

MBA exchange program fact sheet

Academic Year
2024-2025



Calendar highlights at a glance

FALL TERM: September 2nd to December 20th 2024

WINTER TERM: January 13th to May 2nd 2025

Deadlines for Receipt of Exchange Nominations

For Fall Term 2024: Monday, April 22nd 2024

For Winter Term 2025: Monday, August 26th 2024

Campus facilities

IESE Business School offers a diverse selection of postgraduate programs on its North and South campuses in Barcelona, which are located in a pleasant residential neighbourhood that is well connected to the city centre by public transport. The facilities include PC labs, auditoriums, modern classrooms and workrooms, an MBA Hub, Wi-Fi, library, bookstore, cafeterias, dining room, student lounge, gardens, etc. There are many professional clubs. Social and sporting events are organized on and off campus throughout the term.

Study program

Full-Time MBA Program (second academic year).

Courses

More than 40 electives are on offer each term, including intensive electives which take place during the first two weeks of the term.

Due to scheduling constraints, course lists are confirmed quite late in the process (June for the Fall term and November for the Winter/Spring term), but nominated Exchange students are kept fully informed via email. All second-year courses are open to exchange students*, however, the availability of some electives will depend on the demand from the IESE students. The information on the number of seats available for each course will be visible on the Bidding Platform. For a general overview of typical second-year courses, please check the IESE website.

<https://www.iese.edu/mba/program/>

The course load might also include the possibility of joining our International Modules. During the second year, students can choose to take one week elective courses at diverse locations around the world. However, the availability of these Modules for Exchange students depends on demand from the IESE students.

International Modules are worth one IESE credit. The modules often include company visits and networking events that give a direct insight into business practices in each of these important locations.

Scheduled International Modules for the 2024-2025 Academic Year:

- **Fall Term:** Sao Paulo, New York, China and Mexico (tbc).
- **Winter Term:** Nairobi (tbc).

** except for courses taught in Spanish if the student does not have the minimum required Spanish level, Executive Simulation, Independent Study Project and Landing in your family business.*

Required course load

The course load taken by second-year IESE students is a minimum of 5, maximum 6 credits per term (composed of any mix of half and one credit courses).

Incoming exchange students can take a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 IESE credits per full term. In the Winter, those students who must return to their home school by mid-March might be allowed to complete between 3 and 3.5 credits (only in the case of an existing previous written agreement with their school).

In terms of in-class contact hours, the general equivalence is for 1 IESE credit to amount to 25 contact hours. However, there may be slight variations in some courses. Students will be fully informed prior to their bidding.

Learning expectations

The MBA is a rigorous full-time program with a general management perspective and emphasis on entrepreneurship and human and ethical values. The student body is international (the MBA 2025 class is 86% international with 49 countries represented). Average age on entry: 30 years. Average previous work experience: 6 years.

Teaching methodology

For the most part, the case method, which makes class attendance obligatory. It is not feasible for students to take on part-time work or extra projects during the term.

Languages of instruction

English and Spanish

Fluent English is required. Non-native English speakers must have a minimum TOEFL score of 250 on the CBT scale/100 points on the IBT scale. Knowledge of Spanish is an asset, but not a prerequisite. Visiting exchange students can compose a full course load from the electives taught in English. There is a special Business Spanish language course for exchange visitors (taught in groups with various levels of fluency, including beginners).

Business Spanish Course*

The main objective of this optional course is to give participants some linguistic tools, strategies and skills which will enable them to improve both their communicative performance and knowledge of Business Spanish.

Just before beginning the course, the students' previous knowledge is tested in order to determine their levels, to assign them to the appropriate groups and to establish the content and specific objectives for each.

All exchange students will be contacted once they arrive at IESE, in order to sign up for the course**.

** please note that these classes are not an elective course and therefore have no credit assigned to it.*

*** in Spring Term, the availability of the beginner level will depend on the full time students' demand.*

Grading system

Students in the top 15% of the class are awarded an "A", those in the bottom 10% receive a "C" and the rest are given a "B," which may be qualified as a B+ or B- at the professor's discretion. There is also an Incomplete grade.

A high percentage of the final grade is normally based on class participation. In some courses, the remaining percentage depends on final exams, while in others, the student's overall course work and hand-in reports are evaluated.

Class Attendance

IESE's academic methodology is grounded on student participation and peer learning, for which class attendance is mandatory and recorded daily.

An Incomplete is assigned if a student misses 20% or more of class sessions per course regardless of the academic grade awarded by the course professor.

Moreover, students must not miss more than 15% of classes in a given term.

Documentation

Before arrival, nominated students will be asked to email their personal details, current resume, and an official photograph.



Visa requirements

To enter Spain, all students must have a current passport. We understand that some nationalities must also have a student or tourist visa stamp on their passport. IESE Business School does not get directly involved in immigration issues, however, some assistance can be provided. Visiting students must comply with Spanish immigration regulations, which vary according to nationality and total length of stay. Students are therefore advised to check on their specific case at the nearest Spanish Consulate **as soon as possible** after nomination. Admission certificates (required for visa applications) are routinely provided to all nominated students.

Housing

There is no on-campus housing, so IESE students mostly share rented apartments, as do exchange students. General advice and links to the IESE student network for apartment-share options can be found in the Facebook group page of the MBA class of 2025: <https://facebook.com/groups/148129064462121/>

Cost of living expenses

The cost of living in Barcelona is comparable to that of any major European city. Estimated expenses per month for a single student sharing housing: €1,900. Visiting exchange students are not charged for their case materials and the estimated cost of recommended books is approximately €200 per term. Students planning to travel during the term should increase their budget accordingly.

Health insurance

Exchange students **must come with their own health and travel insurance** to cover the entire period of their visit to Spain. IESE is not responsible for providing Exchange students with health insurance while they are students at IESE.

Career services

IESE's MBA Career Services Department is open to all exchange visitors from partner schools that have reciprocity agreements with IESE.

Information prior to arrival

After nomination, students are emailed a preliminary Overview. Several weeks before arrival, they are sent a full Information Package that includes course bidding instructions. On their first week at IESE, they receive a Welcome Package. IESE has a student "buddy" system and the MBA Program Team provides full support before and during the exchange term.

Arrival date

Students are advised to arrive at least one week before the term starts so they can settle in. They should preferably come earlier if they have not yet secured housing.

An official **Mandatory Orientation Day** will be announced a couple of weeks before the course begins. Students must be on campus by that day at the very latest.

How to get to the campus

IESE Campus is connected to the city center by bus, train (Ferrocarri) and metro. The closest stops are:

- Av. d'Esplugues (bus lines nº 63,78,H4,68,75) – 8' walk – Av. Pearson (bus lines nº V5) – 4' walk
- Reina Elisenda (train line nº L12) – 15' walk
- Maria Cristina (metro line L3) – 20' walk

There is a parking available in North Campus for students moving around by car or motorbike.

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