

The Full-time MBA Program Round 2 Admissions Chat January 3, 2017

Chat with Berkeley-Haas

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Lizzy_Moderator:

Welcome to the Berkeley MBA Admissions chat. My name is Lizzy Hazard, Admissions Marketing Specialist, and I will be moderating the chat today. Joining us will be Angela Fleekop, Associate Director of Admissions; Talin Abrahamian, Assistant Director of Admissions; Brooke Baranzano, Assistant Director of Admissions; Candace Gonzales-Tumey, Assistant Director of Admissions; Caroline Bonilla, Admissions Specialist; Gabrielle Calderon, Admissions Specialist; and Jamie Hayden, Assistant Director of Financial Aid. Please send us your questions!

Talin_Berkeley:

Good morning, everyone! Looking forward to our chat today.

Jamie_Berkeley:

Hello! My name is Jamie Hayden and I am an Assistant Director in the Haas Financial Aid Office. Please feel free to submit any questions you have regarding scholarship, loans, etc.

Candace_Berkeley:

Happy New Year! So happy to help with questions today!

Brooke_Berkeley:

I hope you've all had wonderful holidays! I look forward to helping you out with any questions about the application.

Angela_Berkeley:

Hello Everyone! I look forward to speaking with you!

Gabrielle_Berkeley:

Hello! Looking forward to answering all of your questions.

Caroline_Berkeley:

Good morning! I am happy to be here this morning to chat with you all.

Madison:

Does each reader read all 3 of the essay questions? Or does one person read and rate all Q1s, another person all Q2s and a 3rd person all Q3s?

Angela_Berkeley:

Hello, Madison! Each reader reads your application in its entirety to make sure it gets a full, holistic review by multiple people.

- KA_TX:** Happy New Year! **I have a question regarding essay #1:** I took an approach that is sort of multimedia heavy in answering why my song expresses who I am (introduction followed by annotating lyrics), before realizing only plain text submissions were accepted. **Is there any way to submit a 1-page pdf rather than plain text submission?**
- Talin_Berkeley:** Hi KA, yes, please email our office at mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu right away and attach your text submission at this point.
- Ivp29:** Hi guys, happy new year! And thank you so much for the great chat session! I have a question regarding my GMAT AWA score. **I took the test on Dec 24th, but my GMAT AWA score hasn't come out yet. So if my score won't be available before Jan 5th deadline, is it possible to submit my application without AWA score?**
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Hello, yes, please report what scores you do have and contact us as soon as your AWA score comes in so we may add it to your application.
- John:** Hi, thanks for hosting it! **How important are extracurriculars for international students? Do you expect the same level of community involvement as from US students?**
- Candace_Berkeley:** Hi John! Great question! We evaluate our applicants holistically with the expectation that what they have done previously will speak to what they will do in the future. Since we are a very student run program, we expect all of our applicants to have some measure of extracurricular involvement in the hopes that they will contribute to the Haas MBA experience outside of coursework.
- John:** **What loan options I can combine to get full cost of attendance?**
- Jamie_Berkeley:** Hi John! To best answer your question, may I first ask whether you are a US Citizen/Permanent Resident or an International Student?
- John:** Hi Jamie, **I am an international without a co-signer**
- Jamie_Berkeley:** Thank you for that information. With this status you have two options: The first, you may apply with Prodigy Financial, which provides loans to those without a co-signer for up to 80% of the total cost of attendance. The second, you may apply for one of our risk-share loans. For the 2016-2017 academic year, these loans have a maximum of \$62,000 per academic year, which covers fees. Please note that the maximum is reevaluated each academic year. One of these loan options, in combination with a scholarship and/or personal resources, will enable you to cover the total cost of attendance.

Emilio: I have one question. **I have my Test Report of the IELTS. It is ok if I scan that document and sent it to you? Or do I need to send the test report directly to you?** If it is the latter I don't know if I'll be on time.

Gabrielle_Berkeley: Hello Emilio. Thank you for your question. You can scan and upload your IELTS score report in your application. If you are invited to an interview, we will request an official score report. A scanned copy is OK for review purposes.

Jeff: **Do the readers listen to the song we reference in the first essay prompt?**

Brooke_Berkeley: Hello, Jeff - thanks for the question! Really good one. That really depends on who your reader is and how much time they have that day, along with their interest level. We definitely can't guarantee that every song will be listened to, as this essay question is more about how it relates to YOU as an applicant and your story. That said, we may look it up if the feeling strikes!

JN: **Hi, my company has a policy not to disclose their annual sales so I cannot fill in the annual sales information of my company. Is it okay?**

Talin_Berkeley: Yes, it is perfectly fine.

Stiwari: Hi! Thank you hosting this chat! **I have a question about uploading transcripts in the online application. Is a copy of unofficial transcript going to be OK?** I can send the official transcripts by mail once I receive them.

Gabrielle_Berkeley: Yes! A copy of your unofficial transcript is OK for review purposes. If you are invited to an interview, we will request official documents.

John: **Do you alter cost of attendance in case a student goes with family?**
Thank you

Jamie_Berkeley: We do have a Cost of Attendance Adjustment Request Form, which will allow you to request an adjustment for Childcare Expenses for dependents under the age of 14.

- Hopefulreapplicant:** Hi All, wishing you a Happy New Year. **I am a reapplicant. Can you please let me know the importance of Online Certification Courses (such as Economics) from reputed universities as a consideration point for the application? Also, does it count as a point towards showing that my candidacy has enhanced?**
- Candace_Berkeley:** Hi Hopefulreapplicant! We will take all of your additional efforts to improve your candidacy into consideration. We absolutely appreciate any effort to better your application! Yes we will look at additional coursework. However, graded coursework is typically more impactful.
- Tarunj:** Hi everyone, thanks for having this session today. I had a question on how known future events can be conveyed through the application. More specifically, **the Company I work at has promotions effective March, but the appraisal discussions take place earlier. Having just had mine, I now know that I will be gaining a fast-track promotion. Can this be discussed in the optional essay?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, tarunj. Yes, any guaranteed promotions may be discussed in the optional essay. You can also update us in real-time when you receive your promotion after you have submitted your application. That's an example of a good update to provide us.
- Ram:** **What is the first thing that you start with in an application?**
- Angela_Berkeley:** Hello, Ram. Every reader is different. Personally, I like to read your resume first to get an overall sense of your complete background and experience, but each reader has their own method.
- TerryF:** **What date will we hear back by, roughly?**
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Hi Terry. Thank you for your question. We review applications on a rolling basis from January 5, 2017- until the deadline in mid March. You will hear back within that timeframe.
- Molly:** Thanks for chatting with us! **When I paste my essays into the application the application-word-counter counts contractions (e.g. "don't" and "it's") as two words rather than one. Because of this, my essays that were on or under the word count show up as being over the word count. Is this something you know about and take into consideration or should I cutting down my essays to match the application word counter's word count?**
- Gabrielle_Berkeley:** Hello Molly. We are aware that word-counters can vary depending on the application used to write the essay. In these cases, we allow the word count to be over the requirement so long as it is not over by an excessive amount.

Manuel_Switzerland: Hi, Happy New Year to you too! I have a question on filling in my employment history. **After graduation, I have always been employed full-time in one company but parallel to that, I held an assistant position at university (16 hours per week) for a year. Where should I mention that position? Only in the resume? Under employment history you are only asking for full-time positions.**

Talin_Berkeley: Hi Manuel! Yes, please list it on your resume and please note that it was part-time work.

JN: Thanks for the answer. I have one more question - **if my essay goes over the word counts (just 3~7 words), should I cut off to meet the given count?**

Angela_Berkeley: Thanks for your question. We allow the word count to be over the requirement so long as it is not over by an excessive amount.

Westgate: Hi everyone, and Happy New Year! I have a question about the employment section: **I work for a single company but am technically an independent contractor on full commission. How should I denote this in the application?**

Caroline_Berkeley: Hello. Thank you for the question. Please fill this portion out to the best of your ability. You can denote this in your resume as well as the additional information section of the application.

John: **Do you prefer chronological resume or I can make it based on skills, (like Berkeley suggests in resume guide)?**

Talin_Berkeley: Hi John. Whichever you prefer is fine. We have seen it both ways and they're both fine.

Andrew: I have a question regarding the letter of recommendation. **In a special circumstance, does Haas accept letters in paper-format and exempt the recommendation part in the on-line application so that the applicant may submit the application on time?**

Gabrielle_Berkeley: Hello Andrew! We do allow paper-format recommendations. However, they must be in a specific format or they will not be accepted. You may find the paper letter of recommendation at <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/2017-mba-recommendation.pdf>

- Rees:** Thanks for providing this opportunity for us to chat with you. **I am having trouble brainstorming the first essay prompt on the application. Do you have any advice you can offer?** Thanks!
- Candace_Berkeley:** Hi Rees – Simply put, be authentic. Listen to our admissions committee tip videos and we had a great student webinar where current first years talked about their process when deciding on which song to choose. Please know there is no right or wrong answer here. What song moves you and why? The why is the most important aspect of the first essay.
- Stiwari:** **In the supplementary question #2 (community service), do you expect us to elaborate on the responsibilities and roles (perhaps in the 'positions held' section)? Or do you need us to stick to the format and just put down the name of position held?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, Stiwaria. You may elaborate on your role and responsibilities in the community service section, especially if it is unclear what you've done in that position just by the role name. However, I'd still suggest keeping any elaborations as brief as possible.
- Tarunj:** Thanks Brooke! Another minor query – **the application form asks for salary information in USD. Considering a huge fluctuation between USD – INR (ranging 45 – 70 over the last few years), I was thinking of using a constant rate of conversion. I wanted to confirm if this would be the right way to go forward?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hi again, Tarunj - I'd suggest using the present rate of conversion. We know that these numbers can fluctuate significantly daily.
- PS:** Regarding GPA, I have 176 undergraduate credits across three majors making up my transcript's reported cumulative GPA. However, the 128 credits required for my main degree/primary major yield a significantly higher GPA. **Should I stick with reporting my cumulative GPA for all three majors listed on my transcript or the cumulative GPA for my primary degree/major?**
- Gabrielle_Berkeley:** Hello-thank you for your question. Please report your GPA that includes your grades from every class you took at the institution you attended.
- Ezra:** Good morning and happy new year! I have a question about the Educational History section. **After college, but before I started working full-time, I participated in an intensive language course affiliated with a university but that provided no credit. I also took a community college computer science class. Should I list these institutions and provide transcripts?**
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Hi Ezra. Thank you for the question. We will only ask to see additional transcripts if you took a college level quantitative course outside of your degree.

- Karthik:** **How do you assess the value of one's entrepreneurial experience? Which metric determines your yardstick?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello there, Karthik. We don't have a specific metric or formula to assess the value of one's entrepreneurial experience. Instead, we also look at this experience holistically and consider many factors like funding, growth, mission, and passion, among many others.
- Palash:** Hi, and Happy New Year! Just following up on the question from Molly regarding word-counters showing variation in word count - If I may ask, **What will you define as excessive for say 500 word limit essay?**
- Talin_Berkeley:** Hi Palash. I encourage you to use your best judgment. It's hard to place a limit beyond our 500 word limit. That said, a few words over or a sentence or two is fine.
- William:** **For Financial Aid consideration, does Haas look at 403b, 457 and Roth IRA accounts?**
- Jamie_Berkeley:** Hello William! The only need-based aid that we administer is the Berkeley MBA Grant. For that purpose, we do not look at retirement accounts.
- TerryF:** **How far back should me employment history go? If I include everywhere I've worked since my graduation in 2010 it could be a very long section. Should I just include long term/recent jobs and leave the rest to my resume?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, TerryF. Most applicants generally include everywhere they've worked since graduation in the employment history section. That way, we know there aren't any gaps in your professional work experience.
- Manuel_Switzerland:** A second question: **where in the application can I mention academic papers that I've published?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, Manuel. You can mention these in the optional essay portion of the application.
- Ivp29:** **For resume, does it have to be one-page?**
- Angela_Berkeley:** Thanks for your question. Yes, we prefer your resume to be one page.

AV: **I have a question surrounding the TOEFL requirement, what are the grounds for exception?** Appreciate your advise on this please.

Caroline_Berkeley: Hi AV, the TOEFL exemptions are as follows: Applicants who received their degrees in countries other than the US, UK, Australia, English-speaking Canada, or Singapore are required to take the TOEFL exam or the IELTS. This includes applicants with degrees from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, and most European countries. Only applicants who have completed a full year of US university-level coursework with a grade of B or better are exempt from this requirement. Residence in the US does not waive this requirement. Your most recent TOEFL score must be at least 570 for the paper and pencil test, at least 230 for the computer-based test (CBT), or at least 90 for the Internet-based test (iBT).

Hopefulreapplicant: Thanks for your reply. One more question - **I have recently quit my full-time job to focus more on my career goals. I am currently unemployed, but seeking employment. As a result, my number of months employed in the application could change by matriculation date. What should I do in that case?**

Brooke_Berkeley: Hello there. I'm not sure if I'm getting your question. Are you asking how many months you should include as you being unemployed? If so, you should write the current number of months, without considering how many more months you'll be unemployed before you matriculate.

Impana: **Could you tell us more about the areas of emphasis, especially the entrepreneurship track? Which startups by an alum/student has been the most successful so far and why?**

Candace_Berkeley: Hi Impana! Thank you for your question. Please find a comprehensive discussion of the entrepreneurship AOE here: <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/entrepreneurship.html>. We have had so many successful ventures from food start-ups to cutting edge tech companies, that I hesitate to name specifics ones. The one with the most press recently has been Niantic CEO John Hanke and Pokemon Go – for obvious reasons. We also have Revolution Foods that started with two Haas students and Indiegogo! I could go onbut I won't.

Madison: I have an additional question about the employment section, similar to Westgate. **I was also a contracted employee for 2 years. I worked onsite at a single, large tech company during that entire time and was hired specifically for the role at that company, but I was technically employed and paid by a consulting firm. How would you prefer I indicate this in the employment history section?**

Talin_Berkeley: Hi Madison. In that particular section, you have an opportunity to include a description and elaborate. You can use that section to elaborate on your particular role and where you were onsite...and who you technically worked for. You can list down the employer (whoever paid your salary) and then elaborate beyond that in the explanation section. Hope that helps!

- Karthik:** **I am an entrepreneur from a small startup firm. Who would ideally be a good recommender for me?**
- Talin_Berkeley:** Hi Karthik. You can use a previous employer, a major client, or a colleague.
- Paul:** Hi Brooke **for the dual MBA program can a fresh high school graduate apply?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, Paul. We require a completed college degree for every applicant for every one of our programs.
- Janna:** Good morning! **Do you have guidelines for filling out the Responsibilities/Key Accomplishments portions of the Employment History section of the application? How should this be different than what is listed on the resume?**
- Angela_Berkeley:** Hi Janna-great question. We do not have specific guidelines. We know that there will likely be overlap between what's listed on your resume and what you list in this section and that's just fine. You can also use this section to highlight specific responsibilities/accomplishments or to provide additional information that may not be listed in your resume.
- Stiwari:** **I made a career change a few months ago (engineering to marketing) in order to broaden my skillset before starting b-school. Although I have explained this in the career goals essay, should I elaborate in the Optional Essay?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, Stiwari. Good question. If you feel that you've left a stone unturned in not elaborating on the career switch, you may use the optional essay to expand on this switch. However, I would keep it brief to one or two paragraphs.
- Scataldo:** Happy new year to all! **I wanted to know if it is possible to change one of your recommenders after the recommender has submitted his/her letter?**
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Happy New Year and thank you for the question. Yes, you may do this by contacting our office at (510) 642-1405. We can assist you with this Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm.

- Hopefulreapplicant:** Question related to patents - **I have a few patent applications that were filed recently.** Since they are recent, I do not have the patent application numbers, and chances are that even upon matriculation, this information may not be available from the patent office to verify. **How would Haas view this and what should I do as an applicant regarding this?**
- Candace_Berkeley:** Hi Hopefulreapplicant! Do mention these applications in the optional essay. We would love to hear about them. We will take your work for it. We have a third party verification service that will look into application information later in admission the process.
- Roberto2:** Hello, Happy New Year to all!, I have the following question: **I stopped working for my previous employer in April 2016, since then I decided to work in an startup beside work as independent consult, will these months from April to present consider as an employment gap?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, Roberto2! Since you've had two roles since you left your previous employer in 2016, you are therefore still working, so no, I wouldn't consider that an employment gap.
- John:** **If I am owner of business and do not have salary how do I report it? By putting zeros and explaining in optional essay?**
- Candace_Berkeley:** Hi John! Yes, that would be appropriate.
- Mmali:** Hi- **I just wanted to confirm that if I am interested into concurrent MBA/MPH degree I just need to apply for full time MBA program and mention the interest in essay.**
- Angela_Berkeley:** If you are applying to the MBA/MPH concurrent degree program, you should indicate your intention when completing the online application. Applicants to the MBA/MPH program do not need to complete any application materials separate from the MBA application.
- John:** **What is considered employment gap to be explained? above 5 months?**
- Angela_Berkeley:** Hi John, I would encourage you to explain any gap in your employment, so we have a sense of what you were doing during that time.
- TerryF:** Further question concerning your response to the application. Once we have heard back from you will you have a deadline for when we choose to accept or decline an offer?
- Gabrielle_Berkeley:** Hello Terry If admitted in round 2, you will need to submit your deposit by May 4th in order to reserve your spot in the Fall.

a_joseph: Hi, **in the employment history section should we only include jobs after graduation (i.e. no internships)?**

Candace_Berkeley: Hi a_joseph - You are correct!

saurabhkalra: **What is the procedure to apply for application fee waiver?**

Gabrielle_Berkeley: Hello! You can find our application fee waiver form as well as directions on how to fill it out at:

http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/community/FTMBA_Waiver_2017.pdf

a_joseph: Hi, **in the employment history section should I include an internship held between junior and senior year of college?**

Talin_Berkeley: I would undergrad work experience in the resume. We typically see full-time post-grad experience listed in the employment section. That said, if you choose to include that in the employment history, that's fine as well. Usually, summer internships though as included on the resume instead.

Paul: Brooke, **for MBA do you consider students with no experience and fresh BSC graduate out of UC Davis**

Brooke_Berkeley: Most of our applicants generally have at least 3 years of professional experience, and our average number of years of experience for admitted students last year was around 5 years.

John: **I had 3 jobs in 8 years plus co-founded 2 companies, which make 5 occupations in 8 years. What is the best way to explain it was not job-hopping, but skills gaining? optional essay or essay #3?**

Talin_Berkeley: If it's a part of your story, then you can include it in essay 3. Otherwise, it's fine to explain this in the optional essay.

Joe C: Angela, **when I visited campus in 2015, the admissions folks said resume could be longer than one page and should list each position held (even if multiple in the same organization). Did that recommendation change?**

Angela_Berkeley: Hi Joe, a one page resume is just a recommendation and there are always exceptions. For example, if you have significant work experience or extracurricular involvement, etc., your resume may be a bit longer. I would encourage you to keep your resume as clear and concise as possible. Beyond that, there is no hard and fast rule for the length of the resume, though as I mentioned, we usually see resumes that are one page.

Andrew: **I contacted other schools, and considering my extremely unique circumstances, other schools have offered me a special exemption on my online application. Would it be possible also with Haas? or Shall I call the admission office regarding this matter directly?**

Talin_Berkeley: Hi Andrew. You will have to contact our office directly for your situation. Best of luck to you!

Manuel_Switzerland: A question on filling in the educational history: **I did a Masters degree in one go, meaning that there is no intermediate undergraduate but "only" a graduate degree to report. Shall I still tick my Masters degree as school, where I did my undergraduate? Do you need further explanation in the optional essay?**

Caroline_Berkeley: Hi Manuel. Thank you for the question. I recommend including this as two entries even though you completed the degrees at the same time at the same school. You can divide it by the time spent gaining your "undergraduate" degree followed by your "graduate" degree. You can also use the optional essay portion of the application to explain this.

John: **Does mentioning exact courses and professors make you feel that students did his job of researching Haas? For my essay it would take significant portion of words. What is the best way to show thorough research?**

Candace_Berkeley: Hi John! Thank you for your question. We do not require a full list of anticipated courses or professors. You want to use your word count for answering the essay prompts (I am assuming that you are referring to essay 3 here) Edit yourself and tell us the most important aspects of the program that you wish to experience.

Karthik: **Can the recommendation letter be received 3 days from the application deadline? My mentor is travelling until then**

Angela_Berkeley: Yes, the letter can come in after that deadline, as long as all of your other application materials are in on time. Please encourage your recommender to submit ASAP, as your application cannot be reviewed until the letters are received.

Alex: Hi! Thanks for the chat! :) **One of my recommenders has just faced a personal issue and I am not sure if he will meet the 5th of January deadline. Is there any chance I can submit next week?**

Gabrielle_Berkeley: Hello Alex! Thank you for your question. There is a one week grace period after the application deadline for recommenders to submit their letters.

- Pops:** Hi, Happy New Year. **Can I report 2.5 year old TOEFL in the application form and submit fresh score 2 days later at around 7th Jan and still be considered for Round 2?**
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Hello. Thank you for the question. We cannot accept any TOEFL score older than 6/1/15. If you submit a score older than this and new scores after the deadline, your application will not be considered for Round 2.
- Patty:** **I have a significant jump from my first and second GMAT scores. Is it necessary to input the lower score in the Second Highest GMAT score box?**
- Talin_Berkeley:** We take the highest score, so you can leave it off. However, some people leave them in there to show improvements in scores. Totally up to you. Either way, we're looking at the highest score for our review purposes.
- Puneeth:** Hi, I am in an unusual situation. **I am a citizen of country A, but on January 13, 2017 I will be renouncing citizenship of Country A and becoming a citizen of Country B. Which country should I enter as under "citizenship" in the personal data 1 section if I am submitting my application today? If I enter Country A, can I request admissions to change that to Country B after I get my new passport?** Thank you.
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Hi Puneeth. Please put the country you are a citizen of at the time of submitting your application. Once you change your citizenship feel free to contact us and let us know of the change so we can update your application accordingly.
- Kirsten:** Hello and Happy New Year! **For the optional essay section where I can explain quantitative abilities, are you looking for formal education or can I also plug work experience where I'm involved in quantitative projects?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, Kirsten. You can plug in work experience and academic experience when describing your quant abilities in the optional essay section.
- Itua:** A further question regarding the TOEFL requirement: **my country of origin is not on the exemption list, but English is my first language. Does a letter from my university confirming that all instruction at the institution is conducted in English suffice as proof of English sufficiency?**
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Thank you for the follow up question. A letter from your institution will not suffice for proof of English sufficiency. We cannot make any exceptions to this.

Bamex: Hi team - **What happens to my application if my referees to do not submit their recommendation "letter" prior to the deadline tomorrow?** For example, all parts of the application are complete and the application fee paid today but recommendation sections completed on Friday, I've seen it mentioned that Adcom will review applications "once complete", however, I'd like to know if in these circumstances, my application would still be considered in Round 2 or would be pushed to Round 3?

Gabrielle_Berkeley: Hello! Your application will not be reviewed until your recommendation letters are submitted. If your recommender submits on Friday you will still be reviewed in round 2, but your application will not be complete until we receive those items.

Stiwari: **I have quite a few patents (9) published with the USPTO, and more under review. Would you like me to include the patent application numbers and the date they were published/filed?**

Talin_Berkeley: Thank you for your question. That's quite an achievement and we'd love to see the details included.

Austin: Hello! **I had aimed to apply for Round 2 but I'm reassessing and may need to wait to Round 3. Will there still be an opportunity for merit based aid, albeit a smaller possibility?**

Jamie_Berkeley: Hi Austin! Historically, the remaining scholarships available for Round 3 fall are need-based.

Emilio: **Hello regarding my IELTS test report, in the application web page, where I can upload it?**

Caroline_Berkeley: Hi Emilio. Thank you for the question. Please self report your IELTS scores in the test section of the application. Please mail us your official IELTS test report to Full-Time MBA Admissions Haas School of Business University of California, Berkeley 430 Student Services Building #1902 Berkeley, CA 94720-1902

Impana: **How are the GMAT and GRE evaluated against each other? Is there a minimum GRE score you accept?**

Brooke_Berkeley: Hello, Impana. We prefer the GMAT, since we have the most experience and statics evaluating the success that comes from certain GMAT scores. However, we still do accept the GRE. There is no minimum GRE score, just as there is not minimum GMAT score for acceptance.

John: **Does a GPA of 3.4 need an explanation if your GMAT score is 740 (Q50, V40)?** Thank you

Brooke_Berkeley: Hello, John. I wouldn't be able to say if you'd need an explanation with those specific scores, but I always suggest telling us more than you'd think, instead of less to guarantee all of your cards are on the table.

ROHIT: Hi all! Happy New Year! **I am a re-applicant and wanted to know if it is worth answering all the essay questions in addition to the optional essay. I understand that answering the essay questions is not required but will the admissions committee appreciate and value an updated response?**

Angela_Berkeley: Hi Rohit! We're happy to hear you are reapplying! You are welcome to answer the essays again if you have new experiences to share or think your application would be strengthened by new answers. Whether or not you write new essays, make sure you use the optional essay to explain how your candidacy has improved since you last applied.

Monal: Hello, **do you need the official GMAT scores sent to you at this time? And can we submit an online unofficial transcript from our school or should I scan in the official transcript that has my SSN on it?**

Gabrielle_Berkeley: Hello Monal. Thank you for your question! Self-reported GMAT scores are sufficient for review purposes. Unofficial transcripts are also sufficient for review purposes. However, we require a scanned upload of a transcript, not a screen shot of an online transcript.

AF: Hi there. **If you apply to MBA/MPH dual degree, is the admissions to each program considered separately or together?**

Angela_Berkeley: Applicants will receive one joint decision. In other words, applicants will either be admitted to both programs, or denied from both programs.

Westgate: **Is it possible for the admissions office to change the waive status of your recommenders after the request has been sent out? I cannot change it on my end, and in trying to rush it out so that they could have time I made a mistake in my selection. How should I proceed?**

Caroline_Berkeley: Hi. Yes, we will be able to do this for you. Please either email us at mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu or give us a call at (510) 642-1405 Mon-Fri 9am-4pm.

- Impana:** **How many students in your program have advanced degrees such as masters, PhD, etc. Are they evaluated differently than the others i.e. applicants with only undergraduate degree?**
- Angela_Berkeley:** It changes year to year, but you can view last year's statistics for advanced degrees in our incoming class here: <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/class-profile.html>. While we realize graduate education can provide worthwhile experience, it does not necessarily carry as much weight as full-time professional work experience.
- Emory:** Happy New Year everyone! **As someone looking to expand their career in human capital, I am thrilled at the opportunity to learn from Professor Jennifer Chatman and Professor Barry Staw. Are their classes listed anywhere online? What executive coaching/leadership development opportunities does Haas provide?**
Thank you!
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Hi Emory. Thank you for your enthusiasm regarding our top notch Professors and classes offered. The best place to find out more about the different classes offered would be by following this link: <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/curriculum.html>
- Lizzy_Moderator:** Hi all! Thank you for joining us. The chat will be wrapping up in the next 5 - 10 minutes. We greatly appreciate your questions. The speakers will continue to address questions already in their queue, but we will not be forwarding additional questions.
- Ivp29:** Hi I got another question about resume. **What if I have a lot of work experience and community service to share, and they can't be squeezed in one page?**
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Hello, Ivp29. We know it can be difficult to squeeze all of your work experience and community involvement into one page, but if professionals with over 20 years of experience can do so, then we know that our applicants can too. That said, keep in mind that you DO have other places in the application to go into more details about your work experience and community involvement. As long as all of your involvement is listed somewhere on your application, you should be covered.
- John:** I am facing tough decision, I want an MBA, but recently got offer to develop unique start-up (nano-tubes) with 90% market share. I do not want to miss opportunity to do the work, nobody before me did, but will have to reapply at 34 (now I'm 30). **Do you think from an admissions point of view that age would hurt my chances, despite unique work experience?**
- Angela_Berkeley:** Hello, John! Congratulations on this new opportunity! Age is in no way a consideration in our admissions decisions, so you should do what you think is best in this point in time in your career.

- Natalia:** Hello! **Could you give us more detail or tips on how can we guarantee that we are showing ourselves in the song essay? I'm not sure if the things I wrote show who I am. Should I use adjectives, describe a specific story, tell an achievement? I'm really in doubt on how can I be effective in showing who I am.**
- Candace_Berkeley:** Hi Natalia! All of those examples have been done effectively in the song essay. My favorite and most successful suggestion is that you have a third party read it and get their response. Ask them if it reflects who you are and if they feel that they have learned something about you that is not present in other areas of the application. Best of luck to you!
- Thuy Phan:** Hello, **for Consortium applicants, there are no specified word limits for the essays, just limits on characters used for the essays. Should we stick to the character limits on the Consortium application or adhere to the 250-word limits as if we were responding to the essays as non-Consortium applicants?** Thanks!
- Candace_Berkeley:** Hi Thuy – Please adhere to the Consortium guidelines.
- PS:** Regarding work history, **I worked for a startup from 2010-2012 and received equity in the company and all my living expense were taken care of. However, I did not have an official salary. Should I just leave the salary field as "\$0" for that position?**
- Talin_Berkeley:** Yes, I would leave that at \$0 (or leave it blank if it allows) but explain the details on your benefits in the description below.
- Lizzy_Moderator:** Thank you again for joining us. The chat is wrapping up and shutting down. We really appreciate your questions and apologize if we didn't get to all of them. Please check back on our website for a transcript of today's chat. Go Bears!
- Talin_Berkeley:** Thanks, everyone! Best of luck to you during this process!
- Candace_Berkeley:** Thank you all for your questions! Please do come to visit us if you can!
- Angela_Berkeley:** It was great to speak with you all, best of luck!
- Brooke_Berkeley:** Thank you all for your wonderful questions. Keep up the energy to get your applications submitted ASAP for the Round 2 deadline!
- Caroline_Berkeley:** Thank you all. Best of luck!
- Jamie_Berkeley:** Thank you for joining us today. Please feel free to contact the Haas Financial Aid Office directly at finaid@haas.berkeley.edu.
- Gabrielle_Berkeley:** Thank you everyone for all of your questions! Best of luck in the application process.