

BUSINESS  
GRADUATES  
ASSOCIATION

LEADERS NEVER STOP LEARNING

# BGA ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW



## ABOUT BUSINESS GRADUATES ASSOCIATION

In January 2019, we launched the Business Graduates Association (BGA) with the vision of becoming the leading global movement for responsible management, positive impact and lifelong learning.

Since launch, BGA has grown, a network of more than 250 business schools who have demonstrated a passion for practical, entrepreneurial business education and evidenced their commitment to social responsibility and sustainability across their programmes and modules.

Throughout my time as Chairman of UN PRME, it was clear that business education required a shift toward a new philosophy of thought. One that highlighted the importance of responsible and sustainable business activity. [BGA's Charter](#) and quality assurance processes embody these key concepts that are central to the BGA brand.

We are delighted that since launch, BGA has received such a positive market response, clearly demonstrating an appetite for responsible management, positive impact and lifelong learning concepts. We look forward to welcoming you to the BGA family, and working together to make a real difference worldwide to the education of our current and future business leaders.



Andrew Main Wilson  
**CEO of AMBA & BGA**  
**Former Chairman of the United Nations PRME**

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

In a world where the only constant is change, business schools have the responsibility of ensuring their programmes meet the current and future needs of stakeholders and the wider business environment by adequately preparing graduates with an adaptive, entrepreneurial and sustainable mind-set.

Schools also need to focus on the personal growth of their students, including the cultivation of social skills, ethical behaviours, self-confidence and humility, all of which form the foundation of socially conscious and responsible leaders. It is equally as important that employers trust that business schools are teaching students to be critically minded and equipped with the right skill sets to tackle market challenges.

Business school accreditations comprise criteria and processes that act as feedback loops, designed to ensure that business schools identify areas of improvement that allow them to meet and exceed the expectations of their stakeholders.

BGA accreditation is international in scope, and involves a rigorous and consultative process, devised to develop and improve the quality of business programmes and lifelong learning services.



# BGA ACCREDITATION

BGA utilises a peer-review quality assurance process that assesses the full business school or institution, examining a range of business programmes, including certificate and online courses.

The criteria are based on the three themes of positive impact, responsible management, and lifelong learning.

## POSITIVE IMPACT

BGA accreditation requires institutions to measure their impact on their stakeholders utilising BGA's Continuous Impact Model (CIM). The CIM is designed to offer business schools the ability to pinpoint areas of improvement and measure their change in impact over time, through the modification of inputs.



## RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT

At the heart of BGA accreditation are the concepts of responsible management and sustainability. To achieve accreditation, business schools must evidence their commitment to the United Nations 17 Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) through teaching and implementation. Schools are expected to integrate the development of soft skills including ethics and transparency.



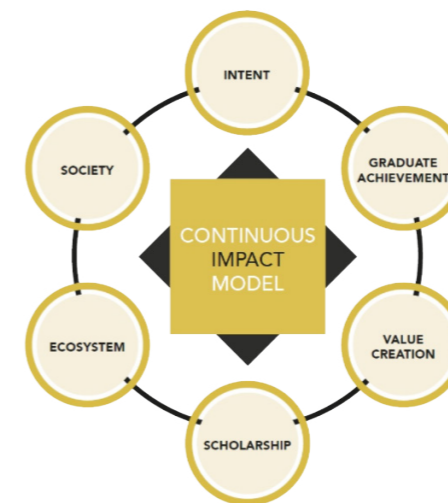
## LIFELONG LEARNING

BGA encourages business schools to take a forward-looking approach to education as re-skilling is becoming ever more important by offering opportunities for people of all ages to learn and stay relevant in the workforce.



# THE BGA ADVANTAGE

A common complaint of accreditation processes is that they discourage innovation through the use of prescriptive criteria that doesn't garner positive outcomes for all stakeholders, but a few. BGA believes that successful attainment of accreditation should reflect a business schools' ability to meet its key strategic objectives and overall mission, while operating sustainably and maintaining a positive impact on all stakeholders. This encourages business schools to specialise and experiment with numerous forms of programmes and courses, while using **BGA's criteria** and **CIM** to measure the success of their implementations.



BGA also believes that accreditation should be consultative in nature, whereby business schools receive practical guidance and feedback on their programme and curriculum design. Throughout the accreditation journey, business schools can expect mentors and assessors to provide consultation on programme design, career and alumni services, eLearning, faculty training, sustainability integration, and much more.

Upon successful attainment of accreditation, business schools receive an impact report that highlights the areas of positive impact it is exerting on stakeholders. Unlike other accreditations, where the reason for achieving accreditation is not always clear, BGA's impact report offers clear insight into the reasons why a business school achieved accreditation. The impact report is an excellent tool for marketing purposes, highlighting the strengths of its business programmes and support services.

## FACULTY OF ASSESSORS

BGA's Faculty of Assessors is comprised of more than 110 current and former deans and directors from a range of top-tier international business schools who serve as assessors on peer review teams.

Peer review teams play a central part in the accreditation process, where three members from BGA's Faculty of Assessors conduct the accreditation of the business school through a site visit. The visit consists of an assessment of the school's processes, facilities, and programmes, and includes interviews with faculty, students, and employers. The visit is also where business schools receive a thorough overview of recommendations for programme and school enhancement. Members of the Faculty of Assessors also provide mentorship services to the benefit of the business school's development.

BGA assessors are paid for their work, which is included in the cost of accreditation, meaning the incentive to provide business schools with applicable advice and guidance is high. Assessors also play a valuable role in forming connections to business schools across the international BGA network and beyond.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Interested business schools may view the BGA accreditation criteria online at:

[www.amba-bga.com/bga/accreditation/criteria](http://www.amba-bga.com/bga/accreditation/criteria)

In order to apply, business schools will need to demonstrate:

- **The business school must be a BGA member**
- **The business school must have been in continuous operation for at least five years**
- **The business school must possess degree-awarding powers**
- **The business school must have graduated at least three student cohorts from one of its programmes**
- **The business school must have audited financial statements showcasing financial sustainability**

### HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in becoming a BGA accredited business school, please contact the accreditation team at:

[bga-accreditation@amba-bga.com](mailto:bga-accreditation@amba-bga.com)

### START YOUR ACCREDITATION JOURNEY TODAY





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