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Is MBA still a global currency?

> The job market is brighter for MBA graduates

The MBA has long been regarded as a global currency - a degree that symbolises value all over the world. To many people, that value comes in the form of career mobility.

The MBA has always been the “magic ticket” to help people to move on to more attractive careers. Experts predict that the MBA will regain some of the attraction lost in recent years because of the market rebound.

According to the 2004 Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) survey, improvement in the economy has allowed more companies to hire new MBAs. The number of recruiters unable to hire recent MBA graduates dropped by half this year - from 23 percent in 2003 to 12 percent in 2004. Top jobs for hiring by recruiters were finance, marketing and accounting - a continuing trend from the previous year. A total of 1,300 recruiters representing 1,004 companies participated in the GMAC survey.

In another recent survey, the MBA Career Services Council also concluded that the job market is improving for MBA graduates. On-campus recruiting has increased by 81 percent and a higher percentage of 2004 graduates received at least one job offer within 3 months of graduation.

MBA graduates find more corporate opportunities await them

The job market is brighter for graduates, according to a March 2004 survey of 52 business schools across the country (U.S.).

- 39 schools report that most students in the class of 2004 have received at least one job offer.
- 46 percent of the responding schools indicate that on-campus recruiting for summer internships is up this year compared with last year, while 27 percent of indicate no change.
- 22 schools say that consulting work is the hottest sector for MBA graduates.

[Source: MBA Career Services Council]

MBA graduates may see higher compensation

According to the findings of Consultants News, a publication of New Hampshire-based Kennedy Information Inc., graduates of the nation's top business schools are expecting higher pay for their degree - and some just might get it.



"On average, base salary for this year's MBAs is almost \$110,000, up about 10 percent over last year," said the newsletter. It noted that some firms, hoping to temper the salary rise, increased signing bonuses by nearly 30 percent.

It found that the average salary this year will be \$109,000, up from \$98,751 in 2004.

The increase is the first since 2002, when salaries rose to \$99,082, up from \$92,253 in 2000.

In addition, MBA students and new graduates said they were offered signing bonuses of, on average, \$14,000 and an average of \$1,500 in tuition reimbursement, bringing total compensation to about \$124,000 in 2005.

Camille Luckenbaugh, research director for the National Association of Colleges and Employers, said MBA graduates will see an up tick in hiring this year.

"Overall, we are seeing an increase of about 24.9 percent since 2004, an increase of about three MBAs per organization," said Luckenbaugh, whose organization surveyed 116 US firms.

"Quite frankly, I think if the individual has the opportunity or the resources, the MBA is a great thing to do," he said. Scheer's report also looked at MBA graduates' perception of some of the top consulting firms.

[Source: Bostonworks.com]

MBA for busy executives

It may be expensive for working professional to take a full-time programme; Informatics has offered alternatives for these busy executives.

Informatics offers the Master of Business Administration awarded by the University of Wales (UK) via e-Learning as well as Capstone mode of learning.

Under the Capstone mode of learning, students will go through the programme via e-Learning, complement with face-to-face tutorial locally.

"I am able to keep my time due to the flexibility of the programme. The discussion room helps me to interact with a big pool of people. I am proud to be associated with a reputable university." Said Christina Lee Sooi Kuan, who has completed her University of Wales MBA via PurpleTrain.com (an e-Learning service provider wholly owned by Informatics).

For more information about the programme, please visit www.informaticsgroup.com/programmes/mba

About PurpleTrain.com

PurpleTrain.com, the global e-Learning provider, started out as Asia's first e-Learning provider in 1999. It is the largest e-Learning provider outside the United States, with over 72,000 e-users, and offers Business, IT education and Health Sciences programmes, corporate training courses and education-related services.

PurpleTrain.com firmly supports continuous lifelong learning and provides students from all over the world



with access to internationally renowned courses anytime, anywhere with minimal disruptions to their work and other obligations, and without having to leave home.

By combining innovative technology with world-class training content, PurpleTrain.com offers companies and individuals a high value, quality and effective online training solution. Its online courses range from Master and Bachelor degree programmes to diplomas and certificates, ranging from technical level to management level to cater for the varied needs of corporations and professionals.

For more information, please visit <http://www.purpletrain.com>

About Informatics Group

The Informatics Group, listed on the mainboard of the Stock Exchange of Singapore, was established in 1983, and is a multinational corporation providing lifelong learning services in information technology and business management. Informatics presently has a global network spanning more than 50 countries, offering programmes from O/A Levels (for international students) to undergraduate and postgraduate degree completions. The Company has won many awards including the Singapore Brand Awards 2002 and 2003, the Singapore Quality Class for Private Education Organisations (SQC for PEO) as well as the People Developer Standards Award.

For more information, please visit <http://www.informaticsgroup.com>.

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