

		Welcome to all for chat session with MBA Decoder!!
		Topic set by Narenn on Mon Oct 06 2014 20:29:38 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)
20:30	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	Hi all please welcome Namita from MBA Decoder
20:30	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	Here is a brief introduction: Namita Garg : Founder, MBA Decoder, has been helping aspiring MBA candidates make it to their dream b-schools for the past 6 years. Her successful clients include graduates of Wharton, INSEAD, Chicago Booth, ISB, Duke Fuqua, LBS, IMD, IIMA, NUS, Nanyang Business School and Said Business School among others. She has a marketing ex
20:31	gmatsbyme84	Welcome Namita
20:31	MBA Decoder	Thanks Ankur and Narenn
20:31	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	Namita, you can take it forward and tell a bit more about yourself and MBA Decoder
20:31	MBA Decoder	Hi every one, welcome to this chat session about the "ISB interview preparation". Over the next one hour, we hope to answer a lot of your questions.
20:31	MBA Decoder	As Ankur has pointed out, MBA Decoder is a specialist MBA admissions consulting firm that has helped applicants get into the b-schools in the world.
20:31	MBA Decoder	Our co-founder is an LBS alum and we have alumni and students from top b-schools among our panel of consultants.
20:32	MBA Decoder	Our services include extensive help on: Essays Resume Recommendations Interviews
20:32	MBA Decoder	For the ISB applications, We work with ISB alumni and are able to provide you their expertise in making your application stand out.
20:32	MBA Decoder	Our Complete Application Package for ISB includes: 1. Brainstorming 2. Essay reviews with no limits on number of reviews or your communication with us. 3. Recommendations 4. resume section of the online form Charges: Rs. 15,000
20:33	MBA Decoder	Our Interview Package includes: 1. An exhaustive interview with ISB alumnus. 2. A written feedback containing key actionable items. 3. A list of past interview questions. 4. A follow up interview* Charges: Rs. 5,000
20:33	MBA Decoder	To register for our application or interview services, please email us at contact@mbadecoder.com
20:33	MBA Decoder	In this session, we are joined by our in-house consultant Gaurav, who is an ISB alum(Class of 2013). Gaurav is a management consultant with 9+ years of experience in the technology and operations side of the banking industry, with deep focus in Wealth Management and investment management.
20:33	MBA Decoder	So please start posting your questions
20:34	krr15h	Thanks for being here for us Namita and Gaurav
20:34	ISB Alum13	thanks krr15h
20:34	divya123	How different are the EEO interviews in comparison with the regular ones?
20:34	ISB Alum13	Good evening / morning to all depending on where you are right now
20:35	krr15h	I guess many people here are those invited to interview by ISB... can you give us an overview of what ISB interviews are like? I've heard both that they are conversational and stress inducing
20:35	MBA Decoder	Hi Divya, I will answer this for you
20:36	MBA Decoder	ISB is looking for the similar qualities among EEOs as compared to the regular entry people. So the interview is not going to be very different
20:36	MBA Decoder	perform your best and do represent an all-rounded personality
20:37	divya123	Thanks, any rough estimate of how many calls have gone out so far? For Hyd, both EEO and

		regular?
20:37	MBADecoder	Yes it can depend upon the direction that you give to your interview
20:38	ISBAlum13	krr15h the ISB interviews like any other MBA interview are conversational, its not always a stress interview mine was not. That said a stress interview means that the panel could be either testing you on a strength you have advertised in you application or mentioned in an earlier question.
20:38	ISBAlum13	A stress interview is also an opportunity for you to shine and let the panel know about your thoughtprocess and structured thinking that a MBA applicant should boast of.
20:38	ISBAlum13	Also, for ISB remember they will never stress upon a weakness it will be always on an area of strength
20:38	krr15h	Thanks @ISBAlum13 😊
20:39	krr15h	that's actually a relief
20:39	krr15h	just one more thing before I step down...
20:40	krr15h	"There will be an assessment before your interview" what is this assessment? I've heard that it is a on the spot essay, but I've heard some other things too like puzzles. Could you shed some light on this?
20:41	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	@krr15h-it is a one word essay.
20:41	ISBAlum13	dont worry about the assessment its just a way of them ensuring the essays you submitted were written by you
20:41	ISBAlum13	do not stress about it at all, go in answer the essay they ask you to write and be done with it the hard work begins once you enter in the room 😊
20:41	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	what does ISB look for in a re-applicant?
20:41	vicky	How to prepare for interview?
20:42	bullzeye	I've read numerous past interviewees blogs. They say that the panel somehow doesn't feel convinced for some important questions like "Why MBA, why now" etc.
20:42	bullzeye	So, how best can we present our case?
20:43	ISBAlum13	bullzeye remember that the why MBA answer needs to represent a delta between where you stand and where you want to be in the short term and the long term
20:43	ISBAlum13	if your answer details the skills required to fill in the delta and show an MBA is the answer for it your job is done
20:43	ISBAlum13	you need to convince yourself with the answer first before you convince the panel
20:44	abhra	is there something specific they are looking for??
20:44	gmatsbyclubme84	When asked "Who is _____?" What should the approach be? Should we focus only on personal (since they have a lot of our professional info) or only professional or a mix? What should start with? Personal or professional info?
20:44	krr15h	relief again thanks gaurav. I was afraid i'd have to read up all my GMAT stuff :S
20:45	mib_2jq2mb	How about the skype applicants? how does this assessment happen for them?
20:45	lad1	Do you think 2 and half years of experience is less for ISB? What all should the less work ex. guys focus during the interviews?
20:45	bullzeye	Thank you!
20:45	ISBAlum13	lad1 2.5 years is just fine, if you have been called for the interview then you should no longer be worried about the work exp. part
20:45	bullzeye	How much of personal experiences that you can talk about?
20:46	ISBAlum13	bullzeye as much as you want to but remember it needs to map to the MBA part, in fact using

		personal examples to show lessons learnt and then implementing the learning in your work makes it a complete answer
20:46	ISBAlum13	but then you need to have had done this in actual or else the panel will find out
20:46	vicky	ISBAlum13 How should we approach the interview prep??
20:46	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	what does ISB look for in a re-applicant?
20:47	ISBAlum13	Ankurgupta if you are a reapplicant and have been invited for the interview then they are looking for 1. if you have worked on the earlier feedback, 2. what progress have you made in your profession or towards your goal while you have been away for a year
20:48	ISBAlum13	Vicky for starters know every part of your application and well best way is to video record your answers, if you are bored in the first 30 seconds then you know the answer is not good enough
20:48	ISBAlum13	i did not suggest what questions cause that list is freely available for you on the net to research
20:48	bullzeye	I believe a true package is when both professional and personal experiences shape a person.
20:48	mib_6i0ekd	Hi. I have a pure technical background with only some administrative exp so how do I convincingly explain to the adcom the next shift I wish to make to the Management rug?
20:48	bullzeye	Thanks again!
20:48	mib_2jq2mb	I'm bringing up krr15h's question about assessments again. How does it happen for a skype interview?
20:48	Narenn	Moderator Note: Please do not speak all at once. Thank you for co-operation. 😊
20:49	nitishgera	Hi. What may be the reason that ISB has slipped in recent rankings (from Rank 20 in 2012 to Rank 36 in 2014 - FT). Are these worrying signs from a placement point of view?
20:49	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	Moderator Note- Please wait till previous questions are answered. Let us give them some time to clear the backlog.
20:50	ISBAlum13	mib_2jq2mb well you would either not be subjected to it (i was not) or you would be given a word and will be asked to talk about it for 1-2 mins
20:50	gmatsbyme84	When asked "Who is _____?" What should the approach be? Should we focus only on personal (since they have a lot of our professional info) or only professional or a mix? What should start with? Personal or professional info?
20:51	Devashish	How do we answer tell me something about yourself question? It should be personal. professional or mix of both starting from shool, college and then work ex?
20:52	ISBAlum13	Devashish its better to start in a chronological way and end with the most recent detail, but remember do not waste too much time on details that dont matter for the interview for instance your school name etc.
20:52	MBA Decoder	gmatsby me..can you clarify the dash in your question please
20:52	gmatsbyme84	_____ - means me!!! 😊
20:52	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	i think he means Name of the person
20:53	ISBAlum13	gmatsbyme84 you need to present a mix of personal and professional detail thats the best way but end on a professional front
20:53	ISBAlum13	remember they have the information with them but you should mention what you want the panel for surely to know and well it can help in you directing the panel towards a question they want you to answer
20:53	ISBAlum13	Always remember end on a positive note and never be too afraid to say "i dont know..."
20:53	bullzeye	ok, I have a rather silly question on the body language.. Can one use hand gestures while speaking? I understand some ppl are really comfortable doing that...

20:53	gmatbugsme84	So - we start with personal information?
20:54	MBA Decoder	Bullzeye, as long as your hand gestures are not distracting it should be okay.
20:54	ISBA Alum13	bullzeye yes absolutely but just dont go overboard with it be your self in there
20:55	MBA Decoder	Gmatbugsme- if you are just starting an interview you would want to make the best first impression. So do start on an interesting note "Hi I am an engineer from...." kind of a beginning may make the team think - "this is also what the previous guy said"
20:55	abhra	how to approach question like " can you achieve your goals without an MBA"
20:56	bullzeye	When I am from a large pool of common applicants, say IT.. is it best to differentiate me with my personal traits applied to professional environs?
20:56	ISBA Alum13	abhra thats a great question, the answer usually is Yes you will try to get there but MBA is the way to get there faster and also MBA will prepare you better to take the next steps once you achieve your goals
20:57	mihirzinzu	@mba decoder: How about "hi i am a research scientist?" I mean should we say something about our role upfront if it is a bit unique?
20:58	vicky	Mihirzinzu Hi my name is ----- and I am ---- at ----- company is totally fine
20:59	ISBA Alum13	abhra the idea is to answer the questions in a positive way for instance you might be asked to detail on recent current affair which you might not have a clue about, now the only answer to that is I dont know but you could compliment by saying, i dont know i seem to have missed the news however i am up to date on XYZ and if you are willing can detail on that event
20:59	ISBA Alum13	that ways you have answered the question and also informed the interviewer you are ready to answer another question in the same are but a different topic
21:00	abhra	k..thanks
21:00	MBA Decoder	bullzeye- An MBA is a professional course. Just focusing upon the personal stuff to differentiate will help much. The panel may perceive you to be light on work related experiences which will not go down too well.
21:00	MBA Decoder	will NOT help much
21:00	bullzeye	Thank you!
21:01	vicky	i learned that from a guy who prepares presidents and all for speech etc.
21:01	dollybiotech	@ISBA Alum13 and MBA Decoder: Woman who is looking for a career shift Founder of an ngo(need to register),3 yrs experience in Telecom IT and background: Masters in life science(Mtech Biotechnology). Can you please tell me where do i stand?
21:01	vicky	Never ever start with myself...
21:01	abhra	how detailed should our answers be for our current roles???
21:01	MBA Decoder	dollybiotech, please send me a PM after this chat and I can take up your question there.
21:01	ISBA Alum13	abhra any answer should not be more than 90-150 seconds long
21:01	ISBA Alum13	Always leave room for a detailed answer when either the question is a pointed one or one asks "what else..."
21:01	dollybiotech	Thank you MBA Decoder 😊
21:02	gmatbugsme84	Does the interview panel have the feedback that we got on our last application? Because most of the feedback that I got seemed to be kind of given on the spot and not prepared beforehand? My next question is related to this one
21:03	abhra	ok...another question... what degree of details should we know about our future goals... for example consultancy??
21:03	ISBA Alum13	gmatbugsme84 well the interview panel might / might not know it but when they will submit their feedback and the weakness matches what was drafted in the last years interviewer feedback ISB will know not much progress has been made
21:03	MBA Decoder	I would like to add to ISBA lums advice on the length of your questions. When we conduct

		mock interviews, we often find applicants taking a good 5 minutes on the opening question-tell us something about yourself. It becomes a kind of a rant . Not required. Practice this answer really well. Often what you say here will form the basis for the next set of quest
21:05	ISBAIum13	add to MBADecoder point, with our services one thing that we will focus on is to ensure that you cover all aspects of your strengths and offering when you answer the interview questions, most candidates make the mistake of preparing really well for the interview but somehow only focus on probably 15-20% of what they can offer and that a natural thing as we somehow consciously fall back on our greatest strengths whenever asked to field a question thats we believe is important to us
21:05	bullzeye	What would you do if not selected to ISB - how to deal with such questions?
21:06	vicky	good question bullzeye... please answer that for me too
21:07	ISBAIum13	bullzeye thats a question where you inform the panel about your Plan B to get to your desired goal
21:07	ISBAIum13	but again end on a positive note your answer should show your determination to achieve your goal
21:08	MBADecoder	Plan B- thats an important question, which a lot of b-schools have been asking these days. Not getting into ISB is not the end of the road for you, but you must tell them that you will still continue on your growth path
21:09	gmatbugsme84	I was given feedback last year that (1) the applicant pool was competitive. (2) I could've interviewed better, (3) Consider retaking GMAT. How can I act upon feedback no 1? I have taken up some EC (actually did that before results were out) and taken increased responsibilities at work. Is this sufficient or do I need more? My GMAT is already 720. No retake!
21:09	bullzeye	lets say someone is doing X and wants a career shift.. say from a doctor to a manager... so how do we justify plan B to reach the same goal(Health Management) for eg.,
21:09	MBADecoder	GMATbugsme - I can answer this question for you
21:09	ISBAIum13	gmatbugsme84 can you please PM MBAdecoder post this chat and we can take up the case in more detail
21:10	MBADecoder	and this is from my experience of having read hundreds of applications over the past years. Many times applicants have the relevant experiences that will make them competitive, but fail to bring them out through the essays, recos and the resume section So maybe while your experiences are not lacking, your presentation is. The interview can be a chance for you to make a solid impression, so use it well this time
21:10	abhra	what degree of details should we know about the future roles we are targeting... for example consultancy??
21:10	gmatbugsme84	Cool
21:10	bullzeye	please answer @abhra's question for me too!
21:11	ISBAIum13	well bullzeye your goal will need some strengths you already possess, and if there are roles that ask for these traits then you will say that you would start with role X and get to the goal
21:12	ISBAIum13	not all skills an MBA teaches are exclusive most of them can be learnt at work albeit they are time consuming
21:12	gmatbugsme84	Thanks @MBADecoder
21:13	ISBAIum13	abhra great question again - you need to know the career / role in a crux and how its useful to you in the longer term
21:14	ISBAIum13	for instance if you talk about consulting then you should be aware of whats a day in a consultants life like , thsi will give you the grounding to answer the questions with tangible points
21:14	ISBAIum13	consulting will not allow you to present or work with CXOs on the first day or even in the first 1-2 years so no point in talking about inspirations you will draw from a working session with a

		CXO cause that will not happen right away
21:16	MBA Decoder	Abhra, ISBA lum is a consultant himself, so you can gain a lot from his experiences
21:16	mayank760	How to tackle a question such as, "Why should we not select you at ISB?"
21:16	rushabh0702	Hi...what all documents do the interviewers have access to. Is it only the resume or do they have access to your reco letters, GMAT scores, essays etc?
21:17	ISBA lum13	Mayank turnaround the question and answer why they should select you and talk about your development areas and why MBA is important to address them and then end on a positive note by re-iterating your strengths
21:17	ISBA lum13	no other great way to answer a difficult question like this
21:18	ISBA lum13	rushabh0702 they will have the same copy of the application as you will have with you so in short everything 😊
21:19	mayank760	Have all invites for people interviewing at Delhi been sent out? If not, what is holding you guys back?
21:19	abhra	many alums told me that they don't have your gmat scores
21:19	ISBA lum13	its important that you all know every word / every example on your application and should be prepared to detail on the examples and defend your strengths
21:19	gmatsbyme84	@Mayank760 - How can MBA Decoder answer for ISB?
21:19	MBA Decoder	Mayank, you will have to ask the ISB admissions team that question 😊
21:20	abhra	I think a good point to start would be listing out all the strengths you want to portray through your application and building your answers around it
21:20	abhra	what say??
21:21	ISBA lum13	yes abhra thats highly recommended
21:21	ISB Moderator- Ankur Gupta	Folks! last 10 minutes. Gather your thoughts and ask last few questions
21:22	ISBA lum13	abhra they will have access to the GMAT however i am not sure how that affects the interview questions
21:22	abhra	ya but one might get prejudiced
21:23	ISBA lum13	prejudiced on / about what? concentrate on preparing for the tangibles thats the only way forward
21:23	gmatsbyme84	@abhra - dont fret over things where you have no control
21:23	abhra	i'm not the one fretting 😊
21:24	ISBA lum13	as a candidate you need to be in the best shape to detail your profile your strengths and your passions no need to put in efforts on controlling things you do not have a say over
21:24	gmatsbyme84	@abhra. Great then ATB.
21:24	abhra	😊
21:24	MBA Decoder	abhra, just to put you at ease - ISB looks at your profile holistically. If the GMAT was such a big thorn, you would not be facing the interviewers in the first place
21:25	lad1	do I need to worry about general knowledge???
21:25	lad1	I am very bad at that!!! 😊
21:25	ISBA lum13	lad1 current affairs YES! general knowledge like i posted earlier if asked about X say you dont know much and give them a Y to question you on
21:26	lad1	ok thanks...will check on current affairs
21:27	ISBA lum13	lad1 dont fret / stress over it too much though, it should not affect your main prep for the interview
21:27	lad1	yes, that makes sense... 😊

21:28	ISBAIum13	A few tips from my side - prepare well, record your answer it's the best way for preparing for your interview
21:28	gmatbugsme84	Last Question Guys
21:29	ISBAIum13	also, never lie in the interview and if you do not know an answer its human to say " I don't know"
21:30	MBA Decoder	So this brings us to the end of our chat session. We hope you have benefitted from this.
21:30	gmatbugsme84	Thanks a lot Namita and Gaurav
21:30	ISBAIum13	and prepare an elevator pitch your first impression is going to last so have a 30 sec/ 90 sec answer to tell me about your self and also a 2-3 min version incase one stresses on the question
21:30	MBA Decoder	remember to go through information about our ISB application & interview packages posted at the start of the chat.
21:30	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	Thanks a lot team MBA Decoder. I will post the chat transcript on the ISB forum.
21:30	MBA Decoder	For a recap- Our Interview Package includes: 1. An exhaustive interview with ISB alumnus. 2. A written feedback containing key actionable items. 3. A list of past interview questions. We also have packages to do 2 rounds of interviews To register for our application or interview services, please email us at contact@mbadecoder.com or PM me on this forum
21:30	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	All the best everyone!
21:31	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	Thanks Gaurav! that was very helpful
21:31	ISBAIum13	Thank you all. best of luck looking forward to working with you all if need be and hopefully see you on the alum community in 2016
21:31	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	Thanks Gaurav. Thanks Namita
21:31	sid	thanks gaurav
21:31	MBA Decoder	Thanks for attending everyone
21:31	sid	Your insights were really helpful! thanks
21:32	abhra	thanks guys
21:32	lad1	thank you all
21:32	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	All the best to those who have their interview invites. Those who don't have. Do not worry. you will have it very soon 😊
21:34	ISBModerator-AnkurGupta	bbye!!!