

# Global climber

Global Executive MBAs are becoming increasingly popular with ambitious executives looking to take their career to the next level. **Charlotte Kan** profiles some of the world's best

A 2014 survey of over 5,600 MBA applicants by QS ([www.qs.com](http://www.qs.com)), the world's leading higher and business education specialist, shows that the main reason for doing an MBA is to improve career prospects, followed by learning new skills and taking up a leadership or general management role. A Global Executive MBA (GEMBA) adds an extra dimension; it allows participants to become a true global player. "The main reason executives consider doing a Global Executive MBA is simply the globalisation of business," says Mansoor Iqbal, deputy editor at TopMBA.com. "There is increasingly less focus on the domestic market. There is so much going on in terms of the supply chain, it is crucial to get some international exposure these days," he says.

However, before choosing a particular GEMBA course, a certain amount of due diligence

is required. "You have to take a good look at the school, what it specialises in, its location and how it fits with your aspirations and who you are as a person. It's not just about where you want to do business but where you want to go and the different cultures you wish to experience. You also have to look at the industries of the other participants on the course, the kind of people you want to be around, how international the programme is, its specific components etc.," according to Mansoor.

Traditionally companies would pay their executives' GEMBA so they would get global exposure and experience. However, with corporate sponsorship dwindling, costs may be another consideration. And for very busy executives, the duration of the course may be another factor. "Over the past 10 years, we have witnessed increased interest in part-time or distance MBAs," Mansoor adds.

Ranked as the number one EMBA by the *Financial Times* (FT) in 2014, the TRIUM Global Executive MBA ([www.triumemba.org](http://www.triumemba.org)) is a degree jointly issued by New York University Stern School of Business, London School of Economics and Political Science, and HEC Paris School of Management. Its six on-site modules are held at multiple locations across the world



(London, New York, Shanghai, Paris, Chennai) over a 17-month period. This one is particularly suited to busy executives, as time out of the office is only 10 weeks. It promises to provide students "a transformational learning environment and access to a remarkable group of global business leaders, developing personal and professional connections that last a lifetime". Cost: US\$ 165,900/€147,786.

Second in the FT's ranking for 2014, is the 18-month long GEMBA by Kellogg/HKUST Business School of Hong Kong (<http://emba.ust.hk>). Previously rated number one in the world for six of the past eight years, the programme is tailor-made for senior executives in Asia who have



**Above: The Kellogg/HKUST Business School course is tailor-made for senior executives across Asia**

**Left: London Business School's GEMBA has been rated as the fifth best course in the world**

attained positions of leadership in their organisations. It is held across seven partner universities in Toronto, Chicago, Miami, Hong Kong, Beijing, Dusseldorf and Tel Aviv. Emphasis is on three specific areas of management skills: behaviour in learning organisations; international management; managing groups of cooperating firms for international competitiveness. Cost: US\$155,000/€138,076.

Third down the FT's list is Tsinghua University/Insead EMBA programme, also known as TIEMBA (<http://tsinghua.insead.edu>). Designed to be the "Fast Track between China and the World", this 18-month long joint programme with 10 modules and 12 weeks on campus covers both Eastern and Western approaches to business and is combined with a focus on self-development. One of the unique benefits of participating in the TIEMBA programme is that participants will graduate with two degrees from two of the world's most competitive business schools. Cost: US\$100,000/€89,090 (2014/2016), and does not include transport, accommodation or meals.

Insead also offers an alternative fast-track Global EMBA course that covers three international campuses, Europe (France), Asia (Singapore) and the Middle East (Abu Dhabi) (<http://global.emba.insead.edu>). Taking place over 14-17 months, it is an intensive course to the top – via one of the world's most prestigious and multicultural academic institutions. Those seeking to study in the Middle East will benefit from the recently renovated 12-storey, 6,000 square-metre campus. Situated right in the heart of the business centre of Abu Dhabi it offers plenty of opportunities to explore the region and all it has to offer. The price ranges from US\$110,000/€102,000 to US\$169,000/€155,724.

Ranked at number four as the best EMBA in the world by the FT and number three by *The Economist* respectively, is the UCLA Anderson School of Management of California and National University

of Singapore Business School (<http://www.anderson.ucla.edu>), Global EMBA course. Participants can gain two MBAs in 15 months from two of the world's top, globally renowned universities. Designed to accommodate the demanding schedules of senior working professionals the course is split up across six two-week sessions in four different countries, Bangalore, Shanghai, Los Angeles and Singapore, which helps to minimise travel and disruption to the students current jobs. Cost: US\$107,828/€96,075

London Business School and Columbia Business School (<http://www.emba-global.com>) jointly offer two regional versions of their 20 month-long GEMBA programme, rated fifth best course in the world by the FT. With the EMBA Global Americas and Europe, held in London and New York, graduates receive two degrees from London Business School and Columbia respectively. Meanwhile, for the ▶



EMBA Global Asia, held in Hong Kong, Shanghai, New York and London, graduates receive one degree, jointly awarded by the three schools: London Business School, Columbia and Hong Kong University. Other distinguishing features include access to the large, combined alumni network of the schools: EMBA-Global Americas and Europe – 81,000; EMBA-Global Asia – 96,000. Plus the benefit of access to two or three times the number of global faculty versus studying at a single school. “With groundbreaking research and real-world experience, they unite the latest academic theory with business practice” it claims.

Cost: US\$166,911/€148,769 for the EMBA-Global Americas & Europe; US\$154,140/€137,386 for the EMBA-Global Asia course.

The Global Executive MBA from ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain, and Georgetown University (<http://www.globalexecmba.com>) in the US is, “truly global in conception, design and reach” it says. Ranked 12th and 22nd by *The Economist* and the *FT* respectively, this senior management training programme offers 14 months of residencies distributed among Washington D.C., Madrid & Barcelona, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Doha, Bangalore, Shanghai,



**Above: The TRIUM GEMBA is held at multiple locations across the world, including New York’s NYU Stern (top) and London’s LSE**

**Left: Executives are taught the importance of social innovation as part of the ESADE course**

Beijing and New York. The programme claims to combine the interdisciplinary teaching strengths of Georgetown’s McDonough School of Business with expertise in international relations and geopolitics from the Walsh School of Foreign Service and ESADE’s strengths in entrepreneurship and social innovation. Cost: US\$154,200/€137,458.

Meanwhile in Australia, the Global Executive MBA from the University of Sydney (<http://sydney.edu.au>) promises to put its participants “on the ground in real-world business scenarios from Silicon Valley to the Languedoc vineyards, via London and India”. Its programme comprises of a mix of self-directed online primers, a major

strategic project and five x two-week face-to-face residential blocks held approximately every four months over an 18-month period in locations as diverse as Sydney, Bangalore, Silicon Valley in the US, London and the Languedoc region in Southern France. Cost: US\$69,998/€62,403 (+ US\$15,554/€13,876 for accommodation, meals and group transport). ■

