FAQ about the IMBA Degree

What’s the value of the IMBA? What’s the difference between doing the IMBA and the IB concentration plus a study abroad?

- "We embrace the challenges of global business. With campuses on three continents, the GSB is one of the most global of the world's top business schools in terms of programs, investment in infrastructure, and the profiles of our faculty, students, and alumni. Most important - we leverage that diversity to prepare you to succeed in all functions, all sectors, and all regions around the world." Dean Ted Snyder, May 2006
- IMBAs participate in executive style training sessions where they gain in-depth skills to help them navigate tough issues in global management
- Twenty percent of the coursework for the IMBA degree is international, which demonstrates a stronger commitment to understanding global business issues
- Recruiters recognize the adaptability of such a unique combination of skills. The solid Chicago MBA foundation combined with the international coursework, training sessions, study abroad and language proficiency really help differentiate IMBAs from the pack
- Access to network of more than 450 IMBA alumni worldwide

How many IMBAs are there? Why are there so few?

- Each year we receive tremendous interest in the IMBA degree
- Many students change their career goals or choose a different path at the GSB midway through the degree requirements
- The IMBA degree requires careful planning and time management skills
- Many students inaccurately assess their language skills upon entering the program or do not dedicate enough time to mastering a second-language
- Due to the rigorous nature of the program, only the students most committed to international business choose to complete the IMBA degree (fewer than 10 per year)

How hard is it to meet the language requirement for the IMBA?

- We recommend students have strong second-language skills before considering the IMBA degree
- "I saw the foreign language requirement of the program as an edge, basically validating this skill, and making it visible to potential employers." Graduating IMBA, 2006

What resources do you have to assist students in meeting the language requirement?

- Language courses at the University of Chicago
- Chicago-area private tutors
- Chicago-area language institutes such as Alliance Francaise, Instituto Cervantes, Berlitz, etc.
- University of Chicago’s ESL for Foreign Nationals
- Language networking groups
- Online language programs, CDs, or other self-study

If I pursue the IMBA, do I lose my elective courses?

- No. The courses you take abroad count as three elective courses at the GSB, but two can be petitioned to count toward the international business requirements or toward other concentrations.
- With careful planning you still have between 6 to 9 electives
• You can easily complete the IMBA degree and still earn concentrations. Many IB courses can also count toward concentrations such as economics, human resource management, entrepreneurship or strategic management.

What are the recruiting prospects for IMBAs?

• Companies who typically seek out IMBAs include BP, Eli Lilly, and Infosys Technologies
• “While exploring opportunities in consulting and general management careers, some companies even prefer their candidates to have lived abroad for some period of time (which, by the way, the IMBA forces you to).” Graduating IMBA, 2006
• “Both foreign and American multinational companies come to the GSB to recruit their future leaders.” Graduating IMBA, 2006
• Some facts about Chicago MBAs:
  o More than 10% of the Class of 2005 accepted full-time jobs in Western Europe and Asia (Chicago GSB Employment Report 2005)
  o Almost 20% of first-year students did their internships abroad (Chicago GSB Employment Report 2005)
• Some facts about companies recruiting Chicago MBAs:
  o At least 50 international companies recruit on-campus including BP, Pictet CIE, Samsung Global Strategy Group and Shinsei Bank

What careers do IMBA students typically pursue?

• Many pursue international opportunities right away and others may move into international roles later in their careers
• Examples of IMBA careers in the last three years:
  o Investment management, researching and investing in global companies
  o Consulting for a global management firm
  o International finance or investment banking
  o Real estate development
  o Consulting dealing with trade issues and social and economic development in emerging economies
  o Financial services
  o Project manager in sustainable development
  o Sales and trading both fixed income/equities
  o Consulting in corporate strategy
  o Microfinance