



The Full-Time MBA Program Virtual Admissions Chat September 11, 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, and Talin Abrahamian. Please send us your questions!

Rushil:

Hi. **Does applying with a GRE score put me at a disadvantage?**

Answer:

Hi there! Absolutely not! We don't have preference between GMAT or GRE.

Arun:

In the first essay about memorable experience, is it necessary to mention how I'll contribute to Haas or is the story enough?

Answer:

No, it is not necessary to talk about Haas at all. We want to read your story and learn more about you.

Alexander:

Is financial assistance available for international students?

Answer:

Yes! International students are able to receive scholarships and financial aid.

Diana:

I work for a family business, the director who is my direct supervisor is also a family member. **Would it be better to get a letter of recommendation from her or from a different non-family member of the board of directors?**

Answer:

Hi Diana. Yes! We would prefer a letter that does not come from a family member.

Alexander: **What percent of graduates get into PE/VC and what resources are there to help them get there?**

Answer: We don't have percentages broken down, but we do have some limited information on the website about industries that graduates go into. That being said, I recommend you reach out to the student organizations directly and inquire more about available resources.

Kushagra: For the second essay on post MBA goals, **should we portion a part of the essay on why MBA at Haas or should it focus on the goals?**

Answer: It's not necessary to address "why Haas." Feel free to focus on your goals.

Shobhit: **Hi. I am a re-applicant, where do I specifically mention all the improvements I have made since last applying?**

Answer: There is a section in the application where we will ask you what's changed since your last application. Please include it there.

Victor: **Do we need to include the transcripts and universities in which we did an exchange program in the online application?**

Answer: Hi Victor! Yes, please provide transcripts for all courses you've taken in your exchange program. If anything is missing in your application, we will reach out to you for the missing documents.

Ashwin: **Hi! I am planning to apply for the Fall 2020. I want to know about all the things we are able to do during campus visits.**

Answer: Please see our campus visit website to learn all about what is included: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/visit>.

Doris: **How many years of experience do you typically see in management consultants when they enroll?**

Answer: It really varies. What is more important to us is the impact and leadership you've shown in your work.

Mathew:

How does the AdCom view the interaction between the resume and employment section of the application? Should the employment section repeat the bullets on our resume, include additional information not included on our resume or both?

Answer:

We look at both sections. You can repeat information for sure but we do ask additional questions in the employment section that you would not necessarily put on a resume (i.e. reason for leaving).

Shobhit:

Do re-applicants need to submit two letter of recommendations?

Answer:

You are welcome to submit two new letters of recommendation, or you can reuse the ones you submitted last year.

Alexander:

Can I apply without GRE or GMAT?

Answer:

Hi Alexander. A GRE or GMAT is required in order to apply.

Attendee:

Above essay 2 there are 2 drop downs for future industry and function. My goal is to remain in marketing, but my short term and long term industries are different. **Which would you recommend I use to answer the question (future industry or function)?**

Answer:

I recommend that you list your future goals in the drop down menu (short-term goals to be specific).

Victor:

If we have a scholarship, apart from the 4 explicitly stated on the online application, where do we put it?

Answer:

You can list it in an optional essay section if you think it's relevant to your application. A short bullet point note will suffice.

Alexander:

I noticed UC Berkeley is part of the MIINT network for impact investing. **Could you speak to what other impact investing offerings (courses/co-curriculars) are available?**

Answer:

The best way to learn more about this topic is to connect directly with a student who is pursuing impact investing. I recommend reaching out to the HSAs at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu and ask to be connected to a current student pursuing impact investing.

Connor: **Is there a confirmation when a letter of recommendation is submitted?** Or does only the recommender get notified of the successful submission?

Answer: Hi Connor, a confirmation email is only sent to your recommender. You may check the status of your letters of recommendation in the application portal. If a recommendation is missing, it will appear on your checklist.

Izem: Good day, **how do I maximize my chances of transferring from BCC to Haas knowing that the rate is as low as 5%?**

Answer: It's a holistic process, so we view the entire application before we make a decision. There really isn't one factor that can put you at a disadvantage or advantage over others.

Charles: Hi, I quit my job a couple of months back and am working on independent projects at the moment. **Can I use my previous supervisor instead of the required current supervisor for reference letter?**

Answer: Yes, absolutely!

Aishwarya: I have a doubt regarding the Center for Equity, Gender, and Leadership scholarship. I had submitted my interest through the application, and a few days back, **I received an email from the admissions team saying I have to fill out a supplemental essay. But, I'm not sure where to include that essay, as my scholarship page (EGAL) shows the status to be 'submitted.'**

Answer: Please contact financial aid office about this matter at finaid@haas.berkeley.edu.

Emily: **Do you know if most students find internships/jobs through career services and on-campus recruiting, or more through independent networking?**

Answer: It is really a mix depending on the companies. All of the big companies come to us, but career management is constantly building relationships with smaller companies and making sure our students can network to them as well.

Rushil: **Can we get a breakdown of international applicants by country?**

Answer: We don't provide that information, as it changes frequently every year.

Ashruth: Hello! I work for a pharmaceutical company on the east coast that has recently been in a hyper growth phase and while we are largely known in the pharmaceutical sector, we often times are not known to the general public. **Would it be worth it to use a line on my resume to briefly introduce the company or would it be better in the optional essay?**

Answer: Yes, you can. I recommend listing it on the resume rather than an optional essay. You can also include that info on the employment section if you'd like!

Srijan: I see that the curriculum at Haas is very flexible. **Do students actively participate in curriculum development and designing courses?**

Answer: Yes! You can even design your own classes as electives.

Gerardo: **Regarding part-time jobs during undergraduate studies, does that include high-school or just college?**

Answer: Just college!

Chen: **Would you recommend to always provide a response for the optional essay?**

Answer: Not at all, the optional essay is truly optional. Only use it if you think you have relevant information to tell us that is not evident elsewhere in your application.

David: **Is there a resource for connecting with current students/alumni in NYC?**

Answer: Reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu and let them know you'd like to connect with a current student from NY. They would be happy to help!

Soha: **Can one of the recommendation letters be from a university professor in my undergrad program?**

Answer: Hi! We prefer professional letters of recommendation where you've worked full-time and generally from your direct supervisor.

Tiffany: **When is the deadline for 2019 enrollment?**

Answer: Please consult our website for all of our [round deadlines](#).

David: **How defined is a normal short-term goal post MBA?** I have an idea of what type of work I would like to do in a target industry, but should I know a specific position or company?

Answer: You don't have to have an exact idea of what you want to do, but we do want you to have thought about an area of interest and what you think that will provide you with a rewarding career. Many people aren't totally sure what they want to do post MBA and that's just fine!

Margaret: In the interest of word count, **would it be okay to use acronyms in our essays?** For example, BREC (Berkeley Real Estate Club) and International Business Development (IBD) or do you advise not to?

Answer: Yes, feel free to do so.

Rushil: Being a startup founder, **can I get a recommendation from an advisor?** They are not a direct supervisor per se.

Answer: That is fine!

Piyush: **Do you provide feedback to candidates who were waitlisted & interviewed and want to reapply this year to improve their candidacy?**

Answer: Unfortunately, we do not. We encourage you to self-reflect on what's improved since your last application.

Chen: I'm a re-applicant from 3 years ago, **will you review my old application along with the new?**

Answer: We have the information in our archives, but every year with each new application you start off on a clean slate.

Mathew: If I took college level courses while in high school and had credits transfer to my undergraduate institution, **do I need to include that transcript and institution of study in the academic section of the application?**

Answer: Hi Matthew! If the college courses you took were quantitative, such as math or statistics, then we will need to see the course title, units taken, and grade received for the course. Otherwise, no transcript is needed!

Ashwin: **Is there any way to be a part of different clubs at Haas before applying?**

Answer: You have to wait until you matriculate to be a part of Haas clubs, but you're welcome to reach out to any club members to start connecting.

Diana: **I have a dual citizenship from the U.S. and Peru, will that impact my application? Should I mention it in my application?**

Answer: Citizenship does not impact your application, but you can feel free to mention it if you'd like.

Attendee: Essay #2 is a clearly a career/goals question, but **to what extent do you like to see applicants specifically include discussion of the things/opportunities at Haas that will relate to this career goal? Do we need to tell Haas about its own programs?**

Answer: You do not have to include anything related to Haas in that essay. So feel free to use up the word limits with more information about yourself and your goals!

Madina: **Could you please elaborate on "designing your own classes as electives?"**

Answer: Students can elect to create their own course, with permission from the student affairs office where they choose the guest speakers and have a faculty sponsor to help do the grading. These are generally used for niche topics that our regular electives don't teach.

Attendee: My professional experience is very non-traditional and could be considered a 'lesser' role in comparison to others that are applying to business school. My current role is a customer service representative. Although this isn't necessarily a demonstration of a leadership role, I have been able to build a set of skills that will help with my desired concentration (Technology). **Does your previous profession matter? How is your work experience viewed if you are choosing an MBA to completely change your career path?**

Answer: Work experience is definitely a top factor that we consider when looking at applications. Many people do want to change career paths but we hope to see growth in your work experience before you get your MBA.

Katrina:

Do you have statistics of admitted students who took the GRE?

Answer:

They should be published on our website soon. Check our class profile page for any updates: <https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/class-profile>.

Deepa:

Does independent practice and consulting count as work experience?

Answer:

Sure! Feel free to list anything that has shaped your work experience.

Shobhit:

Does a re-applicant need to answer all the required essay questions in addition to mentioning the improvements since the last application cycle?

Answer:

You are able to reuse essay #1 (6 word story), but essay #2 must be answered again since it's a new essay (similar but new). You are also able to answer the optional essay on improvements made since the last app.

Crystal:

Does Berkley admit on a rolling basis within the various admission deadline dates? (i.e. if I am applying for round 2, is it better for me to submit earlier rather than in January?)

Answer:

We do not. Everyone is notified on the same notification date, regardless of when you submit your application.

Attendee:

Is there any disadvantage to applying in the second round instead of the first round?

Answer:

It's up to you! We get most of our applications in round 2, but it's best to apply the soonest that you have the best app possible.

Sumedha:

Are there any format preferences for the Resume?

Answer:

Hopefully one page and a general organized format. Check out our [resume guide](#).

Diana:

Are interviews only in person or can they be online, if I live in a different country?

Answer:

It can be online, in-person with an alum in your home country, or on-campus. Whichever you prefer, if you're offered an invitation to interview!

Renato: Hi! For international students: **If I have a high quant score on the GMAT but a low verbal score, but at the same time a high TOEFL score, how will that be seen? Can you compensate both GMAT verbal and TOEFL scores in your evaluation? or is a high overall score on the GMAT necessary?**

Answer: It's a holistic process, so we'll really review all parts of the application in order to make our admissions decision.

Sean: **Is there an inherent advantage to meeting with admissions officers during the campus visit program offered by the student ambassadors?** I would think this could only help admissions officers get a more holistic view of the applicant.

Answer: We do not weigh this at all in the admissions process. Your visit will include a session with an admissions representative, so we encourage you to use that time to get your admissions related questions answered, but don't feel obligated to meet with us beyond that.

Will: **Do you consider eCommerce to be in the retail or high tech industry?**

Answer: Either one is fine with us. Whatever you feel most applies to you.

Bobby: I will be a reapplicant for entry in Fall 2019. I have kept the same manager and supervisor however. **Is it okay to use the same people for my letters of rec if they can highlight improvements in my candidacy?**

Answer: Yes, definitely!

Jenna: Hi Haas Admissions team - I will be submitting scores from the GRE with my application. **There is a "Total" field for both the score and percentile. Any recommendations on how to fill this out?** The percentile in particular isn't something that the GRE provides to test takers. Thank you!

Answer: Hi Jenna! Please leave the total section blank for GRE scores. It's not necessary since it is not provided in your score report.

Rushil: **Can I meet some alumni as well from my city? (New Delhi)**

Answer: Yes, feel free to look up alumni chapters heads through our website and you are free to contact them directly.

Sungmin: Hi! **Do you consider mandatory military service as a professional experience?** I did it when I was undergraduate.

Answer: Yes, we do. Feel free to list it in the section for undergraduate employment.

Marc: **Hi, is there any help provided by the school for MBA student's wife and child?**

Answer: Yes, we have both a partners club and a students with families club that provide support. Reach out to our Haas Student Ambassadors at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu to learn more.

Avani: **Is it possible to get a dual degree with the school of education?**

Answer: We don't have a formal dual degree program, but you can take up to 3 electives outside of Haas at Berkeley to apply towards your MBA.

Crystal: **I learned a lot of high level great opportunities such as launchpad and various classes around entrepreneurship (which is my interest). If I wanted to dive a little deeper and learn more, who should I talk to?**

Answer: Connect with our Haas Student Ambassadors (hsa@haas.berkeley.edu)! They'll connect you with students with your same interests.

Madina: **How do you view a 10 month long paid internship? Would it count towards work experience? (I worked 3-4 days per week)**

Answer: If it was post-grad work experience (even if it's part-time), you can list it in the employment section. Be sure to note that it was part-time work experience.

Attendee: I plan to apply in 2021. Before then, there's a good chance that my supervisors may change. **In that case, would you recommend I ask for letters of recommendation to be written well in advance of when I plan to apply?**

Answer: Up to you! Consider if your new supervisors might be good candidates to write your letters instead/ in addition to.

Jeffrey: **Are GMAT scores for the middle 25th to 75th percentile listed on the class profile portion of your website?**

Answer: Yes, please visit our [class profile page](#).

Attendee: Hello - I work as a development consultant for the public healthcare department in my country. **In the work experience section of the application, should I select healthcare as many previous industry or consulting?**

Answer: Either is fine with us - whatever you feel fits you most.

Suchawut: Hi everybody! **May I ask if a candidate take a GMAT 1-2 weeks after the deadline of round 1, can he send the updated score via email? Will it be considered for round 1 at all?** Thanks!

Answer: Hi Suchawut! All exams must be taken on or before the application deadline for the round in which you are applying. Any scores submitted afterwards will not be considered in your application, unless you request to have your application moved to the next round.

Sitos: **Are applicants with green card and work experience in the US considered part of the international pool or the US pool?**

Answer: Hi Sitos! Applications are divided up and read based on the country of undergraduate education.

Jem: **Are Haas students permitted to have academic internships or is that typically not seen at Haas?**

Answer: Hi Jem. Yes, it's been done before at Haas.

Shaylene: I feel that although I have great experiences and went to a top University, my GPA will not allow me to get into the program. **Is it common to have students who had lower than a 3.0 GPA?**

Answer: Our review process is truly holistic, so there is no one data point that will make or break your application. We will consider the rigor of your academic institution and you can also explain any extenuating circumstances surrounding your GPA in an optional essay.

Luke: **Do applicants ever write the essays as anything other than prose? Such as poetry? If so, how do you react to that?**

Answer: Sure! As long as you answer the question fully, that's what we need to judge the application fairly.

Aishwarya: **One of my LoRs come from a university professor, who was the head of a club that I worked for. He'll be discussing about my leadership skills, and nothing very academic. My other LoR comes from my current workplace mentor. Should these two be okay?** I'm addressing the reason as to why I chose these two, and why I wouldn't be able to get an LoR from my current supervisor in the concerned section. Do I get a negative marking or something?

Answer: Most candidates will have letters of recommendation from people outside of their undergraduate experience, but it's a holistic process when we review applications. Writing an optional essay about why you needed this person could be helpful.

Piyush: **What would be your advice to reapplicants who were waitlisted (with interview) until the summers last year? How can they show significant progress in such a short span of time?**

Answer: You will have additional work experience and we advise you look at your profile from last year to see where you can actually make improvements (sometimes it's in retaking the exams). We want you to be self-reflective about the process. Sometimes the window is quite short, so only minimal improvements can be made.

Attendee: **Is there a minimum cut-off score for GRE? Also, will you be seeing GRE score as an equivalent of GMAT (the comparing of score, I mean)?**

Answer: There is no minimum GRE scores required and we don't have a GRE or GMAT preference, either will do! We'll look at the percentiles of your exam scores.

Maksat: Hey guys! Thanks a ton for organizing the chat! **How are applicants from different regions reviewed?** Are applicants from (or around) the same region stacked together and reviewed against each other? Thanks!

Answer: Sure! We read applications based on country of undergraduate education. We don't have any country quotas.

Joseph: **Does Haas accept peer recommendations (separate from the 2 professional recommendations)?** And, if so, can you please advise on format and deadline for these?

Answer: Hi Joseph. We recommend sticking with the two professional letters of recommendation in your application.

Victor: **If we have two different scores for GMAT sent to Haas, would you look at both or only at the highest?**

Answer: We look at both, but will take the highest combined score.

Attendee: **If your career plans are for an industry that is not popular at Haas, e.g. entertainment/media, is it more challenging for career prospects or are students still able to find employment/internships they enjoy?**

Answer: We welcome very diverse interests at Haas and often see students interested in entertainment. Career management works one on one with you to help each student find a great internship.

Srijan: I am an entrepreneur with a services business. I have been running my firm full time for the last three and a half years. Before that I was working at a large MNC. **Would you prefer that one recommendation come in from my former supervisor or would you rather have both recommendations from clients of mine?** I've not had a current supervisor in a while.

Answer: Up to you! Whoever will be providing you the best letters should be writing them. That said, if you think a previous supervisor will add something different, then you may want to ask them.

Sailesh: **Is there a chance to target an additional degree e.g. an MS in Analytics or Computer Science, with an MBA at Haas?**

Answer: Hi Sailesh. Thanks for your question. Currently, the only dual degree programs we offer are the MPH/MBA and JD/MBA. Otherwise, you are welcome to take elective units outside of Haas during your second year.

BerkeleyHaas

Alli: Hi, I'm applying through the Consortium. **Do you have access to my entire application? Are candidates applying through the Consortium viewed differently than general applicants?**

Answer: We do have access to your whole file (except the rankings for schools). That said, we do not review Consortium candidates differently than the general applicant pool.

Attendee: **Do you come to India for tours?**

Answer: Unfortunately we are unable to visit India this year, but we have come in the past.

Sumedha: I understand applicants are automatically considered for scholarships. **What parts of the application are primarily used for this decision?**

Answer: All of the parts!

David: **When reviewing candidates, do you prefer applicants with stronger corporate affiliations or candidates with more startup experience?**

Answer: We strive to enroll a diverse class, so we encourage applicants from all industries.

Mehdi: About English proficiency test waiver. I completed my undergraduate in the States and worked for 3 years there. **Am i eligible for a waiver of the english proficiency requirement? If so, could you point me to what i would need to do for this?**

Answer: If your bachelor's was received in the US, you do not have to take the TOEFL. We will determine whether you are waived from TOEFL based on your undergraduate transcript in your application.

Zeinah: **Hello! I would love to learn more about the center for responsible business. Would you recommend reaching out to the HSA email or is there another group email specific to the center that I should reach out to instead? Thank you**

Answer: HSAs are your best bet! Email them at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu.

BerkeleyHaas

Attendee: **If you have had several jobs that are under 1 year in length and no clear promotions, but that is due to seeking different learning opportunities, is that something to explain in the optional essay?**

Answer: Yes, please do explain in the optional essay.

Jenny: For the second recommendation letter, **would it be ok to have another supervisor at the same company write one?** The only other option I have would be from someone who supervised me during a full-time internship (3 months) and not a full-time job.

Answer: Yes, that is perfectly fine.

Guyton: **Regarding "have you recently had significant interaction with a student or alum", I assume this only applies to Haas students/alums and not other Berkeley alumni, correct?**

Answer: Hi Guyton. Yes, that is correct!

Rahul: **Does the Energy/Cleantech career path only focus on renewable energy or does it cover all forms of Sustainable businesses?**

Answer: It definitely covers both!

Ravina: I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree as well as a Master of Arts degree from India. **Would one be weighted over the other? Does the field of study make a difference?**

Answer: Hi Ravina. No, we will consider all of your education and we welcome diverse fields of study.

Diana: **I volunteer for a large world organization and take managerial work, would that be appropriate to put in my resume**

Answer: Sure, if that is something that has shaped your experience, we would love to learn about it.

BerkeleyHaas

Alicia: I haven't had an opportunity to visit Haas as I'm currently working and living in Ghana. **But I'd like to know more about the Haas culture and how students feel on campus. Is there anyone in the Haas network that meets with prospective students either in Ghana or remotely?**

Answer: Hi Alicia! Great question. Please reach out to our Haas student ambassadors (hsa@haas.berkeley.edu). They may be able to connect you with a current student who can speak about our culture at Haas.

Ghazanfar: **How much does the GMAT scores matter for admissions? What score does one need to get in Haas?**

Answer: There is no one thing that will make or break your application, as our review truly is holistic. You can view our average GMAT scores and ranges online.

Attendee: **Does earlier application mean better enrollment opportunity?**

Answer: No, everyone is notified on the same date for their round, regardless of when you submit your application.

Chen: **Should I use the "Optional Information #2" to talk about improvements to my candidacy? Is there a word limit?**

Answer: If you are a reapplicant, then yes, you can use that section to talk about that. We don't have a word limit for that section but keep it concise.

Maksat: **Is the need-based scholarship available to those who get a moderate merit-based scholarship?**

Answer: Yes, it still is available.

Ryutaro: **Hi Haas Admission team - I oftentimes hear that it is important to apply at the latest by the second round. Is the enrollment figure on each round in the last couple of years available?**

Answer: Hi Ryutaro! Since it varies from year to year, we do not publish this information.

BerkeleyHaas

Sean: Hi, **what are the top three industries that Haas alums work in (generally)? I didnt see any information on this on the website?** Thanks

Answer: Hi Sean. Thanks for your question. Please check out our employment report on our website. It shows the industries our recent graduates are in.
<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/mba.haas.berkeley.edu/careers/employment-report>

Victor: **Shall we include full-time pre-graduation jobs on the online application or only on the CV?**

Answer: On the application! We have a section that asks about work experience pre-graduation.

Cagla: **For the 6-word essay, are you expecting a more personal story that shaped who we are today or a mix of that with professional accomplishments?**

Answer: You can really do either, but I find that it's nice to hear a part of your story nowhere else in your application.

Diana: **There is a gap space in my resume due to leaving a work position to start my own business, should that gap in work be explained in the optional essay?**

Answer: Yes, please explain it in the optional essay section of the application where we ask about any employment gaps.

Attendee: **Can you provide a sense of what percentage of applications you receive from "non traditional" fields (i.e., candidates without a finance or consulting background)?**

Answer: We get a wide variety of industries and fields. We do not have a breakdown at this point, but we will publish some information shortly on our website about our class profile. Check back soon!

Attendee: **For the question asking if we have recently had significant interaction with a current student or alum? - Should we list all or just one?**

Answer: You can list all!

Yuchen: Good morning! I am an active duty service member. **I am interested in Veteran application process and yellow ribbon program.** Thank you!

Answer: Hi Yuchen. Please reach out to our [veterans club](#) on campus (information is listed on their direct site). They can help you through the application process and talk to you about the yellow ribbon program.

Attendee: **Can we submit more than 2 LoRs?**

Answer: Currently, we only accept 2 letters of recommendation. If you're waitlisted, then you will have the opportunity to submit more.

Attendee: **Roughly how many who get interviews get accepted?**

Answer: It changes every year so we don't publish this information since it wouldn't be statistically significant over time.

Line: **How do you weigh undergrad GPA vs grad GPA?** This is for applicants that have graduate degrees. Do you disregard the graduate GPA?

Answer: We will consider all GPAs from both your undergraduate and graduate work.

Attendee: **To answer the question - number of times taken the GMAT, do you want us to include the tests we have cancelled or can we state the number of times we have accepted scores?**

Answer: Yes, you can put the number of times you have accepted scores.

Caissa: **I took the IELTS exam, but in order to send you my scores I want to know if you are subscribed in the IELTS Platform.**

Answer: Yes, we are and we accept IELTS score reports by mail.

Isabella: Hello! I am a U.S. citizen working in Guatemala and did my undergrad in the U.S. I will be taking my GRE in Guatemala. **Do I still have to take the TOEFL since I am not taking the GRE in the U.S.?**

Answer: If your undergrad is from a US institution, you do not need the TOEFL.

Matthew: **When will registration for the diversity symposium open up?**

Answer: It is open now! You can register here:
<https://mba.haas.berkeley.edu/admissions/event-detail-page-2018?id=f2dc2044-96c4-44f2-980c-1f77c1b0a32b>

Piyush: **For candidates waitlisted until the summer, do you suggest to reapply in Round 1 next year (where there is no significant change in the application)? Or wait until Round 2?**

Answer: Up to you! There really isn't much that can be done between Rounds 1 and 2 but if you feel that you can make a significant improvement, then you can apply in Round 2.

Sumedha: **Are scholarship decisions given at the same time as admission decisions?**

Answer: Yes, unless it's a scholarship from a donor, then you have to apply (it's noted on the application which are donor scholarships and there are only a few). For need-based scholarships, you will have to apply. Merit-based ones - you don't need to apply.

Jakob: Thanks for organizing. **Might I ask how Haas views applicants who've paused in their career to either pursue a personal interest (eg. learning a language), or stopped for a few months to reflect on what they want for their next steps? What about if before that period they demonstrated impact, leadership, and growth?** Thanks!

Answer: It's good if you have a gap in your resume to tell us in the optional essay why you've had that gap and what you've been up to in terms of personal or professional growth during that time.

Victor: **After sending you the TOEFL scores, how do we make sure that you received them?** The GMAT ones appear as "verified."

Answer: Hi Victor. We will go by your self-reported scores during the initial review process and verify them at a later date. If we find anything missing in your application, we will reach out to you for the missing material.

Ashwin: I am not sure how strong my profile is currently. **Is there any way to evaluate my profile besides the current class profile?**

Answer: Hi Ashwin. That's not something that the admissions office provides, but some people choose to hire consultants.

Renato: **Where can I find the "registration number" asked when registering my GMAT score?**

Answer: GMAT code: N2VPT47. It's also in the FAQ section of our website if you need to reference it in the future.

Attendee: **Is there anyone with a military background on the admissions committee or do you work with anyone from the veterans club to assist in checking out veterans resumes? Curious about how much I should explain certain aspects of my job on the resume?**

Answer: We read by industry, so we do have members of the committee who are calibrated to military work experience. I would reach out to the veterans club to see if they can review your resume/essays. They do that for our veteran/active duty applicants!

Joseph: **For calculating the 2-year GPA, should only coursework at the degree-conferring institution be included or should courses taken at other institutions be included as well?** I took several summer courses at a university in my home state, but did not transfer the credits to my undergraduate institution.

Answer: The GPA is going to be from your bachelor's granting institution. If you did not include or transfer courses toward your BA/BS, then you shouldn't include them and calculate a new score. You are able to submit those transcripts and you should include a short explanation so the committee is aware that these grades were not included in your graduating institution's final GPA.

Maksat: **I went to college in Britain, and according to open sources British colleges/universities have quite high acceptance rate (50-60%). How do you look at this?** Clearly, acceptance rate of 50% at top British colleges is funny, but that's how it looks. I went to a top British college (Top50 Globally per rankings), but how do I highlight that?

Answer: We honestly don't look at the acceptance rates of colleges. We want to see how well you did at whichever college you went to.

Renato **Should a full-time work experience done while finishing my last semester of college considered in my resume?**

Answer: If it was full-time, at least 40 hours per week, then it could be considered.

Avani: **You have a large percentage of international enrollments!** Do most of them get placed within the US or do majority tend go back to their home countries?

Answer: That answer really changes by year and industry interest!

Deepa: I'm a lawyer from India and am interested in pursuing an MBA to change my career path. **Would my academic and work background affect my application?**

Answer: We often see career switchers apply for MBAs, so that's just fine.

Federico: Hi Admissions team, my full-time work experience starts before I formally graduated. I worked as soon as I finished my undergrad courses but did not formally receive my title until a couple of months afterwards for administrative reasons. **Should I clarify this in the additional information section?**

Answer: Hi Federico. We will review all of your work experience, but your years of work experience will be calculated from the date of your graduation stated on your certificate. If you feel you need to explain this further, you're welcome to use the supplemental information section.

Yuya: **Hi, admissions. What kind of opportunities do you have to exchange with other department or masters students?**

Answer: You can take up to 3 elective courses at other UC Berkeley schools to apply toward your full-time MBA.

Sitos: **What are some good ways to show progression at a company that doesn't have a well defined promotion scheme?** Are salary raises unaccompanied by title changes a valid way to showcase progress?

Answer: We will consider salary and title when looking for progression. If you want to explain your company's unique promotion structure, please tell us in the optional essay.

Pajouablai: I'm applying through the Consortium, and predicting my GRE scores won't be as high as Haas' average profile. **Is there any suggestion on what I can do to make my application stronger that outshines my GRE score?** I also only have an average GPA.

Answer: It's a holistic application reading process, and you can really stand out in other ways: the LOR's, essays, and community impact.

Attendee: **Can a candidate who does not get in the 1st round, apply in the 2nd or 3rd round for the same year ?**

Answer: Unfortunately, no. But we would encourage you to apply the following year.

Attendee: **Would it be beneficial to send multiple GMAT scores? Would it demonstrate tenacity and improvement?**

Answer: The decision is up to you! Some people want to show that improvement and tenacity but others just want to show the highest score. We'll focus on your highest score during the review process.

Sumedha: **I see several attendees have mentioned wait listing. How does that work?**

Answer: You can either get admitted, denied, or waitlisted after we decide on your application. Wait listed candidates can stay on the waitlist for a while or be taken off quickly, depending on the year.

Attendee: **Does AdCom consider a candidate's number of interactions with Haas alumni/students/webinars or campus visits in the decision process?**

Answer: Not at all!

Attendee: **Can international students apply through the consortium?**

Answer: Hello! Unfortunately, to be eligible for Consortium, you must be either a US citizen or US permanent resident.

Suchawut: Hi! **On community contribution/volunteer works, can I include the non-work activities that I lead/organize at my company? What's about the activities done during college (3-4 years ago) - will they still be considered?** Thanks.

Answer: Yes and yes!

Attendee: **I drive a few social initiatives as part of my business' CSR objectives - are these viewed as professional deliverables or as contributions outside of work?** I ask because I am not affiliated with any external social welfare organizations outside of the ones I work with in the ambit of my business.

Answer: We would consider these activities within your work experience, but will note it as part of your extra curricular involvement since it's outside of your day to day role.

Attendee: **If I have had multiple unrelated roles at the same organization, how should I describe my roles and achievements in the employment section?** Can I enter the departments as separate entries to more easily answer the subsequent questions?

Answer: You should put down your latest role and we ask what your starting title was. You can summarize in the explanation section your roles/achievements. The resume should show the listings which show your progression.

Renato: If I took an ESL summer course in UC Berkeley while I was in my 4th year at college, **how should I include that in the application? as an extracurricular activity? As an additional certification (it came with one)?**

Answer: Hi Renato! It is not necessary to provide us your ESL summer courses, but you can include it in your resume if it's something you'd like the admissions committee to review.

Attendee: **As an international student interested in the social sector, do you have any view on how likely it is to find job in this sector that will support my visa application?**

Answer: It really depends on the organization you are interested in, but we have a fair number of students with an interest in the social sector.

Diana: **I would like to get in contact with alumni to get more information regarding the program, how can I do that?**

Answer: Feel free to reach out to current students at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu.

Attendee: **Is there a way to update you if I've been promoted since submitting the application?**

Answer: Yes! You can submit extra materials by emailing mbaadm@haas.berkeley.edu.

Attendee: **Is the availability of jobs in the sector an applicant wants to work in after an MBA, a criteria for admissions?** Does the college evaluate a candidate on how and where they can be placed for work?

Answer: As long as you show self-awareness in your essay, that can help your case. It's a holistic process.

Aishwarya: **Does speaking to a current student to get an insider's perspective of Haas be considered in an applicant's evaluation?** As in, does mentioning the efforts of connecting with a Hassie (in the application) add to the applicant's strength?

Answer: Not at all. But speaking with a current student will help you in your decision process for choosing the right MBA for you.

Taylor: **What is the best way to demonstrate academic aptitude in the case of a candidate with an inconsistent transcript?**

Answer: The optional essay is a great place to talk to us about why you have an inconsistent transcript. You can always opt to take an extra class or two in quant at your local community college or something to show proficiency. We'll also consider GRE or GMAT.

Attendee: **I completed 1 of the 2 years of a JD (Law) program before deciding it was not for me. Do I need to send transcripts for this 1 year?** Also, it was over 10 years ago.

Answer: Yes, please do send the transcripts and use the optional essay to explain what happened there.

Ghazanfar: I would like to be a TA during my time at Haas. **How easy or hard would it be to get an opportunity to be a TA?**

Answer: Please feel free to reach out directly to our HSAs to see if they can connect you with a current GSI (graduate student instructor). They can give you the information you need.

Attendee: **What resources does Haas offer for women specifically?** For example- mentors, alumnae groups, conferences, etc.

Answer: There are MANY resources for women at Haas! I'd look into the admissions webinar called Resources for [Women at Haas](#), published on our website.

Attendee: **Do you look at the GMAT quant score/percentile more closely than the verbal?**

Answer: We consider the score in its entirety, but will also look at your subscores.

Annabelle: **Would you like for me to include transcripts for a community college course I completed prior to my undergrad matriculation?** This course did not contribute to my undergraduate degree requirements; I took it on my own to supplement my knowledge.

Answer: We will see the units and grades on the transcripts, so you do not have to include a separate transcript.

Jonathan: **In your own words, how would you describe the culture at Haas?** I'm especially interested in getting a feel of what the student body is like?

Answer: It's a humble and fun place. I'd write to the Haas Student Ambassadors, current students, at hsa@haas.berkeley.edu.

Gerardo: **Should international students translate GPA using their school's official scales or should they report in the original scale?** Thank you!

Answer: Hi Gerardo, please report your GPA as shown on your transcript. No need to translate or convert the scale.

Attendee: I'm wrapping up my first feature film as writer/producer/director and even after its done there are numerous other steps before it premieres. **The "success" of it may not be known before applying. Is that okay?**

Answer: Congrats! That is just fine - you can just explain to us where you are in the process.

Ravina: **How many years of work experience is considered competitive?** I have 3 years of work experience as an office administrator and am currently working as a data analyst at BC Hydro.

Answer: Generally, our students have 3-8 years of full-time work experience when they apply. It's more about impact.

Attendee: **How can a student who cannot visit the campus learn of its culture and environment?** Especially from an international student's perspective.

Answer: No problem, we know not everyone can make it to campus to visit. Check out our virtual events online and/or reach out to our international student representatives to learn more.

Pajouablai: I'm trying to best prepare my recommenders but Since I'm applying through the Consortium, and I'm not sure what's on the backend of the recommendation portal when they receive the notification (if it's to be submitted in a letter or online form), **should my recommender focus more in general on my MBA goals and qualifications or do you know if there's room for them to elaborate more specifically on my interest in Haas, even though I'm applying to a few other schools as well? Or is this a question for the Consortium?**

Answer: I recommend reaching out directly to Consortium about this.

Suchawut: Hi. **Could you help point out where I can find the full list of courses taught by Haas and their descriptions/lecturers (if there's one)?**

Answer: <http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/MBA/academics/elective-courses.html>

Attendee: In the Employment section of the application, you indicate that we should list each organization once. If I have worked in 2 different departments and had very different responsibilities, **can I choose which role to list responsibilities/accomplishment, or should i use my most recent role at that organization to answer the responsibility/accomplishments section?**

Answer: Please only include that company once. We see starting title and ending title. Your explanation should be your most recent roles and responsibilities. We'll see your resume too.

Elysia: I've had the same role at my company for 2.5 years now. It's a smaller business, and there's not too many promotions since we have a low turnover rate. **Is this something worth mentioning in the optional essay so the committee knows that the company structure has resulted in no immediate promotion?**

Answer: You're welcome to include it, but chances are the recommenders will note that. They usually do, so you don't have to state that.

Attendee: I've gotten the award of "30 Under 30 — Next Generation's Leadership Award" of a state. **It's been a few years since — does that "expire" in the admissions' eyes.**

Answer: Congrats! That's fine, we'd love to know about it.

Matthew: The employment section doesn't allow me to put two current employers (one FT and one self employd). **Can that be explained in the optional essay?**

Answer: List your FT and use the resume and optional essay to explain the self-employed one.

Aishwarya: **Once selected, when can we expect the interview invites to roll out, for round 1 applicants?**

Answer: It can be anywhere from 2 weeks from the time you apply up until 2 days before the decision deadline.

Joseph: **If interested in the MBA/MPH dual degree, is there any additional information that must be provided in the application besides selecting the concurrent program in the "Other Programs" section?**

Answer: No, you only need to check off the box to indicate your interest in the program.

Kathryn: Hello, and thank you for organizing! For applicants who want to supplement their quant experience, **how does the admissions committee view transcripts from less traditional institutions, such as MBAMath or MOOCs?**

Answer: We generally look for classes from accredited universities, but we'll still see everything that you supply. Getting a grade helps.

Joseph: **Is it binding if I select the MBA/MPH concurrent program in my application?**

Answer: Yes, it is. You will be reviewed by both committees and we have to come to a decision together (both admit, both deny).

Ashruth: I started in engineering before finding my passion with mathematical sciences and have a lower GPA for my first two years than my upper class years. **Would this weigh heavily on my application?**

Answer: Your GPA is only one data point in our holistic review of your application. Feel free to explain your change of interest in your optional essay, if this is something you are concerned about.

Marc: **What could I do if recommenders are not comfortable with English?**

Answer: Hi Marc. They can respond to the form in their native language, but it must be translated into English by an ATA certified translator and submitted in a sealed envelope by mail.

Jakob: **Hi, if I've just started a new job within the month, must I have my current employer write a letter of recommendation?**

Answer: You can feel free to have a former employer write your letter and there is space for you to tell us why you haven't chosen your current supervisor on the application.

Connor:

If admitted, are the "bootcamps" (quant or communication) included in the Fall tuition for students or is there an additional participation fee for those courses?

Answer:

The quant and communication have a fee. If you take them both, you will get a discount. Some others are free (i.e. Excel course).

Ashwin:

As an entrepreneur, is it okay to get a LOR from a client?

Answer:

Yes, that's fine!

Min_Moderator:

Thank you for joining us today! 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!