
KEY CORPORATE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY'S EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (EMBA) PROGRAM is designed for experienced, mid to senior managers and professionals seeking to improve their capacity to lead, strategize and manage change. SFU pioneered the Executive MBA for working professionals in 1968. Since then, we have prepared more than 1400 executives for the rigors and rewards of increased responsibility and organizational stewardship.

ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORSHIP

Organizations supporting participants in the program typically agree to:

- Provide their employee with work hour flexibility so that they can attend all classes. Classes are held all day Friday and Saturday, every other weekend.
- Provide opportunities for their employee and/or Executive MBA colleagues to apply learning to real projects within the organization during the two-year period.
- Provide monetary support for all or part of the tuition

WHY AN EXECUTIVE MBA FROM SFU?

SFU has prepared more than 1400 executives for demanding managerial roles since the launch of the Executive MBA program in 1968.

We've learned from experience. We've continued to adapt our approach to provide the most effective learning conditions for mature students. We know that most people learn best when they're engaged in intense interaction with others. We keep our class sizes small – so you get to know your professors and fellow students very well, and they you.

We hire faculty with excellent academic and teaching credentials, as well as practical experience as managers, executives, entrepreneurs and consultants. You'll find they're generous with their time and advice – in class, about course work, even when you've got a specific workplace issue to sort out.

We also understand that academic theory alone will not suffice for today's challenging business environment. So we invite business executives and government officials to discuss the realities within their organizations. Students bring their own management and industry experiences to the classroom.

The result is a dynamic and highly interactive learning environment.

The Executive MBA program is known as a transformative experience. For those aspiring to leadership positions, it's the experience of a lifetime.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE PROGRAM?

Most importantly, we require five+ years of management or professional experience, managing people, projects, a client base, and/or a technology.

We look at an applicant's career path, their industry, their prospects for the future, and how the Executive MBA would contribute to the organization and the individual's career. We also require three letters of reference (at least one indicating the support of the sponsoring organization), a GMAT Score Report and transcripts from post-secondary education.

A limited number of exceptional managers who lack a formal degree or professional designation but who have other outstanding qualifications are admitted once they have completed specific undergraduate courses. These exceptional managers are encouraged to request a personal interview with the Executive Director.

WHAT SKILLS ARE REQUIRED BY ENTERING STUDENTS?

Strong organizational abilities are a must. Classroom dynamics and collegial interaction demand it. Assignments, projects and presentations require students to be team players. They'll also need well-developed writing, reading and comprehension skills.

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Immediately following acceptance in May, all students participate in the Pre-EMBA including a math refresher and computer tutorials.

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS?

Faculty and staff are available to all students. We endeavor to make university life trouble-free. We take care of all the administrative details. Students spend their time focused on learning.

Students will find that the self-managed study groups offer strong emotional and academic support for them throughout the Program.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON MY EMPLOYEE'S PRODUCTIVITY?

The Executive MBA Program is designed for managers who work full-time in demanding positions. Students need to shift priorities in order to free between 25-30 hours per week for class and study time. Many students find the program helps them improve their time management skills.

WITH WHOM WILL MY EMPLOYEES BE LEARNING?

Students come from a wide range of industry sectors with work experience in every functional area. This creates a diversity of experience and expertise that is a valuable resource to any organization. Typically, an EMBA class comprises 33 percent women and 67 percent men, with an average age of 37. Approximately 85 percent hold undergraduate or masters university degrees; 10 percent have completed technical diplomas; and the remainder have professional designations, or some post-secondary study. Approximately 30 percent of students have international experience.

ARE ACADEMIC ASSIGNMENTS RELEVANT TO MY ORGANIZATION?

Throughout the two year course work, students complete assignments which relate directly to their organization. The application of classroom learning in the workplace is an essential element of our adult-learning environment.

The final Project is a distinctive feature of the Executive MBA Program. It is a client-driven, problem-solving, professional report that brings together students' two years of learning to focus on a practical and complex strategic application.

Projects can provide multiple benefits to an employer. For some it provides the opportunity to complete an in-depth study where previously neither the time nor expertise was available. For others, the process of engaging in the analysis opens opportunities for learning and change within the organization. Many employers use the Project as the starting point for significant and positive strategic initiatives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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