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The University of Manchester
Manchester Business School

Think
Alumni

Manchester Business School
Middle East Centre
Alumni Book 2015



Original Thinking Applied

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MBSNetwork Online

the exclusive web
portal for MBS alumni



To register visit
mbs.ac.uk/alumni



Message from the Director, Middle East

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, in 2015, MBS is embarking on an ambitious programme of investment in our people and campus, and continues to rise up the MBA rankings, so we see exciting developments ahead.

For the Middle East Centre, over the course of the year we have seen students and graduates move on to exciting new career opportunities. We have also bid farewell to our own colleagues and dear friends, whilst welcoming new faces to the team, all of whom are doing extraordinary jobs.

It has been an extraordinary year and looking back, here are just a few of the highlights.

I must start with the University of Manchester graduation ceremony in July, which I had the honour to attend and to join the procession. Over 40 of our MBA students graduated at the ceremony – with the top scoring MBA project - along with four DBA students.

Manchester Business School rose to 35th in this year's Financial Times' Global MBA ranking of the world's leading MBA programmes. This means we are positioned as 5th in the UK and 12th in Europe. The ranking also shows 84% of our alumni achieved their aims for doing an MBA, making Manchester 9th in the world in this area.

The MBS Middle East Centre hosted the first GEMBA global cohort's visit to Dubai and ran a very strong GEMBA+ programme to enhance their residential study tour experience.

We also started work on our ground-breaking first MBS research programme in the GCC, looking at creativity and innovation in the region, starting with a series of research focus groups taking place across the GCC.

Collaborations play a big part in our work in the region and we are delighted to see our relationships with a range of professional bodies go from strength to strength. We recently signed an extension to our MOU in the Middle East with ACCA and we also signed new agreements with CIMA and PMI. Our close working relationship with Dubai International Academic City and Knowledge & Human Development Authority saw us visiting China to support 'Dubai Week in China', where I was able to speak about the MBS experience of working with top quality students in the region. We also connected with the MBS China Centre to help broaden



the Dubai delegation's networking opportunities.

Of course we also enrolled nearly 200 new MBA students onto the Global MBA programme – and into the MBS alumni association, where we see membership and members becoming increasingly active. This was in addition to running another intensive series of workshops for more than 1,000 students earlier this year – the largest hosted by MBS anywhere in the world - and with more than 200 MBS students choosing to study in Dubai, as part of the workshops in two centres option. (The centre is currently hosting the latest workshops).

We have had a great 2015 so far and, in our 50th anniversary year, there are sure to be more highlights ahead. Look out for the '50 for 50' (50 people – staff, students and alumni, running a half marathon for the MBS 50th anniversary, and to support the Al Noor Training Centre for Children with Special Needs)

On behalf of MBS Middle East and the whole team, I would like to thank you sincerely for all your contributions to MBS and to the MBA programmes, your support for all our many events designed to enrich the MBS experience, and for your contribution to the growing Middle East Alumni Association. Our programme is as good as our students and we are privileged to be supporting a group of world class students and alumni.

Enjoy this wonderful gala dinner evening - and be sure to network with your fellow students and alumni.

Randa Bessio
Director, Middle East



I am delighted to be able to join you at this year's annual dinner event.

Alumni Relations continues to work hard to ensure that you are able to benefit from the vast alumni network you are a part of, and utilise our services to the full.

If you have not already done so, I would like to encourage you to join our alumni portal - MBSNetwork Online. Key features include the global events calendar, free online library resources, a searchable directory of alumni and students, and insightful commentary from alumni on business issues.

We will shortly be updating the career management tools that are also available to you on our pages, and we will be adding new content which includes

information on working in a number of regions around the globe. I will keep you updated on our progress over the coming months.

The popularity of our LinkedIn group continues to grow - membership now stands at approximately 13,000. The topical discussions continue to attract more of our experienced alumni to join, and we are seeing more and more register each day from across the globe.

We would like to encourage those of you who wish to become involved with the Middle East Group (Dubai) to get in touch as we always welcome new ideas and alumni who bring new energy to the group.

I would like to encourage you to stay involved with the School, and would be delighted to hear from you should you wish to offer your services as a mentor, speaker or ambassador in the region.

Please feel free to get in touch with me at any time should you have any questions.

Have a great evening.

Regards

Lisa Samberg
Head of Alumni Relations

You are an integral part of our growing alumni community of over 50,000 alumni from 169 countries.

To benefit from being part of the alumni community, make sure we have your contact details, email us at alumnioffice@mbs.ac.uk

You can network across a developed global business community, attend our international events, join our social media networks and enjoy our monthly eNewsletter - bringing you the latest news and research from the School, events and benefits and services.

By registering for MBSNetwork Online, you have access to a search directory of alumni, your own personal profile (which can be updated online), regional group information and activities, free electronic library resources, career development tools and a host of discounts and offers.

To register, go to: www.mbs.ac.uk/alumni

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MBSAlumni



Manchester Business School Alumni (Official)



Manchester Business School Alumni (Official)

Think Alumni!

The value exchange: why hundreds of alumni remain involved with the School each year

The knowledge and skills that set you up in your career continue to prove invaluable throughout your professional journey. To enhance the student experience, we encourage alumni to impart the knowledge they have acquired with current classes, to further our shared vision of a world-class business school.

Each year, more of you choose to devote your support to getting involved in a range of student-centric initiatives.

MENTORING

Volunteering as a mentor can help boost your own career by providing opportunities to communicate your professional expertise as well as offering others the benefit of your experience.

The University of Manchester Gold Mentoring scheme has developed into one of the largest Higher Education employability mentoring schemes in the UK. Highly praised by both recruiters and students, the programme provides excellent opportunities for students to meet with professionals from a wide range of sectors and industries.

GLOBAL GRADUATES PROGRAMME

Each year a select number of students are invited to meet with alumni working in a number of locations around the world. These meetings are designed to give students insight into global business practices.

SPEAKING AT EVENTS

Speakers and contributors with relevant experience in industry, are crucial to the development of current students and the success of online and face-to-face events.

SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES AT ADMISSION TIME

There are many opportunities for you to help identify prospective students and participate in the recruitment process.

Whether representing MBS at local fairs, interviewing potential candidates or responding to inquiries from prospective students about your experience, your involvement can help influence the final decision making process.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH INTERNSHIPS, PROJECTS AND RECRUITMENT

During your time at the School you experienced first-hand the quality of knowledge imparted from alumni to students - now it's your turn.

ASSISTING WITH PROJECTS

By participating in MBS projects, you will have access to our talented students, many of whom have work experience in global firms. Their course supervisors can help you to design and steer a world-class project that will offer long-lasting benefits.

INTERNSHIPS

Students carry out a bespoke project during the internship, linked to their degree which offers great value to your organisation.

RECRUITMENT

Whether as part of a recruitment programme or arising from business requirements, job opportunities are promoted to our various student groups including, undergraduate, masters, MBA and research, by our Postgraduate Careers Service and the University Careers Service.

Advertising is completely free of charge, making it one of the most cost-effective recruitment methods.

"The feeling of returning as an alumnus to speak at one of the oldest international business schools, takes some beating. The experience is challenging in the preparation, enjoyable in the delivery, and gives you a shot of intellectual oxygen."

Paul Ballington (Global MBA 2010)

**For further information,
please contact:**

alumnioffice@mbs.ac.uk

*Ambassadors
Awardees*

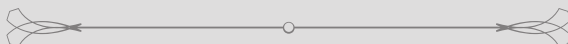


Mustafa Dulgerler
Global Pathway, Class of 2015

Ramez Hanafi
Global Pathway, Class of 2014

Rafaa Mustafa
Global Pathway, Class of 2013

Timothy Shelton
Global Pathway, Class of 2013



Alumni Think

TRANSFORMING LIVES...

At Manchester Business School, our mission is to give everyone the opportunity to transform their lives and, in doing so, help them transform the organisations they work for and the wider communities in which they live.

Every MBS student has a unique and individual story of transformation – a story of personal, professional and life journeys; we invited Alumni to share their personal transformations with us.

These are some of their stories.

Alumni Think



Oghale Akpobome
Graduation Class - 2015

From Dubai to China, Singapore to Miami, Manchester Business School workshops increased my global reach, transforming my professional and personal lives. I have met great people from all over the world and built lasting relationships. I took this journey to 'open my mind', however it 'blew my mind' and not only mine, but that of my husband and son who came along with me.

Two promotions: one into Senior Management and the other into Corporate Leadership Development plus an assignment to Iraq, where I currently work in Oil & Gas as Senior Project Manager, are unintended consequences of doing the MBA.

In three words - Challenging, Enriching, Global.

MBS changed everything.



Rasha Hossny Ibrahim
Abdelwahed
Graduation Class - 2015

An Egyptian working in Libya, I started my MBA in early 2011 and went through real personal and professional challenges – the challenge of studying, travelling and to succeed. Revolutions here and there forced me to put my studies on hold for a while and then I was able to continue.

All of these events made me another person, a fighter for success, believing that courage and the desire to learn especially with MBS would change much in my life; and it really did.

By attending workshops in Dubai and Manchester, where I met more than 35 different nationalities, I learned the real meaning of transformation - 'learning by doing,' 'thinking global' and 'personal, professional career development'. Our different cultures and different professions enabled us to share knowledge and add much to our knowledge.

After I finished my studies, I resigned from my job and moved to Turkey to set up my own business. I used everything that I had learned and had gone through to help me to take risks and face challenges to move forwards towards success.

In three words – challenge, knowledge, confidence.



Martin Hughes
Class of 2015

Personal life - husband to a superstar wife, father to a rambunctious heir and sprightly spare, owner of no pets whatsoever. Prematurely grey haired and still believing that it's 'just a ride'.

Professional life - never walk in somewhere that you don't know how to walk out of.

However, I started the MBA as a project manager, finished it running my own SME consultancy, and I'm currently in charge of operations for EMIR, an executive support service for CEOs of multinationals.

Persona - I'm tall, generally well dressed, and know far too much about film; and I believe that you should always strive do something you love, otherwise you'll end up working for a living.

Three ideas that sum up MBS - Study group, selfless curiosity, superior network.



Ibrahim A. Idriss
Class of 2015

"Failure in achieving your MBA is NOT an option "You are here to do the leap". This was the first message I received from Dubai team on induction day.

The MBA gave me the opportunity to put myself at the forefront when dealing with strategic business issues. The emphasis on team work, aligned with focus on leadership and motivation, the extensive global alumni network , multicultural studies at international classes in Dubai, Miami and China, in addition to world class faculty, made Manchester Business School an obvious choice for me. Above all, the friendships I formed with my classmates and the support I got from my mentor are priceless. The Manchester MBA is not just a step in the right direction but a leap towards professional and personal goals."

After the completion of my project, I got a major promotion as Director in the organization I work for.

Thank you Soha "My Wife" for your support and help.



Ahmed Sharif
Graduation Class - 2015

Earning an MBA from MBS was a life changing experience for me. When I joined the programme, I had immediate access to great sources of knowledge and a wonderful network of people from different backgrounds and with varied experiences. Using the knowledge and experience that I obtained during my time at MBS, I was able to co-found my first company (a business consultancy firm that built an online platform to connect entrepreneurs with individual consultants) by end of 2014.

It also opened my eyes to the power of business as an agent of change in modern societies, which inspired me to launch an initiative called 'Guide me to the Market', which aims to help people in my home country (Sudan) and other developing countries to improve their lives and create new jobs by establishing their own businesses. We teach them the basics of business management and give them the required coaching and mentoring during the early days of their business startups.

I owe a lot to MBS and its wonderful staff – so thank you.

My MBS experience in three words: New world prospective.



Salah Al Jamal
Graduation Class
December 2014

I'm Jordanian, 42 years old, married with three sons (five year old twins and a three year old) and a hands-on father, who graduated as a mechanical engineer in 1995.

My past career experience focused on engineering issues (technical matters) with some managerial roles. Working with multinational companies with a vast exposure to a multinational team of employees and customer base was a challenge that I had to deal with. A transformation was needed not only to keep me up to speed but ahead of the game.

The MBS experience gave me a lot as a person and helped me to reshape my career; an engineering degree and an MBA from the University of Manchester are the perfect ingredients for a successful career recipe. The MBS approach was the perfect fit for my needs and acquiring new tools from a top ranked school is a big advantage which I am using in my career.

My experience with MBS can be summarised as - strength, agility and knowledge.



Mustafa Dulgerler
Class of 2015

“Coming from an IT background, my world consisted of zeros and ones. After this 3 years long, challenging but fun MBA journey, I see the world very differently and consequently, the world sees me differently as well.

The MBA has helped me accelerate my career. I am now better positioned for exciting engagements, and have already been promoted to a position of great responsibility and impact.”

MBA programme: tough, will-open-your-horizon, amazing-networking-opportunities



Sami Kasem
Class of 2015

MBS helped me to grow as a person, to solve personal and organisational problems, and nurtured in me the ability to work in various teams, across different cultures and leverage diversity to achieve greater results. It also opened my mind to fresh ideas. But all the credit goes to my family who supported me in reaching the finish line.

In three words - challenge, development, achievement.

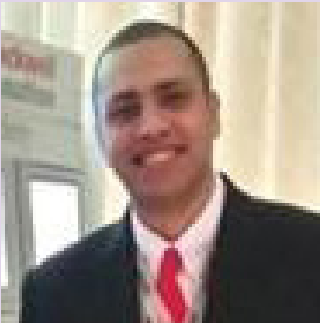


Maryam Al Saadi
Graduation Class:
December 2014

The MBA journey was a great learning experience which has helped me achieve success both at the personal and professional levels. It broadened my knowledge and helped me build a network of professionals from different industries and countries.

This rich experience was the catalyst needed for my career progression.

Dream, Endeavour, Achieve



Wael Radwan
Graduation Class:
December 2013

Studying for the MBA with MBS has transformed my life both at the personal and professional levels. It has given me a globalized perspective of doing business, enriched my career experience and helped me build long lasting friendships.

The MBA has sharpened my strategic thinking and equipped me with the necessary tools to move up the professional ladder, with this I was promoted to a regional role within the organization I work for.

Inspiring, Motivating & knowledgeable.

Middle East Graduation Ceremony November 2014

The University of Manchester graduation ceremony for the Middle East was a splendid occasion at the prestigious Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel, held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture Youth & Community Development. The congregation ceremony was presided over by the Dean of Manchester Business School, Professor Fiona Devine, who conferred Manchester MBA degrees on 83 graduates.



Annual Alumni and Student Dinner November 2014 Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel



Graduation Ceremony in Manchester July 2015



Middle East Alumni Association

The Middle East Alumni Association is extremely important and key to the continued development of a strong alumni network in the UAE and beyond. The aim of the group is to provide networking opportunities through alumni events and to create and raise awareness of the benefits of the MBS MBA programmes and to stay involved with the alumni network.

MBS Extends Professional Partnership Network in the Middle East



Diplomatic Ties

Her Majesty's Consul General to the UAE pays first visit to the Middle East Centre



Partnership with CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)



Partnership with PMI (Project Management Institute)

'Dubai Week In China'

Randa Bessiso, MBS Middle East Director, travelled with the 'Dubai Week in China' delegation to support the presentation of the education sector to Chinese counterparts, highlighting the school's success operating from the region's education and training hub, and stressing the education and career opportunities in Dubai. MBS used its extensive range of contacts in Shanghai, to support networking around the DWIC events.



Research on Creativity and Innovation in the GCC led by Dr Mark Batey

MBS Middle East Centre launched the first in-depth research into the drivers and barriers to creativity and innovation in the GCC. The research programme is being led by Dr Mark Batey, creativity specialist at MBS and one of the world's leading researchers into creativity in the workplace.



Dubai hosts the first GEMBA cohort

The Middle East Centre team hosted the GEMBA group and created access to a number of high level executives, organisations and thought leaders.



MERAAS Site Visit



CEO Panel Discussion - Dubai Capital Club



Al Noor Training Centre for Children with Special Needs

Business is more than just about doing business, so MBS selected to support the Al Noor centre, as our designated charity, which is supporting children with special needs through its extraordinary team of people. MBS has ensured that Al Noor has access to events and workshop venues, to help them convey their vitally important work and enable students and alumni to donate to their cause.



'50 for 50'

Look out for details on this initiative to mark the 50th anniversary of MBS, with a team of 50 (students, alumni, staff, friends of the school) runners competing in the Dubai half Marathon. Apart from the satisfaction of setting and achieving goals, the team will also raise funds to donate to the Al Noor Training Centre for Children with Special Needs.



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