



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>

		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?

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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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		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!