

How to choose a MBA course

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MANY people want to do a MBA but do not know how to choose the programme that fits them, says University of Strathclyde business school associate dean Dr Colin Eden.

"The MBA does not provide the same easy privilege it did 20 years ago.

"It is not a promise; instead it has become a progression for self-development," he says, adding that this could only be achieved if the MBA is designed for that development.

"No one will hire you simply on the basis of the MBA. The true test of the MBA is whether you can put into the practice the knowledge in an organisation," he notes.

The MBA, he adds, is aimed at making managers better and more outstanding in the workplace.

"One should be pursuing a MBA to learn to do things better," says Dr Eden, who is also the business school's international division director.

According to him, while anyone could offer a MBA, the track record of a programme is important.

Additionally, students should find out about the subjects offered and if these fit into their future career path.

And accreditations and international rankings received by the business school are vital.

"Are the lecturers well established in the



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industry? What do they write about? Do they have organisational experience? This is important as it brings the subject to life," says Dr Eden.

He also advises students to talk to some of the alumni who have completed the programme at least two years ago and find out what they think about the MBA now.

"They usually have different appraisals

compared with those who have just graduated," he says.

Finally, students – especially for those who are part-timers – should find out the support system available such as access to an electronic library or journals.

The Strathclyde MBA programme, established 40 years ago, is now offered on a part-time basis in nine international centres – Bahrain, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, Greece, Oman, Shanghai, Singapore, Zurich and Malaysia.

"We don't offer online studies as we believe in learning from face-to-face interaction," Dr Eden said.

About 500 students graduate from the programme every year, including full-time students in Glasgow. In the recent October intake, it saw about 210 new students from the international centres.

Scottish lecturers travel to the international centres to conduct intensive seminars while local counsellors are available to help the students.

"We conduct interviews with potential students on their motivation, experience and objectives of taking the MBA," says Dr Eden.

The Strathclyde business school has triple accreditations – AMBA (Association of MBAs, the United Kingdom), EQUIS (European Foundation for Management Development, Brussels) and AACBS (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the United States).

Adjunct professor appointed

PROFESSOR Dr Lee Sing, an authority on plasma research, was appointed adjunct professor of Inti International University College (INTI-UC).

He will develop a universal plasma focus laboratory facility at INTI-UC.

Welcoming Prof Dr Lee Sing was INTI-UC president Prof Dr Lee Fah Onn, associate vice-president (teaching and learning) Dr Saw Sor Heoh, and other staff members.

Plasma is the fourth state of matter; the most energetic state. When gases are heated until they ionise the plasma state arises.

Applications include waste treatment, high temperature chemistry, treatment of surfaces for microelectronics and extreme energetic applications like future fusion reactors and engines for ultra high speed space travel.

The plasma focus is an ideal machine for research into these plasma conditions.

There are two Malaysians on the Scientific Council of the International Centre for Dense Magnetised Plasma.

"With this rich tradition in plasma focus research, it is logical for more Malaysians to go into focus research," Prof Lee said.

Prof Lee, who holds a PhD from The Australian National University, is a visiting professor at Universiti Malaysia (UM) and an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University.