

MBA International Experience

May 2027

University of Wisconsin MBA Consortium

Agenda

- Introductions
- MBA International Experience Overview
- MBA 796 Directed Project Course Overview
- Student Reflections
- Trip Overview and Itinerary (WorldStrides)
- Estimated Costs
- Timeline
- Student FAQ’s (submitted in advance)
- Student Questions

Meet Your Lead Instructor

Dr. Frances Hawes

Associate Professor, UW-Eau Claire

MBA Instructor, UW MBA Consortium

- Ph.D. in Gerontology
- Faculty leader for international programs in England (2024) and Spain (2026)
- Research collaborations spanning Europe, Asia, and Australia
- 20+ years of professional experience across healthcare, leadership, and higher education
- Traveled to 35+ countries and passionate about experiential learning and global engagement



MBA International Experience Overview

- **Time Frame:** May-June 2027 (Trip dates are 5/29/27-6/5/27)
- **Destination:** Rome and Milan, Italy
- **Lodging:** 3-star hotels
  - Hotel Pacific Roma in Rome (4 nights)
  - B&B Hotel Milano Sant'Ambrogio in Milan (3 nights)
- **Course Information:** 1-credit faculty-led directed project course (MBA 796)
- **Group Size:** Aiming for at least 10 students plus Consortium faculty/staff



MBA 796 Course Overview

A Directed Projects course (MBA 796) permits a student to pursue a defined problem in an intensive way under the direction of a graduate faculty member. The UW Consortium MBA program is offering students an exciting opportunity during May 2027 to earn credit through a directed project course that includes an immersive experience in Rome and Milan, Italy.

This 8-day, 1-credit course provides students with an immersive opportunity to examine the relationship between business, culture, and leadership in modern Italy. Through company visits, discussions with executives, and cultural experiences in Rome and Milan, participants will explore how organizations respond to changing market conditions, leverage innovation, and create value in an increasingly interconnected world. Participants will engage with organizations representing industries such as financial services, consumer products, manufacturing, healthcare, technology, and professional sports while examining the economic, cultural, and societal factors that influence organizational decision-making. These experiences are designed to help students develop a deeper understanding of how culture, leadership, and business strategy intersect in today's global business environment.

MBA 796 Course Learning Outcomes

- Evaluate the complexities of business environments and economic landscapes in Rome and Milan through immersive engagements with local companies.
- Analyze the cultural dimensions of business practices in Italy through active participation in city tours and cultural experiences.
- Synthesize knowledge of global business principles by examining the challenges and opportunities encountered by enterprises in Rome and Milan.
- Forge international networks by initiating strategic interactions with business leaders and professionals during company visits.
- Integrate theoretical concepts from the MBA curriculum into practical situations via critical reflection and assessment of business meetings and cultural activities.

MBA 796 Assignments and Activities

Pre-Trip

- Pre-trip Canvas modules covering travel logistics and cultural insights
- Leading Business Visits Part 1-2
- Cultural Orientation Readings Paper

Mid-Travel

- Leading Business Visits Part 3
- 6 daily reflections (Day 2-7)

Post-Travel

- From Reflection to Action paper
- Post-experience surveys



MBA International Experience

Spain & Portugal

Winterim 2025


unicorn
Factory
Lisboa


unicorn
Factory
Lisboa

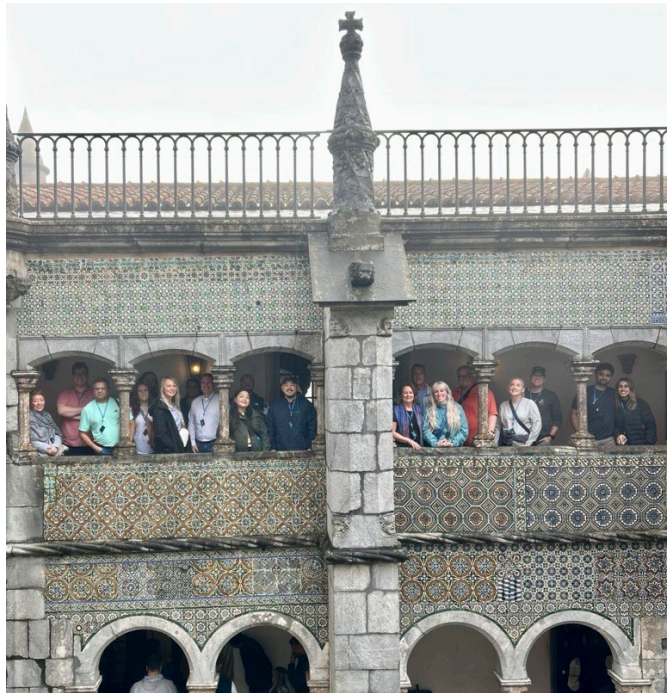



FROM WASTE TO TASTE
Nam


Nam










MBA
Consortium


MBA
Consortium


MBA
Consortium




BACALHAU
Riberalves
Paixão Nacional


ÁMBITO
CULTURAL


8
21
9
24


LETICIA DE MAD
1903


Welcome to El Corte Inglés
ÁMBITO
CULTURAL
El Corte Inglés


Contact
celonis
MADRID


celonis





MBA International Experience

Panama & Costa Rica

Winterim 2026


Visión


AmCham
Panama
MBA Consortium


"Technology has always
been about enabling
human potential".






Somos
AFZ


HACIENDA
ALSACIA
COSTA RICA







Student Reflections

This was a fantastic, well laid out trip. Everything I experienced was very well run and informative. I am still reflecting on what we learned and how amazing the opportunity was. I was blown away at how smooth all the meetings went and how engaged everyone was.

Something I have said throughout this international experience is how it has opened my eyes to things that are out there in the business world. The academic experience was just as outstanding as the cultural side of the trip.

The readings and assignments pre-trip were essential to understanding the destinations' political, social, and cultural environments. Base knowledge was critical in evaluating individual businesses' strategies and the overall business climate.

The people, the experience in these countries, and the academic content were so great! Most of the business meetings were outstanding and helped me on a professional and personal level. Overall, this was a great experience! I would do this every year if I could! I appreciate the organization and the fit related to the MBA program.

The team from the UW MBA Consortium, and the travel provider, made this a memorable experience. It was one of my favorite classes in the entire MBA program, and I highly recommend it to other students to make connections between concepts from many of the other courses.

It was well planned and executed with an excellent mix of professional, social, and cultural activities to understand how business strategy and management evolved in other regions. There was a perfect balance of group and optional/free activities that enabled people to self-form groups and activities. As one of the older people in the class, I enjoyed the range of ages and experiences of the other students on the trip. Conversations with them about the businesses we visited provided perspectives I had not considered.

University of Wisconsin MBA Consortium

WorldStrides®

Rome and Milan | May 2027



Meet the WorldStrides Team

- **Chris Bray**
  Director, Graduate Programs

- **Jennifer Seymour**
  Senior Account Manager

WorldStrides®
Educational Travel & Experiences

49 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE	**10,600+** TRAVELERS EACH YEAR
700+ CUSTOM PROGRAMS EACH YEAR	**1,200+** ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS EACH YEAR

Itinerary

	Day 1 Saturday, May 29	Day 2 Sunday, May 30	Day 3 Monday, May 31	Day 4 Tuesday, June 1	Day 5 Wednesday, June 2	Day 6 Thursday, June 3	Day 7 Friday, June 4	Day 8 Saturday, June 5
Accommodation Location	Rome	Rome	Rome	Rome	Milan	Milan	Milan	
Breakfast		At hotel	At hotel	At hotel	At hotel	At hotel	At hotel	At hotel
Morning Activity	Individual Arrivals	Rome Walking Tour	Business Visit	Business Visit	Hotel Check-out | Train to Milan	Business Visit	Business Visit	Hotel Check-out | Individual Departures
Lunch	On own	On own	On own	On own	On own	On own	On own	
Afternoon Activity	Individual Arrivals | Hotel Check-in	Colosseum, Forum and Palatine Hill	Business Visit	Vatican	Milan Walking Tour	Business Visit	Duomo di Milano	
Dinner	Welcome Dinner	On own	On own	On own	On own	On own	Farewell Dinner	

Business Visits

- Designed to give you insight, access and opportunity you wouldn’t otherwise have
- Will be curated with the UW MBA Consortium team
- Will aspire towards interactivity



Rome | Saturday, May 29 – Wednesday, June 2



Milan | Wednesday, June 2 – Saturday, June 5



Accommodations



Hotel Pacific Roma (Rome)

B&B Hotel Milano Sant Ambrogio (Milan)



Estimated Costs Paid to the University

Land Package (single occupancy accommodations, some hosted meals, ground transportation, intra-program train tickets, cultural immersions, and academic engagements)	$3,500 *(estimated cost based on 10 students)*
Course Tuition (1 credit)	$875
Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) Insurance	$25 (estimated cost)
Program Administration Fee	$390
Total	**$4,790**

- Twin Occupancy Upgrade: Deduction of $631 per person for 7-night program
- Program fees are based on projected participation levels and may be adjusted prior to departure if actual enrollment differs significantly from projections.

Additional Costs to Expect

International Airfare (round-trip)	$800-$1,500 (varies based on participant location)
Passport Fees (if applicable)	$160 Passport Book & Card Application Fee $35 Acceptance Fee
Additional hotel selections paid to WorldStrides via registration site (e.g., extra nights)	Varies
Meals not included (meals included in the package are a welcome dinner, a farewell dinner, and complimentary breakfast at the hotels)	Varies
Personal Expenses	Varies

Timeline

Date	Activity/Deadline
Late October 2026	Virtual Student Info Session
Late November 2026	Online registration site goes live (WorldStrides)
Dec 2026 – Feb 2027	Participants purchase international flights to and from destinations (booking group will be established with Fox World Travel)
Jan 24, 2027	Online registration closes (WorldStrides)
Jan 24, 2027	Deadline to make any changes to hotel selections (e.g., twin occupancy, extra nights, etc.)
Feb 18, 2027	Students register for course via CampS/TitanWeb
Mid-March 2027	Canvas course opens
Feb – May 2027	Students complete and participate in pre-trip activities and modules via Canvas course (including virtual meetings (dates TBD))
May 29 – June 5, 2027	International experience program in session

Options for Participation

Participant Type	Registration Status	Expectations
Current Student (CMBA and UWO)	Register as a participant	• Attend all business meetings and cultural activities • Complete all course assignments, credit earned, categorized as an active current student
Alum (CMBA and UWO)	Register as a participant	• Attend all business meetings and cultural activities. • Option to complete course assignments and earn academic credit as a Special (Non-Degree) Student
Guest of Student or Alum	Add to student/alum registration	• Attend all business meetings and cultural activities. • Option to complete course assignments and earn academic credit as a Special (Non-Degree) Student

- Guest package assumes double occupancy with host student/alum and reflects a $631 reduction from the standard program rate.
- Alumni or guests who wish to earn academic credit must apply for admission as a Special (Non-Degree) Student.

Student FAQ's

- Financial aid eligibility for May 2027
  - Students must have a FAFSA on file for the 2026-27 academic year, and they need to be registered in the Directed Project course for the Summer 2027 term.
  - Students must also maintain at least half-time enrollment (3 credits) for the Summer semester.
  - To apply for Summer financial aid, log in to CampS and go to the Financial Aid tile. Once it is available, there will be a button to Apply for Winterim Aid. Please contact Blugold Central (blugoldcentral@uwec.edu) with questions related to financial aid eligibility.
  - UWO students should consult with their Financial Aid Office (fao@uwosh.edu)
- Federal and state GI Bill benefits would be approved for tuition and fees. However, travel costs would have to be approved on a case-by-case basis. You may contact our Veterans Center folks for more information: veterans@uwec.edu
  - UWO students should consult with their Veterans Resource Center (veterans@uwosh.edu)
- Payment Plan Agreement (PPA)
  - UW-Eau Claire will allow me to make payments later in the semester after the payment due date for the term.
  - There is an administrative fee for not making a 50% payment by the first due date for the fall and spring term or full payment by the due date for the winterim and summer terms.
  - Finance charges are assessed after the due date on remaining balances at a monthly periodic rate of 1% (annual rate of 12%) calculated from the first day of the semester. **The payment due date for Summer 2027** will be June 14, 2027.
  - After the initial assessment, finance charges will be assessed on the remaining balance every two weeks (not to exceed 1% per month) until paid. In order to avoid a material breach of this agreement, all outstanding amounts due and owed must be paid on or before the last day of the term. Failure to pay my balance in full shall result in the UW-Eau Claire initiating collection action as described herein below.
- UWO students should review and understand the terms of the Financial Agreement.

Student FAQ's

- Travel companions/guests – We are allowing students and alumni to bring one guest (18 years +), but their guest will be required to purchase the guest land package through WorldStrides.
- This MBA 796 Directed Project course can be used as a 1-credit elective toward the 36-credit program. It cannot be used to replace any of the required courses.
- Students who are graduating in Spring 2027 can enroll in this course, but they will need to change their graduation term to Summer 2027. Students can still participate in the May Commencement Ceremony.
- A booking group will be established with Fox World Travel, the University's contracted travel agency. However, students can opt to purchase their own airfare. The hotels cannot be purchased individually since these are a part of the land package with WorldStrides.



Thank You!

We hope to see you in Italy in May 2027!

University of Wisconsin MBA Consortium