

Sept 29th, 2014

Web Resources:

- Merage Website: <http://merage.uci.edu/>
- Merage Class of 2017 Discussion: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-uc-irvin-merage-applicants-2015-intake-class-of-176492.html>

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| | | Welcome to Chat Session with Ashley Ramirez! (Associate Director - Merage School of Business) |
| | | Topic set by Narenn on Mon Sep 29 2014 18:28:17 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time) |
| 19:22 | Narenn | Hello Ashley, |
| 19:24 | MERAGEAdmissions | Hello! |
| 19:26 | Narenn | Welcome on the GMATClub 😊 We still start the session in next few minutes. |
| 19:26 | MERAGEAdmissions | Thank you for inviting me. I am looking forward to it 😊 |
| 19:32 | Narenn | Hello Everyone |
| 19:33 | asphalt | Hello |
| 19:33 | deeptin | Hi 😊 |
| 19:33 | Narenn | Thank you all for joining, and big welcome and thank you to Merage Admissions team |
| 19:33 | MERAGEAdmissions | Hello! Thank you for joining us on this chat. I am Ashley Ramirez, Associate Director of Recruitment and Admissions, at the Merage School at UC Irvine. Today I have two second-year students also on this chat, Bishnu Kumar (asphalt), who serves as our Merage GMATClub forum moderator, and Deepti Nelavelli (deeptin), who serves as one of our current Student Ambassadors |
| 19:34 | MERAGEAdmissions | Thank you Narenn for inviting us to chat! |
| 19:35 | Narenn | Thanks. |
| 19:37 | Narenn | Ashley can you tell us who would be an ideal applicant to your program based on admissions, culture, and the program in general? |
| 19:38 | MERAGEAdmissions | We actually don't have an ideal candidate. During the review process, we are looking to create a diverse class in terms of professional & personal backgrounds. We want to know that someone would succeed academically, socially and professionally within the program. |
| 19:40 | Narenn | Thanks!! |
| 19:40 | ID | Hi Ashley, I know UCI has small class strength and is a relatively smaller school. Would you elaborate on the pros and cons of being a part of a small full-time program? |
| 19:42 | MERAGEAdmissions | ID- Great question! Being a part of a smaller class size really allows you the opportunity to get to know all of your classmates, which are great resources during and post-MBA. It also allows for a more personalized approach with the faculty and with career services. |
| 19:43 | srijanbhattacharya | Hi Ashley ! Just to add to Narenn's question. Does that also mean that the GMAT score is not the only thing you would look at while considering some one for admissions? Should a student get discouraged and not apply if he has a lower than your average GMAT score? |
| 19:46 | MERAGEAdmissions | srijanbhattacharya- Yes! We take a holistic approach when looking at your application. I like to think of it in terms of puzzle pieces. Each piece represents an important component of the application and it won't be complete without that piece, but no two pieces are the same size. |
| 19:47 | MERAGEAdmissions | Our 80% range for the GMAT is 610-780, with 10% of the class below and the other 10% above. |
| 19:49 | ID | Adding to srijanbhattacharya's question: Does fellowship offered depend on the GMAT score - higher the score, higher is the scholarship |
| 19:50 | Yogi | is MIS offered by UCI? |
| 19:50 | ID | Also, could you give us some statistics on internships and full-time offers made to UCI students |
| 19:51 | Yogi | is GRE or GMAT preferred for MIS |
| 19:51 | MERAGEAdmissions | ID- We are going to look at the entire application during the fellowship review process and take the same approach that we do during the admissions process. The GMAT is one component, but does not increase or decrease your fellowship chances |
| 19:52 | mib_utuxnv | Hi Ashley, we understand that Merage does not have fixed deadline notifications but rolling ones. Assuming that a candidate applies by Oct 6, how soon do you think (s)he could expect a response? |

GMAT Club Live Q&A Sessions Schedule

<http://gmatclub.com/forum/announcement-live-q-a-sessions-with-school-adcoms-174827.html>

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| 19:52 | deeptin | Hi Srijan. Like Ashley mentioned, there are various aspects of the application aside from the GMAT score. One important piece of the puzzle that is often overlooked is conveying how Merage can help you achieve your goals. This tells the admission committee how well you will fit into the program and be successful. |
| 19:53 | srijanbhattacharya | thanks deeptin |
| 19:53 | MERAGEAdmissions | Yogi- Unfortunately, we do not offer a MIS. However, we do offer courses in IS. You can find more information on this link |
| 19:53 | MERAGEAdmissions | http://merage.uci.edu/Faculty/AcademicAreas/InformationSystems.aspx |
| 19:56 | MERAGEAdmissions | ID- Our class of 2013 employment report is available on the following link: |
| 19:56 | MERAGEAdmissions | %5B754%5DUCI%20Merage%202013%20MBA%20Employment%20Report.pdf |
| 19:57 | ID | Thanks Ashley |
| 19:57 | MERAGEAdmissions | For the last 3 classes, 93% had received offers within 3 months of graduation |
| 19:57 | sa40087 | Is Entrepreneurship considered as work experience? |
| 19:57 | MERAGEAdmissions | and 100% within 5 months |
| 19:58 | MERAGEAdmissions | Yogi- For the MBA, we do not have a preference for GMAT vs. GRE |
| 19:59 | MERAGEAdmissions | mib_utuxnv- As soon as your application is complete, and we have your official scores and transcripts, we can begin the review process. This can take a couple of weeks. After an interview, notifications occur within 2-4 weeks |
| 19:59 | asphalt | @mib_utuxnv: When i had applied in 2013 Jan, i got the interview invite within two weeks. After the Skype interview, i got the offer mail from Merage Admission in 2-3 weeks time. |
| 19:59 | Narenn | Ashley: Adding to ID's question: What support do students get from Career Services dept, peers, and alumni? |
| 19:59 | Narenn | How strong is Alumni Network of Merage |
| 20:00 | mib_utuxnv | I see, that helps, Ashley, asphalt! |
| 20:00 | rimpygautam | what is the international students placements this year? |
| 20:01 | MERAGEAdmissions | Narenn- Our Career Services Office is incredibly hands-on. With the small class-size, it definitely allows for a more high-touch approach to the career search. |
| 20:01 | Narenn | @Rimpygautam: You can view Employment report of Merage here %5B754%5DUCI%20Merage%202013%20MBA%20Employment%20Report.pdf |
| 20:03 | MERAGEAdmissions | We offer second-year career coaches to our first-year students, an alumni database, alumni networking nights |
| 20:03 | asphalt | @Narenn the career center helps you to prepare your resume, linked profile, practice mock interviews etc. For my final round with Amazon, I had a two hour face to face interview with my career advisor to prepare me well for the final round. It really helped. |
| 20:04 | deeptin | Hi Narenn. As an international student, I found that the job search in the US is far more self-driven and requires more networking. The Career center at Merage helped me navigate this environment successfully. This is only possible when advisor to student ratio is low. |
| 20:05 | Narenn | Thank you very much Asphalt and Deeptin |
| 20:05 | Narenn | For those who have just joined this event, we are chatting with Associate director of Merage Business School - Ashley Ramirez – and Current Students – Asphalt and Deeptin. |
| 20:06 | MERAGEAdmissions | Welcome to those who have just joined! |
| 20:06 | KirtiBhailalPatel | Can you name companies which hire candidates in consulting roles every year? |
| 20:06 | Narenn | We will continue for next 30 minutes, so if anybody has any questions, feel free to ask them to Merage team |
| 20:09 | Narenn | @Asphalt and Deeptin: Can you tell us which student clubs or groups are in the school? |
| 20:09 | MERAGEAdmissions | KirtiBhailalPatel- Our career report actually breaks down which companies & the number of full-time positions and internships |
| 20:10 | MERAGEAdmissions | Our 2014 Career Report will be available soon, since 3-months post-graduation is one of the metrics used and our most recent class graduated mid-June. |
| 20:11 | asphalt | @Narenn: Consulting, Tech Association, Marketing, Operations, Challenge for Charity, Automotive etc. The exhaustive list : http://merage.uci.edu/MSA/Content/Merage-Clubs/150 |
| 20:11 | ID | Couple of quick question - What is the max fellowship that Merage offers? |
| 20:11 | MERAGEAdmissions | ID- Up to full-tuition |

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| 20:12 | deeptin | Hi Narenn. The school provides a lot of support to students who wish to participate or even set up a club to support MBA careers and interests. This is done under the Merage Student Association umbrella. These clubs are student led and provide excellent opportunities to network and gain leadership skills. |
| 20:13 | deeptin | Some examples include the Business & Technology Association, the Merage Consulting Association, Operations Management Association etc. |
| 20:14 | Narenn | Thanks!! 😊 |
| 20:17 | mib_utuxnv | Ashley, Asphalt, does Merage have a listing of employment by location? For eg: what percentage of students took up offers in other parts of the United States? I could not locate this information in the Employment Report |
| 20:18 | ID | What are my chances if I apply in late rounds? And does it decrease my chances of getting a higher fellowship? |
| 20:19 | MERAGEAdmissions | mib_utuxnv- Unfortunately, I do not have it readily available, but am happy to get more information for you. If you want to message me your email address, I can send you information about employment by location. |
| 20:21 | Narenn | @Ashley: You can also send employment information to Asphalt or me. We are happy to post the same in Merage Discussion thread on GMATClub for the benefit our members. |
| 20:22 | MERAGEAdmissions | ID- We always recommend applying when you have your best application complete, but to keep in mind that we are continuously sending out admissions decisions and fellowship information throughout the admissions cycle, so the earlier the better. |
| 20:22 | MERAGEAdmissions | Narenn- yes! I will send this to both of you |
| 20:23 | Narenn | Thanks. |
| 20:23 | asphalt | Thanks Ashley |
| 20:23 | ID | Thanks Ashley |
| 20:24 | MERAGEAdmissions | You're welcome! |
| 20:24 | Narenn | I have one more question. What interview options are available for International applicants? Are the on-campus and off-campus interviews treated equally or there is any preference to one over other? |
| 20:25 | MERAGEAdmissions | Narenn- We offer interviews on-campus and via Skype. We do not have a preference and they are treated equally. If you are local, we highly recommend that you come to campus for an interview, but we understand that this isn't always an option for our out-of-state and international applicants. |
| 20:26 | MERAGEAdmissions | We will be in India in late-November for recruiting and will be holding in-person interviews with our Assistant Dean. |
| 20:26 | mib_utuxnv | Ashley, do you have an email id that we could contact you at, with further queries, if any? |
| 20:26 | KirtiBhailalPatel | What are the characteristics that Merage values most in a candidate? |
| 20:27 | Narenn | oh wow.... that's great. Looking forward to meet you in India |
| 20:27 | MBMBMB | Hi Ashley, would you be visiting Bangalore? |
| 20:27 | MERAGEAdmissions | If you are in India and are interested in an in-person interview, the application deadline is October 1st. |
| 20:27 | ven | I had 8 years of work experience still need to take GMAT ? |
| 20:28 | MERAGEAdmissions | MBMBMB- We will be in Bangalore November 23 at the QS fair. |
| 20:28 | MERAGEAdmissions | http://merage.uci.edu/FullTimeMBA/Content/On-the-Road/63 |
| 20:28 | mib_utuxnv | Is it possible that we submit TOEFL scores after submitting the application, in order not to miss the Oct 01 deadline? |
| 20:28 | MBMBMB | great, thanks |
| 20:28 | MERAGEAdmissions | mib_utuxnv- yes! My email address is ashnram@uci.edu |
| 20:29 | mib_utuxnv | Thanks, Ashley! |
| 20:29 | MERAGEAdmissions | Ven- Yes, the GMAT or GRE is required for the application. |
| 20:29 | ven | ok, Thanks |
| 20:30 | mib_utuxnv | is it possible to intimate Merage of the TOEFL scores after submitting the application (in order not to miss the Oct 01 deadline)? |
| 20:30 | MERAGEAdmissions | mib_utuxnv- your application isn't complete and isn't considered for review until all components are received. We will need to receive it as soon as possible to move your application forward in |

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GMAT Club Chat with Merage Admissions Team

Ashley Ramirez - Associate Director of Recruitment and Admissions at UC Irvine

Deepti Nelavelli (Deeptin) – Merage Student Ambassador

Bishnu Kumar (Asphalt) – Current Student and GMAT Club Merage Forum Moderator



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| | | the review process, prior to extending interview invitations. |
| 20:31 | mib_utuxnv | I see...even if the applicant has combined study and work exp. of 28+ years in English medium institutions & organizations? |
| 20:32 | MBMBMB | Hi Ashley, I have 30+ yrs education and experience in English speaking organizations and establishments |
| 20:32 | MERAGEAdmissions | Thank you to everyone for chatting with us! Also, thank you to Narenn and our two current students, Asphalt and Deeptin. If you have any further questions, I am happy to schedule a one-on-one consultation. Please email me at ashnram@uci.edu. |
| 20:33 | asphalt | if you have more questions do post them in the Merage forum (http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-uc-irvin-merage-applicants-2015-intake-class-of-176492.html), and we will be more than happy to answer them. |
| 20:33 | MERAGEAdmissions | Good luck to everyone as you move through the MBA application process! We are here to help! |
| 20:34 | Narenn | Thank you everyone for participating in the chat. I would also like to thank Ashley Ramirez – Member of MERAGE Admissions team – on behalf of GMATClub Community for sparing time with us and special thanks to Current Students of Merage Business School - Asphalt and Deeptin |
| 20:34 | asphalt | Thanks Narenn, Ashley and deeptin |
| 20:35 | deeptin | Thank you! |

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