

MBA Special

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Japan-based degrees offer international advantages

A Master of Business Administration continues to be a path to senior executive roles as demand has been increasing and the degree still equates to higher salaries.

In Japan, qualified MBA holders are highly sought after and the value of an MBA is stressed more and more in an increasingly globalizing society.

In the past, many Japanese business professionals went to prestigious universities overseas to obtain their MBAs, but there are also excellent business schools in Japan with MBA programs that have various advantages for those who want to work in Japan. Some feel that staying in Japan while acquiring the degree allows them to build strong in-country business connections.

Some business schools in Japan offer highly rated MBA programs with instruction conducted exclusively, or partially in English.

Students taking MBA courses in Japan can study with international students, some of whom could become CEOs and company presidents, and can expect to enjoy increased demand from employers.

Demand for MBA holders has been increasing in the global job market. It rose by 13 percent in 2017 from a year earlier, according to the Jobs & Salary Trends Report 2018, published by QS TopMBA.com, which is currently compiling the



A Master of Business Administration is a highly sought-after qualification for business professionals in Japan. GETTY IMAGES

latest version.

Regional MBA hiring increased across the board. According to the report, the Asia-Pacific region posted the strongest growth at 18 percent, with the mature markets of North America and Western Europe both registering 10 percent — comfortably in excess of employers' conservative predictions. Eastern Europe saw a 12 percent increase, while Africa and the Middle East

had a 2 percent increase, and Latin America saw an 11 percent jump.

The report had made forecasts, though they may be subject to change due to recent economic and political factors. The report noted that global MBA hiring was probably up 6 percent last year and will rise 4 percent this year. The U.S. and Canada probably posted a 7 percent increase for 2018 and will post a 2 percent rise this year. Hiring was likely to be up 7 percent in Western Europe in 2018 and should rise by 5 percent in 2019. The Asia-Pacific region may have seen a 7 percent jump for last year and will possibly post a modest growth of 2 percent this year. The report for Latin America indicated a possible 9 percent increase for 2018 and may extend the gains to 10 percent this year. Eastern Europe probably posted a 3 percent increase for 2018, but may see a 3 percent drop this year. Africa and the Middle East, on the other hand, probably posted a 2 percent decrease last year and will have 10 percent rebound this year.

Salaries for MBA holders rose in 2017, according to QS, which has not yet posted data for 2018.

2017 marked a return to near the six-figure mark for basic MBA salaries in the U.S. and Canada, after the previous year's slight dip. The annual salary of MBA holders was \$98,900 in the U.S. and Canada in 2017, up from \$91,500 in 2016.

MBA salary levels did not increase by the same amount in Western Europe, nor did it quite recover to the level seen in 2015 or the two preceding years (in 2013, reported levels were very close to the U.S. and Canada), according to the report. The trend was positive, however, with a healthy figure of around \$85,500 in 2017, up from \$81,100 in 2016, pulled over the six-figure mark when bonus figures were taken into consideration.

In the Asia-Pacific region, MBA salary levels continued on a steady upward trend (though not in excess of the anomalously high figure reported in 2014), reflecting the region's long-term ongoing strengthening, the report said. The salary was \$71,500 in 2017, up from \$69,500 a year earlier.

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, there



MBAs could help people climb the career ladder. GETTY IMAGES

were improved MBA salary offers tempered by stable compensation levels — a shift from performance-related bonuses to basic salary could be taken as a sign of increased confidence from employers, the report said. The salary in the region rose from \$47,500 in 2016 to \$57,000 in 2017.

In the Middle East and Africa, salaries averaged \$78,200 in 2017 from \$67,500 a year earlier, according to the report. In Latin America, it soared to \$62,500 in 2017 from \$58,800 in 2016.

By country, Japan ranked ninth in terms of MBA salaries in 2017, at \$80,000, according to the report. The top eight were Switzerland (\$123,500), the U.S. (\$102,100), Canada (\$99,800), France (\$98,500), Australia (\$98,400), Britain (\$92,400), Italy (\$86,400) and Singapore (\$82,700). Germany rounded out the top 10 at \$77,200.

While Japan, the world's third-largest economy, may have endured some tough years, MBA employers in this established market are still able to offer appealing compensation packages.

Accredited programs ease stress of choosing a school

Choosing a school to get a Master of Business Administration qualification can be a difficult process, given that there are more than 10,000 business schools worldwide.

One way to choose the right business school is to look for accreditation from established organizations, as it is considered a seal of approval to prove the quality of the schools or courses it provides. Most of the world's leading business schools today are accredited by at least one of those reputable organizations.

Companies, especially foreign firms, often regard such accreditation highly when hiring an MBA graduate, meaning that enrolling in non-accredited schools could result in a waste of money and time, experts say.

The three most internationally recognized accreditation bodies are the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) and Association of MBAs (AMBA).

These organizations assess each school under their own rigorous quality standards based on faculty, curriculum, campus, students and internationalization, to judge whether they meet internationally agreed upon standards for business education.

The U.S.-based AACSB, for example, assesses schools based on 15 business accreditation standards such as support for students, faculty and staff, academic

and professional engagement of students and strategic management. To ensure that accredited schools maintain those standards, AACSB conducts re-evaluations every five years.

As of 2018, AACSB has accredited over 800 schools worldwide. According to the agency's website, 90 percent of the Economist's 2016 Top 100 full-time MBA programs are in business schools that have received AACSB accreditation.

EQUIS, run by Brussels-based EFMD Management Development Network, also evaluates business schools in areas such as strategy, curriculum, faculty, internationalization and corporate connections. More than 170 institutions worldwide have earned accreditation from EQUIS.

London-based AMBA has accredited over 240 institutions, by judging the schools on size of faculty, breadth and depth of curriculum and program contents among other things.

In recent years, business schools in Asia are also trying to acquire one of these accreditations, in a bid to improve school brand and to lure top-notch students from all over the world.

In Japan, there are a few business schools approved by the accreditation bodies, including AACSB-accredited Temple University, Japan Campus and Nagoya University of Commerce and Business in Aichi Prefecture, as well as the EQUIS-approved McGill University in Tokyo.

Insight from MBA graduates

Name: Eiko Takahashi
School: McGill University (MBA Japan Program)
Faculty: Desautels Faculty of Management
Master of Business Administration
Graduation year: 2017
Nationality: Japan
Company name: Reckitt Benckiser Japan Ltd.



I learned about a wide range of subjects necessary for management such as finance, marketing, technology and entrepreneurship. McGill offers a great environment for Japan's MBA students that is close to Canada's original program. Also, classmates of diverse nationalities with similar aspirations and working environments added to this invaluable experience. The program is supported by staff both in Tokyo and Canada at no inconvenience to students. Even after graduation, McGill has a strong alumni community around the world. It is a precious thing to be able to have supportive cohorts, both officially and privately.

Name: Errol Lee Jr.
School: Temple University, Japan Campus
Faculty: Fox School of Business
EMBA
Graduation year: 2018
Nationality: USA
Company name: United Airlines



The curriculum at Temple University, Japan Campus (TJU) is designed to give high-performing managers the tools to advance in their careers. Both soft and technical skills are taught to create well-rounded executives. The cohort system helps students learn from each other. One of the great benefits of TJU is the focus on global business and a network of global leaders. Executive MBA students at TJU come from several different countries, and with campuses in three other locations, a large global network has developed.

McGill University — MBA Japan Program

Global, top-ranked MBA in Tokyo

Since 1998, the Desautels Faculty of Management of McGill University has been proud to offer the top Master of Business Administration program in conveniently located Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan. The McGill MBA Japan program is a weekend MBA program taught entirely in English by professors who fly in from our home campus in Montreal.

The qualifications you receive are the same as students graduating from the home campus.

One half of McGill MBA Japan students are non-Japanese, coming from over 17 different countries. The male-to-female ratio of the students is close to 50-50, which makes us one of the most diverse programs in Japan. McGill University is also listed in the QS World University Rankings. It is an outstanding setting for the development of current and future managers.

Be part of an exceptional and diverse student body, share common perspectives and expand your horizons with one of the most international faculty bodies at one of the world's leading universities.

To find out more, attend an open house session

Open house sessions are the ideal way to find out about McGill's EQUIS-Accredited weekend MBA program in Japan.

Applications to start in April 2019 are now open. Please contact us or register for an open house event at www.mcgillmbajapan.com/open-house/.



Professor Benjamin Croitoru
Academic Director,
MBA Japan

School Data

Address
Nishishinjuku, Tokyo 163-0801

Enrollment
80

Enrollment fee
¥200,000 plus consumption tax

Tuition and fees (per academic year)
Varies each year

Contact information
Tel.: 03-6279-0412
E-mail: inquiry@mcgillmbajapan.com
URL: <http://mcgillmbajapan.com>

Other information

The McGill MBA Japan Program is a part-time weekend MBA program, taught entirely in English by professors who fly in from the Montreal campus.

The scholarship program is available for students with a strong academic background.

Executive MBA Program, Temple University, Japan Campus

The only American EMBA in Japan

Temple University, Japan Campus (TJU), one of the overseas campuses of the Philadelphia-based university, is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan. The Fox School of Business at Temple University has offered its Executive MBA (EMBA) program in Tokyo since 1996.

The globally recognized AACSB-accredited Executive MBA program at TJU is designed for experienced professionals who wish to advance their careers. The program runs on a hybrid model — face-to-face classes over two weekends, plus online classes. The small classes are perfect for facilitating lively discussions and allow professors to give each student plenty of individual attention.

Not only can students learn from professors and fellow cohort members in Tokyo, they also have the opportunity to study abroad at any of Fox's Global Executive MBA locations, including Beijing, Bogota and Philadelphia.



Two weekends per month for 18 months — that's all the time you need to earn your Executive MBA. That's because with Temple University's Fox School of Business, your leadership transformation starts on day one.

Find out what it's really like

Attend an Open Class session where you will have the opportunity to meet our professors, students, program director and staff. Open Class sessions include an Executive MBA class observation, a program overview, and a Q&A session.

School Data

Address
4-1-27 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0073

Enrollment
35

Fees
Application: ¥11,000
The estimated program cost: ¥5.25 million (including consumption tax)

Contact information
Tel.: 03-5441-9871 Fax: 03-5765-2530
E-mail: emba@tju.temple.edu
URL: www.tju.ac.jp/emba

Other information
Open classes and special lectures held monthly. Individual consultations can be arranged.



Mikiya Mori, Ed.D.
Director, Executive
MBA Program