



Masters of Arts in International Business

Applicant Handbook



Combined Option Information
Academic Year 2009-2010
Hough Graduate School of Business
University of Florida

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Application Deadlines and Dates for the Combined Degree Option

May 1	Application deadline for Summer B start date
June 1	Application deadline for Fall start date
November 1	Application deadline for Spring start date
<i>We allow admitted Combined MAIB students to start MAIB courses in any of the above listed terms.</i>	

You MUST be a UF Undergraduate to be considered for the Combined option!!!

MAIB APPLICATION: We are pleased by your interest in pursuing a graduate education in International Business at the University of Florida. In addition to reading this letter you should review the various pages of our MAIB web site: <http://www.cba.ufl.edu/maib>. Once here, you can get to other pages by clicking on the headers at left (“Curriculum”, “Eligibility”, etc.). Our unit makes a concerted effort to use as little paper as possible. Thus, we have an e-file on each applicant and we prefer to receive all materials on-line, and to receive your resume by e-mail. The exception is the test result (GRE, GMAT, TOEFL...), which will be mailed to us from the testing service via paper copy. Rather than submitting materials all at once, we do prefer that you submit materials as they are ready. This will ensure also that your application is finalized by the particular deadline under which you are applying.

DEADLINES: The application deadlines for the Combined option remain the same from year to year. If the deadline happens to be on a Saturday or Sunday or holiday, we will still accept materials through the following business day. Your chances for admission are not “better” or “worse” if you apply early. However, we do encourage you to apply in advance of the deadline so that you can get a decision and start planning your life as soon as possible. All admitted students will have on average 6 weeks to respond with a “Yes, I do want to join the program” or “No thank you, I am choosing another option”. Further, for the Combined option, you may apply for a certain term and then choose to delay your start date or not do the Combined option and instead start the program in Summer B after you have earned your Bachelor’s degree. This is possible as long as you communicate your intentions with the MAIB office.

APPLICATION & ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

For us to review your application, we must have the following by the application deadline:

1. **Completed Combined Degree Application Notice form, found at:**
<http://www.cba.ufl.edu/academics/maib/application.asp> . Please fill in all fields and email the form to ana.portocarrero@cba.ufl.edu before you start the full application process.
2. **Completed application** to the University of Florida Graduate School, submitted online (<http://www.admissions.ufl.edu/start.html>). The \$30 application fee can be paid online or a check/money order can be mailed to the UF Office of Admissions. The intended start date you list on the on-line application should be the term immediately following when you earn your Bachelor's degree. *Submit essay and letters of recommendation (if possible) as part of the online application.*
3. **Official GMAT or GRE** scores sent to UF, or more specifically the Management Dept. GRE code for UF= 5812; GMAT code for UF Intl Business= J7Z-5J-45
** Score considered: combination of Verbal and Quantitative sections*
4. **A minimum of two written recommendations** highlighting your talents and personality based on your academics, volunteer work, campus and community involvement, research background, or work/internship history. We prefer online recommendations, but we also happily accept paper-based recommendations if your recommender prefers that method. On-line: As you fill out the on-line application, you will have the opportunity to list the name and contact information for your recommenders. Those individuals will then receive an automatic e-mail with username and password instructing them how to go on-line and submit the recommendation. The instruction e-mail will not be sent to the recommenders until you have finalized and submitted your on-line application.
5. **Application essay** highlighting your background, ambitions and career intent. This is your opportunity to tell us what is not evident from other application materials. Submit essay as part of the online application. Please limit the essay to approximately 2 double-spaced pages. If you wish to submit a longer essay and you need to exceed the character limit of the on-line application, you can e-mail your essay directly to Ana Portocarrero.
6. **Current resume or curriculum vitae** - do not limit it as we prefer to see all activities. Email your resume as a Word or PDF attachment to ana.portocarrero@cba.ufl.edu.

****Application materials can be submitted in pieces and not all at once****

Academic Ability for Combined Option:

Minimum GPA: 3.2 on a 4.0 scale (undergraduate **cumulative**)

This minimum GPA requirement is strict and we cannot consider candidates with less than a 3.2 GPA.

UF does not mandate minimum GRE scores. GRE test scores will be used in the context of a holistic credential review process. Above average performance on the subtests of the GRE or GMAT will be looked upon favorably. There is a minimum required score for the GMAT, and that is a 465. The following score range is considered good for the GRE; anything below or above would be considered either weak or excellent respectively:

GRE: 1100-1200

To be considered for the Combined Bachelor’s/Master’s option you must be a current University of Florida undergraduate student with relevant business coursework. When you make application for the Combined option, you are being considered for official MAIB admission. Second language fluency and prior international background are looked upon favorably, as are undergraduate campus and community activities. This is an intense and challenging program and we are looking for indications that a student will be able to excel once in the program. There is no guarantee of admission- these are the minimum requirements. The minimum GPA requirement for the Combined option, which allows you to take MAIB courses before you have officially received your Bachelor’s degree, is higher than the minimum requirement for “regular” MAIB admission. If you do not meet the minimum requirement for the Combined option, you will still be considered for “regular” admission to the MAIB program starting full-time at the end of June. Meeting the minimum GPA for the Combined option does not guarantee admission as we are highly selective for this option, which is considered to be an honors track for highly qualified students.

Personal Character and Professionalism:

The applicant’s written essays, resume, and recommendations provide the best opportunity to convey one’s unique background, personality, leadership skills, professionalism, and ability to add to the diversity of the MAIB program. Involvement in extracurricular and community activities is also looked upon favorably since it provides additional insight into the interests and social awareness of the applicant. We reserve the right to interview a candidate and we will randomly select candidates for an admissions interview. Applicants who are offered an interview can choose to decline this opportunity and will not be penalized in the admissions process.

Application Deadlines and Important Dates:

- May 1 Application deadline to start courses in Summer B
- June 1 Application deadline to start courses in Fall
- November 1 Application deadline to start courses in Spring

-Files are reviewed once complete and a decision is granted within 4 weeks-

Submitting Application Materials:

Application materials can be submitted in pieces. Do not hold materials in order to submit a complete packet at once. An applicant's file will be reviewed within three weeks of being complete, as long as it is after the completion of the Junior year (or 90 credits). To aid in planning your Senior year registration, please apply as soon as possible and do not wait until the final deadline. If an applicant is denied for the Combined option, he or she will still be considered for non-Combined MAIB admission for a June start date (after the Bachelor's is awarded). Admitted Combined students who choose to accept the admissions offer will be required to meet with an MAIB advisor immediately to determine a general timeline for completing MAIB, and discuss how foreign study options might fit into that plan. Open communication is imperative.

The MAIB office does have access to anything that was submitted online through the UF Graduate Application process. The essay and recommendations can be submitted this way.

The MAIB program office must receive:

1. The Combined Degree Application Notice form
2. A complete application submitted online (include essay here)*
3. Copy of the GMAT or GRE score report you received in the mail after the test
4. A minimum of two written recommendations submitted via the online application (preferred). If you need to submit paper-based recommendations, please send them directly to the MAIB office.
5. A current resume or curriculum vitae. Email resume as a Word or PDF attachment
ana.portocarrero@cba.ufl.edu

The Office of Graduate Admissions must receive:

1. A complete application submitted online*
2. A \$30 application fee
3. Official GMAT or GRE scores sent from testing service

***Online applications only need to be submitted once; both offices have access**

Understanding the Admissions Cycle:

The application deadlines can be somewhat flexible, but we cannot guarantee that a timely admissions decision will be made if your file is not complete by those respective deadlines. We make decisions for the Combined option on a rolling basis, thus the sooner your application is complete, the sooner you will receive a decision. Any student who does not receive an admission offer for the Combined option will still be considered for "regular" MAIB admissions (see regular application letter). Please note that students who begin the MAIB coursework in the fall semester may be subject to a limited number of course options available to them. Students who begin in the spring typically have more course options available because most MAIB's are in study abroad programs during this time. We strictly adhere to our GPA minimums and give considerable consideration to test scores for the Combined option. When an applicant file is partially complete, the MAIB office will send one e-mail to the applicant regarding the status of the file. Further correspondence must be applicant initiated. Your MAIB application contact:
Ana Portocarrero ana.portocarrero@cba.ufl.edu 352-273-0341

IN PROGRAM INFORMATION

MAIB Computer Requirement:

The Warrington College of Business requires its students to have unrestricted access to a laptop computer. This is mandatory—no exceptions! The graduate business computing center does not provide computers for student use. Laptop computers will be used for completing assignments; communicating with faculty, staff, and classmates; word processing; spreadsheet preparation; statistical analysis; and research. You will be required to have this computer at the start of the spring term when you begin taking MAIB courses. For up-to-date technological specifications please refer to the following website:

<http://www.cba.ufl.edu/programs/computer.asp>

(Junior/Senior/Master's)

Computer Skills:

Proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and Internet software is essential. The MAIB program primarily relies on Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office, and Netscape Navigator. The University of Florida, through a partnership with the NETg, also offers computer tutorials in a variety of areas. More information on available courses can be found at: <http://netg.ufgartner.ufl.edu>

Costs:

All costs are estimated for the entire program, *not* a per month basis, based on fall 2009.

Program fee: \$350 (due when student accepts program offer)

Total Program Tuition: State of Florida residents= \$11,846
(based on fall 2009) Out-of-State residents= \$32,137*

**See cost benefits
below!**

Total Books & Materials: \$1400

Required Study Tour: \$3000 (program fee, airfare, food, incidentals)

Required Laptop Computer: \$1400

Housing & other costs: \$7000

Tuition is due per UF semester (2 weeks after the start of classes) and is based on the number of credit hours for which you are registered in that semester. In total, MAIB is a 30 credit program. Tuition per credit hour, based on fall 2009, is (*tuition increases by ~10% annually*):

In-state: \$ 394.85

Out-of-state: \$ 1119.57

**Note: The Study Tour tuition (2 credits) is charged at the FL-Resident rate for ALL students*

Cost Benefits of the Combined option

If you are a Florida Bright Futures recipient, or you still have pre-paid tuition to deplete, the graduate tuition will be covered at the undergraduate rate and you will be required to compensate the difference between the undergraduate and graduate rates. Other scholarships may apply as well. This is true until you officially receive the Bachelor's degree. Doing the Combined option also reduces the total number of credits you take for the Bachelor's and Master's because of the double-counting of credits, thus saving you more tuition money.

MAIB Study Tour:

The study tour is a mandatory part of the MAIB program. The study tour is a seven-day trip that takes place in mid-October between Fall Modules 1 and 2. The country visited varies from year to year, however the trip is always in Europe and includes visits to both companies and economic/governmental organizations. The study tour is designed to offer a practical education in international business practices. Past study tours have been in Paris (1999 & 2000), Prague/Munich (2001), Dublin (2002), Brussels (2003), Munich (2004), London (2005), and Budapest (2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009). The study tour location and dates for October 2010 have not yet been determined but will likely again be Budapest. There will also be an option for a small number of MAIB students to attend the Entrepreneurship study tour in Dublin.

Exchange programs:

Tuition for exchange programs is charged as UF tuition, just as if you were taking classes on campus. Cost of living varies from country to country and can fluctuate from year to year, thus this should be researched by the student with the assumption that costs could increase or decrease by 5-10%. The MAIB program offers a unique international perspective, and that understanding can only be truly appreciated while applied in an international context. Students will witness this to a certain degree during the study tour, but as many past students have stated: "it just isn't the same thing as living and attending daily classes abroad." Students are not guaranteed their first choice for the exchange as we can only send a small number of students to each partner school. Exchange choices are submitted to the MAIB staff in July and by the end of the Summer B term students will be notified of where they are approved to go for their spring study abroad. Decisions will be based on undergraduate grades, test scores, language background and prior international experience, resume, and an essay of intent for the particular foreign program if the student chooses to submit one. Summer programs are unlimited, thus students wishing to only do a short summer program at the end of MAIB will get their top choice. If a student wishes to attend a non-exchange institution (Australia, Argentina, Mexico, or other you have selected), we will work with you to help you through the application process. You will be required to pay tuition directly to the non-exchange institution.

We have exchange agreements with more than 30 well-respected universities and business schools around the world. We recommend that students participate for a full term of 3-6 months. However, students do have the option of going for a shorter period at designated schools. If a short-term option is selected the student would have to gain additional credit at UF in the spring or summer before (or after) going abroad. This can be worked out with relative ease because our UF graduate business courses are taught in 8-week modules. Exchange selection and administrative approval for the exchanges is done at the start of the program in Summer B. **None will be approved before then**

Combined students are all on different timelines so we can discuss your exchange/foreign study options with you when you meet to discuss your individual MAIB timeline. If you wish to move through MAIB quickly and earn the degree as soon as possible you may be limited to short-term summer programs for foreign study.

Financial Aid:

Financial aid for U.S. Citizens/ Residents in the form of federal loans is available. Please review for more information:

<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/>

The MAIB program is not responsible for loan decisions and distribution. If you do receive financial aid, it will include cost adjustments for both the study tour and the exchange program(s) in which you participate. Some grant money is available and is first-come first-served, so you should apply for loans as early as possible!

It is likely that the MAIB program will also have a small amount of scholarship money available. In that event, money would be awarded to students to apply toward the costs of foreign study. Scholarship candidates are identified through the admission process and do not need to submit a scholarship application. MAIB scholarships are merit-based, and qualified candidates are identified through the admission process. Awards are typically between \$1500 and \$3000, and the payout cannot occur until the Bachelor's degree has been earned and the student assumes the 7BA (graduate) classification. An interview may be required. The mean numbers for the 2009 scholarship awardees were 3.8 GPA, 610 GMAT, and 1202 GRE.

We do not use Master's students to teach or do research. Thus, we do not have any available assistantships or fellowships for tuition waiver + hourly payment.

Careers and Alumnus History:

Although our MAIB alumni have followed a variety of career paths (Education, Law, Medicine, Government), most do enter "typical" business jobs within Consulting, Accounting, Finance, Sales and Marketing, Trade, and Information Technology. While in-program, students are required to participate in a variety of professional development activities to enhance their presentation and interviewing skills and afford them with better job hunting and offer negotiation skills. Since the majority of our students do not have post-Bachelor's degree professional work experience, it is unusual (but not impossible since we have graduates who have done it) for graduates to get a truly international job right after the program. Students must first prove themselves as mature, motivated individuals within their companies or organizations. Then, after a period of time with the company, it is possible to start traveling or even to be re-located abroad if that is the desire of the employee.

Past and current MAIB employers include: FedEx, Motorola, Ford, ING, Daimler-Chrysler, Ernst & Young, Hewitt & Associates, Deloitte & Touche, Raymond James, Siemens, Bayer, the U.S. Department of State, CSX Transportation, Lockheed Martin, Cordis and Ortho of Johnson & Johnson, Accenture, SunTrust, Wachovia, Franklin Templeton, American Express, Xerox, Alltell, Home Depot, Citigroup, Disney Cruise Lines, NBC Universal, Hawaiian Tropic, IBM Consulting, Toys'R Us, UBS, Sea World (Anhauser-Busch), Lanier Worldwide, Macy's East, General Electric, Bank of America, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, ExacTech, Regeneration Technologies, the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, various national and local government, non-profit organizations, and small businesses. Several students are also entrepreneurs.

Combined Curriculum Structure

Admitted students may begin taking courses in the Summer B, fall, or spring term of their Senior year. Before earning the Bachelor's degree admitted students can take between 2 and 12 MAIB credits to "double count" with the Bachelor's degree, and an additional 9 credits that will only count toward the Master's. All other graduate credit must be taken after the Bachelor's degree is earned. Typical course choices are (all are 2 credits unless otherwise noted):

Summer B

MAN 6636	Global Strategic Mangement	GEB 5214	Professional Writing (1 cr)
GEB 6366	Fundamentals of Intl Business	GEB 5215	Professional Communic. (1 cr)

Spring

MAN 5246	Organizational Behavior	ACG 6387	Strategic Costing
MAN 6635	International Human Resource Mgmt	MAN 6618	International Operations
FIN 6642	Global Entrepreneurship	BUL 6441	Business Ethics
ECO 5715	Open Economy Macroeconomics	FIN 6476	Venture Finance
GEB 6116	Business Plan Formation	GEB 6930	Venture Analysis
MAN 6331	Compensation in Organizations	MAN 6447	Art & Science of Negotiations
BUL 6841	Employment Law	MAN 6581	Project Management
LEI 6931	Hospitality Marketing	LEI 6931	Hospitality Law

Fall

ECO 5715	Open Economy Macroeconomics	FIN 6638	International Finance
MAR 6157	International Marketing	MAN 6257	Power/Politics in Organizations
REE 6045	Intro. to Real Estate	LEI 6931	Intro. to Hospitality & Tourism
GEB 6115	Entrepreneurship	ACG 6888	Foundation of Measurement
MAN 6351	Training & Development in Orgs.	GEB 6116	Business Plan Formation
LEI 6931	Hospitality Planning/Development	MAN 6447	Art & Science of Negotiation
GEB 6930	International Advertising	MAR 6861	Customer Relations Managemen
LAS 6295	Latin American Business	GEB 6155	Social Entrepreneurship
FIN 6608	Financial Mgmt of Multinational Corp.	BUL 6441	Business Ethics
FIN 6465	Financial Statement Analysis	GEB 6115	Entrepreneurship

Any term: Gator Nest Business Consulting Project (FIN 6930)

The above courses are typically only offered at one time during the module and time conflicts with undergraduate courses cannot be accommodated. In order for graduate courses to be applied to the graduate degree as part of the Combined option, students must earn a B or better in those courses.

Every Combined student's timeline is different and you should meet with an MAIB advisor to determine what timeline is possible for you, considering all of the following factors:

- Remaining undergraduate degree requirements
- Anticipated Bachelor's degree certification date
- Desire to study abroad within MAIB
- Ability to complete the MAIB Final Project before graduation (start in Summer B).

Personal advising for each admitted MAIB combined student is imperative so students stay on track and follow an optimal curriculum plan. Students who are not able to complete a full semester study abroad program do have short summer options in Europe to choose from and should speak with the MAIB advisor to work this out, but options are limited.

MAIB Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Can I start the program in Fall or Spring?*

No. The MAIB program has only one start date per year and that is at the end of June, coinciding with the UF Summer B term. Only UF students doing the combined Bachelor's/Master's option or students doing another Master's degree concurrently with MAIB (must already be accepted to the other program) can start courses at another time. Concurrent and Combined MAIB students must meet with an MAIB advisor to determine a schedule and timeline, as it is highly individual for each student.

2. *What kinds of job offers do MAIB graduates usually receive?*

Our students have diverse educational, activity and work/ internship backgrounds. So, the jobs pursued and secured by our students can vary tremendously. Though some recent graduates and several alumni are working abroad, MAIB graduates generally will not get an overseas assignment right out of school because of the lack of work experience and proven professional success. It is possible, however, for you to secure a job that utilizes your international background and knowledge, and requires some international travel, if that is what you actively pursue. Well-known consulting firms such as Accenture and Ernst & Young as well as large multinationals such as Citigroup, FedEx, Motorola, and ING have hired MAIBs in the years since the program began. Some students also choose small or start-up companies, government jobs, or pursue more education such as law school or PhD programs. The intense curriculum, study tour, and international study opportunities are all designed to encourage a managerial, creative solutions thought process relating to all business operations of multinational corporations as well as domestic companies and organizations. The knowledge and experiences gained from MAIB can help you excel in a multitude of career paths. The MA degree is not a "magic ticket" to a big title and large starting salary directly upon graduation, but instead it is a tool that can be used, combined with your other assets and experience, to significantly enhance your long-term career & salary potential.

3. *How much does the average MAIB graduate make in the first year?*

Starting salaries follow the current economic trends, and also vary greatly depending on the industry. The average salary package for the Class of 2008 was \$51,000. Starting packages (salary + bonus) will vary between industries, current state of the economy and individual student background. A typical MAIB student without professional work experience should expect to start in the range of \$38,000- 62,000. We have seen that the majority of our students get a significant raise or promotion within the first two years at a company/ organization. Or, once they have acquired a few years of professional experience, students move on to another job at a much higher salary. In 2008, corporate financial training programs and sales related positions within the biomedical and pharmaceutical industries were offering the highest starting packages. U.S. government jobs are becoming more available and are climbing in starting salary as well since a large part of that work force will retire in the next 10 years.

4. *Can I receive admission to the MAIB program if I have more than 2 years of work experience?*

We do not discriminate in the admission process against students who have significant professional experience, and at least 10% of our class each year falls into this category. The MAIB program is a rigorous graduate program with coursework focusing on the practical aspects of global business and how it will apply in real world settings. We share courses with all other Warrington Master's programs and the professors who teach in the program are very experienced with a variety of audiences from undergraduate to PhD level. MAIB graduates who do have professional experience can expect more substantial job offers upon graduation due to prior experience and professional growth.

5. *My GMAT/GRE is low, but I have a strong GPA and other experiences (or the reverse situation with a low GPA and high test score). Do I still have a chance for admission?*

We ask for a variety of application materials for a reason. We review every applicant file individually and all of the contents of that file are scrutinized. Most important to us in admissions are: undergraduate academic performance, international experience, prior internship or professional work experience, extracurricular activities (show social consciousness, ability to cooperate, and leadership abilities), and outstanding recommendations. We

also interview random applicants and assess interpersonal and communication skills. Because the admission process for MAIB is competitive, students with very low test scores should attempt a re-take.

6. Do I need to speak a second language for this program?

Though it is looked on favorably in the admission process, a second language is not required. Second or third language fluency can help you, but a lack of it won't hinder your chances for MAIB admission. Only 49% of the Class of 2010 possesses an intermediate level of fluency or higher in a second language. All of our exchange partners, except for the ones in Brazil, Chile and Peru, offer many courses in English and non- second language speakers will have no trouble finding a valuable foreign study program option.

7. Am I required to study abroad when I am in the MAIB program?

In addition to the mandatory one week Study Tour in October, students without prior international experience are **strongly encouraged** to study abroad, as it enhances your academic experience and adds value to your international business degree. There are very short program options (2 weeks) for students who have financial or family constraints. Or, a long option of up to 6 months can be selected. A study abroad experience is truly a once in a lifetime experience and students should take advantage of it before they devote a lifetime to employment!

8. What are the foreign study options?

We now have more than 30 exchange options around the world. They are listed on the MAIB website and you can link to a detailed profile of each school from the "Study Abroad" page. MAIB students are able to choose a variety of courses when they do an exchange. This enables them to tailor the program toward their career interests.

9. What if I am not accepted after the first deadline? Do I need to re-apply?

Students who are neither accepted nor denied after the first or second application deadline will automatically be considered again for admissions under the final deadline. Those applicants will receive notification that they have been put "on hold". If these applicants wish to submit more recommendations or a new test score, they may do so. Applicants who have a good chance of being admitted could be put on hold for a number of reasons. Further, applying by the earliest deadline does not increase your chances of gaining acceptance. It just allows the accepted students to start planning sooner for the next year.

10. Are there any scholarships or assistantships available? Do I have to apply for them?

The MAIB office offers no assistantships for teaching or research. We generally do have money available for small MAIB scholarships, and qualified candidates are selected through the admissions process. The typical scholarship award is between \$1500 and \$3000, and only U.S. Citizens/Residents are eligible. The mean GPA for scholarship recipients was 3.84 (upper div) and 3.8 (cumulative); the mean GMAT was 610, and the mean GRE was 1202 (based on 2009). Recommendations & the resume are equally as important in our scholarship decision making process.

11. Can I do an internship?

Although we always encourage students to gain practical experience from internships, we do not award credit for internships. The one exception being if you study in Australia at the University of New South Wales while in the MAIB program, you can earn 2 credits for an internship arranged for you and monitored by the University. The internship credit appears on your UNSW transcript with a grade, thus we are able to transfer it in to the UF record. If you do secure an independent internship and the company/organization wants you to be registered for internship credit through UF, we can do that for you. However, the credit will not count toward the MAIB program.

12. How does this program compare to other international business programs?

The MAIB program is unique in the United States. If you research various Master's programs that offer a track or specialization in International or Global Business, you won't find one exactly like MAIB. Aside from the high-quality classroom education you will get from world-renowned University of Florida professors, MAIB also offers students the opportunity to experience international business through practical opportunities such as the Study Tour and the exchange programs. This all occurs in one year! Furthermore, the MAIB students are a very

unified and close group. The program requires much group and teamwork and it also offers many opportunities for students to get to know each other as well as forming friendships with the incoming graduate level exchange students. Our own students typically comment positively on two aspects of the program more than any other: Diversity and personality of the students, and the ability to create their own unique experiences within MAIB based on their personal needs and interests. We have heard frequently from former students that this was one of the best years of their life. MAIB is a challenge; you will work hard and must manage your time effectively, but you will also have a lot of fun and you will expand your mind in ways you never thought possible.

13. How does MAIB compare to an MBA program?

Good MBA programs that are consistently highly ranked in the most recognized ranking mechanisms require professional work experience. If you have recently graduated or plan on doing a graduate business degree immediately after getting your Bachelor's degree, you should think about the following when comparing MAIB to MBA:

- If you get your MBA right after the Bachelor's degree, you use up an opportunity that you can never use again. What will you do if you then want to change industries or acquire another specialization later on in your life? You will not be able to get another MBA in order to do so. Getting a MA does not eliminate the future MBA opportunity.
- How long is the MBA program? If it is 1 ½ or two years, is the extra cost worth it as compared to the one-year MAIB? Is there a difference in the return on investment?
- Does the MBA program offer flexibility in coursework and diverse international experiences at highly respected global business schools? Is the curriculum comprehensively international or global in focus?
- What is the research, organizational, and international activity of the majority of professors teaching in that MBA program? Are they recognized in their fields?
- What will my peer group be like? Things to consider: age of students, undergraduate backgrounds, diversity, motivation, ability to unite and work in teams effectively.
- Is this business school and university globally recognized and respected by higher education and the corporate world alike?

Several students doing the MAIB program each year think they may want to do an MBA later in life, especially if an employer pays for it. They choose to do MAIB because of the recognition and respect UF and the Warrington College have around the world and also because travel and international study are difficult later when you are more settled and have obligations you may not have currently. Also, in completing a Master's degree before they start their careers, they already have a tool that will help them advance and move into the higher ranks of a company or organization. One never knows if going back to school later in life will be a viable option.