



ASSOCIATION OF MBAS



BUSINESS GRADUATES ASSOCIATION



AMBA & BGA ACCREDITATION CONFERENCE

LISBON, PORTUGAL
19-20 OCTOBER 2026



AMBA & BGA GLOBAL CONFERENCE

16-19 MAY 2027 | PARIS, FRANCE

Join business school leaders from across the world in Paris for the AMBA & BGA Global Deans and Directors Conference 2027. Marking 60 years of AMBA and BGA, the conference offers an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of management education while addressing the trends and challenges shaping its future.

Across four days, deans, directors and senior leaders will share insight, exchange ideas and explore the issues influencing business schools worldwide, from technological change and shifting learner expectations to leadership, institutional resilience and global collaboration.

Alongside a thought-provoking programme, curated networking and cultural experiences will create space for valuable conversations and lasting international connections.

Take advantage of the early bird rate and secure your place at this flagship gathering of business school leaders.



HOST SCHOOL



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Olá e
bem-vindo

**ANDREW
MAIN WILSON**
CEO, AMBA & BGA

On behalf of our AMBA & BGA team I am delighted to welcome you to the beautiful city of Lisbon and the SANA Metropolitan hotel for this year's Accreditation Conference.

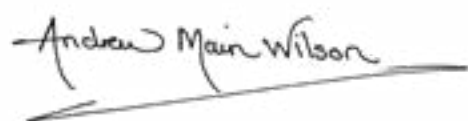
I am delighted to say that 2026 is proving to be another record year for both AMBA and BGA – the AMBA accredited schools network has grown to 305 schools, the BGA member schools network has grown to 362 and the BGA accredited schools network has grown to 94. The AMBA & BGA student and graduate membership network now has 78,000 members, all of whom enjoy free of charge membership.

The Business Graduates Association (BGA) was launched in 2019 and growth in both membership and schools achieving accreditation has sky-rocketed in less than 8 years. For our existing AMBA Schools, AMBA reaccreditation can be combined with BGA accreditation during the same visit and this is proving very popular, saving your school both time and money.

Our Accreditation Conference is designed to support both existing AMBA and BGA Schools preparing for accreditation or reaccreditation. Our conference programme includes leading edge best practice ideas and insights for you to learn from and also networking opportunities to discuss and exchange accreditation-related experiences and ideas with Executives from other quality AMBA & BGA Business Schools around the world.

I would also like to welcome and express our sincere thanks to our conference partners and sponsors, QED and Peregrine.

Thank you for taking the time to join us here in stylish Lisbon – I look forward to spending quality time with each of you during the Conference.



MONTES CLAROS RESTAURANT
ESTRADA DE MONTES CLAROS,
MONSANTO FOREST PARK, LISBON
19 OCTOBER 2026 | 18.30-22.30 (including travel time)

Following the first day of the conference we will join delegates attending the AMBA & BGA Programme Excellence Conference for dinner at the **Montes Claros Restaurant** nestled away within the beautiful Monsanto Forest Park, offering a striking contrast to the bustle of central Lisbon which is only minutes away.



NETWORKING DINNER MONTES CLAROS RESTAURANT

Following welcome drinks and an opportunity to mingle among the landscaped gardens overlooking the lake, guests will take their seats in the elegant Sala do Lago for a Portuguese-inspired dinner. The evening promises to be a perfect blend of Lisbon's rich history, beautiful natural surroundings and warm, welcoming hospitality.

Transport information

Buses will be provided to take delegates from the SANA Metropolitan Hotel to Montes Claros Restaurant. Delegates wishing to take up this option should meet in the lobby of the hotel at 18.20 to board the buses.

Return buses will leave the dinner venue from 22.00 and return guests to the SANA Metropolitan Hotel.

Please note - buses will pick up and return guests to the SANA Metropolitan Hotel only. For those staying at other hotels, please allow enough travel time to ensure that you arrive at the hotel at the specified time to board the buses.



ONLINE NETWORKING

To ensure high-quality networking and meaningful conversations between all attendees, AMBA & BGA has chosen to facilitate interactions at the conference using the **Cvent platform**.

The platform allows attendees to create and automate the scheduling of qualified face-to-face meetings, while also allowing for off-the-cuff conversations. The platform also offers attendees the option to manage their profile, event schedule and search content within the app.



- 1** Edit your profile and choose if you are visible on the attendee list
- 2** **Search content**, such as the event schedule, sessions, speaker information and details about exhibitors
- 3** **1:1 messaging** between fellow attendees for further networking
- 4** Enjoy a **single, unified event experience** across all devices, including desktops and the event app
- 5** Meetings – arrange your own **onsite meetings** and **personalise your agenda** to make the most of every minute of your entire event experience
- 6** View your **personal schedules**, with the ability to manage and modify your registration and enrol in sessions
- 7** Manage **timeslots** and **meeting areas** – Pre-schedule timeslots and meeting areas, determine who you would like to meet and let the magic happen

Please download the event app using the QR code to connect with fellow attendees and make the most of all the features available throughout the event.

For assistance, please visit the Cvent Help Desk located near the registration desk.



CONFERENCE HOST



Andrew Main Wilson
CEO
AMBA & BGA

Andrew is Chief Executive of AMBA & BGA – the Association of MBAs and the Business Graduates Association.

AMBA accredits 300 of the world's leading business schools in 75 countries and provides membership to 78,000 MBA students and graduates in 150 countries. AMBA is the world's only international accreditation and membership organisation for both business schools and their MBA students and graduates

Launched in 2019, BGA has proven to be the organisation's most significant product launch in almost 60 years. 362 business schools have joined BGA as members in just seven years, with 94 business schools already achieving whole-school BGA accreditation.

Andrew was also Chair of United Nations PRME (Principles for Responsible Management Education) from 2016 to 2018 and was subsequently Chair of PRME's Finance & Risk Committee.

He commenced his career with Thomson Holidays (now TUI), then the world's largest travel tour operator, as a marketing graduate. Andrew's career fast-tracked in the travel industry and he rose to become Marketing & Commercial Director of Thomas Cook and then Sales & Marketing Director of Citibank Diners Club. He subsequently joined the Institute of Directors (IoD) as Chief Operating Officer.

He has interviewed more than 100 of the world's most influential leaders in the fields of business, politics, sport, and entertainment, including Bill Gates, Baroness Thatcher, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jack Welch, Sir Richard Branson, and Sir David Attenborough.

Andrew has also visited 180 of the world's 200 countries, on a global journey to become the first person to visit all 200 countries and tell the story, in images and words, of the most inspiring travel experiences on Earth.

He was educated at Dulwich College and the University of Birmingham in the UK and Harvard Business School in the USA.

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PARTNER

QED is a trusted higher education advisory firm specialising in leading international business school accreditations (AACSB, AMBA and EFMD). We work in close partnership with Deans and senior leadership teams worldwide, providing expert guidance that aligns accreditation with institutional strategy and drives meaningful, sustainable improvement.

Headquartered in Ireland, QED draws on a global network of experienced Deans and advisors, bringing the right expertise to each engagement. Our work spans accreditation advisory and support, mock peer review panels, best-practice workshops, leadership development and executive coaching

Through our partnership with H2 Software, we also offer Accredinator, a dedicated accreditation management platform. Together with our global alliances, QED provides a comprehensive, practical and results-focused approach to supporting business schools at every stage of their journey.

www.qedaccreditation.com



SPONSOR

At Peregrine, innovative technology meets human connection. The company believes that the best solutions are born from a consultative approach, so it partners with clients to deliver customised, flexible solutions that meet their unique needs

Peregrine offers a range of assessment and instructional solutions designed to support teaching and learning. Its solutions help you make data-driven decisions to improve quality, increase engagement and achieve better outcomes for your students.

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AMBA & BGA

ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE



23–25 NOVEMBER 2026 | SINGAPORE

The AMBA & BGA Asia Pacific Conference for Deans and Directors will take place in Singapore from 23–25 November 2026, bringing together business school leaders and higher education experts from across the region.

Through thought leadership sessions, strategic discussions, and networking opportunities, delegates will explore the trends shaping management education, including innovation, emerging technologies, lifelong learning, leadership development, industry collaboration, and sustainability.

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PROGRAMME CONTENT | MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

13.00 – 14.00 Registration and networking lunch

14.00 – 14.15 Welcome and introduction

SPEAKER

Andrew Main Wilson, CEO, AMBA & BGA

14.15 – 14.45 Session 1: The AMBA accreditation process

An end-to-end overview of the AMBA accreditation process, for new applicants and those that are seeking reaccreditation, including costs, timescales and logistics.

SPEAKER

Katherine O'Flynn, Director of Accreditation, AMBA & BGA

14.45 – 15.15 Session 2: Research review – AMBA & BGA's exclusive insights & a 'Beyond Accreditation' overview

Discover brand new research on the biggest challenges facing business schools globally. The session also offers the chance to catch up on the latest admissions trends, with findings from our annual *AMBA Application and Enrolment Report*.

Finally, gain an exclusive insight into what happens after a successful accreditation, exploring how AMBA & BGA membership can be leveraged across faculty, students and graduates to strengthen engagement and maximise institutional impact.

SPEAKER

Ellen Buchan, Insight, Content & PR Manager, AMBA & BGA

SPEAKER

Mellissa Oliver-Jolley, Membership Manager, AMBA & BGA

15.15 – 15.45 Session 3: BGA accreditation & the Continuous Impact Model

This session will outline the BGA accreditation process and its value as a standalone experience, detailing how schools can apply and get the most out of it.

It will also outline BGA's Continuous Impact Model (CIM), a bespoke way of measuring and understanding your direct impact on stakeholders, before going on to reveal how the CIM can be used to improve your school's unique value proposition and alignment with responsible management principles.

SPEAKER

Mark Stoddard, Director of Accreditation & Director of BGA Service, AMBA & BGA

15.45 – 16.15 Networking and refreshment break

16.15 – 16.45 Session 4: Preparing for accreditation: Writing effective SAFs and SARs

This practical session provides guidance on preparing effective Self-Assessment Forms (SAFs) and Self-Audit Reports (SARs) for AMBA and BGA accreditation and re-accreditation. It will explain what peer-review teams are looking for, how to present evidence clearly and convincingly, and how to avoid common areas of confusion. The session will offer practical advice to help schools produce concise, accurate and reflective submissions that support a smooth and well-informed accreditation process.

SPEAKER

Joseph Pilkington, Senior Accreditation Manager AMBA & BGA

16.45 – 17.15

Session 5: BGA accreditation – the role of the mentor

Mentors play an important role in supporting business schools through the process of BGA accreditation, as this session reveals. Specifically, it will outline how mentors help schools design their Continuous Impact Model (CIM) and will share practical insights and guide schools on how to avoid the common pitfalls.

It will also highlight how mentors:

- Seek to understand a school's unique context to support its BGA accreditation
- Develop tailored action plans to address gaps in accreditation criteria
- Strengthen commitment to continuous impact
- Communicate accreditation standards and expectations clearly
- Apply personal expertise to accelerate progress

In addition, the session will offer guidance on preparing for a BGA accreditation visit and consider how schools can gain maximum value from the mentoring process.

SPEAKER

Bodo Schlegelmilch, Dean Emeritus of the WU Executive Academy and Professor Emeritus at WU Vienna

18.30 – 22.30

(including travel time)

Networking dinner at Montes Claros Restaurant

Simplify Assessment with Peregrine

Managing learning outcomes assessment and accreditation requirements can be overwhelming, but Peregrine simplifies these processes, empowering you to drive continuous improvement and meet AMBA & BGA accreditation requirements.

- Customizable to program learning outcomes.
- Benchmarking with up to five comparative aggregates in one report.
- Access 16 in-depth reports plus raw data for deeper insights.
- Fully online, easy to implement, and scalable for any institution.



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PEREGRINE
GLOBAL SERVICES

PROGRAMME CONTENT | TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER

09.30 – 10.00

Session 6: AMBA & BGA activity update and strategy presentation

Discover some of the past year's most impressive ideas in management education with AMBA & BGA's CEO and hear his thoughts on key market trends for the next five years.

This session will also provide delegates with an update on AMBA & BGA's current performance and plans for the future, as well as an exploration of its positioning in key international markets.

SPEAKER

Andrew Main Wilson, CEO, AMBA & BGA

10.00 – 10.45

Session 7: Managing multiple accreditations

How do business schools with multiple accreditations successfully manage visits and requirements across a range of accreditation providers? Learn from a panel of experts with firsthand experience.

CHAIR

Bodo Schlegelmilch, Dean Emeritus of the WU Executive Academy and Professor Emeritus at WU Vienna

SPEAKER

Carolyn Magnani
Executive Director, Strategy, Engagement and Impact,
UNIL HEC Lausanne

SPEAKER

Craig Robinson
Vice Dean Education, King's Business School, King's College London

10.45 – 11.15

Session 8: Joint accreditation

A step-by-step guide to the joint accreditation process for business schools seeking to acquire BGA accreditation alongside AMBA accreditation or reaccreditation.

SPEAKER

Mark Stoddard, Director of Accreditation & Director of BGA Service, AMBA & BGA

11.15 – 11.45

Networking and refreshment break

11.45 – 12.30

Session 9: Building a school-wide accreditation culture: Engaging faculty, staff and students

Accreditation is frequently perceived as an administrative burden largely confined to a small, and over-stretched quality assurance office. However, international standards can only be genuinely met and sustained when quality enhancement is embedded across the institution's DNA. This session offers a strategic roadmap to move from a "tick-box" compliance mindset towards a shared institutional commitment to continuous improvement.

Together we will explore how to translate technical accreditation criteria into a meaningful, school-wide value system, breaking down departmental silos, overcoming faculty resistance, fostering buy-in and ownership, and engaging students as active partners in the process. Through practical examples, best practices, and actionable tools, participants will gain insights into transforming the periodic compliance exercise into a catalyst for lasting institutional.

SPEAKER

Sarah Vaughan, External Advisor Quality Enhancement and Accreditations, ICN Business School, France

12.30 – 13.15

Session 10: The accreditation journey with AMBA & BGA

Two prominent business school professionals attached to newly accredited institutions share their experiences of applying for AMBA & BGA accreditation for the first time.

SPEAKER

José Manuel de Oliveira Mendes, Dean, Full Professor, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Economics

SPEAKER

Birute Miskiniene, Director, Vilnius University Business School

13.15 – 13.30

Session 11: Conference conclusion

13.30 – 14.30

Networking lunch



THE ACCREDITATION EXPERTS

We make accreditation easier.



Over 25 years guiding business schools through AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS and BGA — across six continents.

Accreditation is complex, but knowing where the real risks and time-sinks sit doesn't have to be. Over 25 years, we've worked alongside business schools across six continents, steering them past the traps and keeping their energy on what actually matters — through the accreditation process itself, and the strategy and leadership work that surrounds it. Along the way, our partner **Accredinator** keeps accreditation data organised and audit-ready.

WHY SCHOOLS
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25+ years
of experience,
partnering with
schools across
six continents



Full-suite advisory:
accreditation ·
strategy ·
leadership



Accreditation data
management,
powered by our
partner **Accredinator**

“

Working with Joanne and her team made the difference for us to gain a deeper and solid understanding of the accreditation process. The QED team involvement has been key in facing such a challenging endeavour. They pursue excellence to the highest standards. Their knowledge, integrity and work culture are outstanding. I recommend QED services without reservations.

”

– Cláudia Simões

School of Economics and Management, University of Minho,
Portugal



Come find us in the
Exhibitor Space —
or scan to book time
with our advisory team.



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QED: The Accreditation Experts

Our SPEAKERS



Ellen Buchan

Insight, Content & PR Manager, AMBA & BGA

Ellen Buchan is Insight, Content & PR Manager at AMBA & BGA. At AMBA & BGA, Buchan is responsible for research projects and has worked on research titles such as the annual *AMBA Application and Enrolment Report*, the *Education and Technology* reports and the *International Climate Change Report*.

Alongside research, Buchan oversees public relations, conference production and writes regularly for AMBA & BGA's *Ambition* and *Business Impact* publications. Prior to joining AMBA & BGA, Buchan gained a degree in modern history and management at the University of St Andrews.



Carolyn Magnani

Executive Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Impact, UNIL HEC Lausanne

Carolyn Magnani is Executive Director, Strategy, Engagement, and Impact at UNIL HEC Lausanne. A member of the Dean's Leadership Team, she provides strategic and operational leadership across quality, communications, career development, and research services. With more than a decade of experience in accreditation and quality assurance, she has guided major accreditation initiatives, advised stakeholders across the school, and represented the institution at international conferences. Her previous leadership roles include positions at NYU Stern, EPFL, and IMD.



José Manuel de Oliveira Mendes

Dean, Full Professor, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Economics

José Manuel de Oliveira Mendes is Dean of the University of Coimbra's Faculty of Economics. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra, where he is a Full Professor of Sociology and the Dean. He is also a researcher at the Centre for Social Studies, where he has been working in the fields of public policies and citizenship, risk, social vulnerability, climate crisis and planning.



Birute Miskiniene

Director, Vilnius University Business School

Birute Miskiniene is Director at Vilnius University Business School and has more than 15 years' experience leading business schools. Before this role she was Executive Director for the EU Leonardo da Vinci programme, contact person for the CEDEFOP Study Visits programme and was involved in the ICT network expert group in Brussels. She was also a member of the Advisory Board of European Qualification Framework in Brussels.

Since 2016 she has been the Vice President of the Vilnius Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, being a member of the Lithuanian Business Women Network she is the initiator of a number of entrepreneurship themed projects and events. In her role at VU Business School she initiated the Entrepreneurial Family conference initiative and teaches the Family Business course.

**Katherine O'Flynn**

Director of Accreditation, AMBA & BGA

Katherine O'Flynn is Director of Accreditation at AMBA & BGA and manages accreditation activities for more than 85 business schools in the UK, Europe, ASEAN and Australasia – most of which hold triple-crown accreditation.

O'Flynn has more than 20 years' experience in the education sector, having previously worked at the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and Universities UK (UUK). She has a background in teaching English to international students and spent five years living abroad in Singapore and Hong Kong.

O'Flynn holds a degree in history (MA Hons.) from the University of St Andrews, Scotland and an MBA awarded by University College London, Institute of Education.

**Joseph Pilkington**

Senior Accreditation Manager, AMBA & BGA

Joseph Pilkington joined AMBA in 2014 and his work at the association involves supporting its re-accreditation activity, assisting accreditation panels during assessment visits and guiding business schools through documentation and processes. In addition, he is responsible for maintaining accurate data on AMBA-accredited schools.

Pilkington holds a BA (Hons) from the University of East Anglia; he spent time studying at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and also has an MSc from the University of Edinburgh. He speaks English and French.

**Craig Robinson**

Vice Dean Education, King's Business School, King's College London

Craig Robinson is Professor of Management Education and Practice and Vice Dean Education at King's Business School, King's College London. As Associate Dean Quality and Accreditation from 2022-2025, Robinson led the initial AMBA accreditation process for the KBS Executive MBA and MSc International Management, securing the 'triple crown' for the school less than seven years after its founding. He also led the EQUIS re-accreditation process in 2025 and the now annual Principles of Responsible Management Education reporting process during that period. Robinson has also served as an AMBA accreditation assessor in the UK, Europe and South America.

**Bodo Schlegelmilch**

Dean Emeritus, WU Executive Academy and
Professor Emeritus, WU Vienna

Bodo Schlegelmilch is Dean Emeritus of the WU Executive Academy and Professor Emeritus at WU Vienna. He began his career at Deutsche Bank and Procter & Gamble before moving into academia with positions at the University of Edinburgh, UC Berkeley, the University of Wales, and Thunderbird School of Global Management. He has taught in 33 countries, was Chair of AMBA & BGA, and currently sits on university advisory boards in China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and the UK. He has received numerous honors, including awards from the Academy of International Business, Academy of Marketing Science, and the American Marketing Association.

**Mark Stoddard**

Director of Accreditation & Director of BGA Services
AMBA & BGA

Having worked at AMBA for more than 20 years, Mark Stoddard is currently Director of AMBA Accreditation & BGA Services, a role in which he oversees a variety of cross-functional projects. He was responsible for the design and launch of the full suite of BGA services and accreditation processes, while leading the review of accreditation criteria at AMBA.

In addition, Mark is Director of AMBA Accreditation for Africa, North America and South Asia, as well as parts of Western Europe, and has actively participated in approximately 200 accreditation visits worldwide.

**Mellissa Oliver-Jolley**

Membership Manager, AMBA & BGA

Mellissa Oliver-Jolley is the Membership Manager at AMBA & BGA. She is responsible for the recruitment and onboarding of students and graduates from AMBA & BGA-accredited schools into the thriving global community of current and future business leaders who make up AMBA & BGA's membership base.

Oliver-Jolley manages engagement with almost 76,000 individual members to ensure the delivery of valuable programmes and services and liaises with leaders from AMBA & BGA's worldwide network of business schools to raise the profile of the organisation's student and graduate membership.

**Sarah Vaughan**

External Advisor Quality Enhancement and Accreditations,
ICN Business School

Sarah Vaughan, currently External Advisor Quality Enhancement & Accreditations, and former Associate Dean at ICN Business School (Nancy-Paris-Berlin), has over 40 years faculty and senior leadership experience in French Business Schools – Grandes Ecoles system, (Excelia Group, European Business School Paris, ISG International Business School Paris and ICN Business School). Her areas of expertise include strategic change, internationalisation, programme development & accreditation strategies (AMBA, AACSB, EQUIS, EFMD Programme accreditation, TEDQUAL, BSIS). She is an accreditation mentor for schools in Europe, Middle East, North America, and South Africa, a peer-reviewer for French, Belgian, Swiss and International accreditation bodies (AMBA, EFMD and a frequent speaker at international conferences. She currently serves as an advisory board member for accredited business schools in France, Finland, Tunisia, the UK and Hungary.

AMBA & BGA

Excellence Awards & Gala Dinner 2027



Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating excellence in global business education

The AMBA & BGA Excellence Awards Gala Dinner 2027 will take place on Friday 22 January 2027 at the prestigious Royal Garden Hotel, London.

Why attend?

- Celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of schools and individuals shaping the future of management education
- Enjoy an evening of fine dining, entertainment, and celebration in an iconic London setting
- Network with peers, partners, and thought leaders from the AMBA & BGA community
- Gain fresh insights and inspiration from industry experts and award finalists

Reserve your place today and be part of an evening that inspires, connects, and celebrates the very best in business education.

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22 JANUARY 2027 | ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL, LONDON
WWW.AMBA-BGA.COM/EVENTS/GALA-DINNER-2027

Notes



Notes

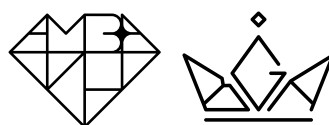




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