



The Full-Time MBA Program Virtual Admissions Chat August 9, 2018

Chat with Berkeley Haas

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Min_Moderator:

Hi, everyone. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Min Le, and I will be your moderator for today. I am joined by my colleagues Angela Fleekop, Brooke Baranzano, Candace Gonzales Tumey, Talin Abrahamian, Sandra Cruz-Lezama and Andrea Brougher. Please send us your questions!

Lauren:

Hi! I have a question about GRE score reporting. If I take the test more than once, is it possible to send multiple scores? And if so, **will the admissions committee "superscore" my results, if I do better on Verbal on one test and Quantitative on the other?** Thank you!

Answer:

Hello Lauren, we do not take super scores. For the first initial application evaluation process we review your self-reported test scores.

Ernest:

I'm thinking of applying but won't matriculate until I'm 32. **Should I be concerned about starting school at 32 when the average age is 28?**

Answer:

Hi Ernest! We absolutely do not take age into consideration when evaluating applications. It's more about your academic and professional background, impact you've had, and personal fit with our defining principles.

Ranulfo:

Hi, **I would like to know more about applying through the Consortium.**

Answer:

Hello Ranulfo! Thank you for considering the Consortium. There is so much to say about it! Please consult the Consortium and Berkeley Haas full-time websites and feel free to reach out to our Consortium Liaisons.

Attendee: **Does Haas research candidates on LinkedIn to ask them to apply?** If so (or not), what are specific things Haas searches for or wants to see displayed on a persons LinkedIn page?

Answer: No we do not. We will sometimes refer to LinkedIn as we read your application if we have questions about your work history, etc., but we don't often use it, so please make sure everything you want us to know is in your application!

Nicole: I want to know if there is **any difference or disadvantages between apply in the first round and the second one?**

Answer: Hi there! There really is not. Generally rounds 1 and 2 are our most popular, with 2 being a little more popular historically. We say the soonest you can apply with your best application is ideal.

Arpan: **I'm an Indian male engineer and my GMAT score is 660 only, how will it affect my chances of selection at Haas?**

Answer: Hi Arpan! We do not evaluate a candidate's individual circumstances here, but keep in mind our review is holistic so no one thing will get you in or prevent you from getting in.

Lauren: So, to follow up, **when I report my scores, I should report from one single testing session, correct?** Thanks!

Answer: Great question, Lauren. You are correct, only report single testing sessions. Do not combine scores from different tests sessions.

Nikita: Hi there! **I'm looking to focus on Fintech courses within my MBA but also take data science electives - would that be possible?**

Answer: That is definitely possible! We don't have tracks at Haas, so you can take any electives that are interesting to you. You can also take 6 units of coursework outside of Haas in other graduate programs at Cal.

Jialei: In the decision process - **does Berkeley admit on a rolling basis?**

Answer: Hi! We do not. We send all decision notifications on the same day. Our decision notification dates are posted by round on our website

Jenny: **What are your average scores taken for GRE (vs GMAT?)**

Answer: Hi Jenny! We will release our average GRE sometime later in Sept. You may calculate your average GMAT and translate it to GRE to get an idea of what it may look like.

Caissa: **I want to know if there is any preference between TOEFL and IELTS. Which one should I take?**

Answer: Hi Caissa, we don't have a preference.

Sanya: Hi, I am a female Indian candidate currently working on H1-B visa in Pittsburgh, PA. I am interested in applying to Haas this fall. **Can you let me know more about the career services at Haas for international students?**

Answer: Hello Sanya, this is a great question. We recommend you reviewing our International Applicant website at <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/international-applicants>.

Attendee: Hi, **I was wondering if there is any difference in the success rate of financial aid applications depending on which round you apply.**

Answer: We award financial aid in all rounds

Attendee: Hi! **I was wondering If I have a US passport and another passport and have only lived in the US for 6 years, should I apply as an international or a Hispanic minority?**

Answer: Hello Attendee, If you received your undergraduate degree outside of the US, you would be considered an international applicant. In our personal data section, you can identify your citizenship. Citizenship does not determine your eligibility.

BerkeleyHaas

Alexander:

Hi there - I understand there's a large amount of diversity in your class, but I was wondering if you could speak a little bit to the type of student who does well at Haas. **Is there something that top students have in common with one another? What sorts of personality characteristics does the admissions committee look for in our applications?**

Answer:

We look for the Defining Leadership Principles in all of our applicants. We find that people with those qualities succeed at Haas.

Antoniotorre:

Hello, **I was wondering if you have any information regarding the electives for the second year. Specifically the electives focused in Real Estate.**

Answer:

Please go to the following link to find out about electives in Real Estate:
<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/careers/real-estate>

Justin:

Hello. **For the interview that is invitation-only, will we be interviewed by Admissions officers or alumni or both?**

Answer:

Hi Justin, interviews may take place on-campus by trained students or off-campus with alumni.

Elizabeth:

Hi, I am applying to business school with a nonprofit background. **Do you have any recommendations for someone who is applying from a nontraditional background? What is most important to highlight in the application?**

Answer:

Hi! This is actually pretty traditional for Haas now! It's important to highlight the impact that you've had in your work experience.

Premal:

Hi! **I don't have corporate job experience, but I am into my family business from 2 years. My question is do you guys give any preference in such scenario?**

Answer:

Hi! We accept many people that have family business experience and not corporate experience. It's more about the impact that you've had wherever you've worked.

Erjia:

Is there any info session presentation/recorded session available?

Answer:

Check out our webinars and other events online! We may also be hosting an information session near you -

<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/upcoming-events>

Attendee:

I'm applying with a partner and I noticed the application lets me note that.

Should I use the optional essay to explain further why we are applying together?

Answer:

Hello! You may use the optional essay to indicate that you are applying with a partner. There is no need to let us know why you are applying together unless you feel it is relevant to your application and career goals.

Samantha:

Any best practices for the 6 word story?

Answer:

Sure! Start with thinking about the 250 word explanation before you start composing the 6 words. It's more about your story than the actual 6 words.

Jravelana:

How might the process differ if someone were to apply through an organization like the Consortium vs direct application?

Answer:

Hello! Jravelana! The timing of Consortium Rounds differ from ours slightly, as does the cost of applying and the application itself. You are still considered with the same standard expectations of all of our applicants and must interview to be offered admission. You should consult the Consortium website for additional requirements.

Attendee:

For a 2 year program at Haas, what is the total one would expect to pay as a non-US national?

Answer:

Please check out this link for tuition prices for a non-resident:

<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/costs-and-financial-aid>

Matthew:

I took the GMAT earlier this year, and had heard from some friends that it was common to take it multiple times. I didn't send my scores to any schools at the test time, but I am quite happy with my score, and want to send it to Haas. **Will I be negatively impacted by sending the score later, rather than having the score sent directly from the GMAT test site during my testing?**

Answer:

Hi Matthew, there are many applicants who opt to take the GMAT more than once. You may submit your score at the time of application. In fact, to complete the application, we accept self-reported scores.

Attendee:

When I submit my application, who are the first people to view it & what is the first portion of the application that is viewed?

Answer:

Every application is read by two admissions professionals, one of whom is on the admissions committee. Most of us start with the resume, but everyone has their own reading style.

Samantha:

Do you have a preference between the GMAT & GRE?

Answer:

No, we do not have preference.

Supriya:

Hello, **is there a significant difference in the probability of getting a merit scholarship in Round 1 vs Round 2 vs Round 3?**

Answer:

Hi Supriya! There is no significant difference between Round 1 and Round 2. We still award funding in Round 3, although that Round is typically smaller so the funding awards are consistent with that.

Santiago:

What advice would you give to re applicants, specifically those who were waitlisted in the past admission process?

Answer:

We want to know how you've improved since your last application - so we encourage you to self-reflect and then tell what's changed and how your candidacy has improved.

Ranulfo: Do my chances of admission vary based on if I apply through the Consortium or apply directly to Berkeley?

Answer: Hi Ranulfo, Consortium applicants & regular applicants are reviewed the same.

Savanna: Hello! I had a question regarding transcripts and study abroad. **If my home institution lists my study abroad courses with their grades converted to the American system, do I also need to send in a transcript from the study abroad university with their grading?**

Answer: Hi Savanna, applicants who completed their undergraduate degree outside of the US are required to send a copy of their official transcript from every university attended to complete their degree, including study abroad.

Attendee: Is applying in earlier application rounds advantageous for getting scholarships/bursaries?

Answer: We recommend that you apply as early as possible when you feel that your application is at its strongest. Also we suggest being mindful that in Round 1 no one has been admitted. Approximately 70% of Haas students receive some form of financial assistance, which can include scholarships, loans, and/or assistantships. Over \$5 million in scholarship funding is awarded each year, providing gift aid to over 40% of full-time MBA students. All admitted students can apply for scholarships which are based on numerous criteria such as merit, industry, commitment to diversity, and financial need.

Srikanth: Hello, I was wondering what are some of the resources Haas has available for someone who wants to pursue a career in organizational development/human capital management?

Answer: Hello Srikanth, our career management team assists our admitted student with their career goals. Feel free to review our website for more information <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/careers/career-management>.

Lauren: **Do you take students with less than a year of professional experience?**

Answer: Hi Lauren, while we don't have a required amount of work experience to apply, having at least 2 years of work experience before entering the program has enabled stronger letters of recommendation as recommenders are able to speak to a deeper level of the applicant's leadership. Ultimately, the Admissions Committee wants to be convinced that an MBA makes sense at this point in your career trajectory.

Andrew: **Hi, can you please elaborate on your preference for the GMAT over GRE?**

Answer: We do not have a preference! We accept both.

Ben: **How do we find out more about scholarships offered at Haas/Berkeley?**

Answer: More information is here: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/costs-and-financial-aid>. We offer need based and merit scholarships. Some are awarded at the time of admission and others are given after you are admitted via a separate application process.

Rizalyn: **How crucial are grades from undergrad if you've been out of college for the last 10 years?**

Answer: Hello Rizalyn! We do consider grades as we want to know how well you perform in an academic setting. However, we will certainly take into consideration any additional supportive elements to your application that you would do well in the classroom.

Anirban: **Good morning! On the application, there's a section that asks how many times we've taken the GRE or GMAT. If we cancelled a score, would I list that as an attempt? Thank you!**

Answer: Hi Anirban, a cancelled score would not be required to include in your total number. Ultimately, the Admissions Committee is interested in the self-reported scores you submit.

Nicole: I saw an e-mail about an app that help us to apply. But the link in the e-mail was wrong. What is the name of the app in order to download?

Answer: Hello Nicole, unfortunately we do not have an app to download. But we believe you are referring to our Application Bootcamp. Once you start an application, you will receive an email to access to Application Bootcamp.

Yan: Can you tell me a bit about the internship program? How is the internship placement done? Are there particular industries/locations for these positions?

Answer: You work with our Career Management group starting from orientation to find a job that is meaningful and rewarding to you. We place people all over the world in a multitude of industries and functions.

Arpan: What is the GMAT range you are looking for?

Answer: It's a holistic process, so we don't have a specific range! I'd check out our student profile on our website to see the range of GMAT scores we've accepted from last year's class.

Asit: I have done Post graduate diploma in management (PGDM) from India which is a 2 year program. **Would you consider it equivalent to MBA and hence ineligible for application or consider it just as an advanced program?**

Answer: Hi Asit, many applicants have post graduate degrees and a diploma in management from India would not be considered equivalent. However, if the coursework has significant overlap, the Admissions Committee is interested to hear why an MBA makes sense at this point in your career trajectory, so including your reasoning for an MBA after a PGDM may be helpful.

Attendee: I have no corporate job and my previous work experience was military. Do I have a chance on getting accepted in the program?

Answer: Yes, of course! Please reach out to our veterans club for further information on how Haas supports our military - <https://haas.campusgroups.com/veterans/home/>.

Attendee: **How do you consider applicants who share the same nationality but different background?** (Ones graduated from native English speaking country vs ones from local unit/no experience abroad).

Answer: It's a holistic process, and we view each as an individual instead of pinning them against one another. They could both be great candidates!

Attendee: **I am an international student, scored a 680 on the GMAT with a highest math (45) and a 690 with a low math (43) and a high verbal, do you have any preference? Should I send both?** In my undergrad I got mostly As in math but didn't do amazing on math on the GMAT, any recommendations?

Answer: I recommend sending us both scores here, as it's a holistic application process. We do, however, only consider the highest overall score. We need to see proficiency in quant somewhere in the application.

David: **I have recently started working with a new employer, and so I believe colleagues/supervisors at my previous job would be more fit to write the recommendation letters. Is there any issue with this?**

Answer: Hi David! Not at all. Please just indicate this information in the optional essay. Please know that we do prefer letters from current or previous supervisors, so I would discourage a letter from a colleague if at all possible.

Jialei: I have 2 years of work experience (30-40 hrs per week) during my last 2 years of undergraduate. **I was wondering if undergraduate work experiences can also count towards our total years worked or if Berkeley only considers post-graduation work experiences.**

Answer: We consider all of your work experience and there is a section of the application dedicated to undergraduate work experience, so feel free to include it there.

Andrew: **What do housing options look like for those looking to relocate with a partner?**

Answer: There are a few! We love our partners here at Haas. Many partners and families elect to live in The University Village: <https://housing.berkeley.edu/universityvillage>. Of course, it may depend on where your partner gets a job. It's easy to live in/commute from San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley.

Matthew: Also, I live in Detroit and haven't been able to attend any of the Coffee Chats and Info Sessions (the closest location has been Chicago, and it's often scheduled on a weekday so it's too far for a workday). **What would you recommend for someone who's getting major FOMO around missing the Haas info events?**

Answer: Join our online events! We have many coming up throughout the next month. You can find more information here: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/upcoming-events>

Nataly: **Can you tell me a bit more about how to apply for a joint MBA/MPH program at UC Berkeley?**

Answer: Hi Nataly, you select the MBA/MPH application option when you decide that's the program for you. Feel free to review our website at: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/careers/healthcare>

Jaejoon: For some additional clarification, **is it okay to submit two additional letters of recommendation even if I've submitted additional letters of reference as a round 1 waitlisted candidate? please advise.** Thanks!

Answer: Hi Jaejoon! I am sorry I did not understand your question. Additional letters on the waitlist are appropriate. You may submit more letters and a letter of support from a current Haas student or Haas alum.

Marguerite:

Hello! I have a question about Essay #2: I understand we should explain how our post-MBA role will put us on a path to a meaningful career, but **should we also reflect on how our education at Haas would contribute to a meaningful and rewarding career?** If not, where is a good space to elaborate on this? Thank you!

Answer:

You can answer the question either way, really! Just keep in mind the word limit :)

Attendee:

If you've received a 700 on the GMAT. Is it worth retaking the exam?

Answer:

Hi there! It's a holistic process, so that would depend on the strength of the rest of your application. Most people take the GMAT about 3 times before test fatigue, so if you think you could do better, that's always an option.

Yiran:

Is 2.5 yrs. of experience too short for application? What will you look for from younger applicants?

Answer:

We want to see demonstrated impact and leadership in your work. We see people with varied years of work experience from 2-10 years!

Supriya:

Hi! My first language is not English but I completed a degree from the University of Manchester in UK and the language of teaching was English. **All my education has been in English, as well. Do I need to take TOEFL to apply to Haas?**

Answer:

Dear Supriya, applicants who received their degrees from countries in which the official language is not English, must submit official evidence of English Language Proficiency.

Caissa:

To send you my IELTS score, the exam provider is asking me Name of Recognizing Organization and Name of Person/Department. Could you please tell me what do I have to write in those form boxes?

Answer:

Hello Caissa, test scores can be sent to the following:
GMAT code: N2VPT47 , GRE code: 0574, TOEFL institution code 4833,
department 02

Michael:

May I know more about academic and career resources in Haas that can help further a career in venture capital? I understand that the proximity to Silicon Valley helps too.

Answer:

Hi Michael! We have a great finance area of emphasis here at Haas. There are also tons of VC opportunities here. I'd check out the VC Investment Competition as just one example:

<https://entrepreneurship.berkeley.edu/venture-capital-investment-competition/>

Our Career management group has solid background helping FTMBA's get a job in VC in the Bay Area (and NYC).

Shao-Han:

My question is about the six-word-story essay. Does the story mean to be a memory, like an experience for a certain time period?

Answer:

It can be anything that is meaningful to you and helps us learn more about you.

Manh:

Thank you very much for hosting the admission chat. **I, a pharmacist from Vietnam, want to continue to develop my career in pharmaceutical industry. So How strong the Haas alumni network in this industry?**

Answer:

We have a strong healthcare network, healthcare club, and healthcare electives here at Haas. I'd check out the healthcare area of emphasis on our website to learn more about it!

Sanya:

Hi Admissions Team,

Thank you very much for hosting this. I have a few questions:

1. **Are letters of reference an absolute deal-breaker?**
2. **With respect to summer internships, what proportion of international students at Haas end up taking internships within the USA?**
3. **Are an applicant's chances for admission hurt, if he / she looks to ask to be considered for financial aid?**
4. **Is the duration for all the different Applied Innovation courses the same or does it vary depending on the course one chooses? Lastly do many students choose to do more than one Applied Innovation Course?**

Answer:

1. Not sure what you mean here. They are required.
2. Many of our International students intern here in the US
3. Not at all.
4. It varies, It varies.

BerkeleyHaas

Ernest: **What's the 80th percentile range for the GRE?** I think I saw that the average is 161Q-164V.

Answer: Hi Ernest, feel free to refer to the ETS website for further detail regarding the GRE - https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/scores/understand/

Attendee: **Berkeley website states that "All candidates are required to take the GMAT (preferred) or GRE exam prior to the deadline for which they are applying."**

Answer: Our committee has no preference. Our website will reflect this soon.

Arpan: **What average percent of selected candidates are Indians at Haas?**

Answer: It varies every year.

Richard: In a recent admissions event it was stated that we should consider using the optional essay to discuss low grades in college, such as Cs. **Would this include discussing a one-off low grade in freshman year that is completely unrelated to my major and uncharacteristic of the other performance on my transcript?** Thank you!

Answer: It could be helpful to give an explanation there! It couldn't hurt.

Ikechukwu: **How diverse is a typical Haas MBA Class?** I would also like to know what impact, if any, the age and experience of a candidate have on the application. For example, an international candidate, mid-30s with 7-years experience.

Answer: I'd check out our student profile page on our website to see the demographics of our admitted students. We value diversity of all kinds at Haas!

Yeaseul: **I'm wondering if I can/should report my transcript for the summer session in UC Berkeley, separately.** Since the transcript from my undergrad school doesn't show those scores in letter.

Answer: Yes, you can do that!

Aaron: Howdy! **I have done some consulting work in the past hope to continue contract consulting if I were to be admitted. Is this possible?**

Answer: Yes! A lot of students do some part-time work or internships on the side while in the full-time MBA program.

Nataly: **Approximately how many of your enrolled students come from a non-business background/college major?**

Answer: Quite a few! We strive to admit a class with a diverse set of experience, so many come to us from majors other than business.

Arindam: **How would you suggest students demonstrate that their goals are aligned with the objectives of the Haas MBA program?** What specific traits should students highlight in their application that show that their previous training and experiences are in line with the objectives of the program?

Answer: We look at all parts of the app to find culture fit: your work experience, essays, letters of rec, community involvement, and goals.

Rachel: **I have a question about the dual MBA/MPH program admissions process. Is there a joint application or do you apply to each program totally separately? And if so, can you use your GMAT for the MPH app?**

Answer: It is one application and you receive one decision. You can definitely use your GMAT!

Eric: **Do you have any general words of advice on essay question #2?** I'm concerned about being either too vague or too specific about my goals. In addition to advice, where have you seen other students' errors?

Answer: Sure! We do prefer specifics, but don't feel like you have to give us a company and job title. We want to know that you're getting your MBA for a reason, that it will help you get where you want to go, and that you've thought about what's rewarding and meaningful to you.

Robert: In addition to courses, what are some of the unique resources Haas has to foster entrepreneurial development and growth among students?

Answer: Entrepreneurs have a wealth of resources available to them at Haas. Check out our Launch program: <https://launch.berkeley.edu/>

Jason: How can I connect with alumni in the Chicago area? Do you have a sense for how big a pool of Haas grads live in Chicago?

Answer: Hi Jason, we welcome you to connect with us in Chicago later this month! Alumni often join the Admissions Committee while on the road. You can find the information for the 2 upcoming events in your area here - <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/upcoming-events>.

Omer: To apply, how many years of work experience should we have?

Answer: There is not set number of years that we require. What we are looking for is demonstrated leadership and impact. We admit people with a wide variety of years of experience - from 2 up to 10!

Jenny: There's no preference on GRE versus GMAT? Also is there more emphasis on the quant or qualitative during the application review process?

Answer: No preference, correct! We definitely look at both scores.

Huazhou/Andy: Hello! I was wondering if University grades are weighted/taken into consideration heavily. If recent GMAT and current job status are more indicative of the candidate I am, will this be more heavily factored?

Answer: It's a holistic process, so we value each piece of the application to get the overall context of who you are as an applicant and how you'd gel with our program.

Attendee: Does Haas allow for deferred entry, if an application is successful?

Answer: Deferrals are very uncommon for the Full-time Berkeley MBA Program. In extreme circumstances, they may be granted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Director of Admissions.

Samantha: Do MBA candidates get exposure to other colleges on campus? I am looking for a program where I can collaborate with students in STEM fields. Is the Haas program conducive to developing that network?

Answer: Absolutely! Many of our project teams involve students from around the Cal campus and you are eligible to take classes in other graduate program (including STEM) while you are a student at Haas.

Juanita: Recognizing that all pieces of the application are important, what are some ways to demonstrate that we can manage the rigorous curriculum? GPA from years ago doesn't accurately reflect my abilities, and I'd like to make sure to powerfully demonstrate that to you through other means.

Answer: Hi Juanita! Yes, please be assured that one part of your application is never going to be the determining factor. If you have a weakness, make sure you outshine it with other strengths. We review everything in the application. Your test scores and/or work experience also help us to see how you would perform in an academically challenging environment. Hope that helps.

Aaron: What is it like for a student that wishes to continue contract work while enrolled in the program? Is this something that isn't recommended?

Answer: It depends how many hours. Some students do part-time internships or jobs. Just keep in mind you'll have schoolwork and lots of fun and impactful extracurricular activities too!

Yicwu: Hi there, I took my GMAT circa April 2015, I would like to apply for the 2019 intake. **Would a GMAT score from 2015 be okay?** Or would it be frowned upon as "outdated" and hence better for me to take the GMAT again? Thanks!

Answer: That's just fine!

Attendee: **How helpful it is to visit the campus to speak with an admissions committee member to strengthen our candidacy?**

Answer: Hello. Thanks for the question. We would prefer that you provide additional updates to strengthen your candidacy by submitting in writing rather than in person. We aren't able to necessarily meet with all candidates so this is a more streamlined process. Hope you understand.

Lauren: Thank you again for all of this information! I am interested in going into nonprofit or philanthropic work after completing my MBA. **Do many Haas students end up in these fields? Are there opportunities for internships or alumni connections at organizations that consult with nonprofits, or specialize in philanthropic work?**

Answer: Hi Lauren, graduates from the program go into a number of industries following their MBA. You can find the past 5 years of employment reports through the Career Management Group here - <http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/groups/careercenter/hireanmba/employment-reports.html>. I also recommend connecting with our Haas Student Ambassadors to speak with current students about further opportunities in nonprofit and philanthropic work by emailing them at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu.

Attendee: **Hi! Are you targeting specific countries for next class?**

Answer: No, we are not. We are looking to bring in a very diverse class each year from different parts of the world, different industries, etc.

Colton: Hi - planning to apply this fall! Regarding recommendations, I understand that the preference is to have one from a current, direct supervisor. However, I work in a matrixed organization, which means I'm staffed on projects in which I don't necessarily work day-to-day with my direct supervisor. **Does it make sense to ask the person with whom I've worked on my project, as opposed to my direct supervisor?** In this case, the former would know much more about my working style and accomplishments than my direct supervisor.

Answer: It's really up to you! If you don't choose your direct supervisor, you can tell us why in your application (we have a question that asks why you didn't include a current supervisor and you can explain why there). We recommend you choosing the person you feel knows what you do best and how you are in a professional environment.

Shiroy: I noted that Berkeley evaluates quantitative proficiency by looking for calculus, statistics, or upper level math courses during undergrad. **If a candidate received college credit for statistics in HS would that count and if not should a candidate not apply until they've taken additional course work if they are post undergrad?**

Answer: We are not looking at college credits for stats. We will look at all college coursework and either the GMAT/GRE for further information about your quant abilities. We will also consider work experience as some people utilize analytical and quant skills regularly as a part of their daily work.

Jravellana: **What advice would you give on letters of recommendation, specifically on who to consider. Is seniority in an organization more valued for example?**

Answer: Title is less important to us - we want to hear from someone who can really speak to your achievements at work and the impact you've had.

Attendee: There is a slight rivalry between Stanford and Berkeley. **Can you tell me why Berkeley is a better choice?**

Answer: That is a choice for you to make. We are both great schools but very different in our own ways. We encourage you to reach out to the students and visit the programs and see where you fit in best.

Himanshu: Hi. I am from India, and I wanted to connect with a few students and alumni. **While campus visit would be a bit difficult for me, what would you recommend as an alternate channel for communication?**

Answer: Hi, I would recommend reaching out to the contacts on our admissions website. We offer an opportunity to connect with either Haas student ambassadors or international student representatives. You can also browse the clubs pages and reach out to them through there.

Attendee: Thanks so much for everything! **Regarding admissions office hours, who conducts those & how frequently can we attend them?**

Answer: Our admissions advisors from our admissions team is here. You are encouraged to come with questions. We do not review application essays, resumes, but instead, are here to answer questions you may have.

Mia: **Do you provide any assistance with visa processing for non-US students?**

Answer: Our international student house provides a lot of resources about visa processing but it may also be helpful for you to connect with international student representatives from your region to talk about the process. Their contact info is on our admissions contact page. Thanks!

Johnson: **When filling out classes, what are you looking for when building out profiles? Do you have any particular emphasis in a background/industry you're looking for, or are you going for a more well-rounded approach?**

Answer: We definitely want a diversity of experiences and don't have quotas for any industries.

Attendee: **If career change is a goal in pursuing the MBA, would you recommend the Full-Time or the Part-Time program at Haas?**

Answer: It really depends on how much time per week you can devote to classes and whether you want to continue working during your MBA. You can pursue a career change with either program!

Aaron: **Hi, I'm coming from a laboratory background. What should I focus on with my application?**

Answer: I'd focus on the leadership experiences and impact you've made in your professional career, no matter what type of professional background you come from.

Arijeet:

Hi. First of all I would like to thank the admissions committee to host this wonderful session to clear our doubts. I am looking to apply for round 1 of fall-19 and very excited about the process. But I have some doubts. **Firstly, I want to know what scholarship opportunities are available and are there any criteria for them. Secondly, I want to know how Berkeley as a location and community help me in my MBA program. Thirdly, I want to know how Haas is different from other schools in respect to the programs and courses it has to offer.** Finally, I am from India and I did my undergrad studies in a university where the medium of teaching was English. **Do I need to give TOEFL and submit the scores to prove my proficiency in English?**

Answer:

Hi Arijeet, scholarships are readily available through Haas and outside of Haas. Further information can be found on our website here - <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/scholarships>
The Haas and larger Berkeley community are a network domestically and internationally and I recommend connecting with current students, our Haas Student Ambassadors, to hear more by emailing hsa@haas.berkeley.edu. The TOEFL or IELTS is required for those that have completed their undergraduate in India. Please refer to the Test Scores section of our FAQs for further detail - <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/faq>

Attendee:

I'm very interested in learning about your energy program and clean tech program as well as the BERC. **I've read everything already on your website, are there any other additional resources I can access to learn more? Besides careers in Tesla / P&G, what sort of careers in energy do your students pursue?**

Answer:

Reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors and they can give you the student perspective on BERC and clean tech! hsa@haas.berkeley.edu

Attendee:

Does it require overall 5 years of experience to apply for MBA?

Answer:

No, we look at the quality of your work experience more so than the number of years. Below 2 years of work experience will make it more difficult to show impact and progression but each person is different, so we do not have a minimum cut off.

Cathy:

Hi, **I want to know what kind of working experience you guys most value.**

Answer:

All kinds. There is not one that is valued more than others but we are looking for full-time work experience post-college.

Nuhamin:

Hello! My name is Nuhamin Woldemariam. **How does admissions review the applicant? Is it as a whole--keeping in mind of region, work history, story, scores, etc.?**

Answer:

It is a review of the entire application (everything you mentioned plus more). Please feel free to look back at some of our admissions webinars to see how we review applications in more detail.

Asit:

I am currently running a start-up in India. And in this regard I may not have someone senior to write a recommendation. However my previous boss (job which I have left 3 years back) is ready to write. And from current work my partner and another client are willing. The client will certainly be able to speak about my business relationship with him but I think my business partner would be able to give in-depth view of me as a person both personally and professionally. **Do you have any objectivity concerns if my partner gives a recommendation and whom between the two (client or my partner) do you think would be better?**

Answer:

Hi Asit, it is up to you to determine who would be the best person to write your letter of recommendation. You may want to consider major clients, a former supervisor, or the Director/Leader of an extracurricular group or volunteer organization in which you're involved. Select individuals who have had the opportunity to observe you in a supervisory capacity and who can attest to your professional qualities, leadership abilities and/or potential, and skills in an organizational context.

Daniel:

Does HAAS offer any programs to help connect prospective students wishing to get a first hand perspective with current students?

Answer:

Yes, please feel free to go to our admissions page and click on contact us and you will see student contact info there. Feel free to reach out.

Rizalyn:

If applicants have continuing education or certificate programs under their belt, does that contribute to their attributes?

Answer:

Yes!

Samantha: During my campus tour, the Data Science Club president mentioned the club partnered with Haas faculty to evaluate a business analytics/data science area of focus for students. **Do you envision this will be available by Fall 2020?**

Answer: We're working on it but not sure about the timing!

Mohammed: **Besides my references, is it possible to share with the admission committee any other material such as specific certificates / letters describing other achievements (a major role played in some organizations/projects)? Or it is sufficient to mention them on the resume?** Thanks in advance.

Answer: Please only submit the material that we have requested. It is best to reference these items in your resume. If you are placed on the waitlist for any reason, you will have another opportunity to submit additional materials that may be relevant to your application.

Attendee: **If I sign up for the MLT MBA prep, will the admissions team know this & what are perceptions of this program?**

Answer: Yes! Positive!

Jennifer: **What kind of entrepreneurship support does Haas offer to students who are interested in entrepreneurship after graduation?** Thanks

Answer: Hi Jennifer! We have many resources for those interested in entrepreneurship during and post-MBA. You can find out more at <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/careers/entrepreneurship>

Omer: Hey. **I am a marine engineer I work on ships. And I have some doubts if my job is acceptable to apply to the MBA program?**

Answer: There is no one job type/industry requirement. We look at the quality of your work experience, the impact, and progression you have demonstrated during your time there. Everything is evaluated thoroughly.

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Jing:

Hi there, I'm from a business (finance) background, hoping to move into business design roles at design firm such as IDEO or venture builders. Hence looking to hone additional business skills such as marketing and strategy. And also add design thinking elements. I understand that there's a course and student club in this area, plus applied innovation projects. **Could you tell me more about the opportunities in this area at Haas? Also, do I need to show interest in my resume by highlighting any certificate/projects relevant to this area?**

Answer:

We would definitely like to see a demonstrated interest in the area, so it's great to call that out for us in your resume and work experience. Reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors for more on Haas offerings in this area – hsa@haas.berkeley.edu

Attendee:

Hello, **do any students get to work on real world cases during the course? Is that limited to any specific program?** Thanks for helping!

Answer:

Through experiential learning courses, you can get real hands-on experience on real cases. You need only to register for the courses.

Attendee:

Are there any key differences between the full time and part time programs? Is one more recommended than the other?

Answer:

Depends on what you are looking for. The values and culture of the programs are the same as is the MBA; however, your experience will vary depending on which program you choose. If you choose PT, you will obviously be working FT during the day, so that is an entirely different experience than if you were attending classes FT. I encourage you to reach out to students from each program to weigh the pros and cons and see which fits best with your lifestyle.

Samiul:

Hi! This is Sami here. I want to pursue a career in Investment Banking after my MBA. **How can I connect to the current Haas students pursuing similar career path?**

Answer:

Please email hsa@haas.berkeley.edu and they can connect you directly.

Attendee: Hello! **Have you ever had a student enrolled in the MBA program with the Fulbright scholarship?** Someone told me that it is less frequent to be accepted by this scholarship if it is an MBA program. Thanks!

Answer: Yes! Not true.

Attendee: Thanks for taking the time to answer our questions! I attended a summer school briefly for a few courses in undergrad and transferred the credits to my undergrad school. The grades of the transfer credits are available on the transcript of my undergrad transcript. **Should I include this summer school in the application and submit another transcript specifically for this summer school?** Thanks!

Answer: Hi, if the university where you earned your degree was domestic, official transcripts from transferred credits may not be required if the grades from prior universities are included in your current transcript.

Arindam: **What kind of leadership roles do you look for incoming students? Should it be something done in a supervisory position?**

Answer: We look for all kinds of leadership - both formal and informal. We know you may not yet have had a large leadership role before an MBA, so make sure you tell us about all the other ways you are leading.

Aaron: Hi, **are students allowed to do contract consulting if accepted into the program?**

Answer: They are!

Caissa: **In the online application, when I look for my college in the institution name list the only option there is the same university but from another town, can I choose that option or what can I do?**

Answer: Hello Caissa, you can select the institution and it should allow you to edit the city in the application.

Attendee: Hey there! **How does Berkeley see candidates who have experience in their family's business? Also, whom do you recommend as recommenders for them?**

Answer: We see many candidates with this background! For recommenders, often a client is the best person to write a letter, since we don't want to see one from a family member.

Michael: Hi! **May I know more about academic and career resources in Haas that can help further a career in venture capital?** Any direction on where to look would help a lot.

Answer: Look into our Career Management Group and our Finance area of emphasis. I'd also reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu and ask curriculum specific questions.

Attendee: Apologies for asking again about GMAT vs. GRE. **Your website states that the GMAT is preferred but here you are saying there is no preference. Which do we follow and why?**

Answer: We do not have a preference. Since we have been taking the GRE for a number of years now, we are confident in the test's ability to test your preparedness for an MBA.

Nuhamin: **In reviewing the class profile, is it advised that the GMAT score is within the range online?**

Answer: That is just a guideline and the GMAT is just one data point in your application. We take people with a wide variety of test scores from year to year.

Nicole: Hello, I have another question. **My boyfriend will apply a Master in science in Berkeley. What should we do in order for Berkeley to take that into consideration?** Thanks.

Answer: You can include that in the optional essay.

Attendee: Do we have the option to submit both the GMAT and the GRE in our applications?

Answer: You are able to submit both if you'd like.

Cindi: Hi all - thank you for taking your time to answer our questions. I have a questions re: recommendation letter. On the website, it says "We require two letters of recommendation and prefer that at least one come from a current employer." However, **I am not planning to ask my current employer (e.g. my current supervisor) to write my recommendation letter, is it okay? What would be the impact? And, should I provide my reasoning in the optional essay?**

Answer: That's totally okay! Just tell us why when we ask if you don't have a letter from your current supervisor. Provide reasoning in the supplemental info section.

Jialei: Is there a preference of recommenders (professional vs. academic?)

Answer: We prefer professional letters.

Attendee: Can you please help me understand how the admissions advisors support the admissions process? Do they review applications, schedule interviews etc.

Answer: No, they will not review applications or schedule interviews. We are only here to answer any questions you may have about applying to Haas and if you have questions about the application, we can answer those as well. We are not able to coach someone through the process as we might be the ones reviewing the files and it would be a conflict of interest. Hope that helps.

Attendee: For the MBA/MPH dual degree program, will we still have the option to explore other aspects of the MBA outside of the healthcare aspect (finance, accounting, real estate, etc.)?

Answer: Absolutely! We do not track you.

Kunal:

Hello! I took both the GRE and the GMAT and scored better on the GRE.

Would you prefer I submit all of my scores from both exams as part of my application or just best score received?

Answer:

I encourage you to submit your best score. We don't have a preference between the GMAT or GRE, and we look at the highest score, so that's what you should submit.

Jenny:

I come from a nonprofits/philanthropy sector and have a more qualitative, social science/interdisciplinary degree. I don't have a lot of quant experience/background – **will the MBA be huge on classes with math and if there is any requirement/or rec's on math prior to the MBA?** Off topic, as an undergrad **I've heard graduate programs tend to look away from Berkeley undergrads (I graduated from Berkeley for my BA), is that true?** I heard it's more of a diversification of the class itself.

Answer:

1. That's totally false that we look away from Berkeley undergrads. Each year we have tons of double bears in our full-time MBA program. Being a Berkeley undergrad won't be a plus or a minus to your application. 2. We'll want to see that you have quant proficiency either in your sub score on the GMAT or GRE and/or coursework.

Attendee:

Hi, I am 27 years old transitioning out of the military with a 650 GMAT Score.

What should I include in my package to increase my chance on getting accepted for the MBA Program?

Answer:

Hi there! Please feel free to reach out to our veterans club here on campus. They can provide you with so many resources to help you put together your strongest application.

Arindam:

Do your recruiting companies hire international students? Do these companies help international students get VISA (H1B) post-graduation if the student wants to pursue a career in finance in U.S., post-graduation?

Answer:

Yes, depends on the companies though. There are companies that will sponsor international students, so you will likely work with our Career Management Group to recruit with those companies if you're interested in staying in the US post-MBA.

Novelle:

I am looking to apply as an international student for 2021 but the current political circumstances, specifically the immigration policies, are of high concern for the future. **I was wondering what kind of support Berkeley offers to any foreign students who might find themselves in sensitive situations?**

Answer:

Of course. We don't take into account visa status at all at the time of application. I'd look into our International Students page to see how we support our international students:
<http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/MBA/studentlife/international-students.html>

Marin:

I'm currently studying law in the United Kingdom. I'm very excited about this degree and I have some questions: **is this degree focused for international students meaning and hence forth international application?**

Answer:

About 40% of our students each year are international students. You graduate with a degree in general management that can be applied all around the world.

Yicwu:

I am currently working as a tech consultant and aim to stay in the technology industry after my MBA, **are there electives that are technical such as intro to Data Analytics (e.g. programming in Python); product management; and other similar electives?**

Answer:

Yes! You can also take 6 units of electives outside of Haas in other graduate program in Cal in these areas.

Durmus:

What is the importance of the GMAT exam during the admissions process, Is there any minimum score required or do you allow waiver for GMAT?

Answer:

Hello Durmus, we require either the GMAT or GRE. We have a holistic review process for when it comes to reviewing applications. We review each applicant's professional experience, academic aptitude, GMAT or GRE examination results, TOEFL or IELTS examination results (if applicable), and letters of recommendation. We look at your test scores in conjunction with your undergraduate record to evaluate your academic performance. Ultimately we want to make sure you can succeed academically in our program.

Jae: **Are there any advantage for a candidate who get sponsorship?**

Answer: We do not give preference or an advantage for sponsorships.

Attendee: **If one has attended grad school, would the grad school performance be more important?** Given that grad school was more recent.

Answer: We will evaluate the entire application and if you have a graduate degree, we will definitely take that into account as well (and how you performed there). We do not have a requirement for a grad degree, so there will not be preference given but it is definitely a way to show more recent coursework and how someone performed.

Attendee: Hi - thanks for hosting this! **Can you tell me a bit about your impact investing student groups/courses/programs?**

Answer: I'd reach out the Haas Student Ambassadors at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu to learn more about this!

Anirban: **I understand this may be hard to say, but approximately when will campus visits resume in the fall?** Thank you!

Answer: We are aiming for the first week in September. Check back in late August online for sign-ups!

Marin: **What is the admission criteria for this degree? Is work experience required and if yes how much? Is it required in order to apply to possess a master already?** If yes would and English LPC (legal practice program satisfy the criteria?)

Answer: Dear Marin, for full details about applying, please visit <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/application>. Although work experience is not a formal requirement, many of our students have an average of 5 years of professional work experience since the completion of their bachelor's degree.

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Jay:

Hi, I'm interested in visiting the Berkeley campus in the next, but don't see any scheduled campus MBA events. **I plan to do a self-guided tour, but would like to know if the campus buildings are open for visitation.** Additionally, what are the drop-in advising sessions like? Would it be something useful to learn more about Haas?

Answer:

Hi! Our visitation program will pick up right after labor day, so please check the website around then to see how you can sign up.

Gabriella:

Hello, as a "non-traditional" applicant I do not have many undergrad quantitative courses on my transcript. Though my current role can demonstrate that I have those skills, **I am wondering if there would be an advantage to taking the GMAT vs GRE to further solidify that part of my application.**

Answer:

Hi Gabriella! The GMAT or GRE is a requirement of the application.

Guido:

Hi! **Does the school offer any opportunities in terms of social clubs and job opportunities for international partners?** Thank you!

Answer:

Yes! We have both a partners club and international student representatives who support international students and their partners.
<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/mba-international-ambassadors>

Attendee:

Would it be more favorable to have 2 years of full-time work experience with 1 company or have 2 years of full-time work experience made up from several different companies? Will we have the option to explain this particular scenario if we had to switch jobs because of the company's budgetary reasons and issues with harassment in the workplace?

Answer:

Hello, average years of post-university work experience is 5 years. More important than quantity, 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

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Attendee: Regarding the specific companies (Bain, Genentech, etc.) that Haas students generally land at after graduation, **where do people usually intern if they're interested in entrepreneurship?**

Answer: Good question! Lots of different places. It depends if you want to start working on your own company during the summer between first and second year, or if you want to work at perhaps an early-stage start-up in the Bay Area. No matter what, we'll have the resources to support you!

Arindam: **Is there an upper limit for the number of work experience? Does having more than 5-6 years of work experience count negatively while evaluating a student's profile?**

Answer: Not at all! We are looking for leadership and demonstrated impact, regardless of the number of years of experience.

Kwame: **Is it possible to apply to both the part time and full time programs at the same time and decide after getting in and comparing financial aid, etc.?**

Answer: No, you will have to pick one program. We don't allow folks to submit applications to both.

Attendee: Hi! I have just given my GMAT exam and scored a 580. I have been working since the past 2 years full time in Mumbai, India in the Finance sector. **I am looking for advice as to whether I should apply with this score or give the GMAT again?**

Answer: Please refer to our average GMAT scores to inform your decision.

Priscilla: **Does each Haas class have cohorts and/or smaller study groups? How would you describe the interaction between first year and second year students?**

Answer: During your first year, you are grouped into both a cohort (75 students) and a study group (5 students), so there is a lot of academic support!

Omer: Hi. I couldn't reach total tuition for MBA program. Could you tell me total tuition for it?

Answer: Check out our tuition and financial aid website:
<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/costs-and-financial-aid>

Vyacheslav: I have two options for my recommenders. **First option is two peers from my current employer. Second is one peer from my current job and former supervisor from 2015. What option is the most suitable in your opinion?**

Answer: We would prefer that you not use a peer.

Anmol: Hi there! **I've non-traditional work ex of 3 years, running a venture and working with a corporate organization. Would it lean my application on a brighter side?**

Answer: Hi Anmol – Your application is reviewed holistically with numerous aspects taken into consideration. We do not prefer one industry background to another. Best of luck on your application!

Yeaseul: **In GRE test, is the score for Writing section also important as much as that of Verbal/Quant?** It seems like everybody talks only about Verbal and Quant.

Answer: We will look at the test in its entirety.

Aaron: Hi, **I have done some consulting work and intend to use a client as reference. Is this advised?**

Answer: That would be fine.

Rizalyn: **How does Berkeley distinguish its MBA program from others?**

Answer: Our awesome Bay Area location, defining values, and our small 300-person class size, as well as the great broader UC Berkeley community and resources. Go Bears!!

Jay: **Would it be beneficial in any way to submit applications early, such as get reviewed earlier and hearing back sooner from admissions?**

Answer: We do not grant early decisions. Everyone hears back at the same time on notification day for each respective round.

Rafael: Hello, **am I eligible to apply to take the weekend MBA while planning to work in Canada? I am not an US citizen, would I require a special visa?**

Answer: Please out the Evening and Weekend program about this specific question.

Arindam: **Do you accept Chartered Accountant education and training valid for your program?**

Answer: Unfortunately, we do not.

Matthew: Thanks for answering my previous questions! This is a bit specific: I was reading about the Buckley Amendment, and noticed the checkbox for "You may waive your right of access to this specific report" for the recommender page. Ethically, **I don't want to see my recommender's recommendation, but will waiving this right affect me for anything else? Will it disallow me from seeing information about my application after the admission process?**

Answer: Dear Matthew, waiving your right only applies to the recommendation. After submitting your application, we can only provide you with the application that you submitted. No other information is provided.

Attendee: Hello! **Is there an average Quant score on the GMAT for accepted students?** I know the percentile score on Quant has gone up recently, was wondering what you consider as "good enough" to be assured the student will do fine with quant requirements at Haas.

Answer: We accept a wide variety of scores and this is just one data point in your application.

Sanya: Is it possible to work on an H1-B visa along with full time MBA? If yes, would it affect the scholarships Haas offers?

Answer: Hello Sanya, visa status does not affect the review of your application. Feel free to connect with the Berkeley International Office for more details about visas - <https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/contact-us>, and our <http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/finaid/index.html>

Attendee: Hi, my university education is from Pakistan's top business university where the medium of instruction is English. Moreover, I work in McKinsey where command on English language is critical. **Given this background, do I still have to give TOEFL to demonstrate English Language proficiency?**

Answer: If English isn't the official language of the country in which you got your degree, then you need to take the TOEFL or IELTS.

Adrisha: Hi there, **is there any guideline on who would be a good candidate for round1/early application or in what conditions should one apply in round1/early application. Are there any pros and cons?**

Answer: We want you to apply in the round where you can submit your best application. We admit in all rounds!

Arif: I'm a middle school teacher applying for Fall 2019. **Would it make sense to have a parent of one of my students be a recommender?**

Answer: I would recommend looking to your manager, employer, principal, or other colleagues who have worked closely with you.

Attendee: If you have only worked at one company for 2 years since graduation, **do I submit recommendation letters from multiple people in one company since professional letters are recommended?**

Answer: You can do that!

Aaron:

I did not do well in school but over 6 years of lab experience have developed my skills considerably. **How would I be viewed by admissions?**

Answer:

We review applications holistically. Work experience is reviewed with regard to the quality of your work experience, not the number of years. That said, we are looking for progression, impact, what have you learned, how have you contributed, and what will you be able to share with your future classmates? Those are questions that we are asking ourselves as we review your work experience. Hope that helps!

Attendee:

If I moved to different cities and changed jobs (even doing a career change) within the past two years, would that reflect terribly on my application?

Answer:

Not at all, if you can tell us how it has contributed to journey to wanting/needing an MBA.

Gabriella:

Hello, **I am wondering if any part of the program will change with a newly appointed dean.**

Answer:

We are not going to change the program but only continue to enhance our program and offerings. Thanks!

Attendee:

Hi! **How do you view an entrepreneur looking to get back into corporate after the MBA?** I know that it is usually the other way around.

Answer:

This definitely happens too! That would make sense if you see the corporate world as more meaningful and rewarding to you.

Jorge:

Hi! **Are there any events on Mexico?**

Answer:

Yes, you can find more information here.
<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/upcoming-events>

Jing:

Hi, ideally I would prefer to keep my current employer in the dark and use previous bosses as recommenders. However, I was on a management associate program at my previous employer, so was rotating around every 3-6 months. **Do we prefer a recommendation from current employer? Do we have any minimum time span required for recommendations? What about summer internship, is it too short?**

Answer:

No minimum time span is required for recommenders. It's really up to you based on your relationships with these managers.

Jravellana:

Can you share some common pitfalls to avoid in crafting essays, or other parts of the application process?

Answer:

Be yourself! Authenticity in your application makes you stand out and it's the best way for us to get to know you.

Mithila:

Currently I am working as Software Engineer and want to do MBA in finance. **Will that imply towards diverging career while applying for MBA?**

Answer:

Just be clear with us on why you want the career switch and how Haas and your past experiences can help you get there.

Rafael:

I am working for a family business and my boss is a family member. **Who would you recommend for a reference letter?**

Answer:

A client is preferred, as we do not want to see letters from family members.

Supriya:

Hello! **Does a Master's degree from United Kingdom (official teaching language was English) grant me a TOEFL waiver?**

Answer:

Yes, if you have a degree from a country where English is the official language, your TOEFL/IELTS can be waived.

Ranulfo:

Can you tell me more about the VC club at Berkeley?

Answer:

Reach out to our Haas student ambassadors for more on this!
hsa@haas.berkeley.edu

Laura:

Is there more information about the Cleantech program than what is available online? What would be the best way to find out more (campus visit)?

Answer:

Reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors and they can give you the student perspective on our Cleantech offerings! Campus visit sign-ups will be available in late August.

Attendee:

If we get rejected or waitlisted this year, is there any process by which we could get feedback on our application if we choose to re-apply next year?

Answer:

We do not provide feedback meetings, but we encourage you to self-reflect on your application.

Sathvika:

Is there a possibility to update documents after the application is sent?

Answer:

Hello Sathvika, we do not allow for updated documents, unless your application is flagged incomplete.

Aaron:

What do you like to see in applicants that are coming from life sciences?

Answer:

Hi Aaron we are getting to questions as best we can! Thanks for your patience. We are looking for leadership and demonstrated impact in your field as well as passion for what you want to pursue post MBA.

Caissa:

I'm having problem understanding what to choose between waiving or not my right of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 at the "Add Recommender" section. What do you recommend us to do?

Answer:

Dear Caissa, in this section we are giving the applicant the opportunity to waive or not waive their right to see their recommenders letter. If you choose to waive your right, you cannot request to review their submitted recommendation.

BerkeleyHaas

Ade: Hi - **I would like to know more about the entrepreneurship offerings, (sky deck, garage, etc.), what would be the best way to approach that?** I have a project I am working on and would like to discuss it with someone in that space from an applicant point of view.

Answer: I would reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors to get their perspective - hsa@haas.berkeley.edu. Also if you haven't already, check out Launch! <https://launch.berkeley.edu/>

Arijeet: **What are the scholarship opportunities available? Are there any criteria for them?**

Answer: You can learn more about scholarships here. <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/costs-and-financial-aid>

Attendee: **Do you know if there will be any events in Houston coming up for us to connect and chat with alumni?**

Answer: We will be in Houston for a multi school event soon! More information is here: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/upcoming-events>

Wanyi: Thanks you for hosting! **If you were to describe the culture at Haas in three words/phrases, what would they be?**

Answer: Collaborative, inclusive and supportive!

Anmol: **Academic or professional recommendation, which one is preferred?**

Answer: Professional!

Srikanth: **Any insight on how much of essay #2 applicants should devote to describing how Haas will help them in reaching their career goals?**

Answer: We don't want you to waste space listing off Haas courses and clubs, etc. The "why Haas" part of your application will often come out in your interview!

Attendee: **Currently working as software Engineer, will that imply diverging career while applying for MBA?**

Answer: Some people seek out an MBA for a switch in careers, so don't worry about what your current job might imply about your career goals. We will review your career goals essay thoroughly to understand why you seek an MBA and what you would like to do with your career.

Sathvika: I have been working closely with my manager from the past 1.5 years who has recently left the firm and the professional interaction that I have with my current supervisor is very minimal. **Is it fine to provide a recommendation from my previous manager who is no longer with the firm?**

Answer: Yes!

Arindam: **Do you rank employer firms while evaluating a student's profile?**

Answer: Not at all.

Arif: Thank you for all of this great information! **Do you get many applicants coming from an education background? If so, what industries do they typically go into after their MBA?**

Answer: We get a wide range of applicants from different industries. Where they go is hard to say because everyone has a different purpose for getting their MBA. Some stay in education, some go into some other industry entirely. Our general stats on where people go are on our website, so you can review them there. You can also reach out and connect with current students who may have come from education backgrounds and stayed or switched by emailing our ambassadors at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu.

Arijeet: I am from India and I have completed my graduation where the medium was English. **Do I need to take TOEFL and submit its scores?**

Answer: Yes, all applicants who completed their undergraduate degree in India will need to submit either a TOEFL or IELTS exam score.

BerkeleyHaas

Attendee: Thank for taking the time to answer our questions! **If I have taken GMAT more than once, when I self-report my GMAT score in the application, do I report all the available scores on the score report or just report the highest score?** Thanks!

Answer: Dear Attendee, the decisions is up to you. We only go off self-reported scores for the initial review, so we will only review what you provide.

Anmol: **Which candidate would be more suited here, one with entrepreneurial background or professional?**

Answer: Both candidates are suitable.

Srikanth: Thank you for getting to my last question! Another question: **aside from the 4 core values, what would you say makes Haas unique from other top MBA programs?**

Answer: Our Bay Area location, our small 300-person class size, and the resources of the UC Berkeley community in general.

Attendee: I am seeking an MBA program to enhance and expand what I offer through consulting. **My background is in life sciences. Do you think that Haas is right for me?**

Answer: It could be! Feel free to reach out to the Haas Student Ambassadors at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu to chat about life sciences to consulting.

Ernest: Hi Everyone! This is absolutely amazing. Thank you to everyone for taking the time to allow us to ask questions! **Is there any way we can get a transcript after this event?**

Answer: Yes, we will be emailing it out.

Ranulfo: Does everyone get an interview during the application process? If we get an interview, should we take that as a sign that we will likely get admission?

Answer: Not all applicants will be invited to interview. It only indicates that we are quite interested in your application. Please do not assume admission from an interview request.

Durmus: Hello again, I am currently working at Turkish Treasury and I have a strong finance background. **Will you expect me to follow finance path after MBA. How will you react when I express my goals after MBA are not related with finance sector?**

Answer: That's ok! We often see people who want an MBA to facilitate a career switch. Just make it clear to us why you want to do that and what in your background and experience up to this point will support it.

Jialei: **How strongly does Berkeley value campus visits?** I have spoken with a few people in my network regarding campus life, but will likely not be able to make it to Berkeley prior to sending in my application but would still like to show that I am a candidate who is very interested in the program.

Answer: It will help you assess whether Haas is a good fit for you but will not impact your application in any way.

Caissa: I want to pay the application fee online by credit card, **I'm still missing some information in my online application but I wish to pay before I finish it, is that possible? Where can I find the webpage to pay?**

Answer: You must submit the application before you can pay the fee.

Attendee: **How many applicants from life sciences are accepted to Haas MBA?**

Answer: We do not have any quotas for certain industries. The number of people in each industry changes from year to year.

BerkeleyHaas

Tiffany:

Are there any Haas opportunities or courses that allow candidates to collaborate with different departments at Berkeley? (Such as the engineering or computer science department)?

Answer:

Yes! Many of our applied innovation courses group you into teams with graduate students from outside of Haas. You can also take up to 6 units in other programs at UC Berkeley.

Attendee:

Hi! Thank you guys for trying so hard to answer our questions! Regarding the Reference Letter - I'm looking at taking an MBA to fuel my career change. **Would it be okay to ask my former supervisor to write the letter even if he is practicing the field I'm leaving?** I also have a mentor working in my new target field. I can't ask my current supervisor, because I work in my family's business. Thank you in advance!

Answer:

Yes that's fine. There is space in the application for you to explain to us why you chose the recommenders you did.

Attendee:

Hi, **what % of Asian international students who were seeking employment in the USA landed jobs in the USA in the latest batch?**

Answer:

This varies from year to year. Reach out to our international student reps. to ask them about their experiences seeking employment in the US.
<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/mba-international-ambassadors>

Lauren:

I've seen a few questions so far about career changers, and I'm in that boat myself— **I'm wondering, do you get many public school teachers applying to Haas?** Thank you!

Answer:

We do get a lot of people from the education industry applying to Haas!

Arindam:

Hi! Previously mentioned, **Haas doesn't accept Chartered Accountant education valid for its MBA program, then how does a student make up for that?** I do have a graduate degree and another professional qualification- The Company Secretary besides the Chartered Accountant education. I do have a decent experience in finance for more than 7 years. So will that help to make up?

Answer:

Yes! Indeed all of that will be taken into consideration.

Jenny:

Thanks for answering all my questions! Regarding the MPH/MBA joint degree - how rigorous would that be academically? Professionally? And student life?

And if applied, can you be rejected from one, and accepted to the other?

Can one do a joint after being accepted into the MBA? I've been dabbling with the idea but more certain about the MBA. For tuition, will it be the same or one will pay for both programs? Not sure how that works financially.

Answer:

Hello Jenny, if you apply to our dual degree program you must be accepted by both. We also recommended connect with our Haas Student Ambassadors at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu for student insight.

Attendee:

I've been with a company for almost 3 years now part-time but have gotten to know supervisors quite well, will that be able to be considered as part of the work experience?

Answer:

We consider part-time work experience too. Most incoming students have between 3-7 years of full-time work experience post-graduation.

Christine:

Can you still tour the campus on a weekend? Or is that limited to weekdays?

Answer:

Campus Visitation is open Mon-Friday officially starting mid-September.

Attendee:

Hi, I am seeking an MBA program that will help me supplement my scientific consulting work. I am hoping to develop my financial and market analysis capabilities. **What would Haas like to see from an applicant with a strict science background?**

Answer:

Help us understand why you need an MBA to reach your career goals.

Attendee:

Are there any current candidates with NFL or NBA experience as former athletes?

Answer:

Good question! Not that I know of, but we're open to a vast array of professional backgrounds, especially where impact and leadership have been shown.

BerkeleyHaas

Attendee: Hi there! **I have been awarded a Fulbright scholarship, but it covers only a portion of the program expenses. Can I still be considered for other scholarships at Berkeley?**

Answer: Yes we will!

Attendee: **Will we have the option to submit more than 2 letters of recommendation?** Or if not, will there be an option to provide additional contact information for other references?

Answer: Hi, only 2 letters of recommendation are allowed.

Ade: **Is it okay to present my project as part of my initial application? If so, do I have discretion to do present it in a concise manner (e.g. a link to a prototype etc.)?** Otherwise, what might be the best way to include it?

Answer: You can certainly provide a link.

Anirban: **What are your thoughts on requesting a recommendation from the supervisor of a volunteer program?**

Answer: Sure!

Attendee: Hi! Thank you again for helping us with our questions! Two questions re: International Applicants. 1) **I'm from the Philippines. If I get invited to an interview, will that have to be conducted on-campus?** Are there other interview venues or online options?
2) **Does Haas provide visa assistance for international applicants?**

Answer: 1. No - you can do online or locally with an alumni
2. Check out our international student website with info on how we support international students.

Min_Moderator: Thank you for joining us today, and we appreciate your patience. Feel free to keep in touch with any questions along the way. It's been a pleasure getting to know you throughout this process. Thank you!