



Economist.com

RESEARCH TOOLS

BACKGROUNDEERS

Business schools

May 10th 2007

From Economist.com

Business schools, and especially the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, began as an American phenomenon, but has since spread to Europe. Business courses are also in demand in Japan, China, India and Latin America. As business schools proliferate, so do rankings pitting them against each other. Well-compensated deans are under pressure to keep their schools' rankings high and coffers full.

But are MBA degrees worth the expense? Some observers, such as Henry Mintzberg (interviewed here by Economist.com), are sceptical. One study suggests that getting an MBA has little effect on salary or career. Observers, including the late Sumantra Ghoshal, who taught management, have wondered if MBA programmes are to blame for a decline in business ethics. To that end, many business schools have revamped their programmes.

Copyright © 2007 The Economist Newspaper and The Economist Group. All rights reserved.