

personal  
MBA  
Coach.

# Personal MBA Coach's Guide to School Selection & MBA Rankings

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## ABOUT PERSONAL MBA COACH

Personal MBA Coach has helped hundreds of applicants around the world get into top MBA, EMBA, part-time MBA and graduate programs including HBS, Stanford, Wharton, Chicago Booth, Kellogg, Columbia GSB, Dartmouth Tuck, MIT Sloan, London Business School, INSEAD, Yale SOM, UVA Darden, Duke Fuqua, Berkeley Haas, NYU Stern and many more with a 96% success rate. Last cycle our clients earned \$10M in total scholarships.

Personal MBA Coach was founded in 2008 by Scott Edinburgh, a former management consultant and industry strategist with an MBA from Wharton and a BS from MIT. With a boutique and personalized approach, Scott helps turn analytical, general management and client services experiences into the powerful and convincing stories that admissions committee members are looking for. Personal MBA Coach helps clients through all aspects of the application process, including application strategy, pre-application planning, GMAT/GRE/EA prep and school selection. Scott is on the Board of Directors and is a Committee Chair of AIGAC (Association of International Graduate Admissions Consultants: an organization that meets annually with admissions directors of the top 25 schools globally). Learn how Personal MBA Coach can make your dreams a reality by walking you step by step through the entire process.

## SERVICES OFFERED

- Comprehensive Packages
- GMAT/GRE/EA Tutoring
- Interview Preparation
- Waitlist Support
- Gut Check
- Early MBA Planning

## WHAT SETS PERSONAL MBA COACH APART

- Founded by Scott Edinburgh, a Wharton MBA, member of AIGAC Board of Directors and industry veteran with 17 years of admissions consulting experience
- Scott presents globally and was invited to present to admissions directors at GMAC conference
- Prior corporate experience to inform your essays and goals, including consulting, banking and strategy
- Former M7 admissions directors and M7 MBA interviewers on our team
- Flexible scheduling and fast turnaround times
- Personalized and customized GMAT/GRE/EA tutoring
- One point of contact
- Direct, honest feedback
- Internal network of former clients at all top schools

# Comprehensive Packages Overview



## 1. Application Strategy & Story Development

Personal MBA Coach consultants learn more about your background and develop a thorough application strategy for you to follow, helping fine-tune your educational goals and articulate your distinct story. This includes compiling a list of schools you want to attend. Your consultant will review your credentials and work experience to help you identify what programs make sense for you based on factors like your test score, grades, scholarship desires, ideal study location and more.



## 2. Resume Review

Structure your MBA resume using our provided templates. We will go over your education and career accomplishments to paint an accurate picture of you on paper and make sure to turn your professional resume into an MBA resume that resonates with admissions directors. Our experts will help edit your resume so that it follows the correct format and uses effective language throughout. The Personal MBA Coach team knows what top schools are looking for when admitting students into their programs, so we make sure you stand out by including only important resume details.



## 3. Essay Brainstorming and Unlimited Essay Editing

Building from your personal story, you will partner with your admissions consultant to brainstorm topics and develop award-winning essays that allow you to stand out among other applicants. We provide you with school-specific insider knowledge as to what MBA programs are looking for in MBA application essays. You can submit your admissions essay and short-answer responses to us as many times as it takes to get them right. We provide you with feedback in two days and work seven days a week. We will check that you answer questions fully and provide enough detail to impress application essay reviewers. Count on Personal MBA Coach to catch spelling and grammar mistakes before the final submission of your personal development pieces.



## 4. Video Essay Feedback

Some of the leading MBA programs in the U.S., Europe and Canada require a video essay submission. For the live videos, we will send you software that you can use to practice sample video questions on your own.

Personal MBA Coach comprehensive packages involve sharing feedback on sample recordings to improve your confidence and perfect your video delivery.



## 5. Letter of Recommendation Support

To enhance your overall application, we will guide you through the process of selecting which of your contacts is best suited to write your letters of recommendation. Our consultants will help you develop the best timing and approach for reaching out and determining how much information and guidance your contact will need to write a letter that aligns with your overall application.



## 6. Interview Preparation

Personal MBA Coach organizes mock interviews with former M7 and T10 admissions interviewers from our team. Our interviewers provide you with written feedback to help you hone your skills. You have the option to participate in group interviews as well as to grow your skills for all interview structures. For Wharton, we will conduct mock group interviews with former group interviewers.



## 7. Pre/Post Interview Essay Editing

Harvard Business School, Chicago Booth and MIT Sloan ask that some candidates selected to interview submit an additional essay or video for their MBA program applications. Our personalized MBA admissions services in our comprehensive package include editing your follow-up written or recorded pieces. We will verify that your writing and speaking tone is consistent during the application process so that everything you submit is of the highest quality.



## 8. Waitlist Strategy & Post Acceptance Support

Our relationship does not end when you hit submit. Whether you are accepted or waitlisted, we will continue our personal support. Find out how and when to reach out to get off the waitlist, receive guidance on your waitlist update and get our advice on which school best suits your goals. We will connect you with former clients at your future school and across all schools as you join the small Personal MBA Coach alumni family.





## Personal MBA Coach's 6 Tips for School Selection

Picking the right business school is a complicated and personal process and a key component of [our services](#). Below we share 6 tips to help you select business school programs.

Want more information on what sets the leading business schools apart? Check out Personal MBA Coach's [school-specific site pages](#) to get insights on how to navigate the application process and learn more about different MBA programs, campus culture, class profiles, deadlines and essay tips.

### 1) Begin with the statistics

Statistics such as average GPA, GMAT/GRE/EA, years of experience, acceptance rate and starting salary will give you some good benchmarking data and a better idea of which schools could be potential options for you. Of course, these statistics are not the only factor and the whole package matters, but these provide a strong initial guide.

### 2) Go broad

Our average candidate applies to 5 to 8 schools. Make sure that you have some "reach" schools, some "more likely" schools and some "safer" schools, especially if you want to ensure an acceptance this year.

All business schools look to fill their classes with diverse candidates, and you cannot always predict which school might need someone who fits your profile. Adding a broad range of schools helps to balance this out.

### 3) Pay attention to culture

Culture is more than a buzzword: it will be key to having a fulfilling MBA experience and developing lasting long-term relationships. Do you want a small, close-knit campus where everyone lives and studies nearby? Are learning teams important to you? Do you consider the entire city your campus? As you talk to alums and visit schools, these are just some of the many questions you should ask yourself while narrowing your list.



## Personal MBA Coach's 6 Tips for School Selection (cont.)

### 4) Look carefully at the curriculum and program offerings

Review each school's program offerings, including available courses, extracurriculars and workshops, paying attention to what makes the program unique. You also want to consider specific curriculum requirements and match these against your preferences. For example, is a flexible curriculum important to you? Do you want to be able to waive classes? Is the ability to study outside of the business school an important criteria for you? Do you thrive with more hands-on opportunities? Is the ability to study internationally important? All schools vary in the degree to which they meet these needs so do your research. Not only will this help you determine which programs will be the best fit, but this research will be critical as you target your application.

### 5) Explore areas of excellence

Similarly, explore emerging areas of research at each campus. This is particularly important if you have a specific focus. Finding a professor who is working on a project in your area of interest could be a key driver of both your experience on campus and your chances of success during the application process.

### 6) Consider location

Sure, you can live anywhere after graduation, and companies from all over the world will travel to recruit. But for obvious reasons, it is much easier to recruit at schools that are closer geographically. This does not mean you should only consider city schools. Look at which schools your target companies visit for recruitment, what local opportunities are available to candidates and which speakers come to campus.



## Evaluating Different Types of MBA Programs

Getting an MBA does not necessarily require taking two years off from work. While the traditional two-year program might be the best fit for many MBA hopefuls, there are an increasing number of alternatives you can consider based on your personal circumstances and goals.

All programs teach the same general curriculum, often by some of the same faculty. However, full-time MBA programs tend to have more students who are looking for a career change and are interested in a more intense program with a heavy networking and social component in addition to the academics. Of course, many part-time MBA graduates also go on to seek new employment and/or change industries completely. If you are indeed looking for a career change, don't miss Personal MBA Coach's [6 Tips for Career Changers](#).

Executive MBA programs tend to cater to students with more and more varied years of experience compared to the traditional 3 to 7 years for most full-time MBA programs.

Wondering if one of these nontraditional options might be right for you? Below, Personal MBA Coach shares some of the factors tipping the scale for each program.

### What Is an Executive MBA Program?

Executive MBA programs are geared to higher-level executives and members of senior management. Entrepreneurs who run their own businesses also can fit well into EMBA classes. EMBA students tend to have more leadership experience than part-time MBA students, though the required experience varies greatly by school. Personal MBA Coach sends applicants with as little as 5 to 6 years of experience to some EMBA programs, whereas others are looking for 10 to 12+ years of work experience. At [MIT Sloan](#), for example, applicants have an average of more than 17 years of experience. Successful candidates also often have international leadership expertise, though this is not required for admission.

EMBA students are generally not looking to change roles immediately, although recruiting is certainly possible from the program. Much of the recruiting happens through internal networking, often with fellow EMBA classmates.

If you are interested in an EMBA program, learn how Personal MBA Coach can help you achieve your goals with our [EMBA Packages](#).



## Evaluating Different Types of MBA Programs (cont.)

### What Is a Part-Time MBA Program?

[Part-time MBA programs](#) are geared to professionals in the early or middle part of their careers who want the experience of an MBA without taking time off work. Students usually fall below 37 years old and are trending younger, with the majority falling between 27 and 32.

By enrolling in a part-time program, students are able to reduce the overall cost of an MBA because, in most cases, they do not have to forego two years of salary to earn the degree.

Part-time MBA classes are held at night, over the weekend, or both, and they can be completed in different amounts of time depending on the school, the schedule the student wants to have, and how many courses a student decides to enroll in each year. Furthermore, schools such as Michigan Ross offer fully online part-time MBA programs.

This type of program can take longer and may offer fewer recruiting opportunities, but recruiting still happens both on campus and through individual networks. One of Personal MBA Coach's first part-time clients went to [NYU Stern](#) many years ago and has a leading job at Google today!

A part-time MBA can be financially and logistically attractive, especially if a short-term career switch is not your key motivator for pursuing an MBA.

### What Is a One-Year MBA Program?

For those who want to dedicate themselves full time to their studies but do not need an internship, a one-year MBA may be an attractive option. If you are not switching industries or roles, the standard recruiting process may not be necessary.

One-year MBA programs provide fewer networking, recruiting and community-building opportunities. However, for those candidates who can't afford to take two full years out of the workforce, they can be a good choice.

### What Is a Deferred MBA Program?

A growing number of top business schools offer [deferred MBA programs](#) in which current undergraduate students can apply during their senior year, with the intention to work after graduation for a couple of years before enrolling in an MBA program. This gives students the chance to lock in a top MBA program before entering the workforce.





## Evaluating Different Types of MBA Programs (cont.)

Harvard Business School's 2+2 and Stanford's Deferred Enrollment Program are some of the best-known deferred MBA programs; students accepted into these programs work for two years before starting on campus. Taking a slightly different approach, Yale SOM's Silver Scholars Program allows students to study in an MBA program immediately upon finishing their undergraduate program. After one year of MBA studies, students join the workforce for a year before returning to Yale SOM for the third year to finish their MBA.

Kellogg, Berkeley Haas, Wharton, Columbia Business School, Chicago Booth, UVA Darden, and MIT Sloan are other top business schools that offer deferred MBA programs. Download our Deferred MBA eBook to learn more about these programs. With later spring deadlines, candidates finish the undergraduate recruiting process and secure full-time job placement (hopefully) before applying. Successful applicants have already demonstrated considerable leadership through internships and extracurricular activities, either on- or off-campus. They also have a strong sense of their career goals, though this often becomes clear only after working with a consultant on the applications. While these programs are competitive, they are a good option for high achievers looking to get a jump on the MBA application process.

**Unsure which is right for you?** Personal MBA Coach advises candidates through all types of business school applications and can guide you on which is the best fit for your unique situation. Sometimes, candidates will apply to more than one program type and select the one with the most attractive package. We can talk through whether this is an ideal strategy for you.

If applying to business school is still in your far future, consider our [Early Planning services](#) to find out how you can best position yourself for future MBA application success.



## A Guide to MBA Rankings

As you develop your school list, you might be wondering how much emphasis you should place on business school rankings. These rankings are often a subject of much debate, especially since there are many and they differ widely. US News and World Reports, Financial Times and the Bloomberg Businessweek are just three available. Rankings drive a lot of revenue for publishers because they are such an important tool for business school applicants.

However, please keep in mind they are just one of many tools and not the be all end all! Below is Personal MBA Coach's view on these MBA rankings: why they matter, how to use them and some important things to keep in mind!

### Why MBA Rankings Matter:

By applying to business school, you are making a large investment in your future, with the hopes of improving your job prospects post-MBA. Naturally, many prospective employers and investors will look closely at where you went to school to evaluate your skills and potential. Right or wrong, these rankings can influence a school's perceived education quality.

### How to Use MBA Rankings:

**Get the lay of the land:** MBA rankings provide a great overview of the business school landscape: what schools exist, where they are located and how they generally stack up against each other.

**Gather statistics:** Statistics such as average GPA, GMAT, GRE, years of experience, acceptance rate and starting salary provide good benchmarking data. Use the rankings to get a high-level idea of which schools could be potential options for you. However, keep in mind these statistics are averages across all students. Schools will evaluate your entire profile when deciding whether to accept you.

**Find out unique areas of expertise:** There is more than one "top" school. While you will get a strong general business education from many programs, schools have specific areas of strength. Rankings, particularly specialty rankings, can show you which schools send more students to investment banking or produce successful entrepreneurs, for example.



## A Guide to MBA Rankings (cont.)

### Keep In Mind:

Average ranking over time is much more important than year to year fluctuation. When you are courting that investor 10 years from now, she will not know what your school was ranked when you applied; pay closer attention to general trends.

While there are some schools that will be at the top of nearly all rankings, every ranking scale will give different results. As with historical data, the general trend is most important.

Rankings are not the only way you should evaluate a school. There are many other factors to consider when selecting your ideal schools including location and which companies recruit on campus. Attending a school near your target firms or one where your dream company recruits on campus could be more important to your career success than the school's ranking.





## Personal MBA Coach's Take on the *US News* Best Business Schools 2024-2025

The *US News* Top Business Schools report for 2024-2025 has been released, with some interesting changes in this year's rankings.

School	2024-2025 rank	2023-2024 rank	2022-2023 rank
Wharton	#1 (tie)	#3	#1 (tie)
Stanford GSB	#1 (tie)	#6 (tie)	#3 (tie)
Kellogg	#3 (tie)	#2	#3 (tie)
Chicago Booth	#3 (tie)	#1	#1 (tie)
MIT Sloan	#5	#4	#5 (tie)
Harvard Business School	#6	#5	#5 (tie)
Berkeley Haas	#7 (tie)	#11 (tie)	#8 (tie)
Yale SOM	#7 (tie)	#7 (tie)	#7
NYU Stern	#7 (tie)	#10	#12 (tie)
Dartmouth Tuck	#10 (tie)	#6 (tie)	#11
UVA Darden	#10 (tie)	#14	#14
Michigan Ross	#12 (tie)	#7 (tie)	#10
Columbia Business School	#12 (tie)	#11 (tie)	#8 (tie)
Duke Fuqua	#12 (tie)	#11 (tie)	#12 (tie)
Cornell Johnson	#15	#15 (tie)	#15

After occupying the top spot for several years, Chicago Booth was bumped down slightly to #3, replaced by Wharton and Stanford GSB, which tied for the top spot. This #1 finish is a jump for Stanford GSB, which despite remaining popular with Personal MBA Coach clients, finished #6 last year. US News is the second business school ranking to rank Wharton #1 (Personal MBA Coach's founder Scott Edinburgh's alma mater) this year. Kellogg dropped one spot, tying with Chicago Booth for third. MIT Sloan occupied the #5 place, bumping Harvard Business School to #6.

Harvard's lower ranking this year was driven by the school's employment data: Just over 70.8% of graduates were employed at graduation and 84.2% were employed after three months. By comparison, over 80% of MIT Sloan students were employed at graduation. Despite the rankings drop, HBS remain a popular choice for Personal MBA Coach clients!





## Personal MBA Coach's Take on the *US News* Best Business Schools 2024-2025 (cont.)

Next, Yale SOM ranked seventh for the third year in a row, joined by Berkeley Haas and NYU Stern. The #7 ranking represents a climb for these two schools.

Despite dropping a few spots from last year, Dartmouth Tuck once again made the top ten list, joined by UVA Darden. Michigan Ross was bumped from the top ten, tying with Columbia Business School and Duke Fuqua for the #12 spot. Cornell Johnson remained at #15 for the third year in a row, followed by CMU Tepper and Texas McCombs, which tied for the #16 spot. In another tie, USC Marshall and Emory Goizueta occupied #18. Finally, four schools tied to close out the top twenty: Indiana Kelley, UNC Kenan-Flagler, UCLA Anderson and Vanderbilt Owen.

### US News Rankings Methodology

This is the second year when US News used methodology centered on employment data (referred to as Placement Success), which makes up 50% of a school's overall score (two years ago, only 35% of the score was based on employment rate).

Quality Assessment, which includes both peer assessment score and recruiter assessment score, makes up 25% of the ranking. The remaining 25% is based on Student Selectivity, which includes both GMAT/GRE score, average GPA and acceptance rate.

Using median GMAT/GRE scores means outlier scores have less effect on rankings. This may be welcome news for unique applicants with a low test score, as the change in ranking methodology could lead admissions directors to consider applicants they might previously have excluded.

These rankings and methodology changes are not without controversy, which is why it is even more important this year to remember that rankings are NOT the be-all, end-all.

### How to Use MBA Rankings

Personal MBA Coach would like to remind you that changes over time are more significant than year-to-year and guide-to-guide fluctuations. The constant shuffling at the top demonstrates the growing competition among elite business schools.

While the M7 business schools receive a lot of attention, Personal MBA Coach urges our clients to consider a broad range of schools. Our average client applies to five to seven programs to maximize their chances of acceptance.



## Personal MBA Coach's Take on the *US News* Best Business Schools 2024-2025 (cont.)

Beyond MBA rankings, when choosing a business school you should consider factors including a school's location, culture, academic programming, areas of specialization, and job placement rate. Similarly, culture and teaching style vary across schools. To learn more, we encourage you to review Personal MBA Coach's new school guides.

Finally, available financing also should be a key consideration since you may be able to secure more funding from one school than another. Last cycle, Personal MBA Coach's clients earned \$10M in scholarships. Depending on your personal circumstances, you might be inclined to select a school with a more favorable financial package regardless of ranking. Some M7 schools are very generous with scholarships while others award them much more sparingly.





## Evaluating the 2024 *US News* Best Part-Time MBA Programs

The US News Best Part Time MBA Programs report for 2024 has just been released. Unlike the full time rankings, there was only some minor shuffling among the top 5 part time MBA programs.

Top part time MBA programs are ideal for working professionals who want the benefit of an MBA without taking off time from work. Part time MBA programs are also financially and logistically appealing, especially for those who are not looking to change careers immediately post-MBA.

School	2024-2025 rank	2023-2024 rank	2022-2023 rank
Chicago Booth	#1	#2	#1
Berkeley Haas	#2	#1	#2
Kellogg	#3	#3	#3
NYU Stern	#4	#4	#4
UCLA Anderson	#5	#5	#5
Michigan Ross	#6	#7	#7
Texas McCombs	#7	#6	#8
USC Marshall	#8	#8	#9
Georgetown McDonough	#9	#9 (tie)	#17
Ohio Fisher	#10 (tie)	#15 (tie)	#11 (tie)
Washington Foster	#10 (tie)	#11 (tie)	#10
Maryland Smith	#10 (tie)		
UT Dallas Jindal	#13 (tie)	#11 (tie)	#19 (tie)
Indiana Kelley	#13 (tie)	#15 (tie)	#11 (tie)
Rice Jones	#15 (tie)	#15 (tie)	#11 (tie)
Minnesota Carlson	#15 (tie)	#14	#11 (tie)

Ironically, this year, the top-five distribution looks exactly as it did in 2021 and 2022. Chicago Booth returned to the top spot, bumping Berkeley Haas to the #2 position. For the fourth year in a row, Kellogg, NYU Stern and UCLA Anderson rank third, fourth and fifth respectively.



## Evaluating the 2024 *US News* Best Part-Time MBA Programs (cont.)

Following them, Indiana Kelley and UT Dallas tied for 13th place. Rice Jones stayed at #15, joined by Minnesota Carlson. Georgia Tech dropped significantly from #11, tying with Utah Eccles for #17. University of South Carolina Moore dropped to 19th place, and Emory Goizueta closed out the top 20 list.

### US News Rankings Methodology

The changes in this year's rankings are largely due to changes in the methodology used by US News. Most notably, in-person and hybrid learning programs were ranked separately from online only part-time MBA programs, which now have their own ranking.

As you review these new part time MBA rankings, remember that changes over time are more noteworthy than the year-to-year and guide-to-guide fluctuations. Although the top 5 part-time MBA programs have shown little fluctuation over recent years, this shuffling within the top 10 and farther down the list indicates the increasing competition among leading part time MBA programs.

Ready to take the plunge with your part-time business school applications? Personal MBA Coach's Comprehensive Packages offer holistic support for part time MBA candidates, guiding you step by step on how to maximize your chances of success!





## Personal MBA Coach's Take on the 2024 *Financial Times* MBA Rankings

The Financial Times recently released its 2024 MBA Rankings.

For the second year in a row, U.S. schools dominate the top of the list. However, three international MBA programs cracked the top 10 this year, after the Financial Times added SDA Bocconi School of Management to its MBA Rankings list. While the Financial Times more frequently recognizes international MBA programs than competitors such as US News & World Report, this change confirms the increased demand for often lower-cost and shorter international programs.

This year, Wharton took the top position, followed by INSEAD, which remained in second place. Columbia Business School and SDA Bocconi School of Management tied for #3, followed by IESE, which dropped two positions from last year to #5. MIT Sloan jumped 5 positions, tying with Kellogg for #6. London Business School ranked much higher this year as well, making it to top ten at #8 (up from #16 last year). Cornell Johnson moved down from #8 to #9 this year, while Chicago Booth jumped up one place to #10.

Looking a bit farther down the Financial Times list of top MBA programs, Harvard Business School ranked #11. HEC Paris and Dartmouth Tuck tied for #12. Duke Fuqua moved down two positions to #14, followed by Yale SOM, which was ranked #15. UVA Darden moved up slightly from #17 in 2023 to #16 this year, followed by Esade Business School. UCLA Anderson, Berkeley Haas and IE Business School rounded out the top 20.

### What Drove The Change In MBA Rankings This Year?

It is important to note that the Financial Times updated its ranking methodology this year. These rankings now include alumni evaluation of their school's environmental, social and governance (ESG) teaching to the ESG rank. The school's carbon footprint is also taken into account this year. Find out more about the Financial Times criteria [here](#).

While these rankings provide beneficial information to MBA hopefuls, they should be taken with a grain of salt. Harvard Business School's drop to #11, for example, is not likely to change HBS's desirability. However, seeing a broader list of schools move in and out of the top 20, reconfirms that many MBA candidates can be served by looking outside of the traditional M7 as they develop their school lists.

See below for more tips from Personal MBA Coach on how to use MBA rankings.



## Personal MBA Coach's Take on the 2024 *Financial Times* MBA Rankings (cont.)

### 1) Look at MBA rankings to get an overview of the business school landscape.

If you are in the early stages of your MBA application journey, rankings can be useful to get a general lay of the land. Use these rankings to see what schools are out there, where they are located, and how they compare to one another.

### 2) Review statistics as an initial guide.

Statistics including acceptance rate, average undergraduate GPA, and average test scores of enrolled students will give you some strong benchmarking information. That said, these numbers should be used as only an initial guide since the whole applicant package is far more important.

Plenty of applicants with GPAs or GMAT/GRE/EA scores below average are accepted every year while others with higher statistics are not. This disparity is why we encourage candidates to apply to a range of programs (ideally 5 to 8 schools).

### 3) Consider average ranking over the years.

A school's average ranking over time is important to consider when looking at MBA rankings. When you are applying to jobs down the road, recruiters likely will not know your school's ranking when you applied, but they may look at its current standing.

Therefore, it is worth evaluating how the schools you are interested in have placed over time. Have they consistently stayed in the top tiers or has their placement fluctuated greatly?

### 4) Analyze general trends..

While the latest Financial Times MBA rankings show Columbia in the top spot this year, other rankings scales are likely to show different results (see the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings and Bloomberg Businessweek rankings for reference).

Of course, certain schools will consistently place in the top ten, but the general list will vary from source to source. As mentioned with ranking over time, the general trend across different ranking sources is the most significant.



## Personal MBA Coach's Take on the 2024 *Financial Times* MBA Rankings (cont.)

5) Notice how rankings vary from one industry to the next.

While all MBA programs highlight strong general management education, each school has different areas of expertise. Thus it will be helpful to consider how schools perform in industry-specific rankings as well. Think about your MBA goals and check out rankings that pertain to these goals.





## Personal MBA Coach's Take On The Bloomberg Businessweek MBA Rankings

Bloomberg Businessweek recently released its list of the [2023-2024 best business schools](#), ranking 119 business schools in the United States, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Canada. This year, rankings were based on surveys from students, alumni, and recruiters, as well as compensation and employment information. US business schools also provided diversity statistics on race, ethnicity, and gender.

Personal MBA Coach would like to share our thoughts on the latest Bloomberg Businessweek MBA rankings and business school rankings in general.

### Bloomberg MBA Rankings In The United States

Yet again, Stanford GSB topped the US rankings. Among other things, the school was praised for the recent launch of an “ecopreneurship” program, “a joint effort between the B-school and the university’s Doerr School of Sustainability.” Chicago Booth remained second, followed by Dartmouth Tuck and Virginia Darden, which tied for the #3 position.

This year, Columbia jumped one position up to #5, moving Kellogg down to #7. Harvard took the 6th position this year, and Wharton placed 8th. Michigan Ross moved up from #13 to #9, and MIT Sloan tied with UC Berkeley for 10th.

### The European Bloomberg MBA Rankings

In a change compared to previous years, SDA Bocconi jumped to the top position, moving IMD to #3. IESE became #2. After ranking second last year, INSEAD took 4th place in the 2023-2024 ranking, and London Business School moved down one position to 5th place. IE occupied the #6 place, and Mannheim remained #7, followed by St. Gallen at #8. Cambridge dropped one position, becoming 9, followed by Oxford Said finishing up th top 10.

### Asia-Pacific MBA Rankings

Compared to the 2022-2023 rankings, HKUST swapped places with Shanghai University of Finance and Economics this year for the top spot. CEIBS remained 3rd. Indian Institute of Management Bangalore became #4, while Indian School of Business jumped to #5. Shanghai University MBA Centre came in 6th, followed by SP Jain, which concluded the Asia-Pacific schools in 7th place. This year, National University of Singapore was omitted from the Asia-Pacific Bloomberg MBA rankings.





## Personal MBA Coach's Take On The Bloomberg Businessweek MBA Rankings (cont.)

### The Canadian Bloomberg MBA Ranking

The Bloomberg Businessweek MBA rankings include five Canadian MBA programs this year. Western Ivey again ranked 1st, followed by McGill at #2. HEC Montreal moved to #3 (from #2 last year), followed by Concordia and Alberta at #4 and #5, respectively. It comes as something of a surprise that Rotman, Smith, and Rogers are not on the current list.



I had a great experience working with Scott and the Personal MBA Coach Team! Scott was incredibly thorough in helping me with every aspect of the MBA application process. I came to him a little bit later and was still struggling with the standardized test part of my application. He found me a new tutor and within about 5 weeks, my GMAT score had jumped 100 points and we finished my top two applications in time for round one. Scott was professional and realistic in helping me curate a list of schools. The application process working with him is incredibly structured and seamless. He also made himself readily available to answer any question that I had. I would highly recommend working with him and his team!

— COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL

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Scott and the rest of the team are fantastic. I felt thoroughly supported throughout the whole process and he always made sure to guide me (without ever generating material on my behalf or in any way distorting the application material I was writing). I couldn't be happier that now, this fall, I'll be headed to Stanford GSB (a school I never would have dreamed of going to).

— STANFORD GSB

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Scott was instrumental in my admittance into multiple T7 programs and scholarship awards. When faced with particularly demanding professional and personal demands leading up to round 1 applications, The Personal MBA Coach team was extremely flexible and generous with their time, working tirelessly with me to meet tight deadlines. From application/essay support to interview prep and scholarship negotiating strategy, Scott and his team were with me every step of the way. I owe much of my success to the thoughtful and tailored feedback that The Personal MBA Coach provided throughout the process and I would highly recommend Scott to aspiring students at all stages of their MBA journey.

— WHARTON

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