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THE MAGAZINE OF FLORIDA BUSINESS

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# International Attraction

MBA degree programs at Florida schools attract students from all over the world who like the diversity at the schools and opportunities to interact with local businesspeople.

By Carlton Proctor



**Kerstin Sachl**

Florida International University

## Profitable Connection

When Kerstin Sachl decided to pursue an executive MBA at Florida International University, her goal was to grow her business and leadership skills while she ran her own PR agency.

A native of Nuremberg, Germany, Sachl realized a business-related degree from a major university was essential to furthering her ambitions. "I looked at MBA programs in the

United States, in Europe and in Germany," Sachl, 45, says. "I just decided to do it in the U.S. because MBA programs here are so much more renowned and recognized throughout the world. In Germany, MBA programs are relatively new."

"I ended up with FIU because they have a rather non-traditional program that offers a hybrid between in-class sessions and online instruction," Sachl says.

The program allowed her to continue running her PR firm while she attended classes every second Saturday of the month.

One part of FIU's MBA program particularly appealed to Sachl — an international exchange program called EMBA Consortium for Global Business Innovation.

The university arranged for Sachl to attend South Africa's famed Stellenbosch University in Capetown, where she spent two weeks studying with other international MBA students from nine countries.

In one of her Saturday classes

at FIU, Sachl, who speaks four languages, met a fellow student and executive with Marriott International. The Marriott executive recognized Sachl's talents and offered her a job as director of public relations and social media for the Caribbean and Latin America region.

"I did not go into an MBA program to find a job and get back into the corporate world," says Sachl. "I was quite happy with my little PR agency. But when this opportunity came up unexpectedly with Marriott, it was too good to pass up."







## FIU NEWS

► FIU is offering an accelerated, full-time, one-year International MBA. The IMBA program is ranked 15th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Over the past two years, the program has achieved a ranking of 40th in the world by *América Economía* and 56th for best full-time international MBA program by *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

► The College of Business'

online graduate programs posted double-digit gains in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017 edition of the Best Online Graduate Education Programs.

► The Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education has re-accredited FIU's health care MBA program in the College of Business with a full seven-year accreditation, the highest for a program of its kind.

