



# **AMBA & BGA** JOINT ACCREDITATION



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## ABOUT AMBA & BGA

The Association of MBAs and Business Graduates Association (AMBA & BGA) is a London-based international membership and quality assurance body for world-leading and high-potential business schools, amassing more than 50 years of experience since its founding in 1967.

AMBA is the leading impartial authority on MBA education, specifically offering MBA portfolio accreditation for leading business schools, while BGA is a whole-school membership and accreditation body, which stresses the importance of positive impact and responsible management practices while supporting innovation and differentiation.

Today, the AMBA & BGA network comprises more than 460 international business schools, collectively.

# ABOUT **JOINT ACCREDITATION**

Institutions in possession of AMBA accreditation can apply for AMBA & BGA joint accreditation. The joint process is designed for schools who already hold AMBA accreditation and are looking to add BGA to their portfolio.\*

AMBA & BGA joint accreditation emphasises the importance of an institution's overall impact and value creation for students, employers, and communities, with a focus on responsible management, while maintaining the same level of rigour found in AMBA's accreditation of post-graduate business programmes. Achievement of joint accreditation allows institutions to demonstrate the quality of their programmes, their responsible management practices, and positive impact on stakeholders across the entire school, as well as within their MBA.

Undergoing a joint accreditation means that institutions need only one visit of highly experienced assessors, and combines required documentation from the two accreditations, thus reducing the amount of administrative work and tasks.

\*In exceptional circumstances, institutions new to both AMBA & BGA can engage in an AMBA & BGA joint accreditation, provided they meet all the eligibility criteria. For further information see p.6 of the AMBA Accreditation Criteria document: <https://www.amba-bga.com/amba/business-schools/accreditation> and p.5 of the BGA Accreditation Criteria document: <https://www.amba-bga.com/bga/accreditation/apply>

# WHY CONSIDER AMBA & BGA JOINT ACCREDITATION?

Joint accreditation allows the school to utilise an accreditation system that it is familiar with and translate it to the entire school's activities, while providing unique insights into its overall impact and responsible management initiatives. Schools also submit an additional sample programme outside the MBA for further analysis which will provide specific ideas and recommendations for development and continuous improvement. This is all undertaken in a streamlined manner that greatly reduces the impact on the school's resources – both in terms of time and cost.

Schools who undergo AMBA & BGA joint accreditation can expect the following:

- **Feedback** on how the business school can **improve its value proposition**
- **Suggestions on improvement** against responsible management practices
- **An analysis of an additional flagship programme** (undergraduate or postgraduate) offered by the school, offering suggestions on alignment with **best practice and internationalisation standards**
- **Accreditation that covers the full business school**, which is marketed and promoted by AMBA & BGA's various thought leadership channels
- **Free access** to the BGA student and graduate membership and career services for all students and graduates\* of the business school
- **Streamlined documentation and reporting**, resulting in less workload for two accreditations
- A **50% fee reduction** for BGA accreditation

\*To learn more about BGA student and graduate membership services, please visit:  
<https://www.amba-bga.com/bga/student-graduate-membership>

# THE DETAILS

## Criteria

Business schools must meet the AMBA eligibility standards as well as the AMBA & BGA accreditation criteria to succeed in the process. The links to the separate criteria can be found below:

<https://www.amba-bga.com/bga/accreditation/apply>

<https://www.amba-bga.com/amba/business-schools/accreditation>

Note that as part of the AMBA accreditation criteria, the business school must ensure that it meets the following:

- Have graduated MBA students for a minimum of three years from one of its programmes
- Have a faculty where 50% possess a doctoral qualification
- Admitted students have a minimum of three years relevant postgraduate work experience
- Maintain a learning group size of at least 20 students
- Have at least 500 contact hours between the learning group and the faculty, with the total learning hours expected to be 1,800 hours

## Process and Documentation

The AMBA & BGA joint accreditation process is nearly identical to the AMBA re-accreditation process, with some additions for the BGA side. Prior to initiating joint accreditation, it is recommended that the school discusses the process with their respective AMBA & BGA accreditation

director. It is generally recommended that the school has at least six months to prepare for both the AMBA and BGA documents prior to their assessment visit.

To initiate joint accreditation, the school will have to submit the following documents:

- A letter of intent, signed by the dean of the school
- Signed cost of assessment, stating the school understands the associated fees

These can be submitted to [amba-accreditation@amba-bga.com](mailto:amba-accreditation@amba-bga.com) or to one of the AMBA & BGA accreditation directors.

If you'd like to request the letter of intent and joint cost of assessment document, please contact the accreditation team at: [amba-accreditation@amba-bga.com](mailto:amba-accreditation@amba-bga.com).

Once reviewed by the accreditation team, the school's assigned AMBA & BGA accreditation director will inform the school that they are eligible and may proceed with the joint accreditation.

The joint accreditation team will require the following documents to be completed prior to their assessment visit:

- AMBA Self-Audit Report
- AMBA Self-Assessment Form on the MBA
- BGA Self-Assessment Form on the second sample programme (to be chosen by BGA)
- BGA Impact and Responsible Management Exercise

### About the BGA Impact and Responsible Management Exercise

This exercise borrows elements from the BGA Continuous Impact Model to help business schools identify and measure their areas of impact on stakeholders. The exercise asks schools to develop a number of key metrics that relate to their strategic objectives as well as to responsible management principles. Schools will be asked to articulate their policies with regards to their own positive impact on society, responsible management and ethical activity, with a means by which this is demonstrated through their activities and programmes. Though not required, schools may wish to read the BGA's Continuous Impact Model guidelines for ideas on defining and creating their impact metrics\*.

Unlike a regular AMBA assessment visit which lasts one and a half days, the joint assessment is typically two full days in length, with the added half day focused on the school's second sample programme, impact metrics, and responsible management principles.

As with the stand-alone AMBA accreditation, at the end of the two-day visit the school will receive a verbal verdict on its accreditation recommendation. If positive, the school can expect to receive the official AMBA & BGA joint accreditation report with comprehensive analysis containing commendations, recommendations and conclusions. The school will also receive two physical certificates, one for AMBA and one for BGA.

### Fees

The AMBA & BGA joint accreditation fee is £23,500 GBP, which consists of:

- £16,000 for the AMBA assessment
- £7,500 for the BGA assessment

The joint accreditation fee does not include travel and accommodation expenses related to the final assessment visit.

\*To review the Continuous Impact Model, please visit: <https://www.amba-bga.com/bga/accreditation/continuousimpactmodel>



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