



BUSINESS
GRADUATES
ASSOCIATION

LEADERS NEVER STOP LEARNING

BGA VALIDATION OVERVIEW



ABOUT BUSINESS GRADUATES ASSOCIATION

In January 2019, we launched the Business Graduates Association (BGA) with the vision of becoming the leading global movement for responsible management, positive impact and lifelong learning.

Since launch, BGA has grown, a network of more than 250 business schools who have demonstrated a passion for practical, entrepreneurial business education and evidenced their commitment to social responsibility and sustainability across their programmes and modules.

Throughout my time as Chairman of UN PRME, it was clear that business education required a shift toward a new philosophy of thought. One that highlighted the importance of responsible and sustainable business activity. [BGA's Charter](#) and quality assurance processes embody these key concepts that are central to the BGA brand.

We are delighted that since launch, BGA has received such a positive market response, clearly demonstrating an appetite for responsible management, positive impact and lifelong learning concepts. We look forward to welcoming you to the BGA family, and working together to make a real difference worldwide to the education of our current and future business leaders.



Andrew Main Wilson
CEO of AMBA & BGA
Former Chairman of the United Nations PRME

QUALITY ASSURANCE

In a world where the only constant is change, business schools have the responsibility of ensuring their programmes meet the current and future needs of stakeholders and the wider business environment by adequately preparing graduates with an adaptive, entrepreneurial and sustainable mind-set.

Schools also need to focus on the personal growth of their students, including the cultivation of social skills, ethical behaviours, self-confidence and humility, all of which form the foundation of socially conscious and responsible leaders. It is equally as important that employers trust that business schools are teaching students to be critically minded and equipped with the right skill sets to tackle market challenges.

Business school quality assurance processes comprise of processes that act as feedback loops, designed to ensure that business schools identify areas of improvement that allow them to meet and exceed the expectations of their stakeholders.

BGA validation is a great quality assurance mechanism for any business school aspiring to achieve an internationally recognised assurance of quality. The process is consultative by nature, offering practical benefits throughout the validation journey, while also providing a key quality assurance indicator to all of the business school's stakeholders.



BGA VALIDATION

Validation involves an offsite assessment of a business schools' ability to meet nine criteria based on the BGA Charter, that build upon the pillars of positive impact, responsible management, and lifelong learning.

Validation requires participating business schools to submit a range of information to evidence its ability to meet the criteria while detailing existing activities that support the continuous improvement of the business school, that positively impacts stakeholders. The methodology used to support the achievement of validation allows the business school to build a framework for data and information collection and identify areas of improvement that will support it in achieving the ultimate goal of accreditation.

Conducted by BGA's Accreditation Board (BAB), business schools can expect a rigorous exercise that puts them on the path of continuous improvement and expert advice on improving the institution and its

programmes using industry best practice.

The BGA Charter

BGA's validation process is built upon nine criteria that address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Business schools who engage in the validation process are required to provide documentation to support their efforts in addressing each component of the criteria. Examples include strategic vision and goals, curriculum integration of sustainability and ethics, list academic partnerships and their roles, teaching innovation awards, and cognitive diversity metrics for faculty. You can review the BGA validation criteria online at:

businessgraduatesassociation.com/business-schools/validation/



WHAT IS INVOLVED?

BGA validation guides business schools to be well-versed in the discipline of data collection, ensuring that they can track the progress and outcomes of their programmes and activities. The validation process requires proper evaluation of data, supporting business schools to make informed decisions when considering change to their institutional activities, such as career and alumni services, academic partnerships, and faculty policies.

Business schools can expect support from their assigned BGA Accreditation Director, who provides general suggestions on the type of data they should collect and measure. It is up to the institution to provide a narrative to any changes in data and their significance.



Expert advice and consultation from BGA's Accreditation Advisory Board (BAAB)

The BAAB aims to support business schools undergoing validation, acting as a critical friend in assessing an institution's continuous improvement practices. The BAAB consists of highly experienced academics who conduct the assessment of the business school, providing the school with a detailed assessment of its ability to meet the criteria.

At the conclusion of the validation process, the participating business school receives a report which includes, but is not limited to, suggestions on: institutional policies, impact metrics, alumni and careers activities, corporate relations, and feedback loops. For more information about the BAAB, please visit:

businessgraduatesassociation.com/business-schools/accreditation/meet-the-assessors/

ACCREDITATION READY

Business schools who complete the validation process are significantly better prepared for an institutional accreditation as they have completed much of the groundwork necessary for BGA accreditation. Collecting and measuring data such as career progression of graduates, faculty research metrics, and the institution's ability to meet key strategic objectives all play an instrumental part in the BGA accreditation process and can give business schools who have undergone the validation process a head start.

In addition to this, the report produced by the BAAB provides business schools with a pathway towards accreditation, listing the changes they must undertake to be successful in gaining accreditation. This includes recommendation on key strategic objectives and USPs, integration of sustainability topics, development of impact metrics,

graduate success tracking, and more.

An affordable, offsite quality assurance assessment

Unlike an accreditation, which involves a panel of assessors completing a two-day visit to a business school campus, BGA's validation process is held completely remote, keeping assessment costs low and reducing the duration of the process. Despite this, business schools can expect the same level of involvement from their assigned Accreditation Director and assessors.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Interested business schools may view the BGA validation criteria online at:

businessgraduatesassociation.com/business-schools/validation/

In order to apply, business schools will need to demonstrate that they:

- **The business school must be a BGA member**
- **The business school must have been in continuous operation for at least three years**
- **The business school should possess degree-awarding powers or have a nationally/locally recognised degree**
- **The business school must have graduated at least one student cohort from one of its programmes**
- **The business school must have audited financial statements showcasing financial sustainability**

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in becoming a BGA validated business school, please contact the accreditation team at:

bga-accreditation@amba-bga.com





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Business Graduates Association (BGA)
Top floor, 3 Dorset Rise, London, EC4Y 8EN

businessgraduatesassociation.com
bga-accreditation@amba-bga.com