

Penn State Smeal MBA

Corporate Connections. Career Results.



There are a number of career fairs targeting graduate business students that occur off-campus throughout the fall semester. Smeal MBA Employer Relations is providing you with the following information about several of the more prominent fairs in case you decide to participate in one or more of these events.

Based on past results of our students, the most productive fair for Smeal MBA students has been the one sponsored by the National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA), which will take place in Orlando, FL this September. NBMBAA attracts the largest number of employers amongst any of the MBA-specific fairs. While originally launched as a career fair for diversity students, NBMBAA welcomes all students to the event. NBMBAA also offers Job Match. Students who register early and fully utilize this service typically generate the most interviews and offers from the event.

Web sites for well-established conferences and career fairs follows:

Ascend National Association of Asian MBAs: <http://www.ascendnaamba.org/>

Asian MBA International: <http://events.asianmba.org/7th-annual-amba-highlight>

Career Forum for Japanese-

English: <http://www.careerforum.net/event/?lang=E>

Bilinguals: <http://www.latcareers.com/event-description/Bilingual-Latino-Career-Fair-Indianapolis>

MBA Veterans Career Conference: <http://mbaveterans.com/2015-conference>

MBA Women International: <http://www.mbawomen.org/>

National Black MBA Association: <http://www.nbmbaconference.org/>

National Society of Hispanic MBAs: <http://nshmbaconference.org/>

Net Impact: <http://netimpact.org/netimpactconference>

Reaching Out LGBT: <http://reachingoutmba.org/>

PRE-SCHEDULED INTERVIEWS & DISCOUNTED RATES: Some career fairs allow employers to post job announcements in advance of the fair. Registered students may then upload resumes for these advertised opportunities. If a career fair you plan to attend offers pre-fair job postings, be sure to take advantage of this service with the goal of securing interviews in advance! Furthermore, many of the conferences offer discounted rates (aka: early bird rates) for students who register early.

PROGRAM SUPPORTED LODGING: The MBA Program will arrange complimentary housing for the fall 2015 NBMBA Career Fair. Additional information about how to secure your space in the hotel blocks for the NBMBA fair will be provided in a separate, future e-mail message. Support for all other off-campus career fairs will be decided on a case-by-case basis, with approval based upon the persuasiveness (i.e. the value created) of the formal proposal, as well as the availability of funds in the MBA Program budget.

ACADEMIC & EXTRACURRICULAR CONFLICTS: Unfortunately, each year several MBA career fairs are scheduled on dates when Smeal MBA students have significant, conflicting academic or extracurricular obligations. For academic purposes, Penn State policy states that individual professors have authority to define excused and unexcused absences. Job search activities are not recognized by the University as a formal, acceptable reason for missing class. **If you intend on attending any of these events, you must seek permission from the appropriate authority for the class or activity, and must make arrangements to meet all academic and/or extracurricular obligations.** It is further suggested that you discuss the possibility of missing a class or an assignment deadline as soon as you become aware of the potential for an absence and/or conflict.

SUCCESS & MARKET READINESS: For first year students, we believe the level of success a student typically experiences at early, off-campus career fairs is strongly correlated with the student's readiness (i.e. the strength and depth of knowledge about their intended career tract) for the highly competitive MBA job marketplace. If you are unsure about your own readiness for one of the fall semester MBA career fairs, please seek guidance from [Mike Brown](#), director of MBA career services.

Smeal MBA Career Services & Employer Relations

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