hinrich foundation
advancing sustainable global trade

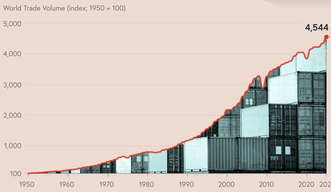
Executive MBAs for Global Leadership: Why They Matter & What to Look For

From rising global complexity to career advancement, here's why Executive MBAs matter and what to look for to identify the right program for you.



Global Business Is More Connected Than Ever

Global trade volumes have surged over recent decades, deepening economic ties between countries and businesses.

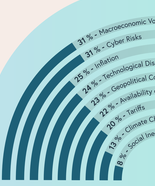


Source: WTO, 2025

As business becomes increasingly global, leaders must navigate a more complex web of international relationships, risks and opportunities.

CEOs Face a More Complex World

% share that answers 'highly exposed' or 'extremely exposed'



Today's executives must navigate risks that increasingly span markets, technologies and borders.

Source: PwC, 2026



Leading Amid Complexity

As leadership demands evolve, experienced professionals are looking for new ways to build the skills needed to lead globally.

Executive MBA Demand is Growing

Executive MBAs offer experienced professionals a way to strengthen their leadership skills without stepping away from their careers.

Year-over-year % change in applications by MBA type



Source: GMAC, 2024

For those making the investment in an EMBA for global leadership, the potential benefits can extend well beyond the classroom.

Executive MBAs Deliver Strong Career Benefits

An Executive MBA can translate into meaningful career advancement, from higher earnings to greater responsibilities.

17.5% ▲
average salary increase from starting to finishing the program.

65% ▲
average salary increase within three years of graduation.

55% ▲
of EMBA students took on greater responsibilities during the program.



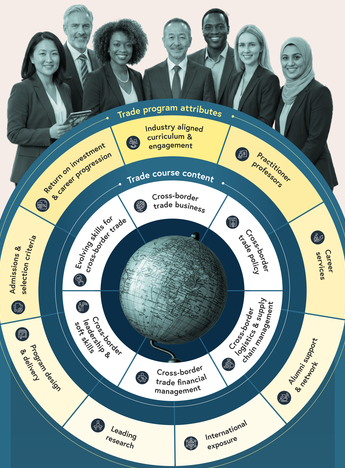
40% ▲
of EMBA students received a promotion.

Source: EMBAC's Student Exit Survey (2026).

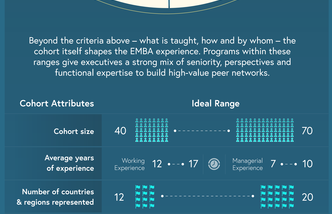
But with outcomes varying across programs, choosing an EMBA suited to the demands of global leadership matters.

Choosing an EMBA for Global Leadership

To help executives evaluate programs that strengthen their leadership capabilities, the Hinrich Foundation has published the Guide to Executive MBAs in International Business and Trade. The guide maps the trade course content, program design and cohort profile that matter most in choosing an EMBA.



Beyond the criteria above – what is taught, how and by whom – the cohort itself shapes the EMBA experience. Programs within these ranges give executives a strong mix of seniority, perspectives and functional expertise to build high-value peer networks.



The Hinrich Foundation Guide provides an employer-informed framework for identifying EMBA programs designed to build the capabilities needed for leadership in global trade.

To find the right EMBA for you, explore the **free** Hinrich Foundation Guide now.

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