



Triple crown accredited Hanken Executive MBA



Frequently asked questions

Which are the core elements of the Hanken Executive MBA programme?

There are four core themes in the Hanken EMBA programme:

- Strategic leadership
- Service business and innovation
- Finance and controlling
- Sustainable business in a global context

Through the programme, you will improve your ability to identify ideas of strategic importance and to act on them. You will be shown how to transform your business from product-oriented to a solutions-oriented business – always keeping the customer at the centre of your business model. You will also learn about key figures and how to interpret them, as well as pricing strategies and how to apply sound and sustainable financial solutions to your business and systems to control your business.

What does Triple-Crown Accreditation mean?

Hanken is a triple-accredited business school, which means that it has been granted accreditations from each of the main international accreditation agencies AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS. These three most respected business school accreditations have been granted to only 1% of the world's business schools.



How is the Hanken EMBA different from other EMBA programmes?

The Hanken EMBA programme is especially renowned for:

- Recognised top lecturers from Hanken and Hanken & SSE, but also from our international network.
- Strong focus on personal and leadership development including individual coaching
- Our way of working and the small and diverse EMBA groups that allows co-creation of the learning experience. We emphasise dialogue and interaction, which enables learning from each other within the group.
- Implementing theory into practice through assignments and discussions. Most of the post-module assignments and the thesis are individual and can be applied on your own organisation.
- Cases, simulations, and systematic reflection rather than exams, which offers flexibility (several study periods and entry points) and a human touch.
- Gaining a strong network beyond your own cohort already during the studies and later as part of the Hanken alumni.

By combining insights from academic experts, company representatives and participants, we ensure a natural dialogue between academia and business.

Who are the Hanken EMBA faculty?

The Hanken Executive MBA modules are facilitated by dedicated Hanken faculty at the forefront of their respective fields, along with visiting top-level corporate and academic experts. For more information, [please visit the programme site](#).

Can I actively work during the programme?

As it is a part-time executive programme, the Hanken EMBA programme makes it possible for the participants to work during their studies.

Working is highly recommended, as the module assignments deal with analysing your own organisational landscape by applying the theories in practice. We are looking for managers and top

talents who are highly motivated to challenge themselves in combining work with studies.

Where and how often are the modules held?

You can choose between study periods of 18, 24, or 30 months. The programme content is the same, only the rate of occurrence of the courses differs. As an example, modules in a 24-month programme will be held approximately once every four to six weeks with online courses and sessions in between.

The programme is divided into 50 in-class days of which 36 days are during weekdays. The in-class days are normally 3-days on Thursdays and Fridays at 08:30-18:00, and on Saturdays at 08:30-16:30. Except for the elective modules in Boston, which are for 5-days on Monday to Friday.

Breaks during in-class days allows time for short phone calls and email correspondence. It is possible to join the modules in our newly renovated classroom at Hanken School of Economics downtown Helsinki or virtually via Teams. Kindly plan in addition for some travel time before and after the module.

Is it mandatory to attend the modules?

In general it is, attendance of modules is mandatory in order to ensure the success of the programme and learning outcome. However, if necessary an absence of a specific number of days is permitted. In these cases, compensation assignments are required. Unexpected events (such as illness and unprecedented business travel) will be taken into consideration.

Can I take a study break if necessary?

Unforeseen things can happen in participants' careers and private lives and the Hanken EMBA team is flexible and will be happy to find a satisfactory solution to unforeseen challenges. Studies can be postponed from the chosen study track (18, 24, or 30 months) to be completed within the four-years study right period.

What happens between the modules?

Between modules you need to allocate time for assignments, studying and for writing your development project which is a part of your EMBA studies (during the second year). You can find more information on the development project in a question further along in this document.

How is the Hanken EMBA programme structured?

The programme consists of 13 hybrid modules (in-class or online), four stand-alone online courses and other online sessions, and two study trips abroad to Riga and Boston. In addition, there are six leadership development sessions and five hours of online individual coaching by professional coaches.



How many hour of studies per week are required?

Depending on your experience and your familiarity with the subject matter, the amount of preparation time will vary. Generally, students dedicate around 5-10 hours per week to coursework outside the classroom, but not necessary every week. During module weeks, the number of hours in class should be added.

How many hours are included in the Hanken EMBA programme?

The EMBA programme contains 390 in-class contact hours and 115 online contact hours, including 4 stand-alone online courses. Totally the extent of Hanken programme is 1 800 study hours.

What do I gain when choosing the Hanken EMBA?

After completing the Hanken EMBA, you will have a solid understanding of different aspects in business as well as a strengthened capacity to make strategic decisions. You link your learning directly to your practical work. You will gain an improved understanding of business areas and processes in a global context. Your ability to identify strategic issues and understanding change and competitive challenges will be improved.

The EMBA programme includes leadership development sessions, where you develop your essential leadership and management skills. Working closely with your EMBA group and alumni results in a valuable personal and professional network.

What kind of track record does the Hanken EMBA programme have?

Hanken School of Economics is a leading, internationally accredited university in Finland with

over a hundred years of experience in education and research in economics and business administration. Hanken has organised executive MBA programmes for two decades; the programme is evaluated yearly and redesigned as needed in order to meet the latest trends and demands on the market. The AMBA, AACSB and EQUIS accreditations guarantee the educational excellence that makes Hanken EMBA a triple-crown accredited EMBA programme.

Is the Hanken Executive MBA part of the Financial Times Executive MBA rankings?

The Executive MBA Financial Times ranking requires at least 30 graduates for three years in a row. The Hanken Executive MBA is not part of the FT rankings due to our strategic choice to keep groups relatively small, around 20-30 participants. This helps us implement the pedagogical approach which is based on interaction, learning together and working in small groups. We have found that trust is better created in small groups which helps create psychological safety. In other words, in small groups, people have the courage to openly share their experiences and views with others.

What does my company gain from the Hanken EMBA?

The Hanken EMBA will prepare you for new responsibilities and doing your job even better. It allows you to address the challenges your company is facing and enables you to bring adopted skills, new motivation and new ways of thinking back to your company after each module. The development project and the assignments are a direct return on the investment for your company as you will analyse cases, write reports and provide recommendations during your studies.

You will also have access to expert advice and a valuable business network to help you.

What is a typical career path for a Hanken EMBA alumnus?

Hanken EMBA alumni usually claim that the completion of EMBA studies has a very positive effect on their careers. Hanken EMBA gives you the opportunity to:

- See the bigger picture
- Gain new perspectives
- Improve your leadership skills

Some Hanken EMBA alumni climb the career ladder into higher positions with an increased level of responsibility in their current organisation, while others further their careers in a new organisations or fields. Some alumni become entrepreneurs after finalising their studies. Due to the wide and inspirational network that Hanken EMBA provides on both a company and a personal level, it can enable many interesting career opportunities.

What does a typical EMBA group look like?

Each new group of Executive MBA participants is carefully selected, we hand-pick a maximum of 30 participants to the Hanken EMBA programme. Our aim is to select a diverse group of people as experience has shown that a diverse group increases in-group learning. A higher level of diversity broadens the bases for discussions and adds to the variety of perspectives. Students from several industry sectors are represented, such as banking and finance, fintech, aviation, tourism, hospitality, retail, energy, IT, telecom, manufacturing, chemical, mining, marine technology, and media. Usually, each group also has some entrepreneurs.

The educational backgrounds of the participants are, among others: tourism management, architecture, law, engineering, social sciences, communications, foreign affairs, medicine and health care, technology, business administration, arts, design, and media. Usually, the participant profile consists of

professionals with an average age of 39 with 15 years of work experience. Each group includes participants from several countries, usually also Finnish nationals living abroad.

How practical are the modules?

You will solve business problems individually and in teams, analyse challenges, interact with peers, facilitators and guest lecturers, develop strategies and make plans that can be implemented in real life. The modules are more practical than ordinary academic Master's studies.

Do I have to write a thesis during my studies?

Instead of writing a regular thesis, you will deliver a development project of around 40-50 pages. The project can be e.g. a part of a current project or plan in your organisation. The main idea of the development project is to apply some theoretical framework to a practical real-life challenge, not to make a new academic contribution as such.

Do I have to study for many exams throughout the Hanken EMBA programme?

Currently, there are only two written exams in the EMBA programme, both in Finance. Hanken EMBA studies are not about memorising, instead a general understanding and reflection of the topic is essential. Rather than preparing for written or oral exams, the participants write assignments on real-life business topics where they connect theory with practice in their organisation.

How many graduate from Hanken EMBA?

The vast majority of our participants graduate on time within 24 months. The Hanken EMBA team supports you to combine your career with your studies and to structure your studies to be able to graduate as planned.

When does the programme start?

You can choose the alternative that fits you best. All options have the same content and amount of learning hours.

What is the support I need for an EMBA at Hanken?

It is a good idea to consider what kind of support is needed when starting your EMBA. Time and commitment from your organisation is crucial to your success in the programme. Time is required for module attendance days, for the additional assignments as well as your development project. Your personal motivation and enthusiasm are central to your learning experience and to the best possible outcome. You need commitment and flexibility from your family, an EMBA requires you to match a busy career with your social life and your studies. Financial backing is nice to have, at best your employer will be supporting you financially as well.

- Entry Point in March (18 months or 30 months track).
- Entry point in October (24 months track).
- Also, possibility for individual study plans/entry points according to your needs within the four year study right.

The application deadline is:

15 January for a start in March
15 September for a start October

Applications are handled upon arrival. If there are places left, you can submit your application also after the deadline.

What are the admission requirements for the programme?

To be eligible for the Hanken Executive MBA programme, you must fulfil the following requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher.
- A minimum of five years of relevant professional experience (participants in our programme have an average of 15 years of professional experience).
- High level of English proficiency.

In addition, we expect you to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- You are in a managerial position; in charge of leading people, complex projects or entities.
- You are an experienced specialist and want to broaden your expertise.
- You are an entrepreneur with an established business.
- You are a top talent with a solid track record of exceptionally high performance and strong recommendations.

We also have a quota for professionals lacking a university degree, but with a proven track record and work-experience.

Who should write the letters of recommendation?

For your application, you need references from two persons you know, preferably professionally. The reference form is available on our web site and should be completed, signed by the referee and sent by email to emba@hankensse.fi.

Are TOEFL tests or GMAT scores required?

A high level of spoken and written English proficiency is required as the programme is conducted in English. However, GMAT or TOEFL are not needed when applying. The level of written English proficiency will be evaluated based on the application form and the oral proficiency demonstrated during an interview.

Are interviews required?

Interviews are not required for submitting an application to the programme. However, the applicants considered in the selection process will be invited for an interview in English, online or face-to-face. Please note that being selected for an interview does not automatically guarantee admission to the programme.

When do I get an admission decision?

In order to apply to the Hanken Executive MBA programme, you must submit a complete application. You will receive acknowledgement that your application and the references have been received. If you are short-listed based on your application, you will be invited for an interview. All applicants will be informed of admittance or non-acceptance within two weeks from the interview.

Is it possible to discuss with an alumnus of Hanken EMBA?

Yes, you can discuss with alumni at our information sessions and it is also possible to get in touch with them privately.

As a graduate from Hanken Executive MBA, you become part of Hanken's extensive alumni network.

Read [alumni testimonials here](#).

How can I apply to the Hanken Executive MBA?

To apply for the programme you need to fill out and sign an application form and attach your photo, your CV in English, copies of your degree certificates, transcripts and two letters of recommendation. Application forms and reference forms can be downloaded here:

[Hanken EMBA application form](#)

Contact us

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Henrich or Katharina. For those situated in Ostrobothnia, feel free to reach out to Thomas.

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