

Star Special

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POSTGRADUATE

Achieving career goals with an MBA

IN today's fast-paced business world, professionals must constantly juggle multiple responsibilities while striving to get ahead in their careers. Open University Malaysia's (OUM) Master of Business Administration (MBA) is designed specifically for such people. With its flexible, affordable and online format, this programme provides the perfect opportunity for those who want to balance work and study. If you want to elevate your career without putting your life on hold, this is the MBA for you.

Specialisations to match your career goals

OUM's MBA programme understands that no two career paths are the same. Offering in-demand specialisations in Human Resource Management, Finance, Project Management and Health Management, the programme allows you to align your learning with your personal aspirations. Whether you are looking to lead a team, manage projects or navigate the complexities of the healthcare sector, this MBA ensures you gain the expertise you need.

Designed for working professionals

The fully online mode of study (including examinations) is a game-changer for busy professionals. It allows you to study anytime and anywhere, fitting seamlessly into your unique schedule. Coupled with an affordable fee structure and interest-free payment plans, the programme offers unparalleled accessibility for those ready to take the next step in their careers.

A pathway for business enthusiasts

If you have previously completed a degree in business or related fields, this MBA is a natural progression to deepen your expertise and enhance your professional standing. But it does not end there – anyone aspiring to master the art of business administration can benefit, even those without a traditional academic background.

Recognition of work experience

The Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) is OUM's extra advantage to boost MBA candidates. Through the APEL.A and APEL.Q pathway options, qualified candidates can leverage their professional experiences to fast-track their higher education dreams. By recognising the value of real-world knowledge, OUM ensures that prior experiences can pave the way for people to earn an MBA in less time and often at a lower cost too.

An MBA that stands out

With over two decades spent perfecting the open and distance learning approach, OUM has become a trusted choice for a wide variety of learners. Whether you are looking to climb the corporate ladder, shift into a new industry or build a stronger foundation in business, this MBA programme has been developed with the academic rigour to help you hone practical, job-relevant skills. It also comes with the support and tools to help you easily acclimate to online learning.

Your career growth does not have to come at the expense of personal commitments.



APEL enables working adults to leverage their prior work experience to fast-track their education.

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With OUM's MBA, you can keep your family, social and community life in check while still achieving your professional goals.

■ To find out more about the programme, call 03-7801 2000, email admission@oum.edu.my or visit www.oum.edu.my.

OUM's MBA programme is relevant to my interests. I work for a company in Sandakan that exports bird's nests to China, and the programme helped me hone fundamental skills in systems management, logistics, marketing data analysis, documentation development, management, budgeting and strategic planning.

The programme also gave me a deeper understanding of the way in which international businesses operate and the complexities of export compliance, which are critical to our success in overseas markets.

For my project paper, I reached out to swiftlet birdhouse owners in Sabah to understand how they operate and determine the most optimal way to utilise raw edible nests for export to China at the highest possible volume. This not only improved my research skills but also provided me with a holistic view of the business and broadened my professional network.

The lecturers provided tremendous support. Specialists in their respective areas always found time to share invaluable insights and experiences. Their regular engagement always kept me feeling prepared and motivated.

One of my most memorable moments was attending the 28th Convocation in October last year. All my hard work and dedication paid off as I graduated with a high CGPA.

I would say that the OUM MBA is very practical and relevant regardless of your background or field, as it equips you with invaluable and transferrable knowledge and skills. It will also give you a wonderful chance to explore personal and professional growth, and the flexibility makes it so much easier to balance study with work and other commitments. If you are ready to push yourself and elevate your career, I would highly recommend going for it.

Sharif Hassim Ibrahim, 32,
Logistics and marketing manager, Sabah



All-rounder mindset fuels success

ARIVANANTHAN Kanakasundar's success as Malaysia's Ministry of Economy Digital Industry Development Unit assistant director stems from his commitment to being an all-rounder.

He began his journey at Management and Science University (MSU) in 2014 to pursue a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Hons) in 2018 and later moved on to a Master's in Food Service Technology (by Research) in 2022.

"When I started, I hadn't even heard of MSU, but it turned out to be the perfect place for me," he reflects. "My goal was

always to become an all-rounder."

At MSU, he excelled academically, earning spots on the Dean's List, President's List and the Best Research Award in 2016. He was also a recipient of MSU's prestigious Chancellor Gold Medal Award in 2018 as well as the President Award in 2021.

Beyond academics, he actively participated in sports, co-curricular activities and leadership roles.

"For me, MSU was the right fit. I found my spot there," he says.

A standout moment for Arivananthan was the Personal Enrichment Competency (PEC) programme, which taught IT, leadership and communication skills.

"I've never seen or heard of other universities offering such courses," he explains. "These skills helped me develop into an all-rounder."

Reflecting on his journey, he says, "I come from a biomedical background, yet I'm now handling digital industry development. While it seems unrelated, the skills, knowledge and experiences I gained have enabled me to adapt and succeed. MSU equipped me with the tools that brought me to where I am today."

In his current role, Arivananthan crafts policies for Malaysia's digital ecosystem, guided by the Malaysian Digital Economy Blueprint (DEB).

"Moving forward, everything will be digitised. Graduates must adapt by acquiring relevant skills, and MSU provides the perfect platform for this," he emphasises.

While acknowledging concerns about digitalisation, he encourages embracing change.

"The biggest hurdle is the mindset.

Many people see digitalisation as risky or insecure. But the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks. Whether you like it or not, the future is digital."

Arivananthan shares three key pieces of advice with students preparing for the real world.

"First, don't give up permanently. Challenges will arise, but perseverance will help you discover your potential. Second, keep exploring. Always seek out new opportunities and experiences, no matter your age. Third, enrich yourself with skills, knowledge and experience. These will set you apart in any field."

Reflecting on his journey from biomedical studies to digital policymaking, he concludes, "The skills, knowledge and experiences I gained enabled me to adapt and succeed."

His journey exemplifies the value of being an all-rounder and embracing lifelong learning to thrive in an ever-changing world.

The postgraduate studies at the Management and Science University (MSU) offers advanced degrees at MBA, MSc and PhD levels covering the wide areas in Medicine, Engineering, Pharmacy, Health Sciences, Information Sciences, Education & Social Sciences, Business Management and Professional Studies, and Hospitality & Culinary Arts. These areas are offered under the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the Graduate School of Management (GSM).

In all, as an applied, enterprise, holistic and international university, MSU offers foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate, and flexible programmes through an entry system that facilitates the admission of students from all walks of life, where it

"I come from a biomedical background, yet I'm now handling digital industry development. While it seems unrelated, the skills, knowledge and experiences I gained have enabled me to adapt and succeed. MSU equipped me with the tools that brought me to where I am today."

Arivananthan Kanakasundar

aims at transforming lives and enriching futures.

■ For more information, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or visit www.msu.edu.my.



Arivananthan's determination to be an all-rounder led him to excel in both his academics and work.



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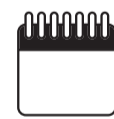


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Shaping future business leaders

THE Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business (OYAGSB) at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) has proudly secured a prominent position among the world's top business schools, reinforcing its reputation as a leader in MBA education in Malaysia. The OYAGSB MBA programme has secured its place among the top 2% of business schools worldwide, holding AMBA accreditation since 2016. Its commitment to excellence is further highlighted by its inclusion in the QS Global MBA Rankings for 2024 and 2025.

The global rankings for OYAGSB in 2024 and 2025 have remained consistent, placing it among the top 150–200 MBA programmes worldwide. Moreover, within Asia, the rankings have climbed significantly, rising from 28th in 2024 to 23rd in 2025. These achievements underscore OYAGSB's unwavering commitment to excellence, cementing its reputation as a premier institution for producing world-class business leaders both regionally and globally.

OYAGSB's MBA programme stands out not only for its prestigious ranking but also for its innovative approach to learning. A cornerstone of the programme is its emphasis on experiential learning, a dynamic teaching methodology that bridges the gap between theory and practice. Students are exposed to real-world challenges through industry visits, business

simulations, case studies and international study tours.

Additionally, the programme incorporates Harvard Business School case studies, providing students with the opportunity to analyse and solve complex, real-world business problems. This ensures graduates are equipped with the practical skills and strategic insights needed to thrive in today's competitive global business environment.

"Our inclusion in the QS Global MBA Rankings is a testament to our unwavering commitment to academic excellence and industry relevance. By integrating experiential learning into our curriculum, we prepare our students to become agile and innovative leaders who can navigate complex business landscape," OYAGSB's dean Prof Dr Hassan Abu Bakar highlights the significance of the programme's achievements.

The MBA programme's focus on experiential learning is further enriched by strong partnerships with leading corporations and institutions. These collaborations provide students with opportunities to engage in projects, internships and networking events, offering invaluable exposure to diverse industries and markets. The approach aligns with OYAGSB's vision of fostering sustainable leadership and driving positive societal impact.

OYAGSB's MBA alumni network, which spans various sectors and



UUM offers students the opportunity to analyse and solve complex, real-world business problems through Harvard Business School case studies.



UUM students participating in experiential learning in Jakarta.

regions, serves as a testament to the programme's transformative impact. Graduates have consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and entrepreneurial capabilities, contributing to the school's growing reputation as a hub for nurturing future business leaders. As OYAGSB continues to

innovate and excel, it invites aspiring business professionals to join its journey of academic and professional distinction. Echoing OYAGSB's tagline – "We Produce Strategic Leaders", the school remains committed to delivering an MBA experience that not only ranks highly on a global scale but also

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profoundly shapes the leaders of tomorrow.

■ For more information, call 011-1129 3060, email oyagsb@uum.edu.my or visit www.oyagsb.edu.my.



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MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY (MSU) DU019(B)
University Drive, Off Persiaran Olahraga, Section 13, 40100 Shah Alam,
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