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Free Distance MBA Guide



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Introduction

The concept of Distance MBA is not new in itself from a very long period its been around in the Indian education scene. But the advent of IT technologies has made it much easier to achieve your desired MBA degree as never before. Just with internet connectivity and a desired will-power anyone can get that coveted MBA title.

For all the students and working professionals who want to achieve their desired goals in their respective career through Distance MBA. This guide is especially written for you with great care to provide a comprehensive account in order to give you the necessary tools which will help you to make an informed decision for your future.

In order to make your path of getting Distance MBA Degree easier, we have tried to provide you in this book as much useful information as possible along with other available online resources links. So, apart from reading this guide, we also encourage you to visit the mentioned links to get further valuable in-depth information.

Lastly, if you still have doubts, please feel free to write to us. Also we encourage you to share this e-book your friends who are interested in doing distance MBA programs but are confused and not able to take right decision.

Chapter I: Distance MBA Introduction

Unlike regular education, distance learning is a learning system in which its not necessary for learners and teachers to be present at the same place or at the same time. Under distance learning, without compromising important quality considerations¹ there is flexibility in regards to timing of learning, teaching, admission and other modalities. Following are the characteristics of Distance MBA program:-

- I. Although we cannot consider Distance MBA equivalent to a traditional MBA. But due to strictly regulated teaching standards, course curriculum and examination process by the concerned authorities, Distance MBA is at par to a full MBA degree program.
- II. The flexibility you get under Distance MBA is unparalleled. Under traditional MBA programs, during the course duration apart from studying, its almost impossible for a student to perform any other activity and/or his other responsibilities. On the contrary Distance MBA programs used balance approach which provides students ample time and space to balance his/her professional or personal life with their MBA program's schedule.
- III. Experienced professionals and industry experts structure the Distance MBA programs. These programs are based on the current market scenarios and industry demands. Which in turns help working professionals and students alike in gaining expertise through in-depth practical and theoretical learning which in turns enhance their respective domain knowledge and expertise.

¹ <http://mhrd.gov.in/distance-learning>

Chapter II: Accreditation and Govt. Approvals

We have shown in the previous section, how the degree offered in Distance MBA programs are same as conventional regular program's degree. Its very important to know that during interview in various private and government jobs, accreditation of a degree is considered as very important factor.

So, it is very crucial for you to select the right educational institute for your Distance Education MBA because not all educational institutions are authorized to provide recognized Distance MBA degrees.

Today Distance Education is offered by 6 types of institutions²:

- National Open University
- State Open Universities Distance Education Institutions (DEIs) at :-
 - ❖ Institutions of National Importance
 - ❖ Central Universities
 - ❖ State Universities
 - ❖ Deemed to be Universities
 - ❖ State Private Universities
- DEIs at Stand alone Institutions :-
 - ❖ Private institutions
 - ❖ Government Institutions
 - ❖ Professional Associations

For recognition, in India Distance MBA programs need to be approved by a tripartite committee of UGC, DEC and AICTE³ and this recognition is of upmost important if you going for Indian government jobs⁴. Indian government takes the recognition of distance learning institutions and colleges very seriously; there is an elaborate checks list⁵.

2 <https://www.ugc.ac.in/deb/pdf/ODLwhatwhyandhow.pdf>

3 <http://www.techeduhry.nic.in/engg/public-notice.pdf>

4 Gazette Notification No.44 dated March 1, 1995

5 <https://www.ugc.ac.in/deb/pdf/RecognitionODLInstitutionsHandbook2009.pdf>

Chapter III: Is distance MBA a right choice for you?

Distance MBA's technical details have already been covered under chapter I and chapter II, now the pertinent question is whether you should actually go for Distance MBA or not?

Though as per Online MBA Ranking of Financial Times⁶ enrolment numbers of 15 B-schools for distance MBA had increased on an average 7 per cent in the year 2016. Though just as in life, there is no single solution for this question, but by grouping the potential Distance MBA applicants, we are trying here to answer this question:

- **For Freshers / Students** : If they have options available to go for conventional MBA, here our advice for such students is not to go for Distance MBA as
 1. Distance MBA lacks the face to face real life experience that a conventional MBA easily offers. Mostly freshers lack the much needed experience and knowledge of market demands, so they need the initial support and mentorship from experienced faculties.
 2. The valuable internship opportunity which you get in conventional MBA is missing in Distance MBA. Internship is very important for freshers as it not only provide them with practical work experience but can also be converted into a placement offer.
 3. Distance MBA is largely depends on self study. It demands more focus, dedication and will-power from a student compare to a

conventional MBA where you have pre-fixed classes to attain lectures and experienced faculty for guidance and mentoring.

4. Lastly, compare to conventional MBA after pursuing distance MBA your job prospects will be limited, as central and other government agencies of India are only accepting distance MBA from recognized institutes⁷. To check the recognition of the degree is the prerogative of a concerned employer⁸.

Thus we advise you to only go for distance MBA if you have other reasons apart from employment for example:- if you already have an established family business and only want to do MBA for the status associated with an MBA title, or you want to do it for any matrimonial purposes.

- **For Working Professionals:** Our advice for working professional is to definitely go for Distance MBA as it offers a number of advantages to them such as :-

1. In your professional journey, distance MBA can assist you in reaching the next milestone. It can definitely help you in achieving your career goal.
2. With distance MBA you can able to balance your professional and personal life, as it offers the much needed flexibility along with your studies.
3. Under Distance MBA, you didn't need to take the financial hit by taking a break from your current job/career. You can able to continue working while you are pursuing your Distance MBA degree.
4. Most progressive employers and organization take special interest and initiative for their employee development. If you are working under such

employer, you can save the costs associated with pursuing the Distance MBA program by asking him/her to sponsor your studies.

5. Getting a MBA degree from a foreign Institution is now becoming very costly and almost impossible due to tightening of Visa regulations across the globe in general and especially in case of countries such as USA and UK. But in such situation, distance education can come for your aid as many foreign Institutions are now offering MBA degree programs via distance education mode.

6 <https://www.ft.com/content/4e1934a8-f47a-11e6-95ee-f14e55513608>

7 Gazette Notification No.44 dated March 1, 1995

8 <http://mhrd.gov.in/distance-learning-4>

CHAPTER IV: How to select right college for doing MBA?

In the previous chapter we have discussed whether you should go for distance MBA or conventional MBA. Now in this chapter we will cover the various options available for undergoing Distance MBA.

For this purpose the ranking given to various distance education institutes by various reputable publications is a good benchmark to assess from. Both within the country and abroad, depending on your eligibility and budget, there are various options available to choose from:-

➤ For Institutions within India:-

Today distance MBA is offered by various institutions in India, As of December 2012, the sole regulating body in India for distance education is University Grants Commission of India (UGC India). UGC grants approval to the institutions for the courses that follow certain guidelines and standards⁹.

A comprehensive list of all UGC accredited institutions is available on the following link of the UGC Distance Education Bureau¹⁰.

You can also check the Mbahunt.in¹¹ article on the best available distance MBA colleges in India. Please check the comprehensive comparison of numerous distance MBA programs offered in India by visiting on this link¹²; you will get details regarding course admission, costs etc. along with courses reviews by former and current students.

➤ For Institutions in Abroad:-

Due caution must be exercised while selecting an institution in abroad in order to avoid becoming prey to foreign unscrupulous institutions and colleges. In order to assist you in your search for best distance education institute abroad, we have compiled various resources for you.

We encouraged you to make use of the below mentioned resources in order to get the ranking of various institutes:

- [Princeton Review](#)¹³ provides you a listing of numerous online programs available in USA.
- [Financial Times Online MBA Ranking](#)¹⁴ in it MBA programs are listed on the basis of average increase in salary after the completion of MBA program.
- [Top MBA Online MBA Ranking](#)¹⁵ provides a comprehensive list of online programs based on course fee, score, country etc.

In order to have more career opportunities after completion of MBA, both students and working professionals should make sure that the institute via which they want to do their distance MBA program is accredited and recognized by the Indian government.

And in case, if you are preferring distance learning program from abroad. Do make sure that the institution you want to join must have recognition from the country specific regulator. We are mentioning below websites of regulators of some popular countries:

- [The Open And Distance Learning Quality Council](#)¹⁶ for the United Kingdom.
- There are multiple accreditors in USA and you will get the complete list [here](#)¹⁷ or you can check to this [wiki link](#)¹⁸.

Although compare to conventional courses, distance learning is far more cheaper, but it still be quite expensive, if you are doing your distance MBA program from abroad. However, just like we see in regular conventional courses most distance MBA programs

also have the option of availing various scholarships. So, you can able to arrange the financial support to cushion the financial impact on yourself. Please visit [mbahunt.in scholarship article](https://mbahunt.in/scholarship-article)¹⁹ and other scholarship related articles to know more

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- 9 <https://university.careers360.com/articles/list-of-approved-distance-education-universities-in-india>
 - 10 <https://www.ugc.ac.in/deb/>
 - 11 <https://mbahunt.in/top-distance-education-mba-in-india/>
 - 12 <http://rachanabharati.blogspot.in/2015/05/comparison-of-distance-learning-mba-in.html>
 - 13 <https://www.princetonreview.com/business-school-rankings?rankings=top-25-online-mba-programs>
 - 14 <http://rankings.ft.com/businessschoolrankings/online-mba-ranking-2017>
 - 15 <https://www.topmba.com/mba-rankings/online-mba-rankings/2015#sorting=rank+custom=547221+order=desc+search=>
 - 16 <https://www.odlqc.org.uk/>
 - 17 <http://www.chea.org/4dcgi/chea/search/index.html?MenuKey=main>
 - 18 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_online_colleges_in_the_United_States
 - 19 <https://mbahunt.in/scholarship>

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CHAPTER V: FAQ - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Name the top institutions offering best Distance MBA in India?

A. Institutions ranking fluctuate on a year to year basis and depending on the publications. However, some of the well-known reputable institutes in India are IGNOU - Indira Gandhi National Open University (New Delhi), SCDL - Symbiosis Centre of Distance Learning (Pune), ICFAI Business School (Hyderabad), and IMT - Institute of Management Technology Centre for Distance Learning (Ghaziabad). Please note we have just mentioned an illustrative list here, its not an exhaustive one. We encourage you to check the resources provided in the earlier chapters to know the global ranking of numerous institutions.

Q. Is Distance MBA good for me?

A. We already tried to answer this question in earlier chapters, so for our in-depth coverage you can refer them. To recap, for students/freshers: Distance MBA is not that rewarding compare to regular conventional MBA. Though, if you are already studying, then along with your field of study, it may help you in acquiring managerial skills. For working professionals: Distance MBA is very beneficial, as it help them to achieve their desired career goals.

Q. Please mention the costs associated with Distance MBA in India and also in abroad?

A. In India Distance MBA, depending on the institution and the courses you choose, can cost you anywhere from INR. 35,000 to INR. 10,00,000. For more details, you can check this [link](#)¹⁹ or this [mbahunt.in](#)²⁰ article. For global institutions, there is a wide variation in the costs which is not possible to mention in a single article, but you can able to find the course details and the cost of a

particular institute by either downloading their brochure or by contacting the admissions officer of the institute.

Q. While selecting an institution, what criteria should we choose?

A. Among the many available institutions, choosing the right institute is quite confusing. Therefore, while making a selection, we recommend you to start with the following criteria:

- Check the institute's accreditation, whether its recognized by govt. or not (refer chapter II on accreditation)
- Where is the institute's position in terms of ranking
- Do the courses offered by the institute is relevant to your current field of work/study.
- Is there any scholarship offered by them that might be applicable to you
- Do talk and get the feedback from that institute's pass out students

Q. Compare to conventional MBA, is distance MBA easy?

A. In terms of flexibility Distance MBA is much easier, there is no fixed schedule. But this biggest advantage of Distance MBA can turn out to be its biggest disadvantage, if you are not focused and self-disciplined. Your performance will totally depend on your self-study. So, you have to ensure that you take your Distance MBA program very seriously, just as you would have taken any conventional MBA program. Rather than rushing before examination, make sure you study throughout the year and submit all assignments on time.

19 <https://mbahunt.in/top-distance-education-mba-in-india/>

20 <https://mbahunt.in/top-10-cheap-distance-mba-in-india/>

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