



AACSB International
(The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)



- Founded in 1916, is a membership association of almost 1,200 educational institutions, businesses and other organizations in 74 countries and territories.
- AACSB's mission is to advance quality management education worldwide through accreditation and thought leadership.



- AACSB accreditation is the mark of quality distinction most widely sought after by business schools—less than 5% worldwide have earned the achievement. As the leading membership and accrediting body for institutions offering undergraduate, master's and doctorate degrees in business and accounting, the association also conducts a wide array of conferences and seminar programs at locations throughout the world. AACSB's global headquarters is located in Tampa, Florida, USA and its Asia headquarters is located in Singapore.



- The vast majority of management education providers around the world are not subject to a quality assurance mechanism that applies consistent standards across borders (at a regional or international scale). Of approximately 12,000 institutions granting business degrees worldwide only approximately 6% are accredited by one of the main three international accrediting agencies: AACSB, EQUIS, or AMBA.



- [Achieving accreditation](#) is a process of rigorous internal review, evaluation, and adjustment and can take several years to complete. During these years, the school develops and implements a plan to meet the [21 AACSB standards](#) requiring a high quality teaching environment, a commitment to continuous improvement, and curricula responsive to the needs of business. As required by AACSB standards, all accredited schools must go through a peer review process every five years in order to maintain their accreditation.



- AACSB Standards ensure that a school:
 1. Manages resources to achieve a vibrant and relevant mission.
 2. Advances knowledge through faculty scholarship.
 3. Provides high-caliber teaching of quality curricula.
 4. Cultivates meaningful interaction between students and a qualified faculty.
 5. Produces graduates who have achieved specified learning goals.



Maria Baltar joined AACSB International in 2007 and serves as a manager in the accreditation department, overseeing a portfolio of schools at different stages of the accreditation process. Prior to joining AACSB, Ms. Baltar worked for nearly 20 years in accounting and finance related positions for several large companies. Ms. Baltar has a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of South Florida and an MBA from the University of Tampa.