

# March 2026 MBA Study Tours

*Info Session*

# What are MBA Study Tours?

- Always led by Foster faculty members
- 8-14 day, fast-paced academic trips
- At least 10-12 company visits & cultural activities
- Personal meetings with executives, local business leaders, city tours, and more!
- 2 pre-departure sessions – no other on campus classes/lectures
- Do not have to be taken for credit
- Mixed cohort of FT, Eve, UW graduate students



# Why should you apply for one?

- **Real-World Learning**

Go beyond the classroom. Engage directly with international firms, government agencies, non-profits, and startups to understand how business is done across cultures and economies.

- **Networking That Matters**

Build relationships with faculty, classmates, peers, and global professionals. These connections can lead to new career opportunities, partnerships, and lifelong friendships.

- **Cultural Intelligence**

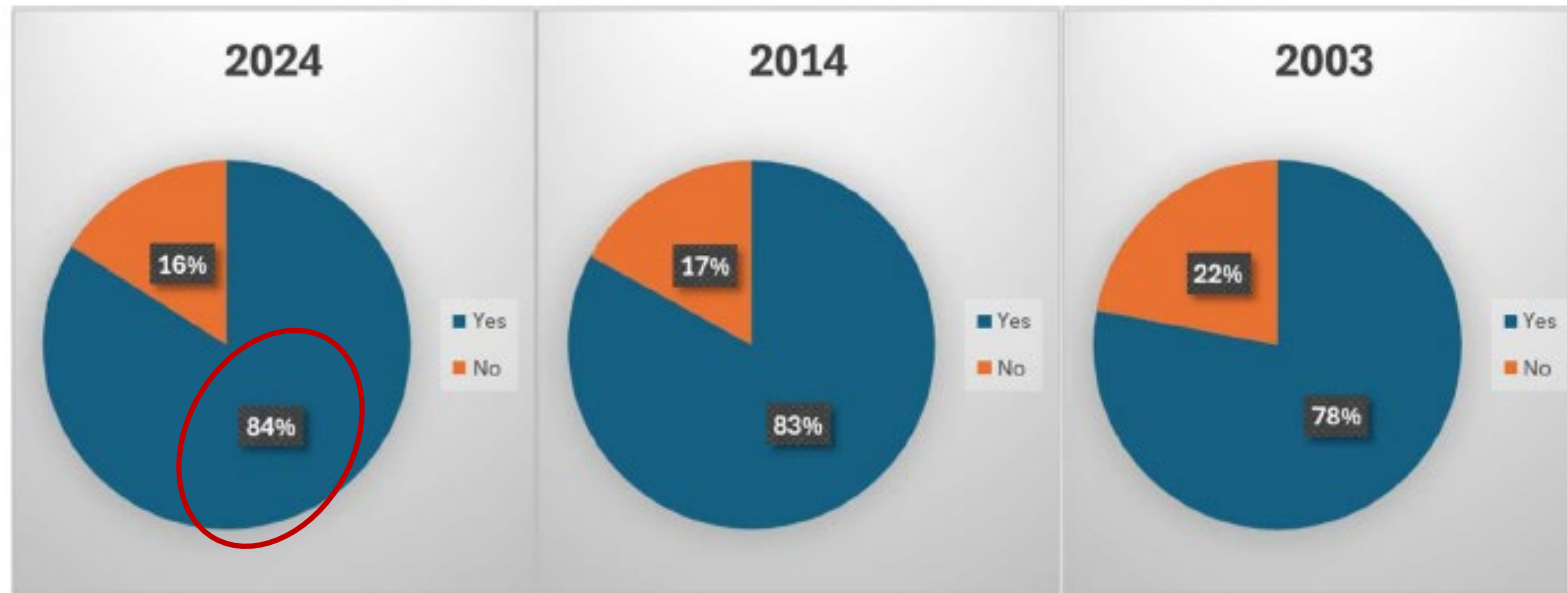
Experience the local culture, food, and traditions while gaining insights into how cultural context shapes business strategy and leadership.

- **Career-Relevant Insights**

Get fresh ideas, build skills, and add global credibility that employers value.

# Employers want int'l competence!

Fig 7: Over the next 10 years will your company place a greater emphasis on international competence among management and employees?



Source: Glassman, D. & Prasad, K. (2025). "2024 U.S. Business Needs for Employees with International Expertise Executive Summary".

# Where can you go?

## March 2026

Study Tour to  
**Argentina & Brazil**

Asian Capital Markets  
Study Tour to **China**

## September 2026

Study Tour to  
**Denmark**

→ March 2027 destinations will be announced during Spring Quarter 2026!



# Argentina/Brazil Study Tour!

Info Session Sept/Oct 2025

# Argentina/Brazil Study Tour: The Basics

- March 15-25, 2026
  - March 15-20 Buenos Aires
  - March 20-25 Rio de Janeiro
- 10 nights in 4\* hotels
- ~5 company visits in BA, ~4 company visits in Rio
- City tour in BA; Christ the Redeemer and Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio
- Optional opportunities for a soccer game, samba lesson, nature excursions, and more...
- Faculty Director: Tracey Seslen (Finance)
- Staff Director: Angela Shelley (GBC)
- Program Fee: \$3650, not including airfare or credits
- Credits: 2 credits of IBUS 570 during WIN '26 (optional)

# For my fellow travel and map nerds...

- 4-hr time difference (U.S. Daylight savings begins 3/8)
- About a 3-3.5hr flight from BA to Rio



Map Style: Plain Light Blue Marble

## Distances

From	To	Initial Heading	Magnetic Heading	Distance
3 segment path:				
<a href="#">SEA</a>	<a href="#">DFW</a>	118° (SE)	103° (E)	1,660 mi
<a href="#">DFW</a>	<a href="#">EZE</a>	148° (SE)	146° (SE)	5,286 mi
<a href="#">EZE</a>	<a href="#">GIG</a>	052° (NE)	062° (NE)	1,240 mi

# Why Argentina and Brazil?

Dimension	Brazil	Argentina
Market Size	~215M people; \$2T GDP → largest economy in Latin America	~46M people; \$600B GDP → smaller, but educated and urbanized
Key Sectors for U.S. Firms	Consumer goods, aerospace (Embraer), energy (offshore oil), tech (Amazon, Google, Microsoft), finance (Citi, JPMorgan)	Agriculture (Cargill, ADM, Bunge), energy (Vaca Muerta shale), lithium (critical for EV batteries), agritech, wine/food exports
Trade/Exports to U.S.	Soy, beef, orange juice, iron ore, steel, oil, aircraft	Soy, beef, wine, lithium, oil/gas
Investment Climate	Bureaucratic and regulatory hurdles, but relatively stable macro framework since 1990s	High volatility: inflation, debt defaults, IMF reliance; high-risk/high-reward
Strategic Relevance	BRICS & G20 member → global player; counterweight to China in Latin America	Resource hub (lithium triangle, shale oil, ag exports); U.S. influence via IMF programs
Business Value Proposition	<b>Primary Latin American growth market</b> outside Mexico; scale and diversification	<b>Critical resource supplier</b> (lithium, energy, food); attractive niches, but unstable

- What are the biggest business opportunities, given the current state of the economy and business environment?
- Institutional and infrastructural weaknesses/voids → what are they and how do we navigate them?
- Exposure to cultures different from our own (business and in broader society). What can we take back to our offices to make our own workplaces better?

# Possible industries/visits

## Argentina

- Tech services/consulting (Globant)
- E-commerce (Mercado Libre)
- Food/Wine
- Mining (Lithium)
- AmCham/US Embassy Commercial Services Division

## Brazil

- Agribusiness (including coffee, beer)
- The business of Soccer
- Media (i.e. Grupo Globo)
- Telecom (Oi)
- Energy/Biofuel

# About Me!

- Associate Teaching Professor of Finance with a specialty in Real Estate.
- Been leading study tours since ~2005, first with USC and then with UW since 2014.
- Spanish Speaker; have traveled to Mexico/Caribbean/Central & S. America (including Brazil and Argentina) dozens of times both with students and on my own.
- Faculty advisor for the Spanish track of the UG Certificate of International Studies in Business (CISB) program.





# Program at a Glance\*

	Day 1 (Sun)	Day 2 (Mon)	Day 3 (Tues)	Day 4 (Wed)	Day 5 (Thurs)	Day 6 (Fri)	Day 7 (Sat)	Day 8 (Sun)	Day 9 (Mon)	Day 10 (Tues)	Day 11 (Wed)
AM	Arrive in Buenos Aires	<b>City Tour</b> of BA	<b>Company Visit</b>	<b>Company Visit</b>	<b>Company Visit</b>	Flight to Rio	<b>City Tour</b> of Rio, including Christ the Redeemer & Sugarloaf Mountain	Free Day (with optional activities)	<b>Company Visit</b>	<b>Company Visit</b>	Check out & departure
PM		Welcome Dinner	<b>Company Visit</b>	<b>Company Visit</b>	<b>Company Visit</b>	Free Evening			<b>Company Visit</b>	<b>Company Visit</b>  Farewell Dinner	

*\*Tentative*

# Thank You!



# Asian Capital Markets MBA Study Tour to *China*

- **Leadership:**
  - Faculty Director: Yang Song
  - Staff Director: Kahyun Cho
- **Dates:** March 21-29, 2026
- **Program Fee:** \$3350, not including airfare
- **Program includes:**
  - 8 nights in 5\* hotels
  - Daily breakfast, two lunches, and two dinners
  - Company visits in Beijing & Shanghai
  - Tour of the Forbidden City
  - Day trip to the Great Wall of China
  - Day trip to Zhujiajiao Water Town
  - High speed train from Beijing to Shanghai
  - Personal local guides throughout program



# About me

From Shanghai, China

At Foster since Summer 2018

## **Education:**

BS in Mathematics from Fudan University

PhD in Finance from Stanford University

## **Research and Teaching:**

Asset Pricing

Investments



# Perspective: Asian Capital Markets

- Class (since 2006) and Study Tour (since 2016) supported by the George Long Endowment.
- China was the fastest growing economy over the past four decades, yet the growth has been slowing down recently.
- Enable students to evaluate financial and corporate investment opportunities in China.
- First-hand introduction to the economy, the financial system, as well as the national and corporate cultures of China.
- Firm-visits tilted towards financial market participants, investors, fintech and AI start-ups.

# Where are we going?

## Beijing: Capital of China

The Great Wall, the Forbidden City,  
Peking Opera, Roast Duck.....

## Shanghai: Economic hub of China

The Bund, Pudong skyline, Huangpu River,  
Shanghai Tower, Shanghai Cuisine...



# Preliminary Itinerary: Beijing

- Saturday, March 21 Arrive in Beijing
- Sunday, March 22 Great Wall Tour and Welcome Dinner with Peking Opera Performance
- Monday, March 23
  - Morning: Xiaomi (tentative)
  - Afternoon: Qingyan Technology (Fintech Startup)
  - Evening: Free
- Tuesday, March 24
  - Morning: Inside the Forbidden City Tour
  - Afternoon: JD.com (tentative)
  - Evening: Free
- Wednesday, March 25
  - Morning: Sinolink Securities (IB)
  - Afternoon: High-speed Train to Shanghai

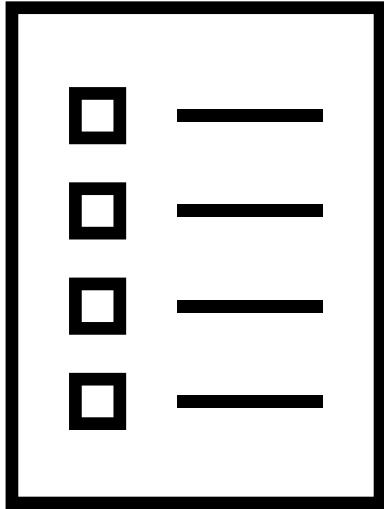
# Preliminary Itinerary: Shanghai

- Wednesday, March 25      Evening:      Arrive in Shanghai
- Thursday, March 26      Morning:      Conflux Network (Crypto Architecture)  
   Afternoon:      Shanghai Unidt Technology (AI Startup)  
   Evening:      Free
- Friday, March 27      Morning:      Yonghua Capital (VC&PE)  
   Afternoon:      Yunnan Trust (Shadow bank)  
   Evening:      Free
- Saturday, March 28      Morning      Zhujiajiao Water Town  
   Evening:      Farewell Dinner Cruise on Huangpu River

# Accessibility

- If you need to request disability accommodations, it is your responsibility to ensure this request is made to **Disability Resources for Students** (DRS) and that your accommodations are communicated to all relevant parties.
- Setting up specific accommodations takes planning and lead time, so the earlier requests are communicated, the better!
- We cannot guarantee all programs can accommodate every need, given the variable resources available in each destination country.
- If you have questions or concerns about accessibility, please reach out to [passport@uw.edu](mailto:passport@uw.edu) before submitting your application.

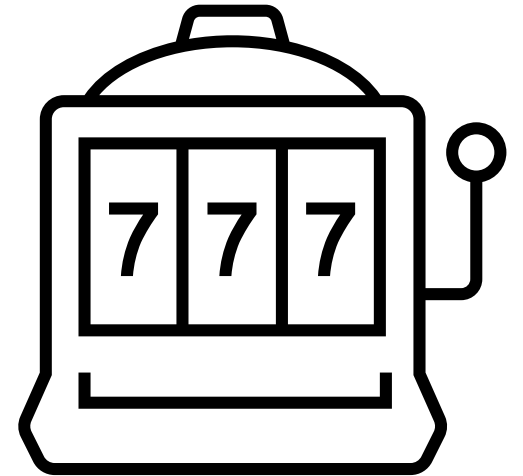
# Application & Notification



- **Applications** due **Sunday, October 26**, by 11:59 PM
  - Application portal opens Oct. 1!
  - Pay \$150 **NONREFUNDABLE** application fee
  - Must be in good standing with the MBA Program Office
- **Placement lottery** used \*if program is over subscribed\*
- **Notification** of placement by 5:00PM on **Monday, November 3**

# Placement Lottery

1. Graduating FT & Eve MBA students pursuing the [Global Business Program Certificate](#) (GBPC).
2. Other graduating Foster FT & Eve MBA students who have not yet been on a program and non-graduating Foster FT & Eve MBAs pursuing the GBPC.
3. All non-graduating Foster FT & Eve MBA applicants who have not participated in a program.
4. All Foster FT & Eve MBAs pursuing the GBPC who have participated previously.
5. Other Foster FT & Eve MBAs who have participated previously.
6. All other Foster School graduate students (not in the FT & Eve MBA program) who have not participated previously.
7. All UW graduate students (non-Foster School) who have not participated previously.
8. All UW graduate students (non-Foster School) who have participated previously.



# FOSTER

## GLOBAL BUSINESS CENTER

**W** UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

### Everyone

VIEW YOUR APPLICATIONS

MBA GLOBAL BUSINESS  
PROGRAM CERTIFICATE  
APPLICATION

--NOW OPEN--  
APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

### Undergraduate Programs

APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSED  
GBC HOVIND GLOBAL LEADERS  
PROGRAM

### MBA Study Abroad

APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSED  
GBC STUDY ABROAD (WINTER  
BREAK)

OPENING OCT 1, 2025  
GBC STUDY ABROAD (SPRING  
BREAK)

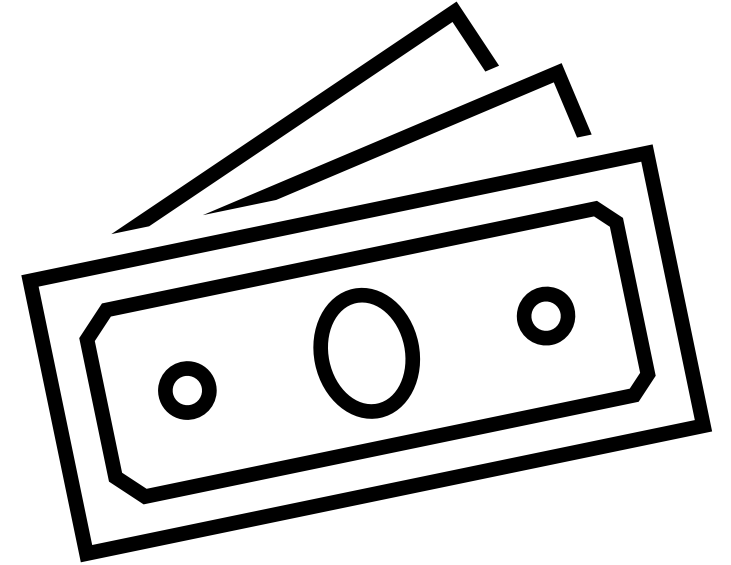
### MBA Domestic Programs

APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSED  
RACE, CULTURE, AND BUSINESS  
MBA IMMERSION

[uwfoster.force.com/Centers/s/GBC](https://uwfoster.force.com/Centers/s/GBC)

# Fee Schedule

- **By October 26**, application and NONREFUNDABLE \$150 application fee due
  - Placements announced **November 3**
- **By November 20**, NONREFUNDABLE \$500 deposit due
- **By December 1**, program balance due



# Cancellation & Withdrawal Policies

- \$150 application fee – non-refundable, under any circumstance
- If the program is **cancelled** in its entirety by the UWSA or GBC before **December 1**, the program fee (\$500 deposit and final balance) will be fully refunded. After **December 1**, we will do our best to secure refunds for any expenses incurred but cannot guarantee a 100% refund, as payment will have been made to vendors and may not be recoverable.
- If a student **withdraws** prior to **December 1**, they will be refunded any fees, less the non-refundable \$500 deposit & application fee. Notice of withdrawal from the program must be made in writing to the Global Business Center to [passport@uw.edu](mailto:passport@uw.edu). No refunds will be given for withdrawals made after **December 1**.

# Cost Breakdown

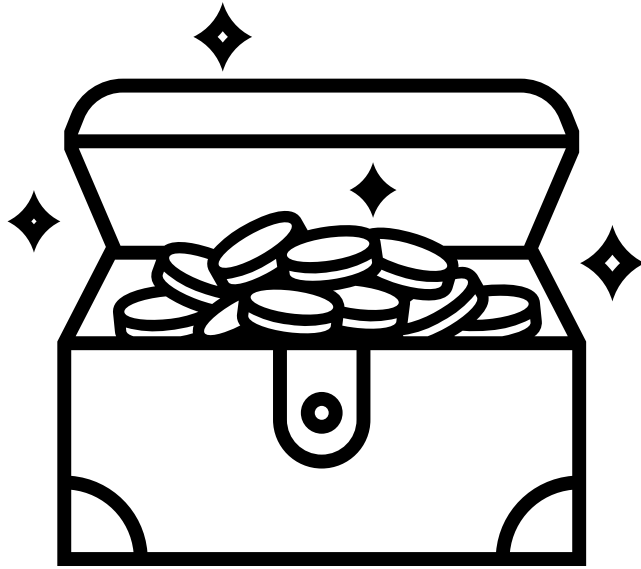
**Included:** Lodging, all breakfasts, some lunches & dinners, ground transportation for program activities, in-program flights, local guides, trip coordination, and other services

**Flights:** Seattle flights not included

**Credits:** Credits are not included in the price; depending on your program, you may have to pay an additional fee to earn credit



# Financial Aid & Scholarships



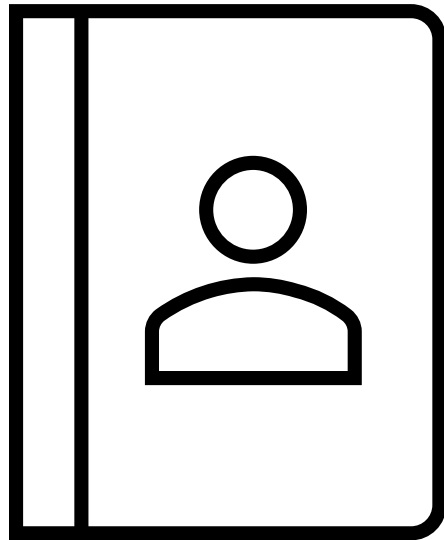
- [UW Financial Aid](#)
  - Must be taking for credit
  - Complete a revision request
- [GBC Scholarships](#)
  - Open now!
  - Credit not required
  - Deadline to apply is **October 29**

# Insurance

- **UW Student Abroad Insurance** will be automatically applied to your MyUW account
  - Insurance benefits can be found [here](#)
  - Does not include Cancel for Any Reason or any trip delay benefits
  - Strongly encourage personal travel insurance – purchase early!



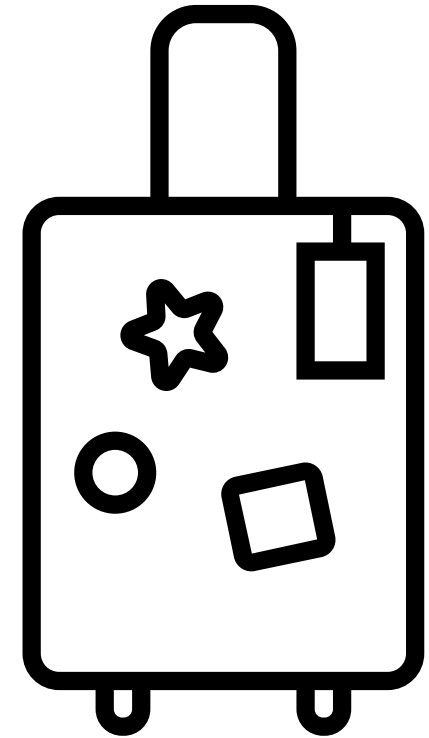
# Passports & Visas



- The GBC is not responsible for determining your immigration status
  - Support for obtaining **Chinese visas** will be provided. Costs not included (~\$285+ for US Citizens).
  - Support for obtaining **Brazilian eVisa** will be provided. Costs not included (~\$80 for US citizens).
- Always travel as tourists.
- Check your passport expiration dates – must be valid for 6 months after you return!
- All students, regardless of citizenship, should be aware of **geo-political** situations which may impact your ability to receive a visa, enter a particular country, and/or return to the US.

# Pre-Departure Sessions

- Two sessions during Winter Quarter 2026
- Sessions include country and cultural context, health and safety preparation, community building activities, and more!
- These are **mandatory** – unexcused absences may result in removal from the program



# MBA Study Tour Alumni Panel

*Want to hear more about the study tour experience from your peers?*

**Join us next Wednesday,  
October 8!**

- 5-5:50PM
- PCAR 393



# Application opening Winter 2026



# MBA Study Tour to *Denmark*

**Location:** Copenhagen

**Faculty:** Abhinav Gupta

**Travel Dates:** September 13-23, 2026

**Credits:** 2 credits of IBUS 570 during Fall Quarter (optional)

**Program Cost:** TBA, will not include airfare or credits

Program will focus on environmental sustainability. Offered in partnership with the Global Innovation Exchange.

***NOTE: This program is not open to class of Class of 2026 or 2028.***



# Learn more!

Check out the Global Business Center website for:

- Recordings of this presentation
- Application and scholarship links
- Administrative details and FAQs

Angela Shelley  
Global Business Center  
[angelajs@uw.edu](mailto:angelajs@uw.edu)



[foster.mba/gbc-short-term](https://foster.mba/gbc-short-term)