

## The Full-time MBA Program Admissions Chat, September 20, 2016

### Chat with Berkeley-Haas

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**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 Erin Kellerhals, *Director of Diversity Admissions*; Cindy Jennings Millette, *Senior Associate Director of Admissions*; Candace Gonzales-Tumey, *Assistant Director of Admissions*; Brooke Baranzano, *Assistant Director of Admissions*; Kim Heath, *Senior Admissions Specialist*; Sandra Cruz-Lezama, *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 at the Haas Financial Aid Office. Please feel free to submit any questions you have in regards to loans, scholarships, etc. I look forward to chatting with you!

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Good morning! I'm Kim Heath, and I'm happy to answer any questions you have about admissions and the application today!

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hello! Thank you for joining us for the chat. I look forward to answering your questions.

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Good Morning! I look forward to answering your questions today.

**Sandra\_Berkeley:** Good Morning! My name is Sandra Cruz-Lezama. I look forward to chatting with you all.

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, and welcome! I look forward to discussing your thoughtful questions.

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Good morning!

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Very happy to answer your questions!

**Kathy W:** Hi there, **would someone with 10 years of work experience be considered not a suitable candidate for your program, or much less likely to be accepted?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Kathy, Thanks for the question. We evaluate work experience based on quality not quantity. The middle 80% range for those admitted to the program is 2-8 years of post-university work experience - so we have admitted candidates who have had 10 years or more of experience. The average years of work experience is 5 years. So it depends on many elements of the application including GMAT/GRE, essays, letters of rec, etc.

**Wafiqah:** Hi Berkeley Admissions Team - thank you for taking the time to answer our questions! **I was wondering how important it is to answer the optional essay question. Do we only answer it if we have something very specific to explain? Or is it something we should all plan to answer?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Wafiqah, great question. The optional essay is, indeed, optional. You only need to fill it out if you feel that there was something in your application that you need to further clarify. We do not expect most applicants to need the optional essay, especially if they do not need to clarify any potential red flags in the application (i.e. a long gap in your resume, if you couldn't get a letter of rec from a current supervisor, etc.).

**A Virdee:** Good Morning **do you offer a healthcare based MBA?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi A Virdee -- Our MBA is a general management degree with fundamentals in business. You are able to tailor your experience toward an area of interest such as healthcare. You may also be interested in our joint degree program with the School of Public Health. You may earn an MBA and MPH in five semesters.

**Nikhlesh L:** Hi, Thanks for the time today. **Can you give us a rough idea of how we will spend our time each day at Haas?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Nikhlesh, Every day can be very different. I'm afraid there is no typical day. But I see the program in 3 buckets: (1) academic experience - attending class, studying and working on group class projects; (2) career - this includes industry club activities & working with our career management group with assessing career goals and professional opportunities as well as experiential learning opportunities; and lastly (3) social activities including networking and socializing. Just a quick snapshot. I'm sure I'm forgetting something!

- Shuai M:** Hi Jamie, thank you for being here this morning. I am an international student. **Is there any scholarship from the school that is provided to the international students? If so, how much does the scholarship usually cover?** Thanks.
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hello Shuai. Our Scholarships for entering students (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>) are open to both international and domestic students. The awards range between \$5,000 and \$180,000 for the two year program. You may apply for our scholarships once you are admitted into the Full-Time MBA Program. Please be sure to review the options via the link provided.
- Prat:** Hello everyone! I have a TOEFL related question: **Are there any sectional cut-offs for the TOEFL score?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Your most recent score must be at least 90 for the Internet-based test (iBT), at least 230 for the computer-based test (CBT), or at least 570 for the paper and pencil test (PBT). For Fall 2017 admission, we accept official scores only from exams taken on or after June 1, 2015.
- Chelsea D.:** Hi all, thank you for your time this morning. I have a question about the job responsibilities section on the app. Since it is relatively free form, **do you have any suggestions besides noting key accomplishments but avoiding giving you the whole kitchen sink?** I want to make sure it's thorough without being verbose. Thank you!
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Chelsea, thank you for your question. We will have read your resume, so you don't need to repeat everything that you included on your resume. In this section, we would like you to include core responsibilities and key accomplishments that could be tweaked or similar to your resume.
- Jon:** **Would internships count toward work experiences?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Jon – Our averages that are reflected in the profile refer to post undergraduate work experience. Cindy gave those averages earlier. Yes, we do take all work experience into consideration, including internships. To repeat Cindy, it is the quality of the work experience that is most important - we are not counting months so to speak - we are looking at the impact that you have had and the skills that you have acquired in your work environment.
- aman s:** **Is there an upper limit for the age bracket for the program?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Aman. No, there is no upper age limit for the program at all.

- PBevins:** Good Morning, I am currently considering whether to apply for classes beginning in the Fall of 2017 or 2018. I have an exciting career opportunity for the next 18 months or so, but I am hesitant to miss out on attending Haas sooner. **If accepted, are applicants allowed to defer attendance for a year? If not, can you provide insight or advice on whether taking a challenging career opportunity or attending a prestigious business school such as Haas would be a better option for the long term?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear PBevins, Yes - this is not an unusual question. I think it's great that you are investigating school now, and the work you put into the application process now will serve you well if you decide to apply this year - or next year. I think ultimately the decision is up to you. Do you feel that this opportunity will add value to your professional experience? Will you learn and grow?
- Jelece M:** Good morning! My question is regarding the essay portion of the application. **Do you have any advice for selecting songs?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Jelece. This is a very common question regarding the song essay. What I can suggest is to first give yourself a substantial amount of time to prepare for the essay and brainstorm. During your brainstorm process really dig in about which songs you feel truly represent you at your core. Also, the song does not have to be in English or have any lyrics at all.
- Km:** Hi! Thank you for hosting the chat today. **Is there a minimum of work experience years before applying to Haas?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Thank you for your question. Work experience is not required to apply. However the average years of post-university work experience is 5 years. More important than quantity, however, is the quality of that experience. When reviewing applications, we are particularly interested in the progression and milestones of your career, as well as your supervisor's assessment of your value as an employee and potential as a leader.
- Omar:** Hi, thank you for taking time to answer our questions. **How much has the South American presence changed over the last 5 years at the full time MBA program?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Omar, we have a strong South American presence and have had for several years in terms of candidate interest as well as student interest.

- Jessica G:** Hello Berkeley MBA Admissions team! I was wondering **how the responsibilities and key accomplishments component of the Employment History section of the application should differ from what is included in the resume?** Thank you!
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Jessica. Thanks for your question! We will have read your resume, so you don't need to repeat everything that you included on your resume. In this section, we would like you to include core responsibilities and key accomplishments and noted impact that could be tweaked or similar to your resume.
- Maria M:** Good morning everyone. Question 1: **Does it matter if the application is submitted before the Sept 29th (Round 1) deadline? Does that give any advantages to the applicant? Or, does everyone get evaluated at the same time?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Maria, submitting your application prior to our deadline does not provide any advantages.
- ViramS:** Hi Jamie, **could you please suggest as to what percentage of the class gets awarded scholarships and outline the criteria that the school considers while evaluating candidates for scholarships?**
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hello Viram. Approximately 50% of students entering the Full-Time MBA receive a scholarship. The criteria for each award varies. For example, some awards look at a students' commitment to social impact, others entrepreneurial spirit or one's proven ability to promote diversity. Please visit our page for Entering Student Scholarships for a detailed list of opportunities at Haas (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>).
- Prateek:** Hi, My name is Prateek, I am an oil & gas industry professional working in Dubai. I would like to know if there are graduates who pursue work in the oil & gas industry after their Haas MBA. **Is there any chance to network with oil & gas companies? Does the BERC@HAAS group help connect with oil & gas alums?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Prateek - Yes, as I'm sure you know there is a very strong focus on energy here at Haas and we do have alumni working in oil and gas so you may definitely network with those countries. BERC as well as our Energy Institute and our Career Management Group are great resources for our students with this area of interest.

- Anjan M:** Hello Kim. Thanks for taking our questions today! I am in the process of applying to Haas and have already submitted the list of my two recommenders. However, one of my recommenders recently had a change of job title. I was wondering **how do I update that information?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Anjan, please email [mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu) or call our office at 510-642-1405 to edit your recommender's information.
- Ginadt:** **What is the best way to address a low quant-score on the GMAT? Would the optional essay be the place to point out success in previous math courses or current quant practice in my job role?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Good morning! Yes, you could use the optional essay portion to highlight quant practice in your job role. I would also suggest making sure that those quant-focused job responsibilities be included in your resume as well.
- Vini:** Hi everyone! Thanks for hosting this chat! I have a couple of admissions form-specific questions. 1. **In Personal Data II, there's a section for both US Degree holders and International Degree Holders. I've correctly filled up the international portion, but the form isn't letting me leave the US degree portion blank (even though I have no US degree). Do I then just fill in 0 and check "not on 4.0 scale"?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Thank you for your question. You are correct, you can fill in the section with 0 and check "not on 4.0 scale."
- Kristin:** We self-report our GMAT scores on our applications. **Do you require receipt of our scores from the GMAC prior to considering the application complete?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** We ask that you send your official exam results while we review your self-reported scores. That said, we do not need require receipt of your scores from GMAC prior to considering the application complete.
- Stefan:** Hi all, I'll be applying with the GI Bill (Post 9/11). **What would the process be to get into the Yellow Ribbon Program at Berkeley?**
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hi Stefan. To participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program, you will need to provide a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility (COE), with an email request for participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program. The difference covered between CA Resident and Non-CA resident fees is approximately \$1,550. I would complete the process detailed above once you are admitted into the program.

- NikhleshL:** Hi! Thanks for your time today. In regards to the application process- for recommendations - since I have previously worked at Google I can get one recommendations from my manager. I subsequently joined my family business- **whom do I get my second recommendation from? Maybe a client or a supplier?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Nikhlesh, We do ask for previous or current supervisors, if that is not possible given your current circumstances a stakeholder or someone who oversees your work and can speak to it from a supervisory perspective – your level of contribution, you work place persona, along with other aspects of your professional character and skills would be appropriate.
- David:** Good morning! I'm from Ireland and have my undergraduate degree from there. **Am I required to complete the TOEFL?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Great question David. The Graduate Division requires all applicants who received their degrees from countries in which the official language is not English to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. Receiving your degree from Ireland, you do not need to take the TOEFL exam.
- Aman:** I am in the Indian Navy and will have a work experience of 16 years for the class of 2017. I would like to understand if there is an upper age limit for the program. **Also since the requisite approvals will take time, is it fine to apply for the second deadline and be eligible for scholarships?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Aman, thank you for your question. There is no upper age limit for our program. We generally accept students from a wide range of ages, and our median age at enrollment last year was 28 years. Applying by the second deadline is fine, and scholarships are generally still available at that time.
- Charles:** Good morning Berkeley/Haas team, **is it still possible to visit the school on a day where there is nothing official scheduled? If yes, would I still be able to potentially meet with admissions staff and/or current students?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Charles. Your visit unfortunately falls during our final exam week, so we don't have any official school visitation program running. However, an admissions advisor would be happy to chat with you during our open office hours, Monday through Friday, 9am - 4pm. Additionally, you can reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors at [hsa@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:hsa@haas.berkeley.edu) to see if there is a current student available to chat with you during your visit. Enjoy your visit to the Bay Area!

- Charles.H:** Hi - thanks for taking my question. Regarding the letters of recommendation - **how detailed do we have to be in explaining why we chose not to obtain a letter of recommendation from a current supervisor?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Richard. Thanks for your question. You only should be as detailed as you need to be. For example, it is regular for applicants to write in the optional essay portion a couple of sentences on why they couldn't obtain a letter of rec from a current supervisor.
- Anant:** **Good morning, how important is the GMAT? Is it weighed equally between a person with 2 years of experience compared with one who has 6 years of work experience?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Thank you for your question Anant! We review the applications holistically and therefore we don't weigh aspects of the application in this manner. The GMAT speaks to an applicant's ability to handle graduate level coursework. We will look for other aspects of the application to support your ability to be successful in the classroom if the GMAT is not as strong.
- Cesar R:** Hello, good morning, **I am from Chile and I would like to know, how does Haas calculate the GPA score for the applications?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Cesar, this is a great question. Our admissions committee is trained to review and evaluate international scores.
- Shuai M:** I know some school provides private loans to international students, but this kind of loan sometimes requires a US domestic co-signer. **In Haas, are there any loans toward international students? And, if so, do students have to find a US co-signer?** Thanks.
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** Shuai, if you have access to a US co-signer, you may apply for a private educational loan offered by many banks/lenders in the US. If you DO NOT have access to a US co-signer we have options for you. We have risk-share loans where you may borrow up to \$62,000 per academic year. In addition to risk-share loans, other lenders such as Prodigy Financial offer loans to international students without the need for a co-signer. These lenders will have varying qualifications (e.g., credit check), loan terms and loan maximums. Please visit our International Loans page for more information on these options  
<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/international-loans.html>

**wpringle:** I have mostly been an individual contributor in my recent roles. **Is management experience required to be a strong candidate?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi wpringle - Not necessarily. You can demonstrate your impact, passion, motivation, and progression without having direct management experience.

**Mayuri B:** Hi, I was a little confused with the application process and want to ensure I submit all the materials on time for round 1. **Could you clarify what pieces of the application are due via mail and what pieces are due via the website?**

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Mayuri, we require you to submit \$200 application fee; copies of your university transcripts; resume; GMAT or GRE scores; TOEFL or IELTS scores if applicable; online application; essays; and two professional letters of recommendation. Everything is able to be submitted electronically. I encourage you to review our admissions requirements page:  
<http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/index.html> and our FAQs:  
<http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/faq.html>

**Piero:** I have a question about GMAT&GRE. **Do you prefer GMAT to GRE?** Some school prefer GMAT, and others count exactly same level (No difference at all), so I want to make sure which is better for your school to evaluate applicant's capability.

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Piero. Thanks for your question. We do prefer the GMAT at this time. However, if you've already taken and excelled in the GRE, you could use that instead. The advice I generally give is that if you're starting to study from scratch and don't have a preference, then I suggest taking the GMAT.

**Abby:** Hi everyone, **what are the financial options available to a Full-Time MBA prospective student?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hi Abby, I would like to give you information that best addresses your situation. To do so, may I ask if you are a US citizen or if you are international?

**Mike:** Hello, my name is Mike. **What are the outstanding factors that make Haas MBA different from other MBA Programs in entrepreneurship?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Mike. I'd suggest that you review information here regarding our program. Our location in the Bay Area also is a distinguisher:  
<http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/entrepreneurship.html>

- Dave O:** I've got a question about Essay #2, specifically about the "tell us about a decision you made" prompt. I'm considering writing about I time that I made a tough decision that I feel was the \*wrong\* decision. I feel that I have a good story to tell about how I learned from the experience, but I am worried that talking about poor decisions in my essays will reflect poorly on me as a candidate. **Would you recommend focusing on a more positive decision?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Dave - I understand your concern although if you feel it was an impactful experience that shaped who you are, I think that is appropriate. I do think you should use your best judgment however, in case what you feel what you want to share may not be the best for a business school application. I think ultimately you need to feel comfortable and confident in your answer.
- Tien V:** I have a 2.9 GPA in undergrad. Currently I'm an engineer at Google and has a GMAT of 750. I'm planning to apply for MBA after my 4th or 5th years out of undergrad. **Would my test score and work experience able to compensate for my weak GPA?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Tien - Yes, often a strong GMAT is a good compensation for a lower GPA.
- Hassan B:** Hello Berkeley team and thank you for your time! **If I wasn't able to get a recommendation letter from my current supervisor because I am thinking of applying in private, would that negatively affect my chances?** (This is my 2nd job so there will be one recommendation letter from my previous supervisor and the other recommendation would be from a peer that I have worked with)
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Hassan. We understand that not everyone will be able to get a letter of rec from a current supervisor. I would not consider it a detriment to your application, especially with a previous supervisor writing you a letter of rec. What I can suggest is that you tell us why you couldn't obtain a letter of rec from your current supervisor, briefly, in the optional essay portion of the app.
- Kimberly S:** Hi, **is there a preference for GMATs or GREs as part of the overall application package?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Kimberly. All candidates are required to take the GMAT (preferred) or GRE exam prior to the deadline for which they are applying. We are especially interested in your performance on the quantitative section as an indication of your quantitative proficiency. Please note that the Analytical Writing component is required for both the GMAT and GRE.

**Avijit V:** Hi. **How active is the alumni at Haas in helping students with the recruitment process?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Avijit - If you mean the job or intern search once in the program, I think our alumni are very active and helpful, and always open to students.

**Mike:** Hello. **Would GMAT score requirement be different for people from different regions? What are the requirements for Asia?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Mike. All applicants, no matter where they are from or where they live, need to take the GMAT or GRE to apply to Berkeley-Haas.

**Katie H:** Good Morning! I have a question about supplemental coursework to demonstrate quant ability if the GMAT score is not what you hoped. I have heard that smartly courses are one way to show this - **is this true for Haas? Do you recommend mentioning this as additional coursework the optional essay, or are you looking for more formal classroom coursework?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Katie, Thanks for this question. There are many course offerings out there that purport to show quantitative proficiency. We suggest that the best manner is through a course at an accredited institution.

**Christine K:** I would like to do MBA with real estate concentration and I am still deciding whether I should do a part-time or a full-time program. I heard that a part-time program is general and has no concentration but just has electives. **How is a full-time program different from a part-time in regards to real estate? Are fewer classes in real estate offered for a part-time? Can I also be part of real estate club as a part-time student?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Christine. I suggest you contact the Part time program to learn more about their offerings. The issue you have is that you are taking classes in the evening or on Saturday so there is less time to take the other course offerings/electives that are available - most specifically those in the other graduate programs such as school of urban planning and school of architecture. You can be in the club but again you are working while going to school so time is more limited. More details about this specialization are here:  
<http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/realestate.html>

**Tim C:** Hi all, I am deciding on applying for round 1 or 2. As the class size for Haas is quite small, I wondering **if we can have the percentage of seats in general that are taken in round 1 historically?**

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Tim, we do not have historical stats in regards to what percentage of seats are taken in Round 1. That said, we do not set a percentage of seats that need to be taken in Round 1 -- we want to offer admissions to the strongest applicants in every round, so the number of seats taken fluctuates year-to-year and round-to-round. We recommend for you to apply when you feel like your application is at its strongest, as a strong application will stand out in any round.

**KG:** **How do you assess ambition against feasibility of post MBA goals?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi KG - It is a tricky balance. You want to demonstrate who you are but feasibility is very important, at least in terms of how much you have planned and how much you know about what you want to do, as ambitious as that might be.

**Jhan:** **Hi, how are people selected for the Applied Innovations courses?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Jhan: It depends on the course. Some you just sign up while others you need to apply. More details here: <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/applied-innovation.html>

**Abdulla:** Is there any disadvantage to being 35 years old when applying, **how much of a factor is age?** My understanding is that the bulk of the candidates accepted are in the age range 25-28 yrs.

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Abdulla - Age is not a factor in our admissions process. We are looking at work experience, academic ability, and culture fit.

**Amba G:** For some of us written communication is genuinely an area of development, even if we are well accomplished in other areas. **What level of our peers' involvement in polishing our essays would be acceptable to the committee?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Amba. Thank you for your question. We expect our applicants to have a good understanding of the English language, which would be reflected in your application. It is also worth noting that applicants who received their degrees in countries other than the US, UK, Australia, or English-speaking Canada are required to take the TOEFL exam or the IELTS. You can learn more about our needed language proficiency here: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/international.html>

**Christine K:** **If I apply to a part-time program and get rejected, can I apply for a full time program in round 2 or 3?**

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Christine, if you are denied a seat from the Evening and Weekend Program, you can apply to the Full-time Program in a later round.

**Michael D:** Thank you for the time; I have a question on loans and scholarship. **How is it determined if a candidates will be given more or less scholarship than another? Further are there ways Haas assists incoming students seeking outside scholarships?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hello Michael, at Haas, we have an online scholarship application which you may complete once you are admitted into the Full-Time MBA Program. When completing the application, you will select the scholarships for which you feel you are a good fit. Upon submission, your application will be reviewed by the various scholarship committees. Awards are given to students who best meet a scholarships criteria, many of which include a short essay. Please visit our Entering Students scholarship page for the amounts of the awards offered by Haas (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>). We also provide an Outside Scholarships List for opportunities outside of Haas (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/outside-scholarships.html>).

**KimYL:** Hi, thank you for answering our questions. I currently work in my family's business (15 employees total). **How much detail should I share about my work?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Kim. No matter where applicants work, we would like to hear about the impact that you've had at each organization you've been a professional part of. These details could be shared in your resume and your professional experiences section of your application.

**Bruno N:** **How important visiting the school is to be admitted?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Bruno! Visiting the school allows you to experience our culture first hand, meet students, and see yourself here. It really is a way for you to determine fit. Do you like Haas enough to apply, and if admitted to attend? It is not a determining factor as far as admissions is concerned.

- Maria G:** Good morning and thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. **As a prospective Consortium applicant, do you have any tips or recommendations for the application?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Maria - I'm not sure what specific tips you mean, but I can share that we review Consortium applications as we do all applications so we are looking for the same aspects--academic ability, professional experience, and culture fit. I recommend you take advantage of the supplemental Haas-specific essays on the application to share more of your point of view and fit with the community.
- beriarpit2016:** Hi, wanted to know more about Areas of Emphasis. **How does it help students in their learning?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi **beriarpit2016**: The areas of emphasis are really a way for you to specialize in a certain focus. So for example, if you are coming from finance and are interested in moving into real estate finance you can take classes that will add to your experience to make such a career change. Hope this helps!
- Vini:** Second, similar question. In the Education History, the boxes are Cumulative GPA OR International GPA (with a box in-between to check "not on 4.0 scale". **How do we read this? Also, it looks like cumulative GPA can't be left blank. As an international student, do I fill in my GPA under cumulative GPA, check the box for "not 4.0" and fill in my university's 5.0 scale in the "international GPA" box?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Vini, you want to go ahead and check "not on a 4.0 scale." Under the section for international undergraduate degrees, you can input your score.
- Alex:** Hello, coming from a non-quant background, I plan on taking a class before entering business school. **Are there any you would recommend that might be more useful than others? Statistics, Calc, Intro to Accounting, etc?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Alex, I would suggest that you take a basic class stats or calculus.
- Anant:** I read on your website that you give more importance to quant as compared with verbal on the GMAT, **is there any sectional cutoff? If so what is it?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Anant - No, we don't have any minimums on our GMAT.

**VIVEK:** Thank you so much for this online interactive session. **Is there any significant difference in applying for Round 1 over Round 2 or vice versa?**

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Vivek, there is not a significant difference between applying in Round 1 and Round 2, so we recommend submitting your application when it is the strongest.

**Darren L:** My question: apart from The International Business Development Program, **are there other overseas development/training at HAAS MBA? Can you share with us more about these programs?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Darren. Thank you for your question. Please feel free to learn more about the Berkeley-Haas global programs on this website:  
<http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/global.html>

**Martin L:** **Is the admissions committee interested in any awards or honors received during or after undergraduate? If so, which part of the application is the appropriate place to add this information?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Martin. If you did receive honors or awards during or after undergrad that were significant to you, then you can include them in your resume.

**Laura:** Good morning! I am wondering **what is the percentage of group work in courses? How many people each group?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Laura - It depends on the course. But I would say the average would be 1/3. Usually there are 4-5 students in a team. In your first semester of core courses students are placed in a study team which is made up of a diverse group of classmates. In electives, students will choose their own team.

**Varun:** Good Morning! Thank you for your time. **My query is whether I can apply for the Haas MBA if I have applied for Haas MFE in the same year but in an earlier round. My question stems from the fact that my past academic and work experience is relevant for both degrees. So is it either or I can give my best shot for both?** Thank You

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Varun, you cannot apply for both the MFE and the MBA program during the same year. As they are very different programs, I recommend researching both programs more before choosing which program to apply to.

**GeorgiaS:** Hello! Thank you for taking the time today to answer our questions. **Are you looking for anything in particular in the section of the application where we select clubs we are interested in at Haas?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Georgia, - No we are not looking for anything in particular – it is another aspect of your application where you can demonstrate how you are interested in getting involved at Haas once you become a student.

**Mayank:** Hi Everyone! I just read through the application details and realized that TOELF / IELTS is mandatory even if my university medium of teaching was English. There is no date available for the test before the first deadline (earliest being in Nov). **Is there a way out from this? I can take a date and share the rest of the application?**

**Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Mayank. In regards to the TOEFL/ IELTS exam, applicants must take their exams on or before the round deadline they are applying to. The Graduate Division requires all applicants who received their degrees from countries in which the official language is not English to submit official evidence of English language proficiency.

**Srihari:** **What is the maximum and minimum percentage one can get for scholarships in the set of students in a class?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hello Srihari. Our stats form last fall (2015) showed that approximately 50% of Full-Time MBA students received a scholarship. Awards range from \$5,000 to \$180,000 for the two year program. The average award was \$60,000 for two years.

**EstebanW:** **Hello, I worked full time for the last two years of my undergraduate degree. I would like to know if this goes on my resume or in the essay question about full-time and part-time jobs held during undergraduate or graduate studies.** Thanks.

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Esteban. Great question. You could include your full-time work during undergrad in both your resume and that essay question you noted. We know our application can be a bit redundant sometimes, so you can mention it in both places.

- NikhleshL:** HI, thanks for the time. **Do I need to take the TOEFL if my primary language for education was English?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Nikhlesh. The Graduate Division requires all applicants who received their degrees from countries in which the official language is not English to submit official evidence of English language proficiency.
- Pramod:** Hey team, I wanted to know if any specific career field affects the admission results. For example, **will having a career in Operations with less focus on Finance affect chances in any way?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Pranod - No, not at all. We are looking for a diverse set of candidates and therefore do not have industry quotas.
- Prat:** I am interested in the retail industry post-MBA. According to my research, there is no dedicated retail club at HAAS (please correct me I am wrong). **What resources are available to students who are specifically interested in retail? How easy is it to start a club at Haas?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Prat, Yes, at this time there is no retail club at Haas. We have had and continue to have students in retail. Students who are interested in starting a club work with our program team to determine if there is enough interest to start a new club - so there are limitations. Another way to demonstrate a focus such as retail in the MBA program is to create your own course which includes bringing in speakers to talk about an industry or focus. More details are here:  
<http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/studentinitiated.html>
- JT D:** Hey guys, thanks so much for making the time for this chat session. My question relates to the optional essay portion of the application. As someone who graduated as a double humanities major/minor and is currently employed in an analytically intensive environment, the bullet point considering "Quantitative abilities" caught my eye. **How exactly would you recommend that we use this space to demonstrate our quantitative ability? Would a description of a successfully executed analytical project be beneficial, or would something else be more appropriate?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi JT - Yes, this could be a good use of this space although it is really only if you feel your ability is not demonstrated elsewhere on the application.

**Grigory O:** Hello and thank you for your time. I have a question about a loan policy for international students. **Is it correct that the only way of getting a loan from a U.S. financial institution is having a U.S. cosigner and it is more likely to get a loan from the country of current residence?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** Yes, you will need a U.S. cosigner to borrow from a U.S. bank. However Haas has secured multiple loan options for international students that do not require a co-signer ("risk-share" loans). The combined borrowing capacity for the risk-share loan options is \$62,000 for the 2016-17 academic year. In addition to risk-share loans, other lenders such as Prodigy Financial offer loans to international students without the need for a co-signer. These lenders will have varying qualifications (e.g., credit check), loan terms and loan maximums. Please visit our International Loans page for more details  
(<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/international-loans.html>)

**Rachel S:** Hi - thanks again for taking this time to answer questions. **For the application's supplementary question about work experience during undergraduate and graduate studies, is the question only targeting employment during the academic years? Or is it also asking about summer employment?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Rachel, This would include summer employment as well during academic years.

**Stokes:** I am looking to become a CPA. **Is it common to see many of the MBA students with this career path or are those type of students more inclined to follow the MACC program at Haas?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Stokes, We don't see too many individuals in the MBA program considering to become a CPA. The MBA program is a fairly broad degree and we see students pursuing a number of career interests. More info on career tracks can be found in our employment reports:  
<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/groups/careercenter/hireanmba/employment-reports.html>

**Natalie S:** Hi Haas team! In the employment section of the application it is specified that we should complete full-time employment experience after completing university studies, including military. **If I served in the military prior to university- can I still specify my full-time military service in this section?** Thanks!

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Natalie, great question. For application purposes, you should include only work experience worked and/or served following the completion of your undergraduate degree. However, the admissions committee will review your resume when evaluating your application, so if you include your service prior to earning your degree, they will weigh that experience in their decision.

- GoBears\_:** I'm really having a difficult time cutting my song essay from 270 words to 250, but I don't want to miss anything important. **Is there a penalty for passing the allowed words by 8%?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi GoBears! Please know that we have the word limit for a reason so be kind to the admissions committee – we read every essay and if everyone went over just 10% we would be up all hours of the night reading! We will read the entire essay – will you be penalized? Probably not, but we do ask for your consideration and for you to use your best judgement- perhaps a few words over would be more appropriate than 8%.
- Mohit B:** Hi. **1. Is there a negative bias towards applicants with prior Post Graduation/ MBA degree? 2. How relevant is a Berkeley Haas MBA Program to switch function/ career path from Human Resources to Management Consulting?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Mohit - There is no negative bias toward graduate degrees. Many of our students use the MBA to transition into new industries or functions. The success of this can depend on the student and his/her drive to make the switch but there are definitely many resources available on campus to help.
- Minh D:** Good morning. Thank you for hosting this chat. **With regard to the song essay question, if we choose a song without lyrics, are we supposed to use our personal interpretation of the song to make the connection?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Minh! Yes!
- Naomic:** Hi! I have one semester of study abroad experience, the scores for that semester is included in my graduate school transcript but with no detailed breakdowns to each module. **Do I need to get a separate transcript for that semester abroad?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Naomichen, if you are an international applicant we will need to see your transcript for the study abroad course. If you are a domestic applicant we do not need to see your study abroad transcript, unless you took a quantitative course(s).
- Tatsuro:** **I am working for a domestic construction company and I have little global business experiences. Does it negatively affect the application process?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Tatsuro - No, this would not negatively affect your application. In terms of work experience, we want to see progression, impact, and motivation for your decisions.

**Khushbu:** Hi, my score in UG course was 72.6% which is considered 1st grade as per my university/college, what would be the GPA conversion for that?

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Khushbu, our admissions committee are all trained and experienced in evaluating international applicants and academic backgrounds -- our class is typically composed of around 40% international students every year. We will review your undergraduate course work as is, so please do not convert your GPA to a 4.0 scale.

**Sarah:** Hello, sorry asking this Q again as I was kicked off the chat. **Are there any benefits/drawbacks to linking applications with a partner? Do they have to be applying during the same round?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Sarah, I would suggest that you do indicate if you have a partner applying. This is good information for us to know even if he/she is applying in a different round. Of course, we are reviewing candidates separately on their own merit but it is helpful info for us to have.

**Jaime:** Hi, thank you for taking the time to have this online chat. I'm an international applicant and I don't think I can make the first deadline for submission of applications. **Would the chances of scholarships be affected if we pass on the 2nd deadline rather than the first? Or any period for that matter?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** We strongly encourage prospective students, for whom scholarships are a major decision factor, to apply for admission sooner rather than later. Funding for some scholarships is limited and will be fully awarded early in the financial aid cycle. While some opportunities may be closed after round 1, historically, round 2 has had a number of opportunities available. Less opportunities have been available for round 3.

**janetc:** Hello, I see the Campus Visitation Program only offers up October 19th. **Do you offer the Visitation Program afterwards (i.e. late October/ Early November)? Another question, is there any of your MBA concentration program that is eligible for more than 12 months of OPT?** Thank you.

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Janet. Thanks for your questions. We will be posting an adjusted schedule for the Haas Visitation Program in late October/Early November soon. In regards to OPT, we do not answer that question. Instead, I'm going to refer you to the Berkeley International Office, where you will be able to find that answer: <http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/>

- Yannick L:** I grew up in Berkeley but have not had any opportunities to fly home and visit Haas over the last 12 months. **What's the best to engage with Haas if I'd like to apply early, but won't be able to visit campus until November?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Yannick! You can visit us when we come to a city near you, contact the HSAs, or listen to our webinars. Any of these, and as you are doing now, chat with us!
- Martin L:** **To send an official secured transcript, my undergraduate institution needs an email address. What is the appropriate email address for sending my official transcript?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Martin, you can have your institution email our office at [mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu).
- Anant:** **How do you convert a 10 point GPA to the USA 4 point scale, if not how do you compare them?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Anant, if your institution does not use a 4.0 grading scale, please do not calculate your GPA. You should check the box "Not on a 4.0 scale" on the online application. If you were educated outside of the US, complete the appropriate information in the application.
- Smnavci:** Hello, I applied UCLA MBA 2 years ago without any professional full-time experience and I got rejected. **Would this affect my future application to UC Berkeley MBA program?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello! Your application to UCLA MBA two years ago will not affect your future application to Haas.
- Anant:** **what is the complete range of the GMAT score for the class of 2016?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Anant, the Class of 2016 GMAT profile is similar to that of our Class of 2018 profile. We do not release the complete range of GMATs, but the Class of 2016's middle 80% of scores were 680 - 750. You can review the class profile of our last admitted class here: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/class-profile.html>

- Jhan:** Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions! I was wondering **how close Haas is to the Venture Capital community and whether there are lots of opportunities to connect with those in the area?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Jhan: yes, there are lots of opportunities to connect with the VC community including mentor office hours. See more info here;  
<http://entrepreneurship.berkeley.edu/mentors/>
- Danny:** Hi, **if we have received special recognition letters/awards from current/previous employers, should we point them out in the resume or somewhere in the application?** Thanks
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hello, Danny. You could definitely include them in your resume if you feel that they were significant to you. That said, we generally look for resumes that are just one page. If you have room, and those awards were important to you, then you can feel free to put them there.
- ViramS:** I understand that in the application form, someone who graduated from a non-USA university is to fill up the 'international GPA' section. **Can this be in any form? For example if my undergraduate score is in percentage terms, should I include the percentage or rather leave it blank? Thank you.**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Viram, yes, please maintain the same scale for your GPA, so if your "GPA" is given in percentage terms, then please fill the International GPA section in percentage terms.
- LeQ12017:** Hello, when I wrote my essay, I used Microsoft Word and the word count is within limit. However, when I post my essay to the application portal, the word count slightly exceed the limit, probably because of different word count algorithms between the two. **I spent a lot of time trimming it down to keep it within the word limit in Microsoft Word before, I wonder if I should continue trimming it down to keep it within limit for the application portal, or it would be fine just as it is now?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello LeQ12017, we are aware that our word counter is slight different than Microsoft Office. It is acceptable for an essay to be a few words over the limit. However, if an essay goes substantially over the word limit it could be detrimental to your application

**Bruno N:** Hello Berkeley Admissions team. Thanks for hosting the chat. **I have not visited Berkeley Campus. Does this impact negatively my application? Thanks.**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Bruno. We understand that not everyone has the time or means to visit Berkeley during the application seasons. You're not coming to campus will not impact your application in any way.

**Abby:** Hi Jamie, I am an international student

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** Thanks Abby! Our Entering Student scholarships (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>) are open to both domestic and international students. You may apply for these via our online scholarship application once you are admitted into the program. Haas also has a variety of International Loans to assist you with financing your education. Please visit our page for details (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/international-loans.html>).

**NicoleL:** Hi everyone! **Quick question on the application - for the supplemental info about extracurricular and undergrad work experience, should we/can we elaborate on our responsibilities, accomplishments, etc, or should we just stick to exactly what's listed in the questions?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Nicole! Tell us what you think is relevant to your application and what you feel we need to know, especially if there are some unique responsibilities and accomplishments Please avoid acronyms unless they are commonly known.

**Sally:** Thank you for your time. **Is there any additional support/courses/facilities/labs for entrepreneurs that want to start building a startup from the day 1 in Haas?** Thanks, Salome

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Salome, Yes! Students can start by participating in hackathons, or Launch or start up competition, or Lean Launchpad (elective course). More details are here: <http://entrepreneurship.berkeley.edu/events-2/>

**Shirelle:** Hi Admission team - **how many students choose to take advantage of your semester-abroad programs?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Shirelle - this varies from year to year but anywhere from 10-15 students may take advantage of study abroad opportunities.

**KimYL:** **Hi, can you explain how to apply for the exchange program to other business schools? Is there any additional costs?**

**Kim\_Berkeley:** HI KimYL, great question. I recommend checking out our Exchange Profile page at: <http://haas.berkeley.edu/MBA/academics/exchange-program.html>. The page answers a range of questions, including how to apply and the costs.

**CE:** Thanks for taking the time everyone! I am interested on how the application committee views the CFA charter. **Will it help demonstrate quantitative ability and offset any weakness in GPA or GMAT Quant score in your eyes?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi CE - Yes, the CFA may help demonstrate quantitative ability and could offset lower scores on the GMAT or GRE as well as a lower GPA.

**Dave O:** **Is Adcom interested in athletic activities post-undergrad? If so -- would you recommend adding these activities to the resume, or is there another section of the application that would be more appropriate?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Dave. Thanks for the question. You can definitely include significant athletics activities post-undergrad in your application. Yes, you could put them on your resume under Skills or Interests.

**Ginad:** Following on wpringle's question. I work at a startup where I am the only salesperson and run the entire sales department (we only have 6 employees). Thus I do not manage anyone or have a "leadership" role per say. **Should I instead highlight how I have initiated certain successful strategies and "led" the company toward growth?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Ginad - Yes, absolutely! Highlighting areas where you have excelled or that demonstrate impact or initiative are great ways to show your strengths. Direct management experience is not a requirement for admission.

**Firoza:** **Applying by second round deadline will have any side effects? Such as scholarships, less no of seats when compared to first round?**

**Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Firoza, the number of offers of admission in each round varies each year, based on the strength of the applicant pool. In general there are fewer spaces available as we go through the rounds.

**Janetc:** Hello, I am interested in the Health Management focus track. **May you share with us what are the typical student profiles who join this program?** I am currently in the financial industry and looking for a switch of industry/ career.

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Janet: We really don't have a typical profile for those in the health management track. I would say for those interested in the MBA/Masters in Public Health (MPH) program most students have had some experience in health management. But for those interested in the MBA with a focus in health management, this is a way for students to gain more experience in this focus or specialization. Of course, being able to demonstrate how you can make this transition (i.e. why, transferable skills, etc.) is important as well. Informational interviewing is a helpful way to investigate a career change.

**Tien VU:** **Hello, is there an advantage for candidates from certain type of industry, such as consulting vs engineering?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Tien - No, there is not a preference for a certain type of industry in the application process. We are seeking a diverse student body so want to see diverse backgrounds and industries.

**Isaac12017:** Hi, **What is considered a low Quant score for Haas?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Isaac and all of the quant concerned applicants! Please use the most recent profile as your best reference point. Please know that we have admitted applicants both above and below that 80%. If you don't feel that your score is an adequate representation of your abilities look to other avenues to demonstrate your quantitative capacity such as coursework from an accredited institution.

**Jnavarro:** **I'm assuming you can't share specifics, but can you share any common application mistakes to avoid?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Jnavarro, The biggest mistake is not being yourself. My suggestion is to make sure to have someone you know well look over your essays and application to ensure that you are showcasing the authentic you.

**Amanda F:** Hello, when admission office looks at my GPA is it more heavily weighted towards the whole academic GPA or the last 60 units?

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Amanda. We look at your overall GPA and also any trend in your grades over time. However, we do not have any official "weight" to certain classes over others. We are generally interested in looking for high grades throughout your time at undergrad, but we understand that certain circumstances can make this more difficult for some.

**Ashley S:** Thank you for organizing this chat! In the employment history section of the application, we are instructed to include full-time, post-graduate work experience. **If we have held part-time/internship positions after completing our undergraduate programs, should that work history be included because it's post-graduate, or excluded because it's part-time?** Thanks again!

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Ashley: I would suggest that you include this part time experience as it's post university.

**GoBears\_:** I have worked with several Haas alumni (in my company and clients). **Is it recommended to provide a support letter from them? Is it recommended to provide more than one?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi GoBears - If these alumni know you well, they may be able to provide helpful insights into your candidacy. When seeking recommenders, I always advise to ask people who have worked closely with you and thus know you well.

**Jason:** Hi all, thank you for the time today. **I noticed that there is no specific section to submit information related to extracurricular activities, community service, and honors/awards. Where would Haas expect to find this information about an applicant?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Jason - we have an essay question dedicated to this information.

**RustinA:** Hi there. I have completed a supplemental math course (through UC Berkeley extension, in fact) that I would like to report on my application for round 1. **What's the best way to do this? Through the optional essay? Is it OK if my official score report for that specific course is not yet available when I submit the app?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Rustin. Yes, you could write about this supplemental math course in your optional essay. We also ask that you mark it under your academic records so that we know it is ongoing.

**devv9:** Hi, thank you for your time. **What is the eligibility of scholarship for MBA 2-year program September 2017?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hello! We have an extensive list of Entering Student scholarship opportunities available online. Criteria and award amounts vary. Please review our page for details (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/international-loans.html>).

**Varun:** Good Morning! Thank you for your time. **My query is whether I can apply for the Haas MBA if I have applied for Haas MFE in the same year but in an earlier round. My question stems from the fact that my past academic and work ex is relevant for both degrees. So is it either or I can give my best shot for both?** Thank You.

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Varun - You may only apply to one program at a time so you would need to decide on one. You may apply to different programs in subsequent years if you are not accepted or decide not to attend.

**Cesar R:** **And also, I work in HP Inc. and I would like to ask what makes a stronger application for someone who has taken advanced positions locally in Chile or basic middle positions across Latino America?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Cesar - This is a very tough question to answer without more detail about your candidacy. I think out of context one scenario is not necessarily stronger than another.

**PShroff:** Hi, thank you for hosting this chat session! **Could you please elaborate on how spouses/partners are involved in the Haas experience?**

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi PShroff, great question and a hard one to answer in a few sentences! We have a very active partner's community here at Haas! We even have a club dedicated to partners: Haas Partners Club. With very few exceptions, partners are welcome to join and participate in all social events and all clubs, so it's a very inclusive partner culture. It gets to the point that some partners are more active in leadership and extracurricular than their student-partner counterpart!

- Srihari:** I have a few questions on MBA at your esteemed School. May be a frequent question too. 1) I **would like to know, is GMAT really necessary for joining your school?** Because for my credentials, I have my Bachelor, then a Master. But that's in Engineering.
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Dear Srihari, all candidates are required to take the GMAT (preferred) or GRE exam prior to the deadline for which they are applying. There is no minimum acceptable score. We are especially interested in your performance on the quantitative section as an indication of your quantitative proficiency. Please note that the Analytical Writing component is required for both the GMAT and GRE.
- Kimmy:** Good morning! Thanks for hosting the chat. **Could you please elaborate on the resources for career switchers? Does Haas offer career coaching?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Kimmy - Yes we do have career coaches as well as relationship managers who focus on specific industries. Our goal is to help each student find meaningful work and our coaches work closely with students to accomplish this.
- Lizzy\_Moderator:** Hi all! Thank you for joining us. The chat will be wrapping up in a few 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.
- Desai:** **Hello Team, how many years of professional experience is required for strong application?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Desai. We generally suggest that applicants have at least 2 years of professional work experience before applying.
- Santiago:** Hi, thanks for receiving questions! In the "Employment History" section in the application you ask for "Responsibilities/Key Accomplishments" in each job. **Are you expecting us to transcribe the resume? Or are you allowing to put more information? Should we additionally to what it's in the CV, include the responsibilities in each job?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** We will have already seen the resume by this point, so this is a good spot where you can really highlight the impact that you've had at your professional organizations. You can write something similar to your resume and/or expand on experiences that you didn't have enough room to in your resume.

- LajqiD1201:** Thank you for hosting this very useful chat. I have a quick question. **When are the scholarship decisions released?** Thanks.
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** Updated Review Dates and Decision Dates Coming In October 2016 via our Entering Students scholarship page (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>). Please note that you will be able to apply for Haas Scholarships once admitted into the program. Decision dates are scheduled so that you will know the results of most scholarships prior to the program deposited deadline.
- Amanda F:** **Hello I am interested in the joint degree program. If I am admitted to the MBA can I apply to the law school in my first year?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Amanda, for the JD/MBA, you are not able to start the MBA program first. However, you can apply to the JD/MBA as a 0L or 1L.
- Michael D:** Hi, thanks for the time. **Since the application is reviewed in a holistic approach, are there any traits in a resume or essay that would have the admissions committee say wow this is a candidate I want at Haas?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Michael. Like you said, it's a holistic process, so we really look at all aspects of the application to find stellar future Haasies.
- Firoza:** **Applying by second round deadline will have any side effects? Such as scholarships, less no of seats when compared to first round?**
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** We strongly encourage prospective students, for whom scholarships are a major decision factor, to apply for admission sooner rather than later. Funding for some scholarships is limited and will be fully awarded early in the financial aid cycle.
- Santiago:** **What can I do if I don't have my college transcripts translated by an ATA translator? Should I upload to the application the original transcripts in Spanish and the English translation?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Santiago, all official academic records must be issued in the original language and accompanied by English translations prepared by the issuing institution. If your institution is not able to provide translations, we will accept translations from the Ministry of Education.

**Vu:** **After I submit the application, if I have an update on the GMAT score after the deadline of the application round, would you consider that score?**

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Vu, we cannot take a GMAT test score taken after the deadline to which you applied.

**Christine K:** **How important are extracurricular activities? Do you only put activities that you served a leadership role?**

**Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi Christine. We view each application holistically, so extracurriculars could add to your story. You don't have to have had a leadership role, I just suggest including extracurriculars that you were deeply invested in.

**Lee R:** Hello! Thank you for your time. In the admissions process, **how much do you weigh past experiences vs. future aspirations and goals, and their fit within Berkeley-Haas?**

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Lee, Great question - we don't weigh any aspect of the application so to speak. We will take into consideration if your past experiences can speak to success with your future goals. Have you demonstrated leadership? How so? Are the skill sets that you have acquired necessary or applicable to your future aspirations?

**Minh D:** Hi. Thank you for hosting this chat. I am planning to visit Haas campus next week. **How should I prepare to make the most of my trip?**

**Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Minh, I recommend checking out to see if you are able to join a campus visitation program: <http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/visit.html>. Otherwise, we have admissions advisors available for drop in advising Monday through Friday, 9am - 4pm. Lastly, it's always great to chat with current students. You can see if there is a current student available to chat by contacting our Haas Student Ambassadors at [hsa@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:hsa@haas.berkeley.edu).

**Avijit:** **Hi. In the application, under the 'Employment History', what does 'Annual Sales' mean? Is it the revenue of the firm in dollars?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Avijit, Yes.

- Yansong:** **Hello, how much internship experience should I enter for Work Experience? What are the criteria to judge whether an internship is worth reporting?**
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Hi, Yansong. There are no concrete rules for which internship experiences are worth noting. Instead, I would consider if each internship was significant in your overall professional development and then include the ones that you find had an impact on you professionally. That said, use your best judgment when it comes to how long each internship was that you participated in and included.
- Ashley S:** Hello and thank you, Berkeley admissions team, for organizing this informative chat! I have a question about the employment history section of the application: **I see that including annual company sales information is not a requirement of that section, but is it ill-advised for an applicant to omit that data?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** A few words over is just fine.
- Raunak:** **Hello all, though presently I am working as a banker now, earlier I had been a freelancer and associated with social sector especially in the field of education. Does the freelancing role hamper my profile?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Raunak, No - we really appreciate breadth and diversity in experiences.
- Karan.K:** **Is it possible to get a profile evaluation, before we apply?**
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Karan - Unfortunately this is not possible. I encourage you to seek feedback from colleagues, mentors, or friends who know you well.
- Wlmorton:** **Hello Berkeley Admissions Team! Thanks for chatting with us today. Is there an advantage of applying to the 1st round vs. the 2nd round?**
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Hello Wlmorton we recommend that you apply when you feel that your application is at its strongest.

**devv:** **Hi Can you please tell me about the scholarship criteria?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** The criteria for each Haas Scholarship Opportunity is listed on our Entering Students scholarship page (<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/MBA/entering-students.html>). As an example, some opportunities look as an applicant's commitment to social impact, one's entrepreneurial spirit, or an applicant's ability to promote diversity.

**Imran:** Hi everyone thanks for setting up this session. I would like to enter the tech industry post MBA. However, I did not take any computer science related courses at the undergraduate level. **Will the courses available at Haas provide enough depth for me to move into the tech industry?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Imran, you can take 6 units outside of the Haas related classes so you could take some computer science courses if this makes sense given your goals.

**Kathy W:** To clarify Kristin's question, **if I were to apply for round 1, as long as I take the GMAT exam on or before Sept. 29th, the application would be accepted?** I've heard it could take GMAC a few weeks to deliver the official scores, if the test was taken internationally.

**Sandra\_Berkeley:** Dear Kathy, you are correct. As long as you have taken the test on or before our Round 1 deadline, this is acceptable.

**LajqiD12017:** I have attended a program, **where I just audited a class and as such I do not have a transcript, but only a certificate of program completion. Do I add that in the educational history? Or just put it in the CV?** Also, I have attended a summer program after undergraduate degree, where there was just one class held. I completed the class, but never requested a transcript, as I did not need it. Now, I only have a certificate of completion and I am not sure I can obtain the transcript as it was an international summer program. **Can I list this in the education history without the transcript or just place it in the CV too?**  
Thank you.

**Kim\_Berkeley:** I recommend checking out our academic requirements on our website, as my answer will vary depending on if you are an international applicant or a domestic applicant. International applicant requirements: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/international.html>. Application requirements: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/index.html>. And FAQs: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/faq.html>

**Stefan:** **I do not have much leadership experience in the civilian sector, but 9 years as an officer/leader in the Marine Corps, is that taken into consideration where my civilian resume/business experience may be lacking?**

**Erin\_Berkeley:** Hi Stefan - Yes, definitely! We value military experience and would consider this in the application.

**Ironman:** **Hello! Do I need to write current position of my recommender or past position, when we worked together?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Ironman, current position, please.

**Jelece M:** Re: Jamie's comments- **Is that the same for all other globally focused courses that have a travel component? That it is an additional cost.**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** That is my understanding; however, the Haas Financial Aid Office does not handle fees, so I would suggest that you confirm this with the admissions or program offices.

**Shuai M:** **Hi, may I ask how much does GMAT/GRE weight during the application review process?** Because I am fully employed and do not have much time to prepare the exam. I am not very satisfied with my current GMAT/GRE score, but I do not want to spend extra time only for the purpose of a higher exam score. **Could you please give me some advice that if I should take the exam seriously and spend more time on the test, or I focus on my current job for building a better profile as a professional to be a stronger candidate?**  
Thanks

**Candace\_Berkeley:** Hi Shuai, You must weigh what is best for you as you apply.

**Martin L:** To send an official secured transcript, my undergraduate institution needs an email address. **What is the appropriate email address for sending my official transcript?**

**Sandra\_Berkeley:** Dear Martin, we do not accept official transcripts by email. Our mailing address is Full-Time MBA Admissions Haas School of Business University of California, Berkeley 430 Student Services Bldg #1902 Berkeley, CA 94720-1902

- Desai:** Hello, I am an international student currently living in United States. **I already have a Master's Degree in Engineering from United States. How does this change things for me? Do I need to take TOEFL? Which transcript and documents should I submit Bachelor's (done out of US) or Master's (done in US)?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Desai, unfortunately, we are unable to determine eligibility or exemptions prior to an official submission. If you obtained your Master's degree from the U.S., you should be exempt, but please refer to our website to confirm:  
<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/index.html>
- Maria M:** **Do you invite everyone to interview at the same time/day, or do the invitations come progressively?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Hi Maria - interview invitations are sent on a rolling basis so you may receive an invite 3 weeks after you submit your application or close to the notification deadline.
- Sally:** **If I apply in the second round would I have time to apply for financial aid?**  
Thanks
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** We strongly encourage prospective students, for whom scholarships are a major decision factor, to apply for admission sooner rather than later. Funding for some scholarships is limited and will be fully awarded early in the financial aid cycle. As for loans, those options remain available to you regardless of your application round.
- A Virdee:** Hi It was mentioned in one of the post above that we would attend industry club activities and work on professional opportunities - **can you please elaborate on this; an MBA can really help open up doors and wanted to know what kind of businesses or institutes this business school may be affiliated with or has a partnership with that can help with the networking element of an MBA?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear A Virdee, I suggest that you review the various club websites to learn more about these specific partnerships in your area of focus:  
<http://haas.berkeley.edu/MBA/studentlife/student-clubs.html>
- Jnavarro:** **Good Morning, when considering academic performance do you consider post-grad GPA or solely focus on undergraduate GPA?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** We look at both.

- Siddharth S:** Hello! I am an international applicant from India. I am a little confused regarding the letters of recommendation, particularly the manner in which they need to be submitted to Haas. The website said that it needs to be posted in an envelope where the recommender signs across it to ensure that it hasn't been tampered. **So my question is whether there is an online alternative where the recommender can fill in his inputs and submit it over the internet? If no, is there any alternative to post? Does this mean that one would have to account for delivery times in context to the application deadlines?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Siddharth, when you fill out your application, you are able to send a request for recommendation electronically, which is our default. We provide a paper recommendation option should recommenders prefer to submit a paper letter instead of an electronic one.
- Harshit:** Hi Admissions Team, thank you for taking out the time to answer our questions. **Are Haas MBA candidate's allowed to explore and take up courses at different schools within the University? For example a course at the School of Music or Theatre or Engineering?**
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Harshit - yes, you can take up to 6 units outside of Haas School of business courses.
- Jessica G:** Hello! While an undergrad, I took summer classes and study abroad classes that counted for credit, but were not calculated into my GPA by my degree-granting institution. Some were quantitative (IE - Calculus) some were not. **Should I include these in my reported GPA to Haas? How does Haas factor these additional grades into their analysis? Thank you!**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Jessica, if your undergraduate institution did not include them in your GPA, you should leave your GPA as is -- please do not recalculate.
- Laura:** Hi there, **I already have a H4 visa and would cover the school years, should I switch to F1 visa when admitted? Am I only eligible for Round 1/2 application?**
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Hi Laura, we cannot advise on visa questions, but feel free to contact our Berkeley International Office at: <http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/>
- devv:** **Is work experience required for MBA? I have done my PG diploma in management...Can you suggest how to proceed for the same for September 2017 batch?**
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Work experience is not a requirement, although we strongly suggest 2 years to be best positioned for consideration.

**Ian S:** Hi guys... I'm just curious about real estate at Haas. **Is real estate as a post-MBA career goal frowned upon like some other MBA programs?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Ian: Definitely not and we do have an excellent focus in real estate where you can take classes in other departments on campus such as the school of urban planning, school of architecture, etc.  
<http://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/academics/realestate.html>

**KimYL:** Hello, in the financial aid page, there is the following statement. "Students may not combine risk-share lending with other lending options." **Does it mean I cannot combine the loan offered by the school with Prodigy Finance, for example?**

**Jamie\_Berkeley:** If you were to secure one of our risk-share loans, it is my understanding that Prodigy would calculate that as a resource which would affect your ability to borrow through their loan program.

**Laura:** **I worked for a VC for 3 months, but it was a newly founded VC and no pay. Should I include this information?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Laura - yes, I would include. Thanks.

**Ratna S:** Hi team, thanks for your time! **Is it possible to do a dual degree with Goldman's Masters in Public Policy or at least take electives at the Goldman school? How many electives may I take at schools outside of Haas?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Ratna, We only offer a MBA/MPH, MBA/JD and MBA/Masters in Area Studies. I'm afraid that we do not offer a dual degree with an MPP. However, you can take classes at the Goldman School. You can take 6 units outside of the Haas School towards your degree.

**Liam.M:** Good Morning and thanks for taking the time. Coming from a small finance firm and liberal arts college on the east coast there is less overlap in my current professional network with Haas than I had hoped. **What is the most effective way to reach out to current students or alumni that might have had similar academic or work experience?**

**Cindy\_Berkeley:** Dear Liam, I'd suggest that you reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors at [hsa@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:hsa@haas.berkeley.edu).

- Lizzy\_Moderator:** Thank you for joining us! Please check back on our website within the next couple weeks for a transcript of today's chat and information on future chat dates. Go Bears!
- Kim\_Berkeley:** Thank you all for joining us today! Good luck on your application!
- Candace\_Berkeley:** Thank you all so much for your questions! I hope we were able to help today!
- Jamie\_Berkeley:** Hope I was able to answer all of your financial aid questions. Feel free to email us at [finaid@haas.berkeley.edu](mailto:finaid@haas.berkeley.edu) if you have follow-up questions. Best of luck!
- Cindy\_Berkeley:** Thanks for joining us! Best of luck to you all!
- Sandra\_Berkeley:** Thank you all for chatting with us, GO BEARS!
- Brooke\_Berkeley:** Thanks for joining us today! Hope we were able to help!
- Erin\_Berkeley:** Thank you for joining us! Good luck on your applications!