

GMAT Club: Chat with Alumni from the Indian School of Business
Topic set by Praetorian on Fri Jul 16 2010 21:33:29 GMT-0700 (Pacific Daylight Time)

- Praetorian**
NitinthinkISB **hello to everyone who is here for the ISB chat**
Hello everyone, myself, ShouvikThinkISB and AjayThinkISB are from ThinkISB and we'll answer your queries regarding ISB admissions, essays or anything else related to ISB
- Praetorian**
NitinthinkISB **So an introduction to ThinkISB, an introduction to ISB, and then a Q&A**
ThinkISB is represented here by a group of ISB alumni from various batches. At thinkISB, we are a group of ISB alumni who guide applicants through the ISB application process. We believe the best person to guide is the one who understands your background better than anyone else. He/she will be the one who will give you the most constructive feedback.
- That is why we have a network of ISB alumni across industries and we connect you to the advisor with a similar background. We are here to answer all queries regarding ISB admissions or ISB
- ISB, Indian School of Business, located in Hyderabad, India is Financial Times ranked 12 Bschool with Associate Schools as LBS, Wharton and Kellogg. For more information, it is recommended to visit www.isb.edu or a brief ISB intro on <http://www.thinkisb.com/about-isb/>
- bigoyal**
AjayThinkISB **I want to know how international experience helps in the admission process and where can we highlight the same**
Hi bigoyal, international exposure, which broadly is clubbed with cross-cultural and cross-geographic exposure is a good plus for an MBA application. It helps by projecting the aspirant as one who has exposure and insights into the global economy and culture - things that are imp. in an MBA education and career
NitinthinkISB You can mention that in your essays if possible or in Work Experience section
- bigoyal**
NitinthinkISB **in continuation to that - so, how many month of international exp be counted decent enough?**
It is not the quantity but the quality of experience that counts. You have to show the cross cultural sensitivity that is learned during the experience, which can be mentioned as a work challenge or in some other form in the essays
- sv76**
NitinthinkISB **I have in total 6 yrs of IT exp with (2 yr in India + 4 yr in US) and currently working in US ..I am planning to give GMAT on the last week of Sept. It means I can apply on Round 2 (Nov 30). Being an IT guy, a large percentage of ISB applicants, do you think applying in R2 is ok or need to wait for R1 next year, and what GMAT score would be good enough for this kind of profile**
Hi sv76, it is best to apply whenever you think you can present the best application. If you think you can wait and present a better application, it is better to apply in

Cycle 2. As per the ISB website, there is no fixed percentage of students being called by the ISB either for interviews or for admission. Although academics as a whole matter including your undergrad score, try scoring above 700 in GMAT because you belong to a competitive pool. Having said that, it depends on other factors in your application as well.

sv76

Being an IT guy , do i have to strike a comparatively good score to shine against others. Is there any preference to R1 over R2 applicants?

ShouvikThinkISB

There is no such preference

prash

So I have a MS degree in Genetics and have 1 year experience in a Nutraceutical startup and then about 2.5 years in an Agribiotech company in the US. I would like to know how diverse is this back ground, what would be the average GMAT score for this applicant pool and does it make a difference if the target score is attained in the second attempt

ShouvikThinkISB

Acads: MS is a plus, WE: distinct enough. It is a lot easier for you to project a unique experience. A GMAT above 670 would do. Although this is a cursory eval...And you can take the GMAT in any no. of attempts. ISB doesn't mind.

prash

And how important are referrals...thanks for the answers. Can I get referral from a person who took a non MBA course from ISB

NitinThinkISB

We at ThinkISB believe that references are best provided by your seniors at workplace who have observed you closely and can elaborate upon your leadership & team skills quoting examples of real situations they saw you perform in. Client recommendations are good too.

prash

I meant the ISB referral program from within

NitinThinkISB

Yes prash, it makes a little different but the final call is made by admission committee and there is no clear guideline on the same. But of course, any referral does not harm your application

santosh18

Is it OK if we repeat achievements in the employment details in the essays

ShouvikThinkISB

The way you project them in the essays will make a difference. The employment details will just mention certain points. If you feel something is very important and requires further info from you, then you can explain it in the essays.

meghash3

Good morning nitin: Ashish Dongre Male /India/ Engineer 2003 Batch: BE Metallurgy: First Job Operation- 3 years: Second job 1 year : R & D: Third Job : Executive assistant to Managing director of Hindalco- 1 year: Fourth job: 2.5 year Corporate Project and Capex cell. GMAT 1 570: GMAT 2 680 (both in a span of 40 days).All jobs in Aditya Birla group. Prof eval and tips pl

ShouvikThinkISB

Hi meghash3, Acads: No info, WE: I can see a growth progression from operations to the more strategic corp fin role. A strong sector card can also be played. EC: No info. As I see it you have to distinguish yourself by highlighting the roles that you have assumed and link your career goals to that later on. And meghash3, the GMAT score is decent enough

meghash3
NitinThinkISB **I have a lot of ISBians in my team, can a reco from them help more?**
As we said earlier, a reco from someone who knows you best and can give a descriptive feedback is the best person for reco. Ideally he/she is your manager who has closely worked with you. It does not matter if he/she is an ISB alum.

ManishS
I am a 29 year computer science engineer, with a gmat score of 710 (Q=50/V=35/AWA=4.5) applying for R1 this year. Passed out of college in 2003 with decent acads. However instead of jumping into the IT bandwagon, I preferred my own family business. I have been into my family business since the last 7 years. We are a food processing group into Roller Flour milling and bakery product manufacturing.
My question is , what share of the students on an average are people with own family business backgrounds and what is their average gmat scores ? Do minority applicants like me with an India centric business, lacking international exposure at a loss, studying in an environment where most of the applicants are from IT / services.

NitinThinkISB
ManishS, there are a lot of people with family background. There are no separate statistics for that. It does not matter what background you are from so do not worry about that. what matters is what you have learnt and what you can contribute to the batch. If you have professional maturity and are clear in your career goals, it is good.

ManishS
Thanks Nitin. Do you think my score is competitive? I scored pretty low in AWA.

NitinThinkISB
ManishS, your GMAT score is good. Do not worry about that. Spend your energy on your essays and make them most effective. GMAT is just one component of the ISB application. Essays for an important part of the application

ocanuh
is ISB a good option for someone with 10+ yrs of work ex. .. I realize that the answer to this question depends on the individuals objectives, etc. .. but just wanted to get a quick feedback from the alums .

AjayThinkISB
hi ocanuh, folks with 8+ exp are part of Senior exec. club at ISB- and Career Advancement services (CAS at ISB) ensures special attention to this group. But we believe, for a senior candidate, having the right expectations is very important. Admissions might also want a solid clarity on what the snr aspirant expects in placements when they interview him/her.

akshatnayyar
Hi everyone. I just want to know if the competition is the same for the NRI students. and How do they judge if someone is an NRI or not.

ShouvikThinkISB
Hi akshatnayyar, If you are an international passport holder you are considered as an international applicants. They go through rolling admissions. There is no category as NRI

NitinThinkISB
Hi akshatnayyar, as per the ISB website, Indian and foreign applicants be evaluated on the same basis

vishnupr **I have question about ISB: how are the officers for clubs selected? and how is the continuity of activities maintained, since there would be no "seniors" to help out like in a 2 year MBA program**

NitinThinkISB Hi vishnupr, there are student elections for various positions in the GSB Core (Graduate Student Board Core body) and Club Presidents. For continuity and handover, alums stay back for around 10 days to give a handover to the next batch. Apart from this, ISB holds various events where alums fly down to the campus and support student activities

vishnupr **follow up: would there be a faculty mentor for each student to make a decisions about which clubs to join etc?**

NitinThinkISB There is a faculty mentor assigned but not for deciding which clubs to join. That is an individual decision which is taken after thorough research and talking to alumni.

robbin **Hi, I wanted to know how ISB measures up to colleges like Great Lakes in terms of return of investment. I have 8+ yrs of experience with a considerable experience aborad and would like to know if ISB has a better brand visibility in India?**

NitinThinkISB ISB has a good brand visibility in India and with the FT rankings, the global visibility is also improving. We cannot comment on comparison with any other institution.
The qualitative ROI in terms of network built, the exposure, the peer group and faculty is very high. Monetary ROI is again a personal choice.

robbin **follow up - How good is ISB for entrepreneurs, do we have any in the alumni?**

NitinThinkISB Yes, 3 of us are here in front of you. :) ISB encourages entrepreneurs through a centre of excellence WCED (Wadhvani Centre for Entrepreneurship Development). ShouvikThinkISB will add to it

archbarc **Are students with science background selected in ISB? I have a Post Graduate degree in Physics and have 5 years of experience as a Scientific Officer in Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Mumbai. What would be the average GMAT score for this applicant pool?**

AjayThinkISB hi archbarc, Shouvik has a similar background and will answer your query in a sec.
ShouvikThinkISB Hi robbin, ISB has always wanted to focus itself as a school with an entrepreneurship bent. The WCED runs good programmes like the EDI (helping alums financially, operationally and strategically to incubate their ventures inside the ISB campus), GI(turnaround consulting projects with company stakes) and many more such interesting projects.
Please follow this link to know more:
<http://www.isb.edu/entrepreneurship/leadership.aspx>

A scientific officer like you is expected to score high in the GMAT.

archbarc **Can a person with scientific background compete with engineers for placement**

ShouvikThinkISB Now you can project your profile as someone from the research bg and mention how your unique experiences, which are very different from that of others.

NitinThinkISB archbarc, there is no comparison for placement with respect to background. It is all about what you have achieved before and during ISB

chatij **i am a software professional with 3 years of experience. Recently switched company (3 months back).. Can i get my LR's from previous company or is there any mandate to get it from current one only..**

AjayThinkISB hi chatij, a good question indeed. Recommendations are best given by seniors who have observed you closely. There is no restriction on having Reco. from your workplaces

chatij **so both my Lrs can be from previous organization ... what do you suggest/**

NitinThinkISB It is not mandatory to have the LOR from the current company. If you have worked for more in a previous org, and the manager there knows you better, you can have reco from there.

But it would be preferable to have a reco from your current org if you have worked there for quite some time. Again, 3 months is a short time we agree for someone to know you. It depends on your relation with your recommender. You have to take a personal choice here.

chatij **ok.. Thanks.... one more... everywhere on sites its written to have marksheets/transcripts uploaded.... do we require to have transcripts ... or we can do with marksheets as well for bachelor degree**

NitinThinkISB Either marksheets or transcript will do

hemantofkanpur **Hi,I wanted to know what weightage is given to gmat...is there like a very high gmat percentile (say 98 percentile+) where admission is a virtual surety**

NitinThinkISB There is no surety of anything. There have been rejections of people with 780 and people with 640 making it. There is no minimum GMAT score required for ISB. However, the average GMAT of ISB of Class of 2010 was 716 and mid 80% range was 680-760

ShouvikThinkISB It depends more on the complete profile of a candidate. The GMAT is again, just a component

hemantofkanpur **also will they distinguish against you based on age. if someone at 30 has achieved as much as another applicant at the age of 25,will the 25 yr participant be given preference. Basically do they take your age into consideration and put it up against your achievements**

AjayThinkISB hemantofkanpur, with age and increasing work ex. ISB will expect more in work resp. and achievements

chend **Since my previous questions regarding higher experience have been answered, I would like to know about placements for senior folks... I was checking ISB website.. They have provided only the average salaries.. no min/max like other**

bschools. Any insight on that would be great for someone with already higher than avg salaries mentioned in ISB placement reports. Thanks folks

NitinThinkISB Hi chend, internally also, placement related data like salary is disclosed through press release only as no student/alum is authorized to speak about placement specific detail. For more information on placement statistics of class of 2010, you can visit: <http://placement.isb.edu/recruiter/snapshotclass.html>

chend

Thanks.. Also checking out the class statistics only 6% or so are 8+ years and above. Do you think it would be a disadvantage?

NitinThinkISB It is not a disadvantage if you think you are ready for an MBA and you know what to expect from an MBA program. In ISB, as AjayThinkISB mentioned earlier, the senior executive club at ISB, along with CAS (Career Advancement Services) pitch separately for people with more than 8 years of work-ex
The separate pitch is done to ensure targeting middle to senior management roles.

vishnupr

can you talk about the interview itself? Would it be one-on-one or a multi-member panel with a mix of profs and alums? Should we expect any odd-ball questions?

NitinThinkISB The interview is mostly from your application. So it is advisable to go through each and every thing mentioned in your application and have examples ready. Also make sure that you are ready with justifying your career goals and can chalk out a logical story between your current job, your career goals and the need for an MBA.
In the interview, usually there is at least one person from the adcom, and one alum who is present in the interview panel.

jake_25

hey guys, could you tell me what is the difference between brand management and strategic marketing?

NitinThinkISB Marketing Strategy is a core course of term 2 where you are taught strategy through a marketing game Markstrat
Brand Management is a marketing elective term course which goes deeper into understanding the meaning of branding and other related aspects like valuation, attitude, etc

jake_25

Ok Thanks, but when you look at it from a job role perspective what is the distinction? Does brand mgmt also form a part of Strategic marketing?

NitinThinkISB They are two distinct subjects. We are not sure what you mean from being a part of Strategic Marketing.

jake_25

what does someone who says he is into Strategic Marketing do?

NitinThinkISB According to us, Brand Management is a part of strategic marketing which helps if you are entering a role of brand manager

It depends on the industry he is in. But broadly, he is making strategic decisions related to marketing a product involving competitive analysis, pricing, advertising, etc

- maazyousuf** **what are the factors apart from GMAT, essays etc that you take into consideration during the selection procedure. Secondly are the percentages set for the intakes from various streams/backgrounds (finance, accounting, IT, HR, sales, etc;)**
- ShouvikThinkISB There are 4 major parameters, Analytical Horsepower (GMAT is a part of it), Work Experience, Diversity and Leadership Potential.
This is what we believe are the major criteria as ISB alumni. The weightages are fixed based on the candidate profile
- maazyousuf** **are there percentages set for the intakes from various streams/backgrounds (finance, accounting, IT, HR, sales, etc;)**
- ShouvikThinkISB There are no percentages set
- mib_6ipkan** **for maintaining the diversity of the batch is the percentage of people with various background predecided??? like x % from IT**
- AjayThinkISB mib_6ipkan as ISB Alumni, we believe diversity is important for the school, but there are no fixed percentage revealed. We believe, it depends on the quality of applicants that the school gets every year.
- ISB** **how many companies hire for young leadership development program at ISB. also is there any minimum work ex criteria**
- NitinThinkISB Vodafone did not visit ISB for Class of 2010. Bharti hired from campus for their Young Leader's Program. They did some lateral hires in sales. However, we do not have data regarding the number of companies that hired for ylp's

ISB, if you are asking minimum work-ex related to placements, there are no fixed criteria. It depends on the firm. Bharti, for example hired people with less than 4 yrs of work-ex but no official figure was stated
- mustdoit** **Just need to know one thing.....what sort of opportunities should one write to in finance post ISB....i am not sure about goals essay....i am a CA and cs**
- NitinThinkISB You need to be sure about the goals essay. It is okay to be unsure, but do proper research into the field you want to get into and craft a convincing story around that. For more analysis on essays, do visit <http://www.thinkisb.com/blog/2010/06/04/isb-application-essay-analysis/>
- mustdoit** **i mean what's hot in finance at placements in ISB**
- NitinThinkISB Hot in finance placements at ISB: something of everything. It all depends on individual aspirations...
- mustdoit** **i mean is it ok to write corporate finance or should one be specific like M&A**
- NitinThinkISB What is important to understand here is to show your interest in the field you want to get into and that interest should be genuine. Be it finance or any other field, to facilitate career switch you have to demonstrate your interest in that area from day

1. It is good to be specific but substantiate it with your work-ex, your interests and how does MBA fit in

Hemantofkanpur **are there any open enrollment courses one can take at ISB? I think if there are, by doing well in such a course, one can demonstrate one to be fitter for the flagship management program**

NitinThinkISB I don't understand what you mean by open enrollment courses. But there are courses like ELP (Experiential Learning Program), FIRP (Faculty Initiated Research Program), IS (Independent Study) that students can take up apart from the regular courses to demonstrate interest in a specific area

ShouvikThinkISB Please follow the link for more info:
http://www.isb.edu/pgp/Elective_Courses.Shtml
You can get details on ELP, FIRP, etc on the above mentioned link

Hemantofkanpur **what i mean as i am not an isb student are there any short term course I can take at ISB. I am sure by taking short term courses at ISB my potential to get into ISB's flagship program will increase.**

ShouvikThinkISB There is nothing like it. The Center for Executive Education organizes short term courses. But they are not related to the PGP

NitinThinkISB For any unanswered questions, please email us at contact@thinkisb.com

mib_6ipkan **When they talk about goals how much specific they want us to be ??? As an mba grad does it sound ridiculous to you if somebody says i want to pursue mba to understand the industry and determine where do I fit in??**

NitinThinkISB mib_6ipkan, It is ok to be vague and expect general perspective from an MBA program. But a B-school is also a business after all. They want to ensure that you have clear goals in your mind which will help you in getting the maximum out of the MBA program
Someone said, doing an MBA is like drinking from a firehose, so you know what to take and what to leave. :)

vishnu_pr **how does one go about applying for the exchange program? what criterion do the selection committee look for? are students required to write essays for this?**

ShouvikThinkISB Students go on an exchange programmes depending upon the mutual schedules of the ISB and the concerned exchanged partner school; this period can range from one to two ISB elective terms, most often terms 7 and 8 although some students do go in terms 5 & 6.

NitinThinkISB The students are allotted bidding points which they use to bid for their preferred exchange programme. Each student is allotted an equal number of bidding points. Each term students must apply their points towards particular courses and the highest bidder is enrolled in each course. Normally most students get a majority of the courses that they bid for.

AjayThinkISB and each student is allowed to participate in the exchange program

Praetorian **My final question: for the three of you: What did you enjoy most about experience at ISB? some nostalgia eh**

NitinThinkISB We all will answer that question. The best question. :)

NitinThinkISB For me, it was the whole experience, the best year of my professional life. What I enjoyed most was the atmosphere created by the diverse peer group. People came from different backgrounds and experiences... I must say I made the best of friends and the network built was unmatched

Praetorian **well I think most people miss that b-school is fun , a time to enjoy, explore, learn and indulge**

NitinThinkISB agree with you Praetorian, 100%

Praetorian nicely done NitinThinkISB

AjayThinkISB For me, it was meeting focussed and like minded people and gaining immense network from students, professors and alumni into the field I chose to be in ! - top all that with availability of one of the best infrastructure in any bschool

ShouvikThinkISB It was a bit of everything....the late nights....hectic regimes...working hard and partying harder....But the most priced ones are the friends that I made from it...An experience that will stay for life

NitinThinkISB One last suggestion from me, personally - decide early on what you expect from a B-school. Then don't worry about anything else. Only then will you get the most out of it. Enjoy your experience.

Praetorian nice... what do you like about gmatclub?

NitinThinkISB Everything :)

AjayThinkISB the platform it has provided!

NitinThinkISB You are... the best part of a B-school is the people and the best part of gmatclub is its members.

Praetorian great! I hope you enjoyed the chat and getting to know us! say thank you everyone! take a bow -- great advice!! thank you thinkisb

NitinThinkISB Thanks Praetorian and bigoyal for providing us this platform. We request everyone to mail us at contact@thinkisb.com for any unanswered questions or visit our website to know more about our services: <http://www.thinkisb.com/services/>

ShouvikThinkISB Thank u guys...The pleasure was all ours

AjayThinkISB Thank you guys!

bigoyal Thanks a lot Nitin, Souvik and Ajay for your time. It was really a wonderful chat session. Special thanks to Praetorian for managing the chat session so well. I hope most of the questions from applicants have been covered. For those who couldn't participate today, the chat transcript would be posted on ISB Master Thread - <http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-isb-2011-12-applicants-94439.html> And please don't forget to drop in your feedback at <http://gmatclub.com/forum/scheduled-chat-with-isb-alumni-17-jul-10-00-am-india-time-96870.html> or <http://gmatclub.com/forum/suggestions-announcements-support-5/>