

**The Berkeley MBA – Online Waitlist Chat
January 30, 2009**

Chat with the Haas MBA Admissions Committee

Peter Johnson – Director of Admissions
Stephanie Fujii – Senior Associate Director of Admissions
Cindy Jennings Millette – Assistant Director of Admissions
Jeff Cowgill – Operations Manager
Lee Forgue – Moderator

Pete_Berkeley

Hello everyone! Welcome to the chat.

Jeff_Moderator

Hi all, congratulations on joining the waitlist. Please send us your questions!

Cindy_Berkeley

Hello! My name is Cindy Jennings Millette, Assistant Director of Admissions. Thank you for joining us today.

Lila

Hi Pete! So were there more applicants to Round 1 this year?

Pete_Berkeley

Lila, yes, there were--we had just over 1300 applications in Round 1.

hirobbba

Hi, you say that we should submit further proof of our quantitative abilities if we are under your average. I saw that the average GMAT total score was 714. What is the average quantitative subscore?

Cindy_Berkeley

If you are below the 80% on the Quantitative subscore, and do not have a strong quantitative background in your undergraduate studies, you might want to consider submitting further proof of your quant abilities.

Kleber

I think I have an obvious question: what are the odds to be admitted after we get on the WL in the first round?

Pete_Berkeley

Kleber, there's no way to know at this point in time. Over the past five years, the number of waitlisted candidates who received an offer was between 10% and 30% on average. It depends largely on the quality of applications in the subsequent rounds.

Ye

What is the average GMAT and TOEFL score for the Haas MBA? I am considering whether to retake the exams.

Lee_Moderator

Ye, the average GMAT is 714; the middle 80% range is 670-760. The average TOEFL is 113; the middle 80% range is 103-116. These statistics were for last year's entering class.

PaulC

Thank you for taking the time to host today's chat...can you tell us approximately how many people are on the waitlist?

Pete_Berkeley

PaulC, the waitlist is constantly fluctuating, but we generally keep it between 100-200 persons until we have released the round 4 decisions, at which point we cut it to between 50 and 100.

Nina

Good morning. I wanted to know whether the wait-list interviews are also blind? Would the interview be conducted by a current student or a member of the admissions committee? Thanks.

Cindy_Berkeley

Yes. All interviews are blind. The interviewer will only have a copy of your resume, and will not be informed that you are a waitlist candidate. Interviews are conducted by current students (on campus) and alumni (off campus).

Vani Punam

Hello, thank you very much for this opportunity! I'd like to understand the reasons applicants are put on the waitlist.

Pete_Berkeley

Vani, the reason applicants are offered a place on the waitlist is because the Admissions Committee believes the applications have potential, but are not as competitive as those that were admitted. We want to see how they compare with applications in the following round, so it's essentially a reflection of the level of competition.

Tiziano

Hi Cindy, Pete and Jeff, a quick question: what % of waitlisted usually enroll?

Pete_Berkeley

Tiziano, it varies greatly each year, so there is no specific answer to that. In the past 5 years, it has ranged from 10% to 30% of the people on the waitlist receiving an offer of admission.

tk

what % of people offered spots on the waitlist typically accept?

Pete_Berkeley

Tk, typically 60-70%.

AV

Thank you for arranging this chat. If I have not sufficiently demonstrated my quantitative abilities, is it better to take calc, statistics, or re-take the GMAT?

Cindy_Berkeley

AV, Any of those options is a way that you can help demonstrate quant abilities. It's really your call.

Firemill

Hi Cindy, I am a waitlisted candidate from India. I wasn't interviewed and I'd like to know what my other options are because the nearest interviewer is in Bangkok or Singapore.

Pete_Berkeley

Firemill, I'll pick up this question (Cindy's on another one). We will be offering interview slots in India toward the end of February, and will communicate this to all applicants who have not interviewed.

Bruno

Could you comment on additional recommendations? Should these provide a very different perspective in order to contribute to the application?

Cindy_Berkeley

Additional recommendations are a great way to provide the admissions committee with more information about our candidacy. If you are able to provide a different perspective that is a plus. Similar to when you provided your two rec letters with your application, choose those who you have worked closely with, and who can provide detailed examples of your team work, leadership, etc.

Jonathan

Will the waitlist candidates be reviewed with the pool of round 2 candidates?

Cindy_Berkeley

No. We will review the R1 waitlist candidates separately after we have made R2 decisions.

Dave

If a R1 waitlist candidate participated in an interview prior to the decision date, is there any reason to participate in a second interview (per email recommendation)?

Cindy_Berkeley

No. You may interview only one time.

MCH

Would it be acceptable to have an additional recommendation from a peer? Also, should any additional recommendation be written in the Haas template?

Lee_Moderator

MCH, a peer recommendation would be acceptable at this point in the process. While a letter may be written in any format, it would be desirable to use the Haas format -- and you are able to submit two additional electronic recommendations.

dodger88

Hello! Historically, on average, what is the timeline for people to be taken off the waitlist? Is it bell-shaped? Greater number after round 2? Round 3?

Pete_Berkeley

Dodger88, typically, a greater number come off after round 3, since we have a pretty clear view at that point of what the majority of the application pool looks like.

xm

Hi. What is the percentage of international students offered placement in the first round?

Pete_Berkeley

xm, there is no fixed percentage, but it was 39% this year, which is higher than usual.

Nina

I have a question on timing. When would be the best time frame to submit the new recommendations, the GMAT score, and the personal statement?

Lee_Moderator

Nina, please submit additional materials as soon as you are able to -- and definitely try to have them to us by early March. If you are planning to take a new GMAT (or TOEFL) and will not have the score by then, make sure that we know about your intent and have your new test date!

Kleber

Should I retake the TOEFL or GMAT if I'm below last year's entering class average but in the middle 80% range?

Cindy_Berkeley

Kleber, It is really hard to say because test scores are only one element of the application. If you feel you can perform better on these tests, then submitting stronger scores will strengthen your application.

Lila

What is Haas' 80% range for the quant subscore?

Lee_Moderator

Lila, we don't keep statistics on the subscores -- only on the totals.

FM

Hello everyone. It was mentioned that 10% - 30% of waitlist applicants tend to receive offers. Is this the same percentage of R1 waitlists that receive offers or does it tend to be different?

Thanks.

Pete_Berkeley

FM, it tends to be slightly higher in R1 and lower in round 3 (since we have more data about the whole pool in R3, having seen the majority of the applicants).

eby

How do you choose people from the waitlist? Are you 'rounding out the class', or are we ranked?

Pete_Berkeley

Eby, each time we review the waitlist, we look at everyone, so the places are not ranked.

Tim

Is there significance to being on the waitlist without an interview, versus with an interview?

Cindy_Berkeley

No. An interview is only one aspect of the application. If you are on the WL, and have not yet interviewed, I would strongly suggest you schedule an interview.

Vani Punam

Could you please explain the waitlist process? Do candidates waitlisted in Round 1 get their decisions only on the decision deadline for Round 2 or earlier? Also, do they remain on waitlist beyond Round 2 deadlines as well?

Pete_Berkeley

Vani, as we stated in the waitlist e-mail, there is no definite end point to the waitlist. If it is clear to us at the end of round 2 that a waitlisted candidate from Round 1 doesn't have strong chances, we will release them from the waitlist, but otherwise a Round 1 waitlist candidate could stay on until the end of R4. There's no way to know at this point.

Brian R

Will admissions be able to provide candidate-specific feedback on areas of weakness that might be address by an additional recommender or an update letter?

Lee_Moderator

Brian R, we are sorry, but we cannot provide individualized feedback to candidates on the waitlist. Compare yourself to the list of suggestions sent with the waitlist letter and the profile of last year's entering class for ideas as to how you might strengthen your application.

Vani Punam

I am in India, but do not see an option to schedule an interview in India in the online application. What are my other options? Can I have a telephonic interview?

Lee_Moderator

Vani, please contact our interview coordinator, Pam Maestas, to find out what your options are.

bpb in the UK

Hi, What type of supplemental letter of recommendation would be more helpful for the admissions team; a work colleague that can give a different perspective of work habits; a friend who could speak to personal life including past experiences motivation and drive; or both.

Cindy_Berkeley

I think that the professional reference is probably most significant, similar to the recs you provide to your initial application. However, it is possible to provide a different perspective - such as a letter pertaining to extracurricular involvement. You can submit both.

AS278

There has been news circulating that Round 2 applications for Haas were down this year; can you talk about how that factor influences the Round 1 waitlist? Does that mean Round 1 waitlisted candidates have an advantage?

Pete_Berkeley

AS278, not true. Round 2 applications were up compared to last year, although not by a large percentage. Talking to other directors, I know that this is true for some schools, but was not our situation.

Shobhit Chugh

Thank you for hosting the call. In terms of materials we can send, can this include information which is "old" but was not included in the essays?

Lee_Moderator

Shobhit, please feel free to send additional information which you feel is significant but was not addressed in your original essays.

AS278

Do you weight on-campus interviews and off-campus interviews differently?

Pete_Berkeley

AS278, no--all interviews have exactly the same weight.

leehha

What's are appropriate ways to show the Admissions team that you are very excited about Berkeley?

Cindy_Berkeley

I think adding additional information to your file shows interest; such as additional letters of recommendation, new statements, etc.

Vani Punam

Did you see a spike in applications from international applicants in Rounds 1 & 2?

Pete_Berkeley

Vani, no--we saw an increase, but the increase was proportional to the increase in US applicants.

KD

I know that submitting additional recommendations is a possibility. If the additional recommender would be from the same firm as your previously submitted recommendations, is there a benefit in doing so?

Lee_Moderator

KD, if your new recommender can add something new to the picture the Admissions Committee has of you, they will be a good addition.

jim

What's a good length for the additional statement?

Lee_Moderator

Jim, it depends on what you are communicating. Keep in mind the sorts of limits in the original essays, and try to write to that standard.

AS278

If I were to sign up for a calculus class, but do not yet have a mid-term or final grade to report, will you still consider the fact that I signed up for a quant course into consideration when reviewing my application?

Cindy_Berkeley

We do consider this as a sign that you are taking steps to enhance your quant skills, and prepare for the MBA program. It might be a good idea to send us the registration for the class, and keep us informed as to your mid-term performance, etc. Also, quant proficiency is only one element of the application.

Atul

In non-quantifiable areas such as leadership, teamwork etc, what improvements does the adcom like to see in the short span between now and the date when final decisions are made?

Pete_Berkeley

Atul, it's difficult to show improvement in these areas during such a short span of time. I suppose a person might receive a promotion, or gain responsibility for a people or project management role that adds to their experience. Keep in mind that what results in a candidate coming off the wait list is not only a reflection of what the applicant has changed, but who else applies in subsequent rounds.

Vani Punam

What are the kind of updates you would like to see from a waitlisted candidate?

Cindy_Berkeley

I think the areas we outlined in the email we sent you are the updates that we'd like to see. GMAT & TOEFL retakes, demonstration of quant ability, additional letters of rec, new statement, etc.

OriB

Hi, can you list a few common weaknesses beside the obvious quant skills and GMAT scores?

Pete_Berkeley

OriB--vague career goals, less compelling letter of recommendation, weak interviews.

dodger88

As for providing a statement to enhance our candidacy, is there a word limit? And does adcom prefer postal mail or email for these items?

Lee_Moderator

dodger88, there is no set limit on these statements -- but you can use the limits on the original essays as a guideline. You can send by postal mail or use the email address you received your waitlist letter from.

Kevin H

Is the CFA exam considered evidence of sufficient quantitative skills?

Cindy_Berkeley

Kevin, we do look at the CFA exam as evidence of quant skills; however, there are numerous other factors that we consider when evaluating quant skills, such as quant subscore on the GMAT, performance in quant classes in undergrad, and evidence of quantitative skills at work.

Tim

Since today is the submission deadline for round 3, can you comment on the volume of applicants in round 2 and 3? A number of answers for waitlisted candidates focus on the strength of R2/R3 candidates.

Stephanie_Berkeley

Tim, we still don't know the volume of Round 3 -- perhaps not too surprisingly, the majority of applicants submit within a few hours of our deadline. At this point, though, it's quality not quantity. I would focus on the areas for potential improvement that we sent in our email and identify which of those might apply to your application.

wolffy

Are we limited to two additional recommendations only? Or just two additional electronic recommendations?

Lee_Moderator

wolffy, you may send two additional electronic recommendations. You may send additional

recommendation in paper form, but please be sure that each of them adds something to your application, or illuminates a different facet of your experience.

kim

If I am enrolling in a course (statistics or calculus), does an online vs classroom course make a difference?

Cindy_Berkeley

I think either way that you are able to demonstrate improved quant skills is a plus. Online courses that provide a grade are better than just online refresher courses.

Stephanie_Berkeley

Sorry to join late -- looks like a lot of good questions!

R

Hi, for admission off the waitlist, is there a geographic preference towards people living in California?

Cindy_Berkeley

No.

AS278

Is there a specific essay prompt for a new statement? What should we discuss in an additional essay?

Stephanie_Berkeley

AS278, we recommend sending an additional statement if there are substantive changes to your application that you feel strengthen your candidacy; for example, increased responsibilities at work, improved test scores, etc.

steph

How far in advance of the round 2 decision date should I submit a new recommendation and personal statement to be effective?

Lee_Moderator

Steph, we recommend that additional materials be submitted by early March. We will send an email to all waitlisted applicants before the next review of your files.

Kristi

Is it viewed negatively if I have not had an opportunity to tour the campus (I am an international applicant)?

Cindy_Berkeley

No. We do understand the time and money involved in traveling to campus, most esp. if you live far away. However, we do hope that you are able to demonstrate knowledge of the Haas program, and why you are interested in attending Haas.

Stephen L

I have heard that some schools are admitting fewer people in Round 1 and placing more on the waitlist to have flexibility later in the process. Is that true for Haas?

Pete_Berkeley

Stephen, well, it isn't so far--we have actually admitted slightly more candidates in Round 1 than we have in past years.

Tim

If there are material changes to your resume, is that appropriate to submit along with a personal statement?

Jeff_Berkeley

Please do forward us any changes in your resume, such as a promotion or significant changes in responsibilities. I do not recommend adding a significant personal statement. It is best to communicate the new information in as succinct a manner as possible.

Nina

If I take the GMAT for the 3rd time, would this score be averaged with my first two, or would it be considered individually?

Cindy_Berkeley

We consider the highest score.

Kevin H

Does the committee have a target size for this year's class?

Jeff_Berkeley

Our target class size is 240.

tk

Do you expect more people who were offered admission this year to accept a place in the Berkeley class as compared to previous years? I.e. do you expect a higher yield?

Pete_Berkeley

tk, not really. It's hard to guess, since decisions reflect a variety of situations, but I actually expect yield may be lower, as some admitted students may be fearful about the economy and choose not to leave their jobs. We'll see!

Firemill

Earlier, I had sent transcripts that had been notarized by a designated Government Authority. I have contacted my college and they have agreed to certify copies of my transcripts against the original, but will not post it directly to the Haas School. In other words, I will have to send you the college notarized certificates. Is this okay?

Lee_Moderator

Firemill, it's okay if your school sends documents to you to forward to us. Just make sure that they are still in the envelopes sealed by the school.

PaulC

Regarding additional recommendations: would it be valuable to have the same person(s) submit another recommendation speaking to different aspects of the applicant's candidacy? Or would you prefer to see new recommenders?

Cindy_Berkeley

I think we would prefer to see a new perspective through new recommenders.

Ben

Are people ever placed on the waitlist as a function of their perceived interest (or lack thereof). Is this something we should be addressing?

Stephanie_Berkeley

Ben, it is rare that there is just one reason that someone is placed on the waitlist --typically it is a combination of factors where we want to allow the individual the opportunity to provide more information demonstrating the strength of their candidacy (e.g., another letter of recommendation, an interview if the person did not have a chance to interview before, additional coursework, etc.) We do evaluate fit with our program, as well. This is not so much interest -- but does the applicant understand how our program will help them achieve their career goals, to name one factor.

Ye

In terms of TOEFL, my speaking score is below the average. Instead of taking the exam again, can I register for another interview to demonstrate my oral English? I had an alumni interview once.

Cindy_Berkeley

I am sorry, but we only consider one interview and are unable to schedule a second interview.

James

Should we consult the admissions office as to what school we are planning to take an additional quant related course at?

Lee_Moderator

James, we are not able to make comments on what institution you will attend. Any accredited school would be acceptable.

MCH

Is it appropriate to get in touch with your interviewer and ask for his/her perspective on potential weaknesses in the application?

Stephanie_Berkeley

MCH, the interviewer only has access to your resume. They do not see the rest of your application and would therefore be unable to provide this feedback.

david c

Hi. Can a recommender contact you by phone to give you information? I feel one of my recommenders would give better information that way...

Jeff_Berkeley

I'm afraid we do not accept phone recommendations. Please have them use the online form or if necessary they can use a printed PDF. If they want to provide a more stand-alone letter, that is fine, but we ask that they also fill out the quality ranking questions and to please address the other questions we ask in their letter.

AS278

How can we demonstrate evidence of quantitative skills at work? Is that something you would want the additional recommender to discuss?

Cindy_Berkeley

You may provide information about quantitative responsibilities that you have at work. Additionally, it would be great to have your new recommenders discuss your quantitative skills.

Curt

You've mentioned numerous ways to transmit updated application material. Do you prefer to receive this all at once, or is it okay to submit it as we complete it?

Lee_Moderator

Curt, it's okay to submit things as they are completed.

CLT

If you have taken both calc and statistics in the past, do you prefer one over the other?

Cindy_Berkeley

No.

Clay

Is an essay format preferred for the additional statement, or something for informal like an email?

Lee_Moderator

Clay, either is acceptable. Send emails to the address you received your waitlist letter from; send materials by post to the MBA Admissions Office, but please mark that you are a waitlisted applicant.

CLT

What is a stronger signal of willingness to prove quantitative aptitude - GMAT score or coursework?

Cindy_Berkeley

I don't think there is a preference of one over the other.

tk

What is the rationale for admitting slightly more round 1 candidates this year compared to prior years?

Pete_Berkeley

Tk, there isn't a specific rationale--it's just a reflection of how competitive the Admissions Committee found the applications. We do not have a fixed number of offers for each round, so theoretically, we could fill the entire class from round 1, although that has never happened.

Jon Hulme

How would one best go about addressing vague career goals? Is it ok to just provide a statement clarifying those further, given that it is several months since we applied round one and perhaps we have now had more time to reflect on the details of our post-MBA plans?

Lee_Moderator

Jon, if you feel that your original career goals were vague and that you now have a clearer vision for your future, that would make an excellent additional statement.

Dave

What percent of waitlist applicants are admitted without providing supplemental information (i.e. essay or recommendation)?

Stephanie_Berkeley

Dave, that is not something we track. Being placed on the waitlist means that we consider you to be a strong candidate but also that we either need additional information to make our decision and/or we need to see what the rest of the pool looks like. I would strongly recommend that you review the list we sent of potential actions you can take to strengthen your candidacy and evaluate whether taking any of those actions would make you more competitive.

xm

Hi. Given the much higher number of applicants, do you plan to increase the intake this year?

Pete_Berkeley

Xm, no, we don't. Our class size is fixed at 240.

AS278

It was mentioned earlier that about 100-200 people are placed on the waitlist - is this the total number of people waitlisted or just the number from round 1?

wolffy

But we cannot fix a weak interview, because we are limited to one, correct?

Lee_Moderator

wolffy, it is true that you cannot schedule another interview. However, you may chose to address any weakness you perceived in your interview in your statement.

AS278

It was mentioned earlier that about 100-200 people are placed on the waitlist - is this the total number of people waitlisted or just the number from round 1?

Pete_Berkeley

As278, again, it is not a target number--it's a reflection of how the pool fluctuates. Until the Round 4 decisions go out, it fluctuates constantly.

Josh Brinkenhoff

Is the waitlist approximately the same size as in previous years or has it grown along with the applicant pool?

Stephanie_Berkeley

Josh B, this is a tough question as the waitlist fluctuates throughout the cycle as we continue to review it periodically after each decision round.

Brian R

Would it be helpful to get a recommendation from a current Haas MBA student who can speak to our desire to attend Haas?

Cindy_Berkeley

Yes. It is more helpful, of course, if the student has worked with you in some way (professional or extracurricular) and is able to comment on specific examples.

John

As an international applicant, should I focus on the GMAT or the TOEFL exam? Which one is more important for Haas?

Cindy_Berkeley

Neither one is more important than the other. They both evaluate somewhat different things.

Jessica

The later you are accepted to Haas, is it less likely you will receive financial aid? If so, what types of aid could you expect to receive and what types would you no longer be qualified for?

Pete_Berkeley

Jessica, it becomes less likely that you would receive scholarship assistance. Student loan funding remains constant.

Lila

In terms of financial aid, should we file FAFSA now?

Jeff_Berkeley

Hi Lila, no, we do not recommend filling out the FAFSA at this time.

leehha

Are all the waitlisted individuals from each round reviewed together or are the R1 waitlisters kept separate from the R2 waitlisters?

Pete_Berkeley

Leehha, all of them are reviewed together.

Jon Hulme

How would best address vague career goals?

Stephanie_Berkeley

Jon H, we're looking to see that you understand the steps you need to take in order to achieve your goals: what you'll take advantage of at Haas, what internships/post-graduation job you're looking for and how these fit with your previous work experience and longer-term goals.

PaulC

if I were to enroll in a class to demonstrate quant abilities, would you want to receive notice upon enrollment, or notice of completion with the grade (or both)? I ask because a class may not end until May or June when decisions have already been rendered. Thank you.

Lee_Moderator

PaulC, we generally view the news that someone has enrolled in a quant class as an indication that they are working actively on substantially improving their application if there is a perceived weakness in that area. We understand that final grades are not available until after any decision is made.

tk

You seem focused on the quantitative aspects of one's application. If you feel you have a sufficient quant score on the GMAT, significant quant work and academic work exp, what are other ways one can demonstrate their competitiveness?

Cindy_Berkeley

tk, we mentioned in the waitlist email that there are several other ways to demonstrate your competitiveness if quant is not an issue. For example, schedule an interview if you have not had one yet; provide additional letters of recommendation or submit a new statement updating us on any relevant changes since your application was submitted.

tk

Will the admissions office be keeping in touch with round 1 waitlisters? Giving the updated info on round 2, what is going on with the waitlist, etc.?

Lee_Moderator

tk, we will be in communication with applicants on the waitlist keeping them updated on what's happening.

bpb in the UK

Hi, can I resubmit any of my essays that I submitted if I have improved them?

Jeff_Berkeley

Hi bpb in the UK, no, we do not accept updated essays. There are a number of other suggestions here and in your waitlist offer email for how to strengthen your candidacy. In particular if you have experience a change, such as a job promotion, or new leadership experience, that you have not let us know about. You can send it to us by mail, fax or email to mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu. I just recommend that you determine if they are substantial and material to your candidacy.

Hamid S.

Hi Pete, Cindy. The waitlist letter mentions possibly being notified of an update with a month regarding the application status. So is there a possibility some waitlisted students will be notified before the Round 2 notification date? Thanks.

Pete_Berkeley

Hamid, although it's possible, it's unlikely. The earliest we will look closely at the R1 waitlist is at the end of R2.

kim

I claimed a TOEFL waiver in the application since I am a US permanent resident and also have a Masters degree from a US school. Should I take the TOEFL?

Lee_Moderator

kim, if you hold a masters from a US school, there is no need for you to take a TOEFL.

inny

If you perceive that your interview was weak and that may have hurt your candidacy, how can you show improvement?

Stephanie_Berkeley

inny, the interview is only one piece of your application. If there are particular areas of the interview where you feel you did not provide the strongest answers you may want to provide additional information to clarify. For example, if you weren't clear on your career goals, perhaps you could provide an additional statement clarifying them. If you feel you didn't provide a strong answer for leadership or teamwork, perhaps you could provide an additional letter of recommendation speaking to your performance in these areas.

PaulC

Same topic - does the school you take an additional class have any weight? For example, a community college vs. a highly regarded private institution?

Cindy_Berkeley

No. Taking a class at a community college or private institution indicates that you are taking steps to enhance your quant skills.

Tiziano

I am studying to retake the GMAT as my score was below the median. I do not think though I will be able to take the exam by early March. In this case should I notify the admission committee of my intent?

Lee_Moderator

Tiziano, as soon as you have a scheduled date for the GMAT, you should let the Admissions Committee know about it. You should also self-report the score as soon as it is available to you.

Atul

With visa processes involved, is it more likely that an international candidate will be accepted or rejected from the waitlist sooner?

Stephanie_Berkeley

Atul, this is something we are very sensitive to. We try and make all of our decisions for international candidates on the waitlist by the end of May, knowing that it could become more difficult to obtain visas after that point.

leehha

Will the waitlisted individuals be reviewed together as a round or will each file be reviewed periodically?

Stephanie_Berkeley

leehha, we review the entire waitlist after each decision round.

Kevin H

What was the % of US applicants w/ international experience?

Jeff_Berkeley

Last year we determined that about a third had worked or traveled abroad. Some of that was tourism, some of it was more significant and work-related. We don't break it down and it is not a review criteria, it is just another piece of information that helps us to know the applicant better.

Drew

I am planning a visit to Haas soon, how can I get the most out of my visit as a waitlist candidate?

Stephanie_Berkeley

Drew, we have a number of programs for you to take advantage of -- check out our website for more details! You can visit a class, have lunch with current students, and attend a daily information session run by our Haas Student Ambassadors.

MHaberman

Were those who received an interview prior to being placed on the waitlist judged to be more promising candidates than those who still need to interview, or was this more a reflection of the limited ability to interview so many possible candidates?

Pete_Berkeley

MHaberman, hard to say--it suggests that some of those interviewed before being placed on the waitlist may have seemed stronger on paper than the others, but I am generalizing here. It may also mean simply that someone we waitlisted without an interview presented a clear picture, and someone else we felt we didn't have enough information to even make a waitlist decision.

AS278

Can we also discuss in our additional statement changes and new leadership positions in extracurricular activities?

Lee_Moderator

AS278, those factors might be excellent things to address in a statement.

yuval

In your experience, what factor has greater influence in the acceptance of waitlisted applicants: the quality of R2 and R3 applications, or the improvement of the initial application?

Stephanie_Berkeley

yuval -- both! Everyone brings a unique set of experiences, so it really depends on the individual and how they compare to the rest of the pool. Sometimes that means providing additional information to demonstrate the strength of your candidacy but it also depends on how you compare to the rest of the pool. The only thing you can focus on is making sure that you are presenting the strongest application possible so definitely review the list of suggestions we provided and evaluate whether any of those actions would strengthen your application.

Ben

Because it's hard to gauge what a weakness might be, does Berkeley consider a B in a quant course something that needs to be justified elsewhere?

Cindy_Berkeley

Ben, I do understand that it's hard to gauge what a weakness might be. In fact, there isn't always one particular weakness that is an issue. Waitlist candidates are all strong applicants and we are evaluating based on the overall quality of the pool. The basic requirement is a B or better on a stats or calculus course. Again, we look at various additional factors when evaluating quant skills such as performance on the Quant section of the GMAT.

leehha

You mentioned that a weak interview may be one factor for the waitlist, but if an individual has not had an interview yet, what are the main reasons why 1) he did not get an interview invite to start and 2) he got into the waitlist without an interview first?

Stephanie_Berkeley

leehha, there are many reasons depending on the applicant -- typically it is because there were some areas on the list of suggestions that we sent you where the applicant was not as strong.

inny

If I feel that my interview was the weakest link in my application, how can I show improvement?

Cindy_Berkeley

I think providing additional information such as additional letters of recommendation and a new statement would be helpful.

tk

If we already participated in super Saturday, does it make sense to visit the school again? Visit a class, lunch, info session etc?

Lee_Moderator

tk, if you feel that you will gain something of value by visiting again, we'd love to have you visit!

inny

Will it be useful to re-assert my interest my interest in Haas based on some of the things I learned at Super Saturday? (Things I did not have knowledge of before). Especially if I perceive that I may not have articulated "why Berkeley" in my interview?

Lee_Moderator

inny, using new knowledge to cast an additional light on something you have previously submitted might make an excellent additional statement.

wolffy

Do HSA's and or current students with whom you have lunch submit feedback to adcom?

Cindy_Berkeley

Wolffy, it is very rare. Most of the time when we receive letters of rec from current students or HSAs it is for candidates with whom they have had a relationship - such as work colleagues or former college friends, etc.

AS278

Is performance on the verbal section of the GMAT a significant factor in admissions decisions, or is your focus mostly on the quant section?

Cindy_Berkeley

We look at both subscores, along with the overall score.

leehha

Drawing on Stephanie's response to Drew's question, if I visit campus and do all these additional

activities, will the admissions committee hear about this or am I responsible for communicating this information? Will this be taken into consideration?

Jeff_Berkeley

Hi leehha, if you have already addressed in your essays how you have familiarized yourself with Haas and UC Berkeley, it is not necessary to communicate additional steps you have taken in this area. Unless there is a substantial and material change in the information you submitted in your application, I do not recommend communicating extra data to us. If it is a big change in your life, certainly, please let us know. I would say scheduling an interview is more important.

tk

You say that 10-30% of waitlist is ultimately accepted. That translates into how many students? 20-60? It is likely too early but do you have any sense of what % of the waitlist could be admitted this year?

Pete_Berkeley

Tk, I did say that in recent years, 10-30% of the waitlisted candidates were ultimately accepted. The number actually offered a place on the waitlist varies by year and round. It is much too early to have any sense how many might be admitted, but as a general rule, when the application pool is larger, a smaller percentage are admitted, but again, that's just a reflection of the experience we've had in past years. It's very hard to know at this point in time.

Kevin H

Does the decision timing for international students also apply to US citizens that live abroad? The visa requirement obviously wouldn't apply to us but it still takes quite a bit of time to arrange an intercontinental move.

Pete_Berkeley

KevinH, we don't really have any differential in admission timing for international students until after the 4th round. International students admitted as late as June have had no problem arranging visa issues, except from a small number of countries where there is always a problem, early or late in the year.

xm

Hi, in your mind, what constitutes a weak interview?

Pete_Berkeley

xm, for a more detailed answer, visit our podcast re: interview tips, but a weaker interview often reflects vague career goals, weaker communication skills or analytical abilities, or perhaps poor confidence, or weak English--there are many things that can result in an interview that is not as strong as others.

tk

you say the basic req is a B or better on a stats or calc class. What if we have C's in those classes, but also C's in higher level math classes like linear algebra or differential equations?

Cindy_Berkeley

tk, it depends. That might be a concern - but we do take into account candidates who are taking numerous rigorous quant courses outside of the basic req. Additionally, we are also looking at your Quant subscore on the GMAT. As mentioned, we are looking at numerous factors when evaluating an applicant - and demonstrated quant proficiency is only one element of many.

SAM

Would you welcome a letter of recommendation from a former Haas professor?

Stephanie_Berkeley

SAM, we're typically looking at letters of recommendation to provide additional information about your professional accomplishments. If you feel that this professor could speak to that, perhaps it would be a helpful addition to your application. I would consider what information this professor would be providing and evaluate how that strengthens your application.

Lila

How likely is it that Round 1 waitlisters will have to wait until August?

Pete_Berkeley

Lila, not likely. We take very few people after June, although every year is a bit different.

R

Besides additional recommendations, how can one assuage potential concerns over amount of work experience?

Cindy_Berkeley

R, I think letters of recommendation are an excellent way to communicate elements of your work experience. You might also want to consider providing a new statement which may communicate more specifics about your professional work experience.

Kristi

While I understand that you consider only the highest GMAT score, if I am considering retaking the GMAT, will there be any perceived negativity to having written it multiple times?

Cindy_Berkeley

If you are able to perform better on the GMAT score, then we consider this to be indicative of your ability.

Stephanie_Berkeley

Thank you all for joining us today! We appreciate your patience throughout this process and hope we were able to answer your questions.

Jeff_Berkeley

Good bye everyone, thank you so much for joining us today!

Pete_Berkeley

Thanks again for participating, everyone. We'll do our best to maintain communication with all of you as we move through the application cycle.

Cindy_Berkeley

Thank you everyone for participating today. Go Bears!

Lee_Moderator

Hi all! Thank you for joining us. The chat is wrapping up and shutting down. We appreciate your questions. Go Bears!