

DO I NEED AN INTERNSHIP?



Will doing an MBA put your career at risk?

Will you end up with something less?

As a one-year MBA option in the market, these are the common concerns we hear from candidates when they're making decisions around career progression and an MBA program. Our advice is to re-shape your thinking from the short term to the long term. View the MBA experience as a long-term investment in yourself.

We consider ourselves specialists in talent identification and development. If you are successful in being admitted to Ivey, it is our view that you do not need an internship and that you can be successful in your career goals. We cannot

guarantee you a job, but, alongside the work you put in, we are here to help you reach your goals. We also have a commitment to letting candidates know if we do feel that an internship would be beneficial for them, and we do not admit them if we don't think they'll

be successful and thrive in our program. In some cases, we suggest they look at other programs or re-apply once their work experience has more depth.

Know that the best school for you will vary based on where you are at in your career now and what your short-term and long-term goals are. It might be surprising to learn that the most successful students are not necessarily those with the best academic record. The most successful students are those who choose to be the best informed and engaged candidates, and who have approached the school's admissions process with our shared interests in mind. Similarly, the best schools are choosy about who they admit and will not admit

you if they don't think they will be able to help you achieve your goals. This approach just makes sense for our shared reputations and lifelong relationship.

Ivey has a long reputation of excellence. After seventy years of operating a two-year MBA program, we moved from this traditional format to a one-year program. This decision was not made lightly. We have seen both options operate and moved to the one-year format thoughtfully and with a lot of consultation from the recruitment marketplace and our alumni.

We knew that the best MBA internships were those that stretched students' learning and gave them exposure to the market — and worked best for those candidates who did not have strong work experience before they arrived. By bringing a deeper rigour to the profile of who we admit, we eliminated this requirement for our students' success in the marketplace after graduation. Since the launch of our one-year program in 2007, we have delivered a program with continued world-class cases and faculty, an engaging program execution, and an excellent Career Management team — all coming together to help students make the transitions that they came to Ivey to make.

The best schools will treat you as a partner in your decision and I recommend that you do likewise. Do your homework. Research information on the career support the school offers, profiles of the most satisfied students and how they managed their experiences, and past performance of their alumni. Read employment reports and ask questions when you visit the school. All of these steps can help you determine where you want to go in your career and the best place to do your MBA. Working with the admissions team as a partner, whose best interests are served by ensuring you are ready for their program, will help you to understand when and if their MBA is the right one for you.