



Foster Q&A

Q: What is special about your MBA program? In addition to its' excellent reputation, what differentiates it from other Top MBA programs?

A: ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME FORMAT

Earn a prestigious MBA degree in an accelerated timeframe. The [rigorous curriculum](#) will boost your leadership skills and provide the tools to expertly solve business challenges.

SMALLER CLASS SIZE

Get to know both the faculty and your fellow students better, while benefiting from the strong community and connections at the UW Foster School of Business. GEMBA students partner to share expertise and serve as professional resources for one another. [Hear about GEMBA from alumni.](#)

CONNECTIONS TO THE SEATTLE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Seattle is home to many iconic global companies such as Amazon, Starbucks, Microsoft, Boeing, and Costco. Tech companies including Google and Facebook have established a significant presence in Seattle to compete for talent. The region is also a hub for entrepreneurs and cultivates a startup mindset. The GEMBA program provides access and connections to influential business leaders in the region as a natural extension of classroom learning. [Learn more about the Seattle and UW community.](#)

STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

A typical GEMBA cohort consists of about 80% international students which creates dynamic classroom discussions that highlight the diverse backgrounds and knowledge of the students. [Learn more about the student experience.](#)

THEME-BASED GLOBAL IMMERSION TRIP

The program will include an in-depth analysis on managing climate risks and opportunities for businesses. The location for the trip will be determined later, taking into consideration economic, political, and other factors that affect the region. [Read an article](#) about the recent GEMBA immersion trip to London, UK.

CROSS-PROGRAM CAREER SERVICES

The [career services center](#) plans relevant events and provides dedicated one-on-one support, while also providing opportunities to mix with other UW MBA students to expand your professional network and business connections.

STEM-DESIGNATED MBA MS OPTION

The MBA Management Science Degree is an optional credential available to GEMBA students. Students who complete 16 credits from a defined list of management science elective courses and meet the degree requirements of the GEMBA Program earn both the MBA degree and the STEM-designated MBA Management Science Option. GEMBA students will be able to earn the 16 credits with careful elective course selection without having to lengthen their program or incurring additional tuition expenses. The GEMBA team will be able to help you with planning this option.



Completion of the MBA Management Science Option also permits GEMBA students studying on F-1 visas to participate in the initial 12-month period of post-degree [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\)](#) while also applying for the 24-month STEM OPT Extension.

SUPPORT AND EVENTS FOR SPOUSES/PARTNERS OF THE GEMBA PROGRAM STUDENTS

The GEMBA program has special events for spouses and partners of the GEMBA students. These include a welcoming orientation session just for family members, social gatherings to help them get connected to one another, organized family-friendly outings, and GEMBA team assistance. You'll find that it is a welcoming and positive environment for both you and your family.

Q: Are there any recent changes in the programs or in the admission process?

A: The GEMBA Admissions Committee considers a variety of factors including professional experience, academic background, cohort cohesion, and test results. If company-sponsored, a candidate's support letter from their company's organizational leadership also plays an important role. Applications are open now. To qualify for \$20,000 early application scholarship, applicants must submit completed application with all required documents by October 15, 2024, and upon acceptance to the program make a \$5,500 non-refundable deposit by December 15, 2024. Round two applications are due January 15, 2025, and that is the final deadline for international applications. We have moved to a new application system. If you had previously created an application profile with the University of Washington graduate school, please use the updated link on the UW GEMBA website to create a new profile.

Q: Given the ongoing conflict in Israel and the pro-Palestinian demonstrations on campuses worldwide, how will these factors impact admissions for prospective Israeli students? Additionally, how can you reassure Israeli students who may be worried about studying in your university in the current unstable and challenging situation?

A: A pro-Palestinian encampment has been cleared from the University of Washington (UW) campus as part of a resolution between the encampment's leadership and the UW Administration. The agreement to clear the encampment came nearly three weeks after it began in late April. The UW has a strong nondiscrimination and non-retaliation policy and is committed to providing equality of opportunity and an environment that fosters respect for all members of the University Community. For more on this, see:

https://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/PO/EO31.html?_gl=1*1xerkw1*_ga*MTgzMjgzODYxOC4xNzA0NzQyNzc0*_ga_3T65WK0BM8*MTcxODY2MDQwOS45My4xLjE3MTg2NjA0MjMuMC4wLjA.*_gcl_au*MTkzNDAwMjk5NC4xNzEyODUyMDU0*_ga_JLHM9WH4JV*MTcxODY2MDQxMC45My4xLjE3MTg2NjA0MjMuMC4wLjA.

Q: Can you share some details about the atmosphere in the school? Amongst the students? Between students and faculty? How do students spend their free time?

A: Because the UW GEMBA program admits a smaller cohort than other MBA programs, students receive more individualized instruction from the professors and the GEMBA cohort becomes a close-knit community. At Foster generally, the atmosphere is vibrant and collaborative. Students engage in a tight-knit community where teamwork is highly valued. Faculty members are accessible and supportive, fostering a mentorship environment. In



their free time, students often participate in various clubs, community service activities, and outdoor pursuits that Seattle and the Pacific Northwest offer.

Q: Can you share some details about the area the school is located in?

A: With a mild climate, a lively arts and culture scene, and a natural environment that attracts visitors from around the world, **Seattle has consistently ranked as one of the most livable cities in the United States.** [TIME](#) recently ranked Seattle as one of the “World’s Greatest Places” of 2021. Seattle combines the benefits of a big city – an international airport, a diverse population, and a thriving business community that is home to some of the most innovative companies in the world – with the safe family neighborhoods of a smaller town.

Recreational Activities

Hiking, bicycling, skiing, golfing, and kayaking are just a few of the popular recreational activities available in the Seattle area. The city borders Puget Sound to the west and Lake Washington to the east, providing miles of shoreline and glorious views. Nearby mountains are visited by hikers in the warmer months and snow sport enthusiasts in the winter. There are also many opportunities for beautiful nature walks within the city; there are about 400 public parks and open areas in the greater Seattle area. There are many organizations that can help you to learn a new sport or explore outdoor activities with a group.

Shopping and Dining

Shopping can be found all over the city including the famous tourist destination [Pike Place Market](#), downtown, the International District, and near campus. Seattle is known for its food scene with an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients, and great seafood options. Visit [Eater Seattle](#) to start picking out the restaurants you want to try!

Sports Teams

Seattle is home to several professional sports teams with state-of-the-art stadiums. Some of Seattle’s nationally recognized teams include the [Seattle Mariners](#) baseball team, the [Seattle Seahawks](#) football team, the [Seattle Sounders](#) and [Seattle Reign](#) FC soccer teams, the [Seattle Storm](#), a women’s professional WNBA team, and the [Seattle Kraken](#), the newest team in the National Hockey League (NHL). The University of Washington games are also popular with locals and are a fun way to spend an afternoon.

Arts and Culture

There are many opportunities to enjoy the arts in Seattle from [museums](#) such as the Seattle Art Museum, the Olympic Sculpture Park, or the Asian Arts Museum, to gallery walks, [ballet](#) performances, public [libraries](#), community and cultural centers, theater, concerts, and films. There is always something entertaining to do with your time off from class.

Housing and Transportation

The Seattle area offers a variety of housing options and neighborhoods each with their own unique character. [Learn more](#) about Seattle’s top neighborhoods. The city has an extensive public transit system that provides access to the University of Washington from most neighborhoods. Our office can help you to determine the best way to get to campus.

For more information about our beautiful city, go to visitseattle.org.



Q: Can you share some details regarding career support services in your school?

A: Career Management offers professional coaching, resources, events, and experiences to help you take your career to the next level.

INDIVIDUAL CAREER COACHING

Professional coaching is available to discuss your specific career development and job search needs, including resumes, cover letters, interviewing, networking, and employment offer negotiations. Students can schedule meetings through an easy-to-use calendaring system.

JOB SEARCH, WORK TEAMS, AND CAREER CHANGE GROUPS

Students can join small groups to gain guidance, support, and accountability around systematic, effective job searching or career switching processes. These groups create unique networking and bonding opportunities across other University of Washington MBA cohorts (Executive MBA, Technology Management MBA, and Hybrid MBA students).

PROGRAMMING & WORKSHOPS

Career Management hosts various events throughout the year to enhance your job transition and career advancement strategies. Topics range from career exploration, written communications, resume and LinkedIn optimization, interviewing skills, and salary negotiation to a month-long Career Expo to learn about career fields from MBA alumni panel sessions.

These events take place virtually and in person during the duration of the program.

MBA TREKS

An MBA Trek is a curated trip to a single company or a key metropolitan area. The goal is to experience diverse industries and companies, from multinational giants to early-stage, well-funded startups, and incubators. Foster MBA students have visited numerous companies, both virtually and in person, in the Seattle metropolitan area, the Bay Area, Austin, and Portland. Read about a Portland Trek.

SPEAKER SERIES

The speaker series showcases successful leaders, executives, and entrepreneurs from a variety of organizational sizes. Topics span leadership, entrepreneurship, and globalization to social innovation and business growth strategies. An event brings students, alumni, and community members together to network as well as hear leadership philosophies and strategies that have transformed a speaker's career, organization, and life.

NETWORKING EVENTS

You will find opportunities to network with students and alumni from the EMBA, TMMBA, and Hybrid MBA Programs. You can also connect with leading employers through events such as company information sessions and a virtual career fair.



ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Mentoring Program is an opt-in application-based program. Its primary goal is to provide opportunities for rewarding conversations around professional experience, career development, and situational advice. Mentors are successful, respected Foster MBA alumni in senior-level roles from numerous companies and industries including consulting, technology, consumer goods, and health care. The program has a custom software platform that assists in building a mentoring community, supporting mentor-mentee matching, and measuring program effectiveness.

ON-DEMAND CAREER COURSE

Students have access to an on-demand Career Management course with resources from developing a distinctive personal brand and clear elevator pitch to a compelling LinkedIn profile, keyword-optimized resume, and employment offer negotiation planning.

Q: What is it that you are looking for in a candidate? Who will especially enjoy this school? Who will be a good fit to the Global Executive MBA?

A: We seek candidates who demonstrate strong academic abilities, rich professional experience, leadership potential, and a commitment to collaborative learning. Ideal candidates are adaptable, innovative thinkers who thrive in diverse environments and are eager to contribute to our community.

The program is ideal for mid-career professionals being cultivated to assume leadership roles in global organizations who are looking to enhance their career, contribute back to their organizations, or seek new professional opportunities. A desirable candidate should meet the following criteria:

- Four-year undergraduate degree in business or alternate degree with relevant work experience
- Ability to take a one-year sabbatical from current job to complete the program on a full-time basis in Seattle
- Meet minimum TOEFL (92 iBT) or IELTS (7.0) or Duolingo (125) is required.
- Minimum 6 years full-time professional work experience.

Read more detailed application information here: <https://foster.uw.edu/academics/degree-programs/global-executive-mba/admissions/>

Q: One most important piece of advice for an applicant based on your experience?

A: Start the application process early, especially if applying from outside the US and/or requiring English language verification.

Q: What NOT to do in the admissions process?

A: Do not submit incomplete/sloppy materials.

Q: Are later rounds worth considering?

A: While the early application round with the deadline of October 15, 2024 offers a \$20,000 early application scholarship, the second round with a deadline of January 15, 2025 is open



to international applicants as well and a good percentage of admitted students were ones who applied by the second round deadline.

Q: GMAT and importance as a % of the candidacy? What is the minimum GMAT you are looking for?

A: The GMAT, GRE, or Executive Assessment are not required for admission consideration. However, applicants with scores may submit them as supplemental information.

Q: Is there anything you'd like our candidates to know regarding the admissions process?

A: Many candidates bring a strong level of academic success and professional experience. The committee also highly values your potential contribution to the cohort, the school, the community and the global community as well. Please highlight those areas in your application.

Q: Can you tell us more about funding – scholarship/fellowship options in your school?

A: For information on funding, please visit our website at <https://foster.uw.edu/academics/degree-programs/global-executive-mba/program-fees/>

Q: Can you share some information about partners who are joining the student-Employment options for him/her? What are the visa requirements?

A: Getting an MBA is a big commitment not only for the students, but also for their families. Recognizing this, the GEMBA program has a specially designed support program for spouses and partners of the GEMBA students to help them settle in. These include an orientation session just for them; social gatherings to help them get connected to one another; organized family-friendly outings; and access to assistance from the UW GEMBA staff. More info here: <https://foster.uw.edu/academics/degree-programs/global-executive-mba/student-experience/>