

## The Full-time MBA Program Round 2 Admissions Chat December 19, 2016

### Chat with Berkeley-Haas

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

Winnie Qing, Admissions Specialist

Jamie Hayden, Assistant Director of Financial Aid

Lizzy Hazard, Moderator

**Lizzy\_Moderator:** Welcome to the Berkeley MBA Admissions chat. My name is Lizzy Hazard, and I will be moderating the chat today. Joining us will be Brooke Baranzano, Assistant Director of Admissions; Candace Gonzales-Tumey, Assistant Director of Admissions; Talin Abrahamian, Assistant Director of Admissions; Winnie Qing, Admissions Specialist; and Jamie Hayden, Assistant Director of Financial Aid. Please send us your questions!

**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 scholarships and other financial aid options.

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Good Day! I am happy to help in any way that I can.

**Angela\_Berkeley:** Hello Everyone! My name is Angela Fleekop and I am the Associate Director of Admissions at Berkeley-Haas. Looking forward to speaking with you today!

**Talin\_Berkeley:** Good morning! Happy to answer questions!

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, and thank you for attending the chat today! We look forward to answering your thoughtful questions.

**Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hello! My name is Winnie Qing. I am an admissions specialist. I am happy to answer any questions about the admissions process!

**Liza P:** **Do you read through an applicant's entire application even if their GMAT score is low?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Liza! Absolutely. We take the holistic review process very seriously and look at every aspect of your application in detail. If your GMAT is lower we will look at your undergraduate grades and professional experiences to indicate that you will be successful in the classroom.

**Dean K:** **Are there any scholarship opportunities for international applicants?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** Yes, most of our scholarships for entering students are open to both international and domestic students. For a comprehensive list of all our entering student scholarships, please visit our website (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>).

**Andrew M:** Thank you all! One question I had: **Are you expecting to see differences between the Responsibilities/Accomplishments box of the Employment History section and the relevant bullets in our resume?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Good question, Andrew! We expect to see some overlap, and it really just depends on how much detail you want to get into on the Responsibilities/Accomplishments portion, since we know you have more room there. That said, some successful applications have listed what is exactly on the resume as well.

**Liza P:** **Does each essay question need to tie to your professional experience or can some essays be entirely personal?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Liza - another great question! Some essay answers can be entirely personal (like essay 1 or 2). I typically say Essay 3 should be written in a more professional tone, since the topic is what you would like to do in your career.

**K H:** Good morning! For the third essay: I am having a hard time narrowing down all of the examples of campus involvement and courses that I'm interested in exploring at Haas - my essay is just too long. **Do you have any advice for selectively choosing what to mention in that essay? Is it okay to omit clubs that you have listed in MBA Clubs and Organizations piece of the application?** Thank you for your help!

**Talin\_Berkeley:** Hello! Yes, please don't feel obligated to list all of the clubs/orgs you're interested in in the third essay. As you noted, you will quickly run out of space. We will note the clubs you're interested in on the application itself. The third essay is an opportunity for you to discuss your career goals and how Berkeley-Haas will assist you in getting there. That is where you should make meaningful connections to some of our resources and how you will utilize them in achieving your goals...rather than listing multiple organizations without any detail. I hope that makes sense. Best of luck to you!

**Alex K:** For letters of recommendation, **which would be preferred: two letters of recommendation from a current employer, or one letter from the current employer and another from a previous employer where the professional relationship ended 4-5 years ago?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, Alex! You really could do either, and we see successful versions of each option you listed. I would suggest that the more your letter writers know you and have worked with you the most recently the better, as it is more likely that they have an updated outlook on your professional experiences thus far.

**Sophie L:** Hello everyone! Thanks for hosting this chat. I am a restaurant owner. This is the only job I had since my sophomore year. Therefore, **I am not able to find a supervisor to write my recommendation letter. Do letters from a previous employee and a current business partner both I work closely with work?**

**Talin\_Berkeley:** Hi Sophie. Yes, in your situation, a business partner (who is not a family member) is fine and you may use a previous employee as well.

- Imelda:** Hi there, **I would like to know more about the MasterCard scholarship, is there a special application for this aside from being admitted into the school?**
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** Haas is proud to participate in the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program (<http://mcf scholarsprogram.berkeley.edu/>), which offers funding for students from sub-Saharan Africa who demonstrate very significant financial need. Applicants must also apply for our need-based Berkeley MBA Grant and obtain the maximum funding. Because of the deadlines associated with the MasterCard Fellowship, eligible students should apply for admission in the first round.
- HinesI12017:** Thank you for hosting this chat! In regards to the required transcript upload, **do you require a copy of an official transcript to be uploaded or is an unofficial transcript sufficient at this point in time?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** For review purpose, we accept a scanned/electronic copy of official transcripts uploaded through the online application. We do not accept printouts of online student records.
- ngb:** **Is it OK to surpass the word limit on the essays?**
- Talin\_Berkeley:** We ask that you stay within the word limit or as close to the limit as possible. If you are a few words outside of the limit, that's fine; however, please use your best judgment and remain succinct. Thanks!
- ngb:** Regarding the Responsibilities/Accomplishments box, **is it Ok to separate the description for each position I held at that Job?? Or you just want to see a general/combined response in that box??**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, ngb. You could do either, but it could be easier for us when we're reading for you to separate the description for each position that you held at that job. But again, either is totally fine.
- Walter:** Can you speak about the interview a little bit? **What will the interviewer know about the applicant?** Do they get the benefit of reading our admissions information, or should we expect to be going in to the interview without the person having prior background knowledge about us?
- Talin\_Berkeley:** The interviewer will only have access to the resume you submitted to us.
- Rosie S:** Hello! **What is Haas's approach to experiential learning?** Is there any consulting project or internship requirement of the program?
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Haas prides itself on the experiential learning opportunities here! We call them Applied Innovation Courses. Students are required to take one. It may be on a consulting project or another type of project. It depends on what you want to do. Please see our offerings: <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/fundamentals.html>. Most of our students do intern over the summer but it is not a requirement. We do have entrepreneurs who choose to work on their own.

- Jose:** Morning all - **Is it possible to ask for a scholarship after I am accepted in the MBA program?** Any guidance on what the loan rates for international students are?
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hello Jose! For most of our entering student scholarships (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>), you must first be admitted into the Full-Time MBA Program. Once admitted, you may then access and complete our online scholarship application. For the rates of our international loan, please visit our website (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/international-loans.html>).
- Jay K:** I have a GMAT score of 740 with a 39 in verbal. Also **I have done my Undergraduate and Graduate Degree from IIT Madras where the only medium of instruction is English. Do I still need to give a TOEFL to apply to Haas?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** The UC Berkeley Graduate Division requires that all applicants who received their degrees from countries in which the official language is not English submit official evidence of English Language Proficiency. Please review <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/> for language requirements. Unfortunately, regardless of language of instruction, degrees from an Indian institution does not meet the language requirement, unless candidates completed at least one year of full-time coursework with a grade of B or better at a university located in the U.S., U.K., Australia, English-speaking Canada or Singapore.
- Lourdes:** Hello Haas! Right now, **I am volunteering abroad for a charity organization, should I list it as work experience or just in supplementary question?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** Hi Lourdes! Great question, feel free to list that in the extracurricular/community involvement section of the application. There, you can share more information about the work you did.
- Alberto0816:** **Is there any difference in applying alone directly to Haas as opposed to through The Consortium?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Thank you for the question Alberto! Both types of applications are reviewed via the holistic review process and are reviewed by the same admissions committee. If you choose to apply through the Consortium, you must apply to the Consortium as well. The applications are slightly different, as the Consortium requires its own essay.
- Alex K:** Hello! Thank you for taking the time today! **If we have had multiple employers since our time in undergrad, should we focus on the more recent experiences in our application?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, Alex! I'd suggest focusing on your whole employment history as a package with a highlight on your more recent experience and the impact that you've made there.
- AF:** Hi there, **if I am not using my current supervisor because I lead a startup and don't have a direct supervisor, where is the best place to explain the circumstance?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, AF. We have a question in the application that asks something like: If you haven't submitted a letter of rec from a current supervisor, please explain why here. We would expect you to use that space.

- PrateetGarg:** **If I am not submitting a recommendation from my current direct supervisor where do I explain the reason for not doing that?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, Prateet. We have a question in the application that asks something like: If you haven't submitted a letter of rec from a current supervisor, please explain why here. We would expect you to use that space.
- Yi-Chieh:** Hi everyone! Thank you for taking the time to chat with us today. I am interested in learning about how the admissions office determines the intake of international students each year. **Is there a specific target or cutoff point that the admissions office works by for each round? Thank you!**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Yi-Chieh! We do not have target numbers or cutoff points. If your application is a strong one, you have a chance to be admitted.
- Naurine:** Hello! Thank you for this chat! **Is there a specific date you tell all the students about acceptance?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** Hello Naurine. Yes, we have notification dates for each application round. For round 2 applicants, our notification date is March 23, 2017 and for round 3 it's May 11, 2017.
- Jinn0808:** Hi can I have a question about the review sequence of admissions committee? **Will you review in a rolling base or in an alphabet order?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** After the application deadline, we review applications as soon as they are complete.
- JennL:** Hello, and thank you for hosting this chat! I'm currently interviewing for some pre-MBA internships, and thinking of starting in late January. **Since I will not have started at the time that apps are due, is there somewhere I can mention this in the app?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** Absolutely. You can mention this in the optional essay section of the application.
- Vinod:** Hi there, Vinod here, I'm a reapplicant. **How does one strike a balance between explaining what value Haas can add to the applicant and what value one can add to Haas? In other words, how much are you interested in knowing what a candidate can bring to Haas?**
- Talin\_Berkeley:** Hi Vinod. We are interested in both points. I think finding a way to weave both in is a challenge itself but one that has been done successfully many times. I think stepping back and reviewing to see if there is a healthy mix of the two will be the best approach. We do look for what Haas can do for you and we also want to know how you are going to contribute to your classmates. Keep in mind, your application itself does help us in finding these answers as well. We look at your work experience, community involvement, and interest to see what type of a student you would be and how you would contribute. If you have done a sufficient job in providing that information, you can use more of the essay to talk about how the Haas MBA can help you achieve your goals. Make sense?

- Grigory:** Hello and thank you for your time. I have some questions about transcripts. **International students have to provide an official degree certificate in original language and an official degree certificate in English. Both copies should be issued by the school. Does notary public issue work? Should all documents be sent to you directly by my university, or I can only get their stamp and send documents myself?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hello! We accept translations of academic documents prepared by the school or a certified ATA translator <https://www.atanet.org/>. Notarized translations are usually not acceptable. The school can mail us academic documents directly. Applicants may also mail us an official document if they are in a sealed envelope provided by the school.
- Svetlana:** Hi! Thank you for the opportunity to chat! Would you tell us more about internship opportunities for international students? **What percentage of internationals were able to get internships (paid/unpaid) and full time positions?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Svetlana! International students are absolutely able to get internships and positions. Exact numbers for the overall placement of international students varies by industry and function.
- anth:** I think I received an error the first time I submitted this question. Trying again -- **Do you publish ranges for GRE scores, in addition to ranges for GMAT scores?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, anth. We do not publish a range for GRE scores, since we do not have as much data for those.
- Andrew M:** **If you are a U.S. applicant, you ask that in the Educational History we do not list schools attended during study abroad, correct?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** If the study abroad coursework is not quantitative, the transcript is not required. However, we require international applicants to submit transcripts from all the institutions they attended, including study abroad.
- Yashovardhan:** Hello, I wanted to ask, **how much importance you give to the Integrated Reasoning section in the GMAT?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, Yashovardhan! We do see your IR scores from the GMAT, and we really look to those scores to find any outliers.
- Charlie.H:** Hi! Thank you all for hosting this chat today. Quick question regarding notification deadlines - I understand that decisions are posted March 23. However, if we are lucky enough to be invited to interview, does this generally happen before March 23rd? In other words, **is an admissions decision handed out before March 23rd or just an initial notification of interview, denial or waitlist?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** Hi Charlie! Interviews can happen any time after you submit your application, from a month after to one day before the notification deadline. Regardless of when an interview may happen, you will still be notified on the notification date for your round.

- ngb:** Hi, I have substantial full-time work experience during my college years (3 years of full time work), **Is it ok for me to talk about it in the employment history section? Or do I have to do it in the Supplementary Questions section where I don't have much space to discuss my accomplishments in those positions?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, ngb. You can include your full-time work experience during your college years in the employment history section.
- Sean:** Hi there, under your FAQs, I noticed that Berkeley really looks for recommendations from people you've had professional interactions with, but what if my professional interactions are mostly with my employees, and prospective business partners with whom other side ventures did not come to fruition? My question is: **how much will it hurt my application if I don't have recommendations from a supervisor (if you haven't had one for over 5 years) nor any one major client (if your business is online)? Are there any exceptions to the recommendations for self-started business owners?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, Sean. We do see this circumstance commonly in our applications every year. If you haven't had a current supervisor in over 5 years, and you don't have a particular major client, we have seen applicants like you use business partners and/or angel investors successfully. I hope this helps!
- Jay Karnik:** **If I am applying in Round 2 for the program, would it be possible to submit my TOEFL score after the application deadline, by end of Jan? Or is it compulsory that the score be submitted along with the application before the Jan 5th deadline?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** We only accept scores of TOEFL taken before the round deadline. To be considered for Round 2, the test must be taken by January 5, 2017. For review purpose, we accept self-reported scores.
- Vinod K:** I am a reapplicant. I interviewed last year. My goals have changed quite a fair bit, as a result of new experiences and deeper reflection. **How does the adcom view such a change? Do you go through my previous application as well?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Vinod! We welcome reapplicants! Yes we will review the previous application as well. We also appreciate deep reflection on the previous application and any improvements made to it including more specific career goals, a new GMAT, or increased job responsibilities.
- Sophie T:** Hello, **if I had a professional job during my undergrad, where would I place this information on the online application?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** Thanks for your question, Sophie! There is a section of the application that asks you to list any paid work experience you had during undergrad, so please feel free to list it there.
- Rosie S:** **Are there any advantages or disadvantages to applying second round as opposed to first round?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Rosie! Thank you for the question. No advantage or disadvantage.

**Sophie T:** **Why does the application ask about your salary?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Sophie! This is a standard question for MBA applications. We do not admit you based on salary.

**Lourdes:** I'm thinking about retaking my GRE exam (I took it before I decided to study the MBA) to improve my Analytical Writing score, should I explain that in the Optional Essay? **How "bad" is taking the GMAT/GRE several times viewed?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Lourdes. That's pretty typical, actually. Most MBA students take the GRE/GMAT about 3 times.

**Rosie S:** **Are GRE Scores considered as favorably as GMAT scores?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Rosie. We do prefer the GMAT since we have the most data and statistics for that test. However, we accept GRE scores for a reason - because excelling on the GRE does show us that you could be an academic leader in our community.

**Jinn0808:** Hi, I am working and have worked for American companies for years, and all my team members are Americans. So **English is my working language**. But **my TOEFL is only 103. Will it be a concern for the application review?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Jinn0808. We will see that you work in the United States, and there are other parts of the application where we can gauge your English abilities (especially if you receive an interview).

**Jeremy S:** Regarding the resume upload, **are there any recommended templates or formats we should consider using? Should the focus of the resume primarily be on professional experiences, or are highlights of personal experiences helpful to include there as well?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Jeremy – We do not have a template that you must follow but please keep it to one or two pages at the most. We want to see your professional experiences highlighted including your impact on your organizations as well as your expected responsibilities. We absolutely want to get to know who you are do outside of work as well so a short interest and/or extracurricular section is most appropriate.

**varu19114:** Hi, **I took my TOEFL last year in Apr and was under the impression that their score is valid for 2 years. But when I checked your website, I came to know that you are not accepting scores before Jun 1st. There are no available test dates before the application deadline. What should I do?**

**Winnie\_Berkeley:** We only accept TOEFL taken after 6/1/2015 and before our application deadline. Applicants may consider taking IELTS when having difficulty scheduling TOEFL exams, or taking TOEFL in another region/country before the application deadline. Please refer to <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/> English proficiency requirements for more information about both tests.



- Devan G:** Hello! For the resume we submit, **is there a format you prefer, would you recommend keeping it to one page?** I know there is a lot of overlap with the application, but it sounds like it serves an important role in the interview.
- Angela\_Berkeley:** We would like your resume to be as clear and concise as possible, but we do not require any set format. A one-page resume would be great, but we do understand that not all resumes can be one page long, so know that two pages is generally the longest résumé length that we receive positively.
- varu19114:** Hi, I am in between jobs right now and **will be joining a new firm right after the round 2 deadline. What is the best place to mention that?** Technically, I don't have a current supervisor. I am also a reapplicant.
- Talin\_Berkeley:** I would submit an optional essay (doesn't have to be long). You can have more than one optional essay (you are encouraged to submit one as a reapp). Just explain what you just noted re: current supervisor and new job and that will do! Best of luck!
- anth:** One more question about GRE -- **do you care more about the combined score or about each of the individual sections? Are you looking for certain ranges of percentiles?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Thanks, anth. We look at (and care about) both the combined score and the individual sections of the GRE, just as we do the GMAT. The only thing I can say to your second question is that the higher the percentile and score, the better, and to keep in mind that our application reading process is holistic in nature.
- Vinod K:** **As a reapplicant, can I submit new essays to SOME of the essay questions and not all?**
- Talin\_Berkeley:** Yes, if you answered one of the essays in a previous app, you can refer to it; however, if you applied more than two years ago, I'd encourage you to update all of your essays as I'm sure some answers may be different today.
- Sean:** **What type of relationship does Haas' have with Silicon Valley?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Sean – We have a strong relationship with numerous companies in Silicon Valley and many of our students intern and work there. Do you have a specific company that you are targeting?
- ngb:** I don't have my diploma yet. **I'm an international student, is that required? I have the official transcript in Spanish and a translation maybe by a third party? Is that alright?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** We require academic documents showing conferral of degree. Please reach out to your school to obtain proof of degree conferral. We accept translation of documents prepared by the school or a certified ATA translator <https://www.atanet.org/>.
- Jinn0808:** **How do you consider the AWA for GMAT? Will a high score generate positive impact?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello again, Jinn0808. We will be able to see your AWA score on the GMAT, and if we have questions about your writing ability then that score could add to your case.

- SophieLin:** **I took a certificate program in post-graduate years. Do I need to upload the transcript and certificate of the program if I list it on my resume?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Please provide the transcript of the certificate program if you completed any quantitative coursework.
- Imelda:** **I saw a response earlier about India being one of the countries from where a TOEFL is mandatory, are there any other countries where this holds?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hi. Please refer to <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/> English Language Proficiency Requirement for the list countries.
- Rosie S:** **Is there a number of students you accept in each round or how do you determine how many students will be admitted, so that there is still space for applicants in the third round? Is it more difficult to be accepted in the third round as opposed to first or second?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Rosie. Good question. We have common practices every year to accept certain, but flexible, numbers of people each round that we do not disclose. That said, every year our numbers of accepted students can change based on stronger or weaker pools per application cycle. I would suggest applying in round one or two, as round three there are much less spots open (and less opportunities for scholarships at that point). However, we do accept students every year in round 3...it's just a bit more competitive.
- Alex K:** **What is the best way to reach out to clubs at Haas to learn more prior to submitting an application?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Most of our clubs have officer contact information online. Please do reach out directly to them.
- Hung D. Q:** Good morning. **Is it necessary to translate academic descriptions from grading system of my country to American grading system by using WES (World Education Services) credential evaluation?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Good morning! Please do not attempt to convert your grades to a US scale. We do not accept credential evaluation reports or conversions from outside institutions (WES, ECE, FCSA, etc.). Please do not send credential evaluation reports in addition to or in place of a transcript issued by the institution.
- ngb:** **Should I address a somewhat low TOEFL score (106)?** and what steps I'm taking towards improving my English skills in the optional essay?? Or are this score and a 44 on verbal GMAT already clearing that up?
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, ngb. I can't tell you what you should or should not do in your application. However, if you feel that we may have a question about your English abilities, then explaining the steps you're taking to improve those skills could be helpful to the admissions committee.
- Yi-Chieh:** **Hi, if I scored better on the GRE than my GMAT, would you recommend submitting the better of the two, or submitting both for reference?**
- Talin\_Berkeley:** Hi Yi-Chieh. It's up to you. You may submit whichever one you'd like. You may also submit both.

- Jduong:** In regards to "the reason leaving this position" question in the employment section, is "To pursue an MBA" sufficient, since I plan on answering that more in depth in the essays?
- Talin\_Berkeley:** Yes, that is sufficient. Thanks!
- Walter:** What percentage of applicants are invited to interview? What percentage of interviewed applicants receives offers of admission?
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Walter. Thank you for the question. 25% to 30% of applicants are invited to interview. About half of those receive offers.
- Rosie S:** How does the admissions committee view intentional career breaks? Travel and learning new things is important to me both personally and professionally, and sometimes this type of experience does not fit perfectly into a resume timeline. How would you recommend explaining this?
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Rosie. Some successful applicants have taken intentional career breaks for the reasons that you gave. On the work experience section of the application we ask your reason for leaving every job. You could write about those intentional breaks in that space.
- Sophie T:** If my company has offices around the world, do I put the number of total employees from around the world or just the number of employees from my office?
- Talin\_Berkeley:** Hi Sophie! I would include the total of all employees for that employer, not just the ones in your office.
- Tony:** Thank you so much for taking time to answer our questions. The website states that the most recent TOEFL score must be at least 90 for the Internet-based test (iBT). Would you say that a 90 TOEFL score is considered competitive in your view?
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hi Tony! You may refer to our class profile on <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/class-profile.html> for the average TOEFL iBT score of the entering class Fall 2016.
- HinesI12017:** Hello! Do most applicants complete the optional essay portion of the application or is it generally only completed in the case of extenuating circumstances?  
Thank you!
- Angela\_Berkeley:** We recommend only using the optional if you need it to explain something that you feel is missing from your application. This can include, but is not limited to, employment gaps or academic aberrations, or explaining improvements to your candidacy as a reapplicant.
- DevanG:** For recommendation letters, is it strongly preferred to use the recommendation form, instead of sending a letter written by my former Director?
- Talin\_Berkeley:** We ask that you ask your supervisor to submit the Berkeley-Haas form. The form is very helpful as we ask specific questions we want the answers to.

- Rutvik K:** Hello, and thank you for hosting the chat. I would like to know a bit about the existing & upcoming opportunities in **FinTech at Haas. Does the school have recruiting presence from companies such as Square or CommonBond, for example, and in what way do students engage with companies in this sector?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Rutvik! Haas excels in the FinTech space. We have a recruiting presence for all of the major FinTech companies. Students engage in a number of ways from speakers on campus, to treks, to networking events, to case competitions.
- varu19114:** **There are no ILETS or TOEFL dates in my country before Jan 7th.** Any suggestions?
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hi! If you have difficulty scheduling TOEFL and IELTS exams before the Round 2 deadline, January 5, 2017, you may consider applying for Round 3. Please refer to <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/deadlines.html> for Round 3 deadlines.
- Jacob H:** Thank you for hosting this chat today. **If I'm coming from a non-traditional background (NGO/international development) and am planning to include an optional essay on my quantitative background, how long would you recommend that essay be?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** Thanks for your question, Jacob. It really depends on your situation. Most importantly, we want you to clearly and concisely present what you would like us to know. Do keep word count in mind and do your best to use those precious words wisely!
- Rosie S:** **Do you look to see if a candidate is interested specifically in companies that recruit on campus?** I have been told that committees get worried if a student's interests are outside their established network because it can affect the school's stats on employment. How would I communicate that I think I would still be able to get my dream job after school, even if the company was not a recruiting company?
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Rosie. First, our career management group has great and budding relationships with new (and established) companies frequently, so that's not something that would stop an application from going through. That said, you can always reference a Plan B in Essay 3.
- Vinod:** One more **reapplication**-related question. **My current supervisor has not changed since last year.** She has agreed to write me a recommendation again. **She would like to know if there are specific things she should highlight from just these past 12 months in such a way that the new recommendation is complementary to the one from last year.**
- Talin\_Berkeley:** Have her review the rec from last year and add in what's changed in the past year - how has your performance changed? What new projects have you taken on? How have you grown in the past year, etc. Hope that helps.
- Zafer Z:** Hi and thanks for hosting this chat. **Is it possible/common to work part-time during second year at the summer internship company?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Zafer – Yes! We have students who work part time during the second year at their summer internship company.

- ngb:** **What can I do if I'm not able to contact an ATA translator in my country and my university doesn't offer translation service?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hi ngb! Many certified ATA translators can provide services remotely. The location of the translator does not matter. For review purpose, we can accept translations provided by non-ATA translators. However, if you are invited to interview, we will require translation provided by either the school or a certified ATA translator.
- Dean:** Not sure if my question got submitted: I'm coming from union organizing field and am applying to MBA programs to pursue career in social impact/social enterprise or consulting. Even after much research, I'm not entirely sure which one yet. **Do you prefer candidates who have a clearer goal in single field?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** Hi Dean. It's ok if you are still exploring career paths, but it's best for us to know as much about your future career goals as possible, so please be as specific as you can!
- 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 some questions already in their queue, but we will not be forwarding additional questions.
- HinesI12017:** For the **community involvement / extracurricular** activity question, **can this include optional professional organizations I participate in / lead within the workplace?**
- Angela\_Berkeley:** Absolutely, please do include those!
- Mark C:** I know you have talked a bit about Haas' innovation lab, but as a prospective MBA student at Haas with very little entrepreneurship experience and a significant interest in the area, **please discuss in a bit more detail about all of the programs available (both core and optional) available to me.**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Mark! Thank you for your question. There is simply not enough room in a chat to do this. For a comprehensive understanding of the entrepreneurship offerings please use our website as your best resource!
- Sophie T:** If my company has offices around the world, **do I put the number of total employees from around the world or just the number of employees from my office?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** You can use the number of employees worldwide.
- K H:** Hi! I have a question about the "International GPA" blank in the Education History section when it comes to study abroad programs. **Is it accurate to input the average of the grades from the courses I took during the abroad program? Thank you!**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hi! If the study abroad institution does not provide GPA, please leave it blank. Please do not attempt to convert your grades to a US scale or calculate the average.
- Jeremy S:** **If an applicant retakes the GMAT/GRE between submitting the application materials and the decision notification date, will that new score be considered as part of the application process?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Jeremy! Unfortunately we cannot consider the scores because your application may have been read already. If you want to be sure to have the scores considered, you must roll your application to the third round.

- Jinn0808:** Maybe I am wrong, but I have another question about the new US policy released by Trump. **The new policy on H1B visa may impact many international students per US media. Will Haas reduce seats for international students due to the new policy, especially for candidates from Mexico and China?** Thanks!
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Jinn, We do not anticipate reducing seats for international applicants based on this policy.
- ngb:** **Do we need to send official transcripts by mail?** Or is that scanned version enough for international students?
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** For review purpose, we accept scanned official transcript and degree certificate uploaded via the online application. If you are invited to interview, you will then be required to submit the official transcripts and degree certificate via mail.
- Andrew M:** **Where would the best place (if any) in the application to list part-time employment experience after completing university studies (outside of the resume)?** More specifically, part-time employment that has significance in the context of work history.
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Andrew - Your resume is the best place.
- Vengatesh:** **Hi, do you have statistics of international students joining startups in the Bay Area or PE/VC firms?** I am trying to understand how helpful these companies are to enable visas for international students.
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Vengatesh. This data changes per year based on various factors.
- Vengatesh:** Hi, thank you for taking time out to answer our questions. **How important is a letter of recommendation from a current supervisor? Are you at a disadvantage to have letters of recommendation from past supervisors only?**
- Talin\_Berkeley:** If you are unable to attain a letter from a current supervisor, please explain in the option essay section on the application. We will definitely accept letters from your former supervisors. This will not negatively impact your application.
- Walter:** I am planning on taking the GRE again to see if I can raise my score just before the application deadline. The test tells you immediately what your quant/verbal score is, but you usually need to wait about 15 days for your writing score. **If I know my quant/verbal score before the deadline, but won't have the formal unofficial score report, how should I communicate this information to you?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hello Walter! The scores can be accepted as long as the test is taken before the round deadline. For review purpose, we accept self-reported scores. Please update us the writing scores as soon as possible by emailing [mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu).
- Grigory:** **Can you please explain what do you mean by "translation provided by a school" (about transcripts)? Can they issue a translation if they agree with it?**
- Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hi Grigory! Some schools issue official transcript in both the original language and in English. Sometimes school officials can also provide translation of transcripts. Please check with your school regarding the documents issued and providing translation.

**zhen:** **How many units does a MBA student usually take per semester? How many times a week will a typical class meets?**

**Winnie\_Berkeley:** Hi Zhen. Students have class Monday through Thursday and discussion sessions on Friday. Please refer to <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/curriculum.html> for information on curriculum.

**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 and information on future chat dates. Go Bears!

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Thank you all for your wonderful questions. We look forward to reading your applications!

**Angela\_Berkeley:** Thanks for your thoughtful questions everyone, have a great day!

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Thank you! Best of luck on your applications!

**Winnie\_Berkeley:** Thank you for joining! Have a great day! Good luck to your applications!

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** Thank you for joining us today. If you have any financial aid questions, please feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office directly at [finaid@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:finaid@haas.berkeley.edu).