

# GMAT Club Waitlist Chat with Current Students

Feb 4th, 2014

Rainfall – Johnson | Brandon – Booth | Igesias – Yale



08:20	bb-gmatclub	Thank you for joining everyone – today we will have a chat with current students on the topic of how to get off a waitlist. We hope you will find it useful and learn what has worked for applicants last year and get some tips for your situation as well as general to do's or things to avoid. The chat will officially start at 9 AM PST (in about 40 mins).
08:20	bb-gmatclub	However, rainfall_student is already here. Rainfall is attending Johnson School of Business and was waitlisted last year.
08:26	rainfall_student	Thanks bb-gmatclub. I was actually waitlisted in a few others schools and am happy to share my views on the others schools' process too. The schools include: Michigan Ross, Kellogg and Yale SOM
08:27	farful	rainfall_student did you have success at ross, kellogg, and yale as well after being waitlisted?
08:28	bb-gmatclub	@Rainfall. Fantastic. Are you able to stay past for 30+ mins? If not I have a series of questions I would like to get your take on. Want to leverage every minute of your attendance 😊 If you do have time, I will hold them till 9 AM.
08:28	MBAga193	@rainfall_student - may i ask in which round you applied?
08:38	rainfall_student	dang, I lost the history of the chat here. But someone asked me which round I applied. There it goes: Ross, Yale and Kellog: R2. Johnson R3
08:38	rainfall_student	no love from Kellogg, withdrawn from Ross, in at Yale and Cornell
08:39	Narenn	Hi Rainfall_student
08:40	Narenn	first of all thanks for joining us
08:40	Narenn	I have one very basic question
08:41	Narenn	When any school keeps me on waitlist instead of rejecting or accepting, What should I infer from that decision??
08:42	Narenn	Is it because I have a good profile but school does not have enough vacant spaces or is it because there was any serious flaw in my application that prevent them from taking any firm decision on my application?
08:43	rainfall_student	For me it could be a variety of reasons, but here are some: (1) you are a good candidate, but something is missing (GMAT, clarification on your profile, etc). (2) you are good enough for them, but they are waiting other candidates to give up so you are the next person
08:43	mib_1z76g2	I heard it is simply bc they have too many similar ppl like u
08:43	mib_1z76g2	And if one those ppl that got in reject the offer then they will consider u
08:44	rainfall_student	(3) they are not sure if you are going to accept in case you do get an offer (and believe me, this counts a lot!)
08:45	Narenn	Thanks. I never heard or think of third answer. 😊
08:45	rainfall_student	don't look at the waitlist as a nice way to say no. If they don't like you, they would just reject you right away (with or without interview)
08:47	souvik101990	I heard the 3rd from some people. Seems very logical from the B School PoV
08:58	Narenn	Hi Brandon
08:58	brandon_Booth_Student	Hi
08:58	bb-gmatclub	Thank you for joining everyone – today we will have a chat with current students on the topic of how to get off a waitlist. We hope you will find it useful and learn what has worked for applicants last year and get some tips for your situation as well as general to do's or things to avoid.
08:59	bb-gmatclub	We seems to have lost Rainfall from Johnson but Brandon is here - thank you for joining!
09:00	bb-gmatclub	Brandon - would you mind telling us which schools you applied to and in which Rounds?
09:00	brandon_Booth_Student	Sure. I applied to Ross, Kellogg, Fuqua, and Booth R3.

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09:01	brandon_Booth_Student	I was admitted to Ross, WL'ed at Kellogg and Booth, and dinged at Fuqua with no interview.
09:01	MBAgal93	was there a particular reason why you waited til R3?
09:01	farful	did you have any success with kellogg as well?
09:01	brandon_Booth_Student	Yes, all schools were R3.
09:02	brandon_Booth_Student	I had just relocated to Chicago and didn't feel I could field a competitive application for R2 given the timing
09:02	brandon_Booth_Student	I think the logic to wait if it means putting together a much better package is solid, but R3 is always dicery, and frankly has a lot of luck involved.
09:02	brandon_Booth_Student	*dicey
09:03	MBAgal93	How soon did you get off the WL?
09:03	brandon_Booth_Student	I was still WL'd at Kellogg when I was admitted to Booth, and I withdrew that application.
09:04	brandon_Booth_Student	I was re-waitlisted twice and ultimately admitted on Jul. 19 - 9 days before I would've driven to Ann ARbor.
09:04	MBAgal93	whoa
09:04	Narenn	wow
09:04	brandon_Booth_Student	It was a crazy time, and shows how long the process can take. You have to decided how committed you are and what your drop-dead date will be.
09:04	MBAgal93	what steps did you take while on the WL?
09:05	brandon_Booth_Student	I'll give you the run-down for both schools...
09:05	merwin11	Did Kellogg and Booth tell you why you were waitlisted and what you could do to improve your chances?
09:06	brandon_Booth_Student	For Kellogg, not much. They are generally averse to supplemental materials. I did reach out via phone to my WL to ask if there were any specific areas I needed to address. For most ppl, the answer is "No, it's just a numbers issue." I was lucky and received specific feedback requesting more information around impact in my most recent (very recent) career
09:06	brandon_Booth_Student	role
09:06	brandon_Booth_Student	I sent an update letter outlining my role and strongly affirming my interest in remaining on the WL, no matter how long it took
09:07	brandon_Booth_Student	Booth is very amenable to extra materials. I treated it almost like another application.
09:07	brandon_Booth_Student	Almost immediately responded to the WL response form and sent a brief email affirming my interest.
09:07	MBAgal93	do you mind sharing what industry your previous work experience was in?
09:08	brandon_Booth_Student	Several weeks later, I added a more substantial update letter, the video, an alumni rec, and did another campus visit with my wife.
09:08	brandon_Booth_Student	It
09:08	brandon_Booth_Student	It's tough to tell which of those helped, but I tried to be as thoughtful as possible; not just blanketing Booth with meaningless info
09:08	bb-gmatclub	<a href="#">Hi Iglesias9158! Thanks for joining!</a>
09:08	iglesias9158yalestudent	sure thing
09:09	brandon_Booth_Student	for MBAgal93, I was a mechanical engineer by education and spent most of my career in construction project management
09:09	bb-gmatclub	<a href="#">@ Iglesias - would you mind sharing some of your application history? What schools you applied to and in which rounds?</a>
09:09	brandon_Booth_Student	The key with the WL process is to identify (either via direct feedback or self-awareness) where you can improved.
09:09	MBAgal93	thank you
09:10	brandon_Booth_Student	also, for most schools, R1 WL really does mean "we like you a lot, but want to see

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09:10	mkz212	who applies in R2 and who accepted from R1"
09:10	brandon_Booth_Student	anyone hear from wharton today?
09:11	iglesias9158yalestudent	It's also important to understand your own risk tolerance, willingness to burn a deposit somewhere, and need for finality
09:12	iglesias9158yalestudent	yea originally I scored a 590 on the GMAT and limited my application to schools to below the top 25, then I scored a 690 in late November and decided to Apply to Yale in R2
09:12	iglesias9158yalestudent	I am an Army officer and could not wait till March for an answer so I wrote to the admission committee and asked for an exception
09:12	iglesias9158yalestudent	and be moved to round 1
09:12	MBAga193	@brandon - you visited campus "again" while being on WL. What did you do while visiting the second time?
09:12	mib_mhgb3q	i have been waitlisted at kellogg. my profile is Indian GMAT 710, PE industry prior work ex, first MBA from India..Dinged with interview at wharton..dinged without interview at columbia..applied to MIT, HBS, Yale as well
09:12	iglesias9158yalestudent	they did and they interviewed me a week later and then a week after that I was on the WL
09:13	brandon_Booth_Student	I did the class visit and student lunch the 2nd time. I didn't see any need to do the tour or info session again.
09:13	brandon_Booth_Student	i was also local so visiting again was very easy
09:13	mib_mhgb3q	reply to my email to kellogg admission office was that pls apprise us of the updates and also when u hear form other schools keep us updated
09:14	mib_mhgb3q	so now, unable to know what has went wrong with me..gmat ? indian ? or ?
09:15	farful	wow, iglesias, your case was pretty exceptional?
09:15	brandon_Booth_Student	pretty tough to say, mib_mhgb3q. there are a lot of moving parts in an admissions decision, and I've never been on the adcom side of the process.
09:15	azowu	iglesias - what did u do to get off the WL?
09:15	mib_1z76g2	What time is Wharton coming out
09:15	farful	iglesias is a current student at yale, azowu
09:15	iglesias9158yalestudent	probably pretty exceptional, they did get me off the wait list 4 weeks later
09:16	mib_mhgb3q	should i email and ask specifics for the decision to WL or how to improve brandon_Booth_Student ?
09:16	iglesias9158yalestudent	after i submitted an extensive update
09:16	MBAga193	update on what?
09:16	farful	is there anything specific you did when they told you you were waitlisted?
09:16	MBAga193	career or extra curricular etc?
09:16	farful	(sorry, my quesiton was for iglesias)
09:16	jum	Most schools don't offer specific feedback MiB. Do check the FAQs before sending that mail.
09:16	brandon_Booth_Student	yes, i would reach out and ask if there are specific concerns you can address. 90% of the time though, R1 WL just means you're great, but they want to re-evaluate next round
09:16	iglesias9158yalestudent	I did a review of my application and saw several weaknesses
09:17	iglesias9158yalestudent	I made sure to address each of them in the update..... low GPA is showed high scores I had received in classes after undergrad
09:17	brandon_Booth_Student	good point jum. with every school, read all directions carefully
09:17	MBAga193	@iglesias-I take the adcom didn't tell you and you just self-assessed
09:17	iglesias9158yalestudent	correct
09:18	farful	iglesias, did you not address these (such as the low gpa) in the optional essay in your original app?
09:18	iglesias9158yalestudent	but some of them were obvious as I did my best to research
09:18	cqin44	Hi all, since you guys discussed what R1 WL means, what does R2 WL normally

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		mean?
09:18	iglesias9158yalestudent	I think it useful as the exception..... it made me more bold
09:19	iglesias9158yalestudent	to think of yourself as the exception
09:20	MBAgal93	My WL manager called me as soon as I was waitlisted and told me my application had no issues. Is that a sign that the school wants to keep me interested?
09:20	iglesias9158yalestudent	I also did another campus visit.... which they remarked on the day that they offered me admission
09:20	farful	mbagal93 - might also be useful to get a second opinion
09:20	brandon_Booth_Student	for cqin44, R2 WL is tougher to gauge. I don't have any official knowledge, but my sense was that it really is a "maybe"
09:21	brandon_Booth_Student	if everyone else, with a similar profile accepts, it might be tough. if they need someone with your background, career interest, life situation etc., it may workout
09:21	brandon_Booth_Student	It's definitely better than R3 WL 🤔. But even that works out sometimes...
09:22	mib_mhgb3q	for Kellogg, nowhere it is mentioned that we cannot ask feedback..i mean if they do not want us to ask feedback then they would write that in the FAQs right ?
09:22	MBAgal93	do you know any other peers who got off the WL?
09:22	MBAgal93	would you say there are handful of them or is it quite rare?
09:22	brandon_Booth_Student	MBAgal93, that's almost always the case. If the school wasn't interested, they would have dinged you in R1.
09:22	cqin44	Thank you Brandon. I found what you did after getting "WL-ed" very helpful. I will try to do some of those things myself.
09:23	MBAgal93	@brandon - it's CBS so rolling admission
09:23	ROCIOSPINA	somebody know, if there are any book that show cases about gmat?
09:23	iglesias9158yalestudent	I know one other person who got off the WL, but it was late like June.
09:23	Narenn	Rociospina, I think we can talk on this bit later
09:23	brandon_Booth_Student	I definitely asked for feedback at Kellogg. The only reason I sent an update letter (which was basically prohibited in FAQ's) was because my WL asked me to address a particular item
09:24	brandon_Booth_Student	mbagal93, I have many classmates who spent time on the WL and got it. Not sure what the exact numbers are, but I wouldn't call it rare at all
09:24	MBAgal93	@brandon - how frequently did you contact WL mgr?
09:25	MBAgal93	@brandon - thank you
09:26	brandon_Booth_Student	I contacted my kellogg WL mgr only with substantive info: addressing her initial concern, updating her on deposit status at Ross, and then to withdraw
09:27	brandon_Booth_Student	I've got about 5 more minutes here. Any last questions?
09:28	brandon_Booth_Student	or ones that I missed answering above?
09:28	MBAgal93	@brandon - did you say you've submitted additional rec letter?
09:28	brandon_Booth_Student	to Booth yes, not to Kellogg
09:28	MBAgal93	from whom?
09:28	Guest8306	Can I ask a question about my prospects ? Just got done with my GMAT yesterday and wanted to get opinions. Ignore if this is irrelevant here
09:29	Guest8306	sorry my bad.. i just realized its for waitlisted.
09:29	farful	@iglesias so you think another campus visit helped? it's a full day for a campus visit..
09:29	brandon_Booth_Student	the additional rec was an alum who is a close family friend that have followed my career for 10 years. he wrote about character and ambition with a broader perspective that my work recommenders did.
09:29	souvik101990	Guest8306 I guess it is relevant if people want to chime in (we have a waitlist chat which is going to be over soon. The chat is your oyster after that)
09:29	Narenn	@Brandon and Iglesias, Can you guys please list down 5 actions that any waitlisted students must do in order to strengthen his/her case?

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09:30	iglesias9158yalestudent	Clearly communicate you would accept if offered admission, even better if it was your number one choice
09:31	brandon_Booth_Student	i'm not sure there are 5 actions; there is no prescriptive path. it is important to be deliberate. every action should have a very clear goal. every piece of new information should fill a void.
09:31	MBAgal93	@brandon - did you actually meet with your WL mgr?
09:31	brandon_Booth_Student	iglesias is right on about being clear about your intent
09:32	iglesias9158yalestudent	I tried add things to my application through my update that otherwise would not have been included because of their formatting I had a warrant to obligate money for the U.S> government
09:32	brandon_Booth_Student	no. at least last year, kellogg expressly prohibited in-person meetings with adcoms b/c it puts non-local candidates at a disadvantage
09:32	iglesias9158yalestudent	an impressive looking document to attach to an update
09:33	brandon_Booth_Student	Alright, guys and gals. I'm outta here. Feel free to PM if you have additional questions. For the sake of my inbox, please no thank you notes. Good Luck!!!!
09:34	MBAgal93	thank you brandon
09:34	iglesias9158yalestudent	I would also say look at your weak spots, everyone has some, and give the adcom some information to hedge against it. Give them every reason possible to say yes
09:34	Narenn	Thank you Very much Brandon for spending your valuable time with us.

09:35	sriram18	Can you guide me on how to find my weak spots? I mean is there a method to it?
09:35	iglesias9158yalestudent	you can look at the averages for last years class, if you are below any of them like GPA, GMAT work experience then you may want to address it
09:36	iglesias9158yalestudent	also the brands you are associated with and the competitiveness of likely similar candidates and what would make you potentially more attractive as a candidate
09:37	Narenn	Thanks Iglesias for this brief answer
09:38	Narenn	Any more questions guys?
09:38	iglesias9158yalestudent	I think the odds are not great for wait list, so I would say a more bold approach is worth it
09:38	sriram18	Thanks iglesias for the answer
09:38	MBAgal93	thank you Iglesias9158yalestudent
09:40	iglesias9158yalestudent	I got to go, hope my story helps a little, I remember being there, its worth it when the admit comes through
09:40	Narenn	Thank you very much for joining!