

GET A SOLID FOUNDATION IN BUSINESS

### **AND A PATHWAY TO AN MBA**

With over 20 years of expertise in online business education, SFU Beedie has established a strong reputation for being a leader in online graduate business education. Since 1999, our Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA) program has been exclusively delivered online, enabling us to cultivate a sophisticated virtual learning environment and a team of highly proficient instructors in remote teaching.

SFU Beedie's GDBA stands as a competitive credential that combines the rigour of MBA-level courses with enhanced flexibility. With 100 per cent online delivery, it empowers you to pursue your studies while maintaining your professional commitments, allowing you to immediately apply your newly acquired skills in your workplace. Moreover, should you aspire to pursue an MBA at SFU Beedie in the future, you can seamlessly transfer your GDBA credits towards that MBA.

The GDBA provides you with the opportunity to elevate your career trajectory and set yourself apart from the rest.

### **FLEXIBLE TO FIT YOUR SCHEDULE**

To foster a sense of camaraderie and keep everyone on pace, you'll progress through modules alongside your cohort. Together, you'll adhere to the same timelines for individual and team assignments, creating a supportive and collaborative environment. You'll have full control over your studies and can expect to spend seven to nine hours per

week on coursework, which you can allocate based on your schedule and preferences.

With a customizable curriculum, you get to choose what you study. Tailor your degree based on your passions and professional goals, allowing you to carve your own path in the program. With three convenient start dates available in January, May, and September, you won't have to wait long to embark on your GDBA journey.

While most students complete the program within two years, you have the flexibility to adjust your pace. Whether you prefer to accelerate your progress or take a more gradual approach, you can tailor the program to suit your personal and professional obligations. If needed, you can even opt to take a term off and resume your studies in the next round, accommodating busy periods in your life.



SFU's Beedie School of Business is a dynamic institution delivering cutting-edge research and education programs across three British Columbia campuses. We pioneered Canada's first Executive MBA and the first Indigenous Business Leadership EMBA in North America. Accredited by AACSB and EQUIS, our reputation for innovation, social responsibility, and global perspective is recognized worldwide. Our alumni network spans 80 countries and comprises more than 30,000 successful graduates.

### **COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY IN CANADA**

14 out of the last 15 years (as of 2023), according to Maclean's Magazine

### **UNIVERSITY IN CANADA FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

by Times Higher Education (THE) 2023 rankings

### **UNIVERSITY IN CANADA FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT AND INNOVATION**

according to the 2023 World University Rankings for Innovation

### **OF BUSINESS SCHOOLS**

worldwide have AACSB and EQUIS









Whether you see the GDBA as a stepping stone or a destination in itself, it is a transformative opportunity that will enhance your career prospects. This program provides a comprehensive foundation in various aspects of business, theory, and practice, equipping you with a deep understanding of the different functional areas within a company. The GDBA empowers you with the skills and knowledge to collaborate effectively with colleagues from diverse disciplines, making it a valuable credential for your career.

The rigour of courses in our GDBA program is comparable to those in our four MBA programs. In fact, many GDBA courses are taught by the same professors and instructors, employing the same methodologies, and covering the same content.

Here's how the GDBA program works:

- You have the flexibility to begin in January, May, or September.
- Prior to starting classes, you will participate in a 14-day online orientation.
- The program can be completed in 12 months (three terms) while working full-time, taking two full courses per term. Alternatively, you can adjust the pace according to your schedule.
- Each course is delivered online through weekly or bi-weekly modules
- On average, you can expect to dedicate eight to ten hours per week to each course.
- Each course concludes with a final exam or paper.
- To graduate with a GDBA, you need to earn 24 credits.

### **PRE-PROGRAM**

Before diving into the program, the mandatory pre-program phase includes a set of carefully curated courses during the 14-day GDBA orientation. This intensive preparatory phase focuses on developing leadership skills, introducing fundamental teamwork principles, and familiarizing youself with the case analysis process.



Watch now: Learn about the GDBA program structure and flexible schedule.

### **CORE COURSES:**

### MANAGING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS

Gain an understanding of how individuals and teams function effectively in work situations. Learn how organizational behaviour themes, such as emotions, motivation, and group dynamics, relate to functional issues such as job design, salary structures, and recruitment.

## FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING

Move beyond accounting fundamentals and processes. Learn to make business decisions in support of broader organizational objectives that are based on sound analysis of financial information.

### BUSINESS ETHICS (HALF COURSE)

Professional decisionmaking involves moving from complexity and ambiguity to action. Build an integrated set of ethical and analytical reasoning tools for addressing the challenges that arise in real-world situations

### MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS

Gain an introduction to the basic concepts of economics and explore the relevance of economic reasoning to tactical and strategic managerial decision-making. Study the importance of economic concepts, economic models, and quantitative applications, and understand how they apply to scenarios commonly encountered by managers.

### MANAGERIAL FINANCE

Gain a practical understanding of managerial finance and the role of the financial manager.
Learn to apply financial statement analysis, valuation techniques, capital budgeting, project analysis, and other financial tools.
Explore a wide variety of subjects, including: maximizing shareholder wealth, agency conflicts and ethical corporate behaviour.

### BUSINESS ANALYTICS

Explore the key concepts of probability and statistics that provide the basic tools to approach problems critically. Focus on the use of quantitative and statistical techniques in managerial decision-making and learn to apply them in business settings.

### MARKETING MANAGEMENT

Get an overview of the marketing process, including learning how to analyze data and making decisions on pricing, product design, promotion, and distribution as part of developing a comprehensive marketing plan. The course concludes with a collaborative online marketing simulation.

### **SPECIAL TOPICS:**

## BUSINESS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (HALF COURSE)

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the context involved when companies are operating, or intend to operate, in the traditional territories of First Nations and other Indigenous peoples. The course will also examine the role that Indigenous people play in Canada's economy, including entrepreneurship and community-owned businesses.



"It's easy to fit the GDBA program into your life and it made my transition to the MBA easier, especially with some of the more intimidating courses like accounting and finance. There is interdisciplinary overlap in courses that strengthens your knowledge by examining subjects from different perspectives."

-Alecsandra Dragne, GDBA & MBA Alumnus Coordinator, Government of Canada MINIMUM OF:

For GDBA students to be eligible to apply for

FULL-TIME MBA PART-TIME MBA MOT MBA ONLINE MBA

By pursuing a GDBA, you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of your industry, company, and colleagues, establishing a solid foundation for an SFU MBA. Not only does the GDBA enhance your chances of admission to an SFU MBA program, but it can also significantly reduce your workload once you enroll. You will not have to repeat courses that are eligible for waivers in our MBA programs if you earn a grade of at least a B or a 3.0 GPA.

### **WHY START WITH THE GDBA?**

Even if you have your sights set on an MBA, there are numerous advantages to pursuing a GDBA as the first step:

- Acquire MBA-level business knowledge that can be immediately applied at your work.
- Maintain a healthy balance between work, personal life, and studies.
- Spread the cost of tuition over a longer period, as transferable GDBA courses would be deducted from your MBA tuition.
- Experience graduate-level business education prior to entering an intensive MBA program.
- Secure a GMAT waiver: a GMAT test score is not required for GDBA enrollment. Achieving a CGPA of at least 3.5 in GDBA courses (14 credits) qualifies you for a GMAT waiver when applying for an MBA.

### LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN MBA

In our GDBA program, you'll have the opportunity to tailor your specialization according to your professional objectives or future MBA goals. You'll have the chance to create a personalized study plan that aligns with your unique aspirations.

### **FULL-TIME MBA**

Based in downtown Vancouver, our 16-month full-time MBA curriculum combines theory and practical application of business fundamentals. The program culminates in a four-month paid internship, providing you with valuable, in-demand work experience.

### **PART-TIME MBA**

Our 24-month part-time MBA program caters to working professionals, allowing you to pursue your degree without interrupting your career. You can bring real-world business challenges from your workplace to the classroom, applying your learning directly.

### MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY MBA (MOT MBA)

Designed for working professionals with diverse backgrounds, the 24-month part-time MOT MBA program brings together individuals who share a passion for technology and a drive to solve complex problems in innovative ways.

### **ONLINE MBA**

Our Online MBA program allows you to continue focusing on your full-time career while seamlessly transitioning from work to school. Enjoy the flexibility of the online format without compromising on meaningful cohort connections and teamwork.

# PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR MBA

### **MBA TRANSFERABLE CREDITS**

If you're interested in pursuing one of our four MBA programs, please note the following requirements:

To qualify for entry into an SFU MBA, you will need to complete 14 credits of the designated courses outlined below:

GDBA	FULL-TIME MBA	PART-TIME OR ONLINE MBA	MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY MBA
Managing People & Organizations			
Financial & Managerial Accounting			
Business Ethics (1/2 course)			
Business Analytics			
Managerial Economics			
Managerial Finance			
Marketing Management			
Business and Indigenous Peoples (1/2 course)			
	ligible for a waiv	ver with MBA Ac	cademic Director

Students proceeding to one of the MBA programs should be aware that not all courses may be waived. University policy specifies that no more than 50 per cent of a program's credit requirements may be waived.

- \*Students must achieve a grade of at least **3.0 GPA (B)** for the course to be transferable and subject to successful admission to an MBA program.
- \*\*GDBA courses are transferable to an MBA program, for up to three years after completion.
- \*\*\* Students who achieve a CGPA of at least 3.5 in their GDBA courses (14 credits) will receive a GMAT waiver. You need 24 credits to complete the GDBA.

Full course: 4 credits - Half course: 2 credits



~ 3.5 = 14

COURSES CREDITS

220/0
OF GDBA STUDENTS
START AN MBA

FULL-TIME MBA

**DURATION:** 16 months

FORMAT: Full-time

CAMPUS: Vancouver

**COHORT SIZE:** 50 students

**AVERAGE WORK EXPERIENCE:** 

5 years

**AVERAGE AGE:** 30 years

### **PART-TIME MBA**

**DURATION: 24 months** 

FORMAT: Part-time

CAMPUS: Surrey

**COHORT SIZE:** 50 students

AVERAGE WORK EXPERIENCE:

12 years

**AVERAGE AGE:** 35 years

### **MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY MBA**

**DURATION: 24 months** 

FORMAT: Part-time

CAMPUS: Vancouver

**COHORT SIZE:** 45 students

AVERAGE WORK EXPERIENCE:

14 years

**AVERAGE AGE: 36 years** 

### **ONLINE MBA**

**DURATION: 24 months** 

FORMAT: Part-time

CAMPUS: Online

COHORT SIZE: 50 students (approx.)

**AVERAGE WORK EXPERIENCE:** 

11 years (approx.)

**AVERAGE AGE:** 35 years (approx.)

# UNLOCKING THE BENEFITS OF ONLINE LEARNING

In the GDBA program, we prioritize interaction and engagement to maximize your learning experience. Live program discussions are structured to foster active participation from every student, ensuring a dynamic and inclusive online environment.

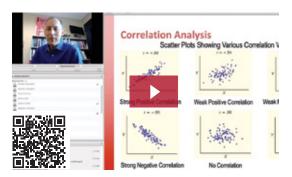
If you're new to online programs, there's no need to worry. Our GDBA program is designed to be student-centered and user-friendly, providing an intuitive online learning platform that facilitates seamless navigation and an enriching educational journey.

### YOUR COHORT. YOUR KEY CONTACTS.

Throughout the program, you'll join a supportive and tight-knit network of fellow students, dedicated staff, and experienced faculty members. Many of these connections will extend beyond the program, transforming into lifelong friendships and valuable professional relationships. Your cohort of diverse students will bring fresh perspectives and offer abundant opportunities for team building and knowledge exchange. Furthermore, regardless of your location during the program, you will always have direct access to your GDBA instructors, ensuring continuous support and guidance.

### **BUSINESS EDUCATION FOR THE REAL WORLD**

The answers you seek aren't all "in the book." In the GDBA, we emphasize the application of business knowledge and conceptual frameworks to real-world scenarios. Rather than relying solely on theoretical concepts, you will be encouraged to bring real-life problems from your workplace or industry into the classroom. Collaborating with your instructors and peers, you will delve into



Watch now: Check out the GDBA's interactive online programming.

these challenges, exploring practical and innovative solutions. The result is a curriculum that lets you apply what you learn in real-time, fostering immediate and tangible impact in your professional endeavors.

### **LEARN THROUGH AN ENGAGING FORMAT**

Interactive learning lies at the heart of the GDBA program. You will engage in fruitful collaboration with your classmates and instructors through team projects and online study groups, promoting active participation and knowledge sharing. Our online format facilitates an array of innovative teaching methods, including multimedia learning resources, virtual seminars, online conferencing, and shared discussion boards. These engaging formats bring the course materials to life, enhancing your understanding through a dynamic and immersive learning experience.

100% online

leve to to and only will

SFU Beedie's GDBA is a world-class program that teaches MBA-level courses in a nurturing environment. The courses are designed to teach you skills in analyzing contemporary business problems and applying your learning and strengths to real-life solutions. Not only do you learn from great professors, but your amazing cohort will also shape you to become a competitive leader."

Meg Sulahian, GDBA alumnus
 Manager, Credit Structure, RBC Wealth Management –
 Private Banking



## WORLD-CLASS FACULTY



## Jan Simon PhD (University of Essex, U.K.) SENIOR LECTURER, FINANCE/INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Dr. Jan Simon teaches financial topics including investments, capital markets, corporate finance, entrepreneurial finance, and more, at the graduate level. He is on the Dean's Roll for Excellence in Teaching and previously worked in investment banking as an executive director for Goldman Sachs and other leadership roles at Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers. Dr. Simon earned his LLB and LLM from the Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven, Belgium and his MBA from IESE Business School. He holds a postgraduate degree in investment advice from EHSAL, Belgium.

Our award-winning faculty are known for their cutting-edge research. But it's not all ivory tower around here. Our professors and instructors not only possess exceptional academic credentials—they also bring extensive industry experience to the table. They bridge the gap between theory and practice, equipping you with the necessary tools to thrive in the business world.

The very same professors who teach our renowned MBA programs also lead the way in delivering the GDBA curriculum. With a wealth of professional experience and a deep understanding of business dynamics, they bring their exceptional teaching skills to the online learning environment. You can expect to learn from experts who have navigated the intricacies of the corporate world and are dedicated to empowering your success.

To ensure your learning journey is supported, your professors will be readily accessible through email via our user-friendly learning management system. You'll have direct lines of communication to engage with them, seek guidance, and further explore the subject matter.



Mark Moore PhD, MPhil, MA (Columbia); BA (Carleton)
SENIOR LECTURER, MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS

Dr. Mark Moore received the 2022 TD Canada Trust Distinguished Teaching Awards, the highest teaching honour of its kind at SFU Beedie. He earned his PhD in economics from Columbia University. He was also employed by the Bank of Canada in Ottawa, where he conducted research on monetary policy, international portfolio and direct investment flows, and options pricing methods, and was a consultant to Bankers Trust Company in New York, where he performed risk modelling and analysis of the loan portfolio.



Arsineh Garabedian MEd (Athabasca University); GDPA (McGill); BCom (Concordia); CA VISITING LECTURER, ACCOUNTING

Arsineh Garabedian is a Chartered Professional Accountant. Arsineh earned her graduate diploma in public accountancy from McGill University and holds a master of education in distance education from Athabasca University. Arsineh has over 15 years of executive level financial reporting and consulting experience. Since 2008, she has been teaching accounting courses at SFU Beedie and at various institutions in B.C., Quebec, and Shanghai.



**Srini Krishnamoorthy** PhD, MPhil (Columbia), PGDM (IIM Lucknow), BTech (IIT Madras)
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Srini Krishnamoorthy obtained his PhD from Columbia Business School in the field of Decision, Risk & Operations. His portfolio of work experience includes investment management and corporate banking roles in India. In addition, as part of his graduate study, he was a research analyst and consultant at the Deming Centre, Columbia Business School. He has taught analytics and operations courses at Ivey Business School, the Rotman School of Management, and the A.B. Freeman School of Business. As part of his research, he focuses on outcomes in "winner takes all" markets like Hollywood, Broadway, and tech Start-ups. In recent times, he has been investigating pandemic policy principles.



# ELEVATE YOUR CAREER

Why wait to take the next step in your career? With our GDBA program, you can continue working full-time while pursuing your professional development, ensuring you don't have to interrupt your career progression.

- Give yourself a competitive edge by developing in-demand business skills highly sought after by employers
- Gain a valuable graduate-level business education and boost your credentials
- Move directly from the GDBA to an MBA through one of three MBA pathways
- Demonstrate your commitment to career growth and lifelong learning

You'll graduate from the GDBA program with a strong foundation in business and the potential to further hone that knowledge, should you choose to ladder to an SFU Beedie MBA program. You'll be armed with a personalized career plan and the

skills to achieve it. By connecting with industry leaders, fellow students, and our accomplished faculty, you'll forge relationships that can open doors and accelerate your career progression.

### **CAREER SERVICES**

Whether you have a clear vision of your desired role or you're still exploring potential career paths, the GDBA program provides you with valuable industry knowledge and resources to support your career planning journey.

Our GDBA program grants you access to our extensive online career resources, including the SFU Beedie job board with over 2,000 annual job postings. Additionally, you'll find a wealth of online job search tools and career guides crafted by our Career Management Centre, designed specifically to meet the needs of business students like you.





The GDBA offers a vibrant and diverse learning environment where you'll join a class of approximately 45 individuals.

Embracing a wide range of educational and career backgrounds, your fellow classmates will contribute unique perspectives and experiences, enriching your learning journey.

Within your cohort, you'll encounter a mosaic of unique individuals at various stages of their careers. Some students are embarking on the early stages of their professional journeys, eager to build a strong business foundation. Others bring a wealth of experience from diverse industries, seeking to augment their existing expertise with a comprehensive understanding of business administration.



*Watch now: Discover the diversity in our GDBA classrooms.* 

45% Men

**55%** wom

**2-5+** Ra year

Range of years of work experience Average age

Average of three intakes: spring, summer, and fall 2022

### **LIST OF INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED**

Education

Consumer Products & Services (Apparel, Food & Beverage)

Finance (Banks) Technology (Software)

Professional Services (Multiple Disciplines)

Other\*

\*Retail, Healthcare, Real Estate, Consulting, Government, Pharmaceutical, Finance, Not-for-profit, Transportation

# NOTABLE ALUMNI

### **KELLY WILLIAMS**

GDBA & MBA ALUMNUS
PRODUCT SYSTEMS MANAGER
WHITEWATER WEST INDUSTRIES LTD.

"The GDBA changed the way I think and approach complex problems. Being able to see clarity where other people are struggling with a little bit of chaos is what makes you a leader."

### **ONE OF MANY NOTABLE ALUMNI**

If you've ever been on a waterslide, you might have Kelly Williams to thank for making the experience both fun and safe. As Manager of Waterslide Engineering for WhiteWater West Industries Ltd., Kelly and his team are behind some of the best and safest waterslide designs in the world. Skills learned at SFU Beedie help Kelly with the kinds of complex decisions and problem solving involved in such technical work—in a role he calls his "dream job."

The flexibility of the GDBA and its potential application to a future MBA sold Kelly on the program, allowing him to add a solid foundation in business theory to his 18 years' experience working in manufacturing and high-tech.





### KATHERINE COWIE

GDBA & MBA ALUMNUS
DANCE REHEARSAL DIRECTOR, BALLET BC

"Business education is a far cry from being a performing artist, but I find that my curiosity of how everything fits together and functions has been amplified at SFU Beedie. Being a successful student requires discipline and a strong work ethic, which are not unfamiliar to a ballet dancer."

Like all professional dancers, GDBA graduate and MBA candidate Katherine Cowie always knew that one day she would want to transition to a new career. For over 18 years, the Juilliard School alumnus travelled the world and enjoyed a successful career in the performing arts with roles as a performer, teacher, rehearsal director, collaborator, and artistic coach. When she decided it was time to put down new roots, she looked to her hometown of Vancouver for a business school that reflected her values and future goals.

In the last few years of her career, Katherine was balancing performance contracts with work as a teacher and choreographic assistant, which she thoroughly enjoyed. This sparked a larger curiosity in the business of arts, entertainment, and the non-profit world, and eventually led her to the GDBA program at SFU Beedie.



### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SFU Beedie students bring a wealth of professional experience, a high level of maturity and advanced professional skills to the classroom. Our students can contribute to meaningful and thought-provoking class discussions by drawing on their unique work experiences. We actively seek students with diverse backgrounds and experiences who can make positive contributions to the networking and learning environment both inside and outside the classroom. You do not need prior business knowledge as a requirement of the GDBA program

### **DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS**

We strive to attract top-tier students from across the globe who possess exceptional skills and are committed to collaborating with their peers to achieve their personal and professional goals. Our goal is to create a community of high achievers who inspire and support each other in their pursuit of excellence.

## START YOUR APPLICATION

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Undergraduate degree with a 2.5 CGPA
- · Two years of full-time work experience
- A small number of applicants with extensive experience may be considered without an undergraduate degree.
- Proficiency in English (if necessary): TOEFL 93+ or IELTS 7+ (with no individual score under 6.5.) TOEFL at home will also be accepted.

A GMAT test score is not required for GDBA enrollment. Achieving a CGPA of at least 3.5 in GDBA courses (14 credits) qualifies you for a GMAT waiver when applying for an MBA.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- **Step 1:** Review the application requirements and complete the online application form.
- **Step 2:** Apply online, pay the application fee, and upload supporting documents.
- **Step 3:** Complete a Kira video assessment.

For more information on our admission requirements, application process, and to start your application, visit beedie.sfu.ca/gdba/application

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The content for this is as follows:

- Resume
- Two references (professional referees are recommended)
- Transcripts\*
- · Admissions essay
- English proficiency test, if applicable

\*Unofficial transcripts and documents are accepted for your application. Official documents will only be required for students who are made an offer of admission.

### **GDBA PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **APPLICATION DEADLINES**

	Round one	Round two
pring 2024	October 23, 2023	November 10, 2023
lummer 2024	February 23, 2024	April 5, 2024
'all 2024:	June 21, 2024	July 22, 2024

The GDBA program has three intakes each year.

Before the start of the program, students need to attend a mandatory online, instructor-led orientation over the course of 14 days. Expect to spend approximately 10-15 hours completing the various learning activities over this period.

### **TUITION**

**FEES** 

- Spring 2024: \$18,2601
- Summer 2024: \$18,3801
- Fall 2024: \$18,684<sup>1</sup>
- · Tuition is paid each term depending on the number of credits taken (full class \$3,083\*; half class \$1,541\*)2

<sup>1</sup>Approximate total for 24 credits taken in 12 months <sup>2</sup>Tuition will vary based upon intake term \*Subject to Board of Governors approval

· Additional student fees and costs for textbooks and related materials: \$1,600 approx.

### SFU CONTINUING STUDIES CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

For professionals who have completed eligible SFU Continuing Studies certificates, taking the next step and earning a valuable business credential just got more accessible. If you've completed one of the identified Continuing Studies non-credit certificates, you could be eligible for admission even if you haven't completed an undergraduate degree. For more information on SFU Continuing Studies, scan the QR code.

### **CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM**

To connect with one of our team members, please contact us at: gdba@sfu.ca

