future.”**

**Andrea Flores**, Head of Admissions,  
IE Business School





## COVID-19 Impact On Your Application

- i** There will be new entrants to the MBA market in 2020-21 as people who've lost their jobs due to COVID-19 consider MBA programs.
- i** Some candidates who were set to start their MBA in late 2020 deferred until 2021.
- i** Candidates who decided against applying in the later rounds of the last MBA application cycle may now apply in R1 2020 for a 2021 start.

COVID-19 may make applying for MBA programs more competitive in 2020-21, with more candidates and deferrals filling up available seats. However, admissions experts are still advising that candidates apply in R1.

R2, rather than R1, is expected to be especially busy as new entrants to the market are more likely to have their applications ready by then; visa issues may be resolved; and some business schools, keen to fill classes in R1 after the disruption of 2020, will use R2 to optimize rather than build their classes.

If your application is strong enough, you will still get into a top MBA program in 2020-21, so don't panic! There may also be fewer candidates applying to US MBA programs this cycle due to visa issues, coronavirus, and depending on the results of the US Presidential election. If you're an international candidate applying for the US, your profile could stand out.

Ultimately, you should only apply when you're ready, regardless of the application round. A complete, well-researched, and carefully-thought-out application is more likely to be a successful one.

# MBA Admission Requirements



## MBA Admission Requirements

Applying to MBA programs is a little different in 2020-21. If you can't visit a school's campus, talk to current students and alumni, and **read our exclusive MBA stories**, to get a flavor of the school.

If you're applying internationally, a positive out of COVID-19 is that everyone has the same opportunities to engage with business schools from all over the world online. Admissions staff and virtual campus tours are just a click away!

Still, the core admissions process and what business school look for is the same. To apply for an MBA, you'll typically need an undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification and a minimum level of work experience, which varies by program.

You'll also need to prepare the following materials for submission:

### GMAT

The **GMAT Exam** is the premier admission test for business schools, used as a quality indicator when measuring your suitability for an MBA.

The GMAT tests your verbal and quantitative skills. It's a computer-adaptive test, meaning it gets easier or harder as you answer the questions, depending on whether you get an answer right or wrong. Total GMAT scores range from 200 to 800.

What is a good GMAT score? There's no straightforward answer. As with every part of your application, the GMAT is just one component and schools will look at your holistic profile. If you score low on the GMAT but shine elsewhere, you still have a good chance of getting accepted.

Still, to stand the best chance of getting into your target school, you should consider the **average GMAT score** of the current MBA class as well as the **GMAT score range**, which tells you what both the lowest and highest scoring students in an MBA class earned on their GMAT exam. This will give you a good idea of what GMAT score to aim for.



**“Schools are looking for a diverse group of candidates. Although it’s an important part of what you bring to the table, a particular score doesn’t necessarily close or open doors for you. Look at your GMAT score as part of the overall value proposition that you bring to a school.”**

**Vineet Chhabra**, Global Product & Marketing Head for the GMAT Exam

Still, to stand the best chance of getting into your target school, you should consider the **average GMAT score** of the current MBA class as well as the **GMAT score range**, which tells you what both the lowest and highest scoring students in an MBA class earned on their GMAT exam. This will give you a good idea of what GMAT score to aim for.

Preparing for the GMAT can take several months. We recommend you have your GMAT score ready at least three months in advance of your application deadline. Your GMAT score is valid for five years, but if you’re not happy with your first score you can always take the test again.

One big difference in 2020-21 is the launch of the **GMAT Online Exam** in light of COVID-19. If you can’t get to an open GMAT test center, you can take the GMAT Online Exam at home from your computer.

You'll be monitored by a human proctor through a live video feed to ensure you don't cheat. And the tests are pretty much the same aside from the exclusion of the Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA) section—the essay section—from the online test.

While the GMAT is the most popular MBA admission test, there are alternative tests like the GRE which may be worth considering.

[Get the latest updates on GMAT test center closures.](#)

[Find out more about the GMAT Online Exam.](#)

## Your five-month application plan

### Month 1-2

GMAT prep, resume, plan essays, narrow your target schools, identify your recommenders.

### Month 3

Take the GMAT, essays, finalise recommenders.

### Month 4

Finalise essays, reassess your target school list based on your GMAT score.

### Month 5

Get recommendations, proofread your application.

Starting your application early is always best, giving you time get your materials together and target those early deadlines.

What timeline should you work to? Read the full [five-month application plan](#) by [Personal MBA Coach](#).

## Essays

The application essays are a chance to tell business schools your story. Your personality, experiences, interest, and suitability to the program should shine through.

Essays are typically centered around your career goals and how the MBA program will help you achieve those goals, although essay questions vary by school. Here's a few examples:

### Harvard Business School

*As we review your application, what more would you like us to know as we consider your candidacy for the Harvard Business School MBA program? (no word limit)*

### London Business School

- 1. What are your post-MBA goals and how will your prior experience and the London Business School program contribute towards these? (500 words)*
- 2. Is there any other information you believe the Admissions Committee should know about you and your application to London Business School? (500 words. This question is optional)*

### UCLA Anderson

*How have events of the past year influenced the impact you would like to make in your community, career, or both? (250 words)*

### HKUST

- 1. Tell us about your short-term and long-term career goals after the MBA, and why you think HKUST MBA would be a good fit for you. (500 words)*
- 1. Our mission is to inspire and transform individuals to be future business leaders for Asia and the world. We embrace diversity, and are looking for ambitious and open-minded candidates with a passion to contribute. With your background and professional experience, what unique values can you bring in to enrich the learning experience at HKUST MBA? (500 words)*

To submit a winning essay, research the school, write several drafts, edit, proofread, get feedback from a colleague or friend and, most of all, make sure you've answered the question at hand.

The **biggest mistake** you can make is sending a template essay answer to multiple schools. Instead, you should tailor your essay answers to the school you're applying to.

If English isn't your first language, don't worry. The essay is less about testing your ability to write in English and more about assessing your fit for the program.



**“Candidates will sometimes tell us what they think we want to hear, rather than actually what’s the best thing about them, or what are they doing. The best thing to do is think: ‘Who am I? What do I want out of this, and how should I put that across to business schools?’”**

**David Simpson**, MBA admissions director,  
London Business School

In addition to your written essays, some schools—including INSEAD, Kellogg, and MIT Sloan—will ask you to submit a **recorded video essay** where you'll be required to introduce yourself and answer questions out loud.

## Recommendation Letters

Your professional recommendation letters are an opportunity for business schools to hear about you from an outside perspective. Most schools ask for two.

Ideal recommenders include: your line manager; colleagues who you've worked with closely on projects; clients or suppliers; or someone who has seen you in a leadership role outside of work.

You should choose people based on how well they can describe your skills and leadership potential, rather than their level of seniority. You may not want your current boss to know that you're planning on leaving your company to pursue an MBA, so asking a former manager works just as well.

Schools will then ask your recommenders to rate you across various skills and personal qualities as well as questions covering your achievements, strengths, and weaknesses.

## Applying internationally?

If you're applying to MBA programs outside your home country, apply early to give yourself extra time to sort out your student visa.

For most countries, this should be a straightforward process, but make sure you're familiar with the various visa requirements [[see US F-1 visa requirements](#)].

If you did not attend an undergraduate institution where the sole language of instruction was English, you will also have to take one of the following English language tests:

- **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**
- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**
- **Pearson Test of English (PTE)**

Scores from all these tests are valid for two years.



### INSEAD's Recommender Questions:

- Comment on the candidate's career progress to date and his/her career focus?
- What do you consider to be the candidate's major strengths? Comment on the factors that distinguish the candidate from other individuals at his/her level.
- What do you consider to be the candidate's major areas for development/improvement? Comment on the candidate's potential for senior management. Do you see him/her as a future leader?
- Describe the candidate as a person. Comment on his/her ability to establish and maintain relationships, sensitivity to others, self-confidence, attitude, etc. Specifically comment on the candidate's behavior or skills in a group setting/team environment.

Before choosing your recommenders, meet with them and talk over why you're deciding to do an MBA; what you hope to gain from it; and your plans afterwards.

Prep them, explain the process, and highlight the key attributes you'd like them to address. You could also write a roundup of your target school's key values.

Taking these steps will help ensure you get a recommendation letter that's tailored to your profile and supports the rest of your application.



**“Consider when in your professional life you’ve had the opportunity to work as part of a team in accomplishing a goal; or handled a situation where you needed to have a difficult conversation with a co-worker; or solved a challenging problem. These situations are not unique to corporate experiences. Find ways to include these examples in your resume, essays, and interview.”**

**Shari Hubert**, associate dean of admissions,  
Duke University's Fuqua School of Business

## Resume

When you apply for different jobs, you should adapt your resume, or CV, to each role you're applying for. It's the same with an MBA resume.

### To write a stand-out MBA resume:

- Find out what kind of qualities your target business school looks for. Then, tailor your resume to align with its values and culture.
- Avoid industry jargon. Your MBA resume will be reviewed by admissions officers, not industry specialists.
- Explain gaps in your work experience.
- Mention extracurricular activities. Choose things that demonstrate things leadership and teamwork and/or highlight individuality and diversity.
- Keep it concise. Most schools prefer one page.
- Focus on the bigger picture. Rather than listing the specifics of each role, highlight how you grew in each position, additional projects you took on, promotions or awards you received, and impressive milestones you achieved.

[Read more about writing a winning MBA resume.](#)

# MBA Application Deadlines 2020-21



## MBA Application Deadlines 2020-21

The business schools listed below are ranked in the **Financial Times Global MBA Rankings 2020** and/or are **BusinessBecause partner schools** for 2020-21. All deadlines are for full-time MBA programs.

### North America

US and Canadian business schools are most loyal to the standard application process with most schools having three or more rounds as well as deadlines for international applications.

Some US schools have Early Action rounds. Where this is stated below (e.g. Darden), Round 2 becomes Round 1. Many schools have rolling admissions after the final application round where they'll continue to accept stand-out candidates to fill the class. Most of the deadlines noted here are for a fall 2021 start.

One notable school with a different model is Columbia which uses a rolling admissions process, rather than rounds, up until a final deadline in April 2021.

North America	R1	R2	R3	R4+
Baylor	Nov 15, 2020	Feb 15, 2021	April 15, 2021	May 15, 2021
Buffalo	Oct 15, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021 (Int)	April 15, 2021; June 1
Carey, Johns Hopkins	Oct 28, 2020	Jan 27, 2021	April 7, 2021	
Carlson, Minnesota	Oct 1, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021	April 1, 2021*
Chicago Booth	Sep 24, 2020	Jan 12, 2021	April 1, 2021	
College of New Jersey*	April 1, 2021			
Columbia Business School*	Oct 2, 2020 (EA)	April 9, 2021		
D'Amore-McKim, Northeastern	Oct 21, 2020	Jan 13, 2021	March 16, 2021 (Int)	April 13 2021; June 15
Darden, Virginia	Sep 2, 2020 (EA)	Oct 5, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	April 7, 2021
Desautels, McGill	Nov 1, 2020	Jan 15, 2021	March 15, 2021 (Int)	May 1 2021
Edwards, Saskatchewan*	Aug 31, 2021			
Fisher, Ohio State	Oct 18, 2020 (EA)	Dec 6, 2020	Jan 10, 2021	Feb 28, 2021 (Int); May 9*
Foster, Washington	Oct 6, 2020	Jan 6, 2021 (Int)	March 16, 2021	
Fox, Temple	Dec 15, 2020	March 1, 2021 (Int)	June 30, 2021	
Fuqua, Duke	Sep 23, 2020 (EA)	Oct 20, 2020	Jan 7, 2021	March 25, 2021
George Washington University*	Jan 15, 2021			
Goizueta, Emory	Sep 23, 2020	Jan 13, 2021	March 17, 2021	
Haas, Berkeley	Sep 24, 2020	Jan 14, 2021	April 5, 2021	
Harvard	Sep 8, 2020	Jan 5, 2021		
Ivey, Western (March 2021)	Sep 25, 2020 (R4, Int)	Nov 9, 2020 (R5)	Jan 4, 2021 (R6)	
Jindal, UT Dallas	Oct 15, 2020	Jan 15, 2021	March 1, 2021	May 1, 2021
John Molson, Concordia (Fall 2021)	March 1, 2021 (Int)	May 1, 2021	June 1, 2021	
John Molson, Concordia (Winter 2021)	June 1, 2021 (Int)	Oct 1, 2021		
Johnson at Cornell (1 Year & Tech MBA)	Oct 8, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	March 8, 2021	
Johnson at Cornell (2-Year)	Oct 8, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	April 8, 2021	
Jones, Rice	Oct 16, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	April 1, 2021 (Int)	April 15, 2021
Katz, Pittsburgh (1-Year)	Oct 1, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021	
Katz, Pittsburgh (2-Year)	Oct 1, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021	April 1, 2021 (Int); July 1

\* = rolling admissions.  
EA = Early Action deadline.  
EB = Early Bird deadline.  
Int = Deadline for international candidates.

North America	R1	R2	R3	R4+
Kelley, Indiana	Oct 15, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	March 1, 2021	April 15, 2021
Kellogg, Northwestern	Sep 16, 2020	Jan 6, 2021	April 7, 2021	
Kogod, American University	Nov 15, 2020	Jan 15, 2021	March 15, 2021	May 15, 2021; July 1
Lindner, Cincinnati*	March 15, 2021 (Int)	June 30, 2021		
Lubin, Pace University (Jan 2021)	Oct 1, 2020 (Int)	Dec 1, 2020		
Lubin, Pace University (Summer 2021)	March 1, 2021 (Int)	May 1, 2021		
McCombs, UT Austin	Oct 13, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	March 30, 2021 (Int)	May 11, 2021
McDonough, Georgetown	Sep 28, 2020	Jan 6, 2021	March 29, 2021	April 26, 2021
Merage, UC Irvine	Nov 1, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021 (Int)	April 1, 2021
MIT Sloan	Oct 1, 2020	Jan 19, 2021	April 12, 2021	
Neeley, Texas Christian University	Oct 15, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	March 1, 2021 (Int)	April 15, 2021*
NYU Stern	Oct 15, 2020	Nov 15, 2020	Jan 15, 2021	March 15, 2021
Olin, Babson	Oct 26, 2020	Jan 11, 2021	March 3, 2021	April 14, 2021; June 22*
Olin, Washington	Oct 14, 2020	Jan 20, 2021	March 24, 2021*	
Owen, Vanderbilt	Oct 12, 2020	Jan 11, 2021	March 29, 2021	May 15, 2021*
Questrom, Boston	Oct 21, 2020	Jan 7, 2021	March 17, 2021	
Ross, Michigan	Sep 14, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	March 29, 2021	June 1, 2021
Rotman, Toronto	Oct 5, 2020	Jan 11, 2021	March 8, 2021 (Int)	April 26, 2021
Scheller, Georgia Tech	Oct 1, 2020	Dec 4, 2020	Feb 2, 2021	April 1, 2021; June 1*
Simon, Rochester	Oct 15, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	Feb 15, 2021	March 31, 2021; May 1
Smeal, Penn State	Oct 1, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021	June 1, 2021*
Smith, Maryland	Oct 1, 2020	Nov 1, 2020	Dec 15, 2020	Jan 15, 2021; March 1; April 30*
Stanford GSB	Sep 15, 2020	Jan 6, 2021	April 6, 2021	
Tepper, Carnegie Mellon	Oct 4, 2020	Jan 10, 2021	March 2, 2021	April 12, 2021
Terry, Georgia	Oct 10, 2020	Dec 10, 2020	Jan 10, 2021 (Int)	March 10, 2021 ; June 1*
Tuck, Dartmouth	Sep 28, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	March 29, 2021	June 1, 2021*
UBC Sauder	Oct 20, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	April 6, 2021 (Int)	May 4, 2021
UCLA Anderson	Oct 2, 2020	Jan 8, 2021	April 16, 2021	



North America	R1	R2	R3	R4+
UCSD Rady	Nov 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021	April 1, 2020 (Int)	May 1 2021; June 1
UNC Kenan Flagler	Oct 13, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	March 1, 2021	April 12, 2021
University of Kansas	May 1, 2021 (Int)	July 1, 2021		
University of San Francisco	Nov 15, 2020	Jan 15, 2021	March 16, 2021	May 15, 2021; June 15 (Int); July 15
USC Marshall	Oct 15, 2020	Jan 15, 2021	March 1, 2021	April 15, 2021
Warrington, Florida	Oct 15, 2020 (Int)	Jan 15, 2021	May 15, 2021	
Wharton	Sep 15, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	March 31, 2021	
Wisconsin	Sep 25, 2020 (EA)	Nov 1, 2020	Jan 10, 2021	March 1, 2021; April 10 (Int); June 1*
Wyoming*	June 30, 2021			
Yale SOM	Sep 15, 2020	Jan 7, 2021	April 13, 2021	
Zicklin, Baruch	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021	April 1, 2021	June 1, 2021

## Europe

Whereas most US business schools offer two-year MBA programs, many European schools offer one-year MBAs, with some start dates in January.

Admissions processes are more varied. Some schools have no fixed application deadlines or rounds and accept applications at any time until the program start date. German business schools, like WHU and Frankfurt, have Early Bird (EB) deadlines where you can get a discount on your tuition depending on how early you apply.

Bigger-name schools like LBS stick to the traditional application rounds. We've included INSEAD's two intakes below, although the school has campuses in both France and Singapore. Deadlines are the same for either campus.

For most schools within the European Union, the international application deadlines listed below are for non-EU candidates.

Europe	R1	R2	R3	R4+
Aston Business School*	Sep 20, 2021			
Birmingham Business School*	July 1, 2021 (Int)	Sep 10, 2021		
Cambridge Judge	Sep 7, 2020	Oct 19, 2020	Jan 11, 2021	March 8, 2021 ; April 26
Cass Business School	Sep 27, 2020	Nov 8, 2020	Jan 10, 2021	Feb 14, 2021; Mar 28; May 9; June 13*
Copenhagen Business School	Jan 10, 2021	April 10, 2021	June 10, 2021 (Int)	July 10, 2021
Cranfield	Oct 25, 2020	Jan 24, 2021	April 25, 2021	June 13, 2021
Durham*	Sep 20, 2021			
EDHEC	May 31, 2021 (Int)	June 30, 2021		
EMLYON*	Sep 21, 2021			
ESADE	Oct 6, 2020	Nov 24, 2020	Jan 12, 2021	Feb 9, 2021; March 9; April 13; May 18 (Int); June 1
ESMT (Jan 2021)	Aug 31, 2020	Oct 4, 2020	Nov 1, 2020 (Int)	Dec 6, 2020*
ESSEC	Oct 19, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	March 1, 2021	April 26, 2021
EU Business School (Jan 2021)*	Dec 11, 2020			
EU Business School (March 2021)*	March 5, 2021			
EU Business School (Sep 2021)*	Sep 17, 2021			
Frankfurt*	Nov 30, 2020 (EB)	Jan 31, 2021 (EB2)	April 30, 2021 (EB3)	July 31, 2021



Europe	R1	R2	R3	R4+
HEC Paris (Jan/Sep 2021)	Oct 14, 2020	Nov 16, 2020	tbc	tbc
HHL Leipzig	Jan 31, 2021 (EB)	March 31, 2021 (EB2)	May 30, 2021 (Int)	June 30, 2021
IE*	Sep 1, 2021			
IESE	Oct 6, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	March 10, 2021	May 4, 2021
Imperial	Sep 25, 2020	Nov 6, 2020	Jan 22, 2021	March 5, 2021 ; April 30; June 18
INSEAD (Jan 2022)	March 5, 2021	April 23, 2021	June 18, 2021	July 30, 2021
INSEAD (Sep 2021)	Sep 11, 2020	Nov 6, 2020	Jan 8, 2021	Feb 26, 2021
Lancaster	July 31, 2021*			
Liverpool (Oct 2020)*	Oct 1, 2020			
Liverpool (Feb 2021)*	Feb 1, 2021			
London Business School	Sep 11, 2020	Jan 5, 2021	March 4, 2021	April 27, 2021
Maastricht (Jan 2021)	Sep 15, 2020	Nov 4, 2020 (Int)	Dec 7, 2020	
Manchester	Oct 5, 2020	Nov 2, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Jan 5, 2021; Feb 8; March 15; April 19; May 24; June 1
Mannheim*	May 31, 2021 (Int)	Sep 13, 2021		
MIP Politecnico di Milano*	June 30, 2021			
Nyenrode*	Jan 15, 2021 (EB)	April 1, 2021 (EB2)	July 31, 2021	
Oxford Saïd	Sep 11, 2020	Oct 30, 2020	Jan 8, 2021	April 9, 2021
Rotterdam SOM*	Feb 11, 2021	April 7, 2021	June 9, 2021	August 4, 2021; October 6; November 3
SDA Bocconi*	July 31, 2021			
Smurfit*	Aug 1, 2021			
St Gallen	Oct 1, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021	April 1, 2021 ; June 1; August 15
The Lisbon MBA (Jan 2021)	Sep 30, 2020	Nov 11, 2020		
Trinity*	June 30, 2021			
University of Edinburgh	Oct 7, 2020	Nov 11, 2020	Dec 16, 2020	Jan 27, 2021 ; March 10; April 21; June 2; July 21
Warwick	Oct 27, 2020	Jan 26, 2021	May 31, 2021 (Int)	July 31, 2021
WHU (April 2021)	Aug 31, 2020 (EB)	Oct 31, 2020 (EB2)	Dec 31, 2020 (Int)	Feb 29, 2021
WHU (Sep 2021)	Jan 31, 2021 (EB)	March 31, 2021 (EB2)	May 31, 2021 (Int)	July 31, 2021

## Asia

Most top Asian schools stick to the US application process, although start dates vary.

MBA programs in China and Hong Kong tend to start in August. **SMU's** deadlines are for its January 2022 intake (R3 for a January 2021 start is October 30, 2020). **Nanyang's** start date is in July. The start date for the IIMs in India is April 2021.

Asia	R1	R2	R3	R4+
Antai, Jiao Tong	Oct 23, 2020	Dec 25, 2020	March 5, 2021	April 23, 2021
Asia School of Business	Oct 29, 2020	Jan 26, 2021	April 1, 2021	
Athena School of Management	Nov 30, 2020 (EA)	Jan 15, 2021	Feb 28, 2021	March 31, 2021
Beijing International MBA (BIMBA at Peking University)	June 30, 2021			
CEIBS	Oct 28, 2020	Jan 6, 2021	March 10, 2021	April 14, 2021
CityU	Jan 31, 2021	tbc		
CKGSB	Oct 19, 2020	Dec 7, 2020	March 1, 2021	April 19, 2021 ; June 28
CUHK	Oct 19, 2020	Dec 14, 2020	Feb 22, 2021	April 19, 2021
Fudan-MIT IMBA	Nov 15, 2020	Dec 31, 2020	March 15, 2021	April 30, 2021
HKU	Nov 20, 2020	tbc		
HKUST	Nov 18, 2020	Jan 13, 2021	March 17, 2021	
IIM Ahmedabad	Aug 31, 2020	Oct 19, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	
IIM Bangalore	Aug 31, 2020	Oct 29, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	
IIM Calcutta	Aug 30, 2020	Oct 31, 2020	Jan 1, 2021	
ISB	Sep 20, 2020	Jan 10, 2021		
Nanyang	Nov 1, 2020	Jan 15, 2021	March 31, 2021	
NUS Business School	Jan 27, 2021	March 31, 2021		
Renmin	May 15, 2021			
Singapore Management University (Jan 2022)	March 15, 2021	July 15, 2021	Oct 30, 2021	
Tsinghua	Nov 1, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 14, 2021	March 21, 2021; May 2

## Rest of the world

Australian business schools typically have several application rounds, although applications are accepted throughout the cycle.

**Melbourne Business School** and the University of Sydney's deadlines are for August intakes, while the MBA at the **Australian Graduate School of Management** (AGSM @ UNSW) starts in January.

Macquarie University stands out as it has four intakes each year with two application deadlines for each intake—one for domestic candidates and one for internationals.

Other schools listed here are located in Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, and New Zealand.

Rest of the world	R1	R2	R3	R4+
AGSM @ UNSW (Jan 2022)	May 1, 2021	June 1, 2021	July 1, 2021	Aug 1, 2021 ; Sep 1; Oct 1 (Int); Oct 30
EGADE*	Sep 3, 2021			
Lagos Business School	Dec 4, 2020	tbc		
Macquarie (Jan 2021)	Nov 8, 2020 (Int)	Dec 13, 2020		
Macquarie (March 2021)	March 7, 2021 (Int)	March 21, 2021		
Macquarie (June 2021)	May 23, 2021 (Int)	June 6, 2021		
Macquarie (Sep 2021)	Aug 22, 2021 (Int)	Sep 5, 2021		
Melbourne Business School	Aug 31, 2020	Dec 31, 2020	March 31, 2021 (Int)	April 30, 2021
Otago*	Feb, 2020			
University of Sydney*	Aug 1, 2020	Oct 1, 2020	Nov 1, 2020	Feb 1, 2021 ; April 1; June 15
HKUST	Nov 18, 2020	Jan 13, 2021	March 17, 2021	
IIM Ahmedabad	Aug 31, 2020	Oct 19, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	
IIM Bangalore	Aug 31, 2020	Oct 29, 2020	Jan 4, 2021	
IIM Calcutta	Aug 30, 2020	Oct 31, 2020	Jan 1, 2021	
ISB	Sep 20, 2020	Jan 10, 2021		
Nanyang	Nov 1, 2020	Jan 15, 2021	March 31, 2021	
NUS Business School	Jan 27, 2021	March 31, 2021		
Renmin	May 15, 2021			
Singapore Management University (Jan 2022)	March 15, 2021	July 15, 2021	Oct 30, 2021	
Tsinghua	Nov 1, 2020	Dec 1, 2020	Feb 14, 2021	March 21, 2021; May 2

# Funding your MBA



## Funding your MBA

Success! You've submitted an outstanding MBA application and have been invited for an interview at your target school. You'll be interviewed by admissions staff or alumni at some schools, like INSEAD, and you'll probably interview online this cycle.

At the **interview stage**, your chance of admission increases significantly. At Harvard, you have about a **50-to-60% chance** of being admitted if you reach the interview stage. Your chance of admission at most schools will be even higher. You'll find out if you've been successful around three weeks after your interview.

Now you've been admitted—and likely a long time before—you'll be asking yourself the question: 'How am I going to pay for this?'

In our **BusinessBecause Cost of MBA Report 2020**, we broke down the total cost of the world's top MBA programs covering MBA tuition fees, living costs, healthcare, and more.

The **most expensive MBA programs** can cost upwards of \$150k in tuition alone. However, with business schools offering generous scholarships and funding options, the fact that the MBA comes at a cost shouldn't put you off.

**There are many ways of funding an MBA which will reduce your overall cost significantly:**

- Business schools offer very generous scholarships, including **full-ride scholarships** which cover the your entire b-school experience (including tuition, room and board, books, and sometimes even living expenses), and full-tuition scholarships
- Some schools automatically consider every accepted student for some sort of scholarship (most commonly a percentage reduction in tuition fees)
- There are various **scholarships** based on nationality, gender, industry background, and academic performance.
- Most of the scholarship money that schools award is done so through the standard application process or through essays requested after the application process.
- There is also support available from governments and nonprofit organizations
- You can take out a **student loan** to cover your studies.
- You can even **crowdfund your tuition**.

Ultimately, the **return on investment** you will eventually get from an MBA— whether that’s doubling your salary, entering an exciting new industry, or starting a successful business—will likely make that initial expense more than worth it.



## About BusinessBecause

**BusinessBecause** is a trusted source of information and inspiration for worldwide business school applicants, supporting through every step of the business school journey.

Whether you're considering an MBA, EMBA, or master's degree, on BusinessBecause you can:

- Keep up to date with the latest business school news—rankings, reports, and the rest
- Uncover the personal stories of business school students and grads
- Get practical resources and guidance to help your business school application, including advice on GMAT and GRE prep
- Compare business schools and find out what the top schools—and employers—are looking for.

You can also check out our weekly **Applicant Question** feature and our **videos** of admissions tips and tutorials.

To unlock all our content and stay up to date with the latest business school insights, **register with BusinessBecause.**

**Graduate  
Management  
Admission  
Council™**

BusinessBecause is part of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), the owner and administrator of the **GMAT Exam**, united in our mission to connect candidates with business schools.



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