

## **What is the MBA/MA Latin American Studies Program?**

The MBA/MA Latin American Studies degree (MBA/MLAS) is a two and a half to three year concurrent degree program jointly sponsored by the UCLA Anderson School of Management and the UCLA International Institute Latin American Studies Program. Graduating students will be awarded both the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree and the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Latin American Studies.

## **What is the purpose of the program?**

The program is designed for individuals preparing for careers in international management with special focus on Latin America. It was established on the belief that individuals employed in the area of international management are better equipped to succeed in their field with complementary preparation in language and area studies.

In the past, students who wished to obtain both degrees had to do so separately, a process that usually took three and a half to four years. By coordination of the degree curricula, the concurrent program can be completed in less than three years.

## **How are the concurrent degrees different from the regular MBA and MA degrees?**

There is no difference. Students wishing to pursue the concurrent degree program must meet the entrance and total course requirements established for each degree. Certain courses, however, are accepted for degree credit "concurrently," that is, they are applied simultaneously toward both the MBA and MA degrees.

## **Why pursue both degrees? Why not merely get an MBA or an MA?**

The MBA provides students with broad managerial and leadership training, coupled in this case with an emphasis in international management. While it introduces tools and techniques for approaching certain management-related problems, it does not furnish any extensive background for dealing with these problems in a particular setting or context. The MA in Latin American Studies, on the other hand, provides for advanced exploration and analysis of social, cultural, political and other issues characteristic of Latin American societies does not provide in-depth managerial skills. While each degree program has individual merit, the concurrent program best provides individuals with the critical professional tools, language skills, understanding, and sensitivity necessary to successfully approach business and management problems in the Latin American context. In addition, an individual with both degrees has a broad appeal to employers and a wider range of career choices.

MBA/MALAS students also benefit from a particularly extensive network since they will have classmates and alumni networks from two schools rather than one. Finally, concurrent degree students gain from the experience of navigating both the management and LAS programs/student bodies.

## **How does the concurrent program work?**

Students typically devote all of their first year in the program to courses at UCLA Anderson. These include eleven core courses, as well as at least one course in the international management area, which becomes the first field for the Latin American Studies degree.

During the second year, students emphasize courses in the international business and comparative management area of study and satisfy all remaining requirements for the MBA. In addition, they begin to develop the second and third fields in Latin American Studies through elective courses outside of UCLA Anderson. Possible fields include Latin American economics, political science, history, sociology, anthropology, geography, fine arts, and literature.

After the second year, students must complete any remaining requirements for the two degrees. Typically these consist of two or three additional courses in Latin American Studies and three interdisciplinary research papers prepared in consultation with a committee of three faculty members representing the student's two or three fields in Latin American Studies. Students can make use of summer sessions to complete requirements, or they can continue in school another quarter or two during the regular academic year. For the MBA program, students must complete Applied Management Research Project.

Finally, proficiency equivalent to 24 quarter units of university-level Spanish and 12 quarter units of university-level Portuguese or 16 quarter units of university-level Portuguese and 20 quarter units of university-level Spanish. Only coursework taken within five years of the award of the M.A. degree may be used to demonstrate current proficiency. Language courses, unlike linguistics and literature courses, cannot be applied to the M.A. degree, thus students are encouraged to pass these proficiency levels by examination. A major Indigenous language of Latin America, e.g., Quechua, may be substituted for either Spanish or Portuguese. Students must fulfill the foreign language requirements by examination or petition for an examination waiver if they have gained competency in another manner (i.e., native speaker, upper division course work, Peace Corps Service) and must provide verification when advancing to candidacy.

## **Are there any prerequisite requirements?**

Students who lack sufficient background in Latin American Studies may be required to complete certain prerequisite course work in addition to the regular program requirements.

## **How do I apply to the MBA/MLAS Program?**

Students should request application materials from both the MBA Admissions Office and the Latin American Studies Program. Applicants must take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) but do not need to take the Graduate Record

Exam (GRE). Admission decisions for the MBA/MA LAS. program are made by separate admissions committees. An applicant must be admitted to both programs to be part of the concurrent program.

An online application for Latin American Studies is available on the Graduate Admissions website at <https://www.gradadmissions.ucla.edu/newapp/>. An online application for the MBA program is available at <http://www.mba.anderson.ucla.edu/>. Please note that application information should be sent to both programs separately.

### **Can students pursuing one or the other degree switch to the concurrent program?**

Yes, students in their first year of either the MBA or the MA degree program may apply to be a candidate for the other degree. However, each school has its own entrance requirements, and there is no guarantee that merely because an individual is already a student in good standing in one program that he or she will be accepted by the other.

### **How can further information be obtained?**

Group information sessions are offered at UCLA Anderson every week throughout the year. Appointments are necessary. To schedule an appointment, go online to <http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/x6531.xml> or with short notice, call (310) 825-6944. For more information, contact the following school representatives:

#### **Karen Lee**

Associate Director, MBA Admissions  
UCLA Anderson  
110 Westwood Plaza  
Box 951481  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1481  
(310) 825-6944  
[mba.admissions@anderson.ucla.edu](mailto:mba.admissions@anderson.ucla.edu)  
[anderson.ucla.edu/programs/mba](http://anderson.ucla.edu/programs/mba)

#### **Melanie Levin**

Student Affairs Coordinator  
Latin American Studies Program  
UCLA International Institute  
10373 Bunche Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1487  
(310) 206-6571  
[mlevin@international.ucla.edu](mailto:mlevin@international.ucla.edu)  
[international.ucla.edu/idps/las/masters.asp](http://international.ucla.edu/idps/las/masters.asp)

Faculty Advisor available for further consultation:

#### **Eduardo S. Schwartz**

Professor, Finance  
C409, UCLA Anderson  
(310) 825-2873  
[eduardo.schwartz@anderson.ucla.edu](mailto:eduardo.schwartz@anderson.ucla.edu)

### SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY

This sample plan of study assumes proficiency in Spanish and with no prerequisites required.

#### **SUMMER**

Mathematics (if necessary, to prepare for MBA coursework).

**Pre-term:** Mgt. 414A Leadership Foundations\*

#### **FIRST YEAR**

##### **Fall Quarter**

Mgt. 402 Data Analysis, Statistics, and Decision Making\*

Mgt. 403 Financial Accounting\*

Mgt. 405 Managerial Economics\*

Mgt. 408 Financial Markets\*

Mgt. 411A Marketing Management I\*

##### **Winter Quarter**

Mgt. 410 Operations and Technology Management\*

Mgt. 411B Marketing Management II\*

Mgt. 430 Corporate Finance\*

##### **Spring Quarter**

Mgt. 409 Managing and Leading Organizations\*

Mgt. 420 Business Strategy\*

Mgt. Elective\*

Mgt. 205A International Business Economics+\*

#### **SECOND YEAR**

##### **Fall Quarter**

Mgt. Elective\*

Mgt. 296A International Business Management (LAS Field 1)+

Mgt. Elective\* (LAS Field 1)+

LAS 205 (core course)+

##### **Winter Quarter**

Mgt. 444A Applied Management Research Project\*

Mgt. Elective\* (LAS Field 2 or 3)+

LAS (Field 2 or 3)+

##### **Spring Quarter**

Mgt. 444B Applied Management Research Project\*

Mgt. 297B\* (LAS Field 1)+

Mgt. Elective\*

LAS (Field 2 or 3)\*

#### **SUMMER**

Portuguese (if necessary, to fulfill LAS requirement)

#### **THIRD YEAR**

LAS (Field 2 or 3)+

Degrees awarded on completion of MA research papers in Latin American Studies.

Mgt. Elective\*

---

\*Course applies to MBA, International Business and Comparative Management area of study, required minimum 84 units

+Course applies to MA Latin American Studies, total 36 units (9 courses).