



# Live Chat with Admissionado Consulting

Jon Frank: Co-Founder | Lauren Herskovic: Chief Operating Officer  
Dec 09, 2014



## Web Resources:

- Admissionado Website: <http://admissionado.com/>
- Admissionado Sub-forum on GMAT Club: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/ask-admissionado-167/>

		Welcome to the Live Chat Session with Admissionado Consulting!!
		Topic set by Narenn on Tue Dec 09 2014 21:13:21 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)
21:31	JonAdmissionado	Hello all!
21:31	JonAdmissionado	I'm gonna change that to fuscia
21:31	jdharris	Hello
21:31	JonAdmissionado	I like Fuscia
21:31	Lauren-Admissionado	Hi everyone!
21:31	jdharris	and fuscia likes you
21:32	JonAdmissionado	ohhh the compliments are coming already!
21:32	JonAdmissionado	Soooo, I guess let's get those questions started. The floor is open as they say...
21:33	jdharris	how are you?
21:33	jdharris	lol
21:33	Lauren-Admissionado	With only 4 weeks to go until those deadlines, I'm sure there are MANY
21:33	JonAdmissionado	Dude, we are in the crunch! I'm like on 200% adrenaline. Can't wait till February. then I can sleep
21:33	Lauren-Admissionado	Me too, plus 95% coffee
21:33	JonAdmissionado	What about you guys?
21:33	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>BTW, for all you GMAT Clubbers... keep this handy: <a href="http://bit.ly/MLP1214GC">http://bit.ly/MLP1214GC</a></b> <b>It's our MBA application checklist.</b>
21:33	jdharris	I have a question regarding informal references
21:33	JonAdmissionado	<b>Go for it</b>
21:34	Jdharris	Stanford requires two formal references, but what if I happen to know somebody who has donated \$2 million to the school? Would a letter from him make a difference? If so, how would he make such a recommendation?
21:34	JonAdmissionado	<b>It might, a small one though (I mean it's only 2 million right 😊). What you should be doing here is have them write real brief letter of support. Ideally to someone SPECIFIC he knows Like "Hey george I know this dude, jdarris.. he's a genius.. let's take him on". Or something like that..</b>
21:35	JonAdmissionado	<b>But keep it brief and to the point. If it's not your boss they don't want a whole spiel</b>
21:36	jdharris	ok, thank you
21:36	JonAdmissionado	<b>yes... welcome!</b>
21:37	jdharris	Will having been on academic probation in the past give you an automatic ding? (Even if you didn't use any of those credits towards your degrees?)
21:37	JonAdmissionado	<b>Not necessarily, but you will have to explain yourself. And it will be helpful if you have some good</b>

### GMAT Club Live Q&A Sessions Schedule

- <http://gmatclub.com/forum/live-q-a-sessions-with-admission-consultants-188123.html>
- <http://gmatclub.com/forum/announcement-mba-info-sessions-on-gmatclub-174827.html>



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		<b>reasons</b>
21:39	Narenn	You have worked with many MBA applicants. Can you tell us what biggest mistakes usually Applicants make in their essays and interviews??
21:40	JonAdmissionado	<b>Well, interviews are harder to say, because I'm not physically there, and I have to rely on reports...</b>
21:41	JonAdmissionado	<b>So let's start with apps. Biggest mistake - messing up your goals. Second biggest mistake - not answering the question that is actually asked. Third biggest mistake - answering the question without paying attention to the fact that you have to get something out of the answer (meaning promoting your candidacy)</b>
21:42	JonAdmissionado	<b>(maybe not in that order) and maybe last - boring writing...</b>
21:42	JonAdmissionado	<b>Check out this too:</b> From Our Editors: Common (and Avoidable) MBA Essay Mistakes <a href="http://bit.ly/B113MGC">http://bit.ly/B113MGC</a>
21:39	jdharris	and I hope having earned a 3.75+ gpa after that and a 760 GMAT would help offset that? this process makes me nervous
21:42	jdharris	could you be more specific about "messing up your goals?"
21:43	JonAdmissionado	<b>Sure - the worst goals are the ones that are totally unrealistic. For example, we are always seeing Indian software designers who want to move into finance with no background other than a CFA level one. That's not realistic.</b>
21:43	JonAdmissionado	<b>OR we just had someone who was in fashion and wanted to move to IT</b>
21:43	JonAdmissionado	<b>But without the skills. it just makes it seem like you don't have a clue of how employers think...</b>
21:44	jdharris	what if you have an unrealistic goal but then list the steps it would take to get there?
21:45	JonAdmissionado	<b>Okay.. so your goal is unrealistic, but then WHY present it? The only time I've seen it work well is when a) there was some basis b) the person was so filled with passion that they convinced me</b>
21:45	JonAdmissionado	<b>(and just to say this passion usually came with some sort of "amateur" experience and personal knowledge. Like one guy who had never worked in sports but LOVED sports, was a huge fan and had played his whole life</b>
21:45	JonAdmissionado	<b>then it works</b>
21:45	JonAdmissionado	<b>to answer your earlier q, jdharris, a 3.75 + 760 yes offsets that</b>
21:46	jdharris	to use your example, my that Indian IT guy wants to go into VC in the IT field, but to get there he knows he'll have to work for a consulting firm in the IT world and then make the transition at some point
21:46	JonAdmissionado	<b>yeah.. but what does this tell me from an AdCom POV?? That you want to luck out and win the lottery! I mean why do all these Indian IT guys want VC? Because it pays well. But show me a PASSION for something that really plays out.. I'm willing to believe that</b>
21:47	zpbaharu	Hi Jon thanks for being here. My question is related to delivery/tone of essays. In light of the ever-decreasing word limit, would you say adcoms are more receptive to a punchy, straight-to-the-point delivery (at the risk of being boring), as opposed to a "crafted/interesting" delivery (at the risk of being too oblique)? Or does it vary by school?
21:47	jdharris	great question
21:47	JonAdmissionado	<b>Why can't you be punchy and crafted? There's no excuse for boring essays, be they long or short. And punchy works well. The hard thing is to figure out exactly what is the necessary detail and relevant detail. And I mean this from a narrative perspective as much as factual</b>
21:47	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>Amen! They are only going to spend 5 mins (yes, FIVE) reading your essays... so they need to be punchy</b>

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21:48	JonAdmissionado	true dat Lauren
21:48	Lauren-Admissionado	👏
21:49	zpbaharu	Sometimes I get tempted to "flesh out" the points to make it more interesting
21:49	zpbaharu	otherwise it becomes just a list of goals, etc.
21:49	JonAdmissionado	okay and there are points where you should --- like where it gives insight to your introspection.
21:49	JonAdmissionado	or where you explain the challenge
21:49	JonAdmissionado	or write about leadership
21:49	JonAdmissionado	but other times (project details) it's usually less necessary
21:50	JonAdmissionado	but it's hard to generalize, it is after all an art form
21:50	Lauren-Admissionado	@zpbaharu - that's what a lot of people struggle with. But your essay needs to be more than a re-hashed resume. It's not easy, but it's definitely possible to say what you need to say, and do so in a punchy way!
21:51	zpbaharu	Yes that is what I thought as well, need to try and get the right balance
21:52	zpbaharu	Would you say there might be some differences across schools though?
21:52	JonAdmissionado	there are schools (like HBS) which are more "Straight talk" types of schools
21:52	JonAdmissionado	And schools like Stanford where they want to figure you out (hence the Whats the most important thing)... and they really mean it
21:53	Lauren-Admissionado	@zpbaharu - if you're struggling with the writing, drop me a line (lauren@admissionado.com) and we can figure out a way to help with that if you need!
21:54	JonAdmissionado	alrighty. anybody else got a Q?
21:54	zpbaharu	Interesting, I would have thought HBS is less "Straight talk" due to the lack of constraints on word limit
21:54	zpbaharu	Thanks for the insights gang
21:55	jdharris	I'm trying to think of other questions people have posed to me...
21:55	JonAdmissionado	😊
21:55	Narenn	All Newly Joined Folks: Welcome in the Chat Room. We are chatting with Jon and Lauren - Admissionado Consulting. If you have any questions regarding MBA application, feel free to ask them to Jon and Lauren
21:55	jdharris	(I'm relay all of your answers to them... they couldn't be here)
21:56	Lauren-Admissionado	Oh, and @zpbaharu - this may help as well
21:56	Lauren-Admissionado	<a href="http://admissionado.com/mba/resource/articles/?filter=mba_essay_writing_guide">http://admissionado.com/mba/resource/articles/?filter=mba_essay_writing_guide</a>
21:56	dd29	got a 720 on GMAT yesterday. Wanted to know which colleges would offer a GMAT scholarship for such score?
21:56	JonAdmissionado	oh yeah!!!
21:57	JonAdmissionado	First of all congrats. Second... hard to say without knowing your details. Scholarships are given out based on your entire profile. We got to look at that a bit more holistically, if you get my drift
21:57	zpbaharu	Thanks Lauren , I'm already a big fan of your site 😊
21:57	zpbaharu	I enjoy the writing style

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21:57	akumar321	Hi...I have few queries. Could you please tell me do all mba students have common subjects in their 1st year?
21:57	JonAdmissionado	<b>akumar: well it changes someone from school to school. some schools have a solid core in first year, and some allow you to choose some optional courses even in first year</b>
21:58	dd29	Thanks for the reply Jon... Is the scholarship only profile based or is the merit based scholarship given out for a good GMAT score? Want to apply in NUS & Darden
21:59	JonAdmissionado	<b>dd29: You have to check from school to school. For the most part in most schools scholarships are merit based</b>
21:59	dd29	Thanks Jon 😊
21:59	jdharris	Except Stanford and HBS, right?
22:00	JonAdmissionado	<b>There are SOME schools (as well as external programs) that offer finance based scholarships</b>
22:00	Narenn	Jon/Lauren: Many schools are sending out interview invitations and Admit Calls. What would be your advice to those who got waitlisted without interview or with Interview? How they can improve their chances of getting interview invite / admit call?
22:00	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>@narenn, here is a great resource for people who are waitlisted:</b> <a href="http://admissionado.com/mba/resources/get-mba-waitlist-someone/">http://admissionado.com/mba/resources/get-mba-waitlist-someone/</a>
22:00	JonAdmissionado	<b>Narenn: Okay, about those interview calls.. well my always suggest DOING something if you can... I mean what has improved since your application?</b>
22:01	JonAdmissionado	<b>What can you do to SHOW the Adcom that you really love the school? What else do you have that they don't yet know about?</b>
22:00	Goondosamy	hi Jon and Lauren - in the Sloan app they suggested for us to follow their resume template (which is more in style with a job resume)... would you advise I go in with my b-school resume or the usual job resume I have on hand?
22:01	JonAdmissionado	<b>goondosamy: Dont use your work Resume... Use ONLY an MBA resume</b>
22:02	JonAdmissionado	<b>The reason is simple, cause your employers have other needs and are looking for other things as your MBA program. Your employers care about your technical skills, the MBA cares more about your business skills (as one example)</b>
22:02	goondosamy	cool, thanks Jon! 😊
22:00	mbaseeker	Hi Jon and Lauren. I have a question - what is the best way to leverage one school's admission to get into another school. I've already gotten into one school and want to apply to the other school, hopefully getting more scholarship incentives from the latter.
22:03	JonAdmissionado	<b>mbaseeker: Once you have an admit, you can try and negotiate some money from one or the other. Sometimes it works actually 😊</b>
22:02	Narenn	Ok Thanks Jon. Any tips for those who got waitlisted after interview?
22:03	JonAdmissionado	<b>Narenn: You can still do any of those things I mentioned above.</b>
22:03	JonAdmissionado	<b>Dont work under the assumption that your entire interview is knowledge to the AdCom.</b>
22:03	JonAdmissionado	<b>usually they get a report only</b>
22:04	JonAdmissionado	<b>so they may not know things for example, even if you told your interviewer</b>
22:05	mbaseeker	@jon Thanks! I assume it is always good to have admission to two schools, so such negotiation can be done both ways?

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22:06	JonAdmissionado	I'm not sure.. I'd negotiate with one and then the other. It's not like they will retract their offer, but don't push your luck either 😊
22:05	akumar321	Jon could you please tell me while applying in any university, I have to be specific about the field. For example, operations management in energy sector or is that fine if I simply say operation management?
22:06	JonAdmissionado	akumar.. yes, you need to be specific about your industry as well as function. It wouldn't be a bad idea to be specific about region too if you know it, or have something that makes sense
22:06	Narenn	Seems some new folks just joined us. Welcome!! We are chatting with Jon and Lauren - Admissionado Consulting. If you have any questions regarding MBA application, feel free to ask them to Jon and Lauren
22:07	emilymom	Jon/Lauren, how specific do we have to be about our long term goals? For example simply saying that I want to take on an executive role in a fortune 500 company would not be specific enough? Thanks!
22:07	akumar321	what if I want to change my field in the later semesters? Is that possible Jon?
22:08	JonAdmissionado	ohhh once you get in, you do whatever you want! And that will depend on your contacts, on your internships, on how you do at interviews and career fairs
22:08	JonAdmissionado	reality is a bit less predictable than what you should write
22:08	akumar321	ok
22:09	Lauren-Admissionado	Hi!
22:09	JonAdmissionado	hey hey
22:10	jdharris	Howdy!
22:10	Lauren-Admissionado	In case this is helpful, you guys should all check out our essay analyses. I don't wanna be biased, but... they're awesome 😊
22:10	Lauren-Admissionado	<a href="http://admissionado.com/mba/resource/essay-analysis/">http://admissionado.com/mba/resource/essay-analysis/</a>
22:10	Ergen	Hi JonAdmissionado. Do you agree that Wharton has become gmat focused school or is it a myth?
22:10	JonAdmissionado	You from Texas jd?
22:11	Jdharris	I went to school there 😊
22:11	JonAdmissionado	Ergen... I don't know exactly that it has become GMAT focused. Don't believe that not everything is important
22:11	JonAdmissionado	But at the same time, it is true that GMATs have been going up, and Wharton, along with all other Top 10 schools have been pushed to the limits of GMAT highness
22:12	JonAdmissionado	(just cause people are scoring higher and higher and they are seeing more 750s than ever)
22:12	JonAdmissionado	aha!
22:12	Ergen	I see
22:12	Lauren-Admissionado	We saw a 790 come through yesterday!
22:12	goondosamy	another question - with Tuck, there's a lot of speculation of the % of each round that typically gets invited... what would your best guesstimate be? I was thinking about whether I should plan that trip to Hanover because I need to plan leave etc.
22:13	Lauren-Admissionado	Have you visited the school yet, @goondosamy?
22:13	goondosamy	Not yet but it is a long flight from Malaysia...

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22:14	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>Because at a school like Tuck, visiting is important. The community is REALLY important there, and they want to know that you want to be there, specifically.</b>
22:14	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>If you can go, it'll only help your app!</b>
22:14	JonAdmissionado	<b>no doubt no doubt</b>
22:14	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>You'll be able to speak more personally about why that is the school for you</b>
22:14	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>And at Tuck, that's especially important.</b>
22:14	JonAdmissionado	<b>I haven't calculated it recently but all % invited stats are a closely guarded secret and usually guess-calculated from available stats</b>
22:14	Ergen	I noticed that Columbia recommends sending recommendations from work emails. Do you think it can create any trouble if someone does not want to use his work email because of some work related concerns?
22:14	akumar321	Jon, do consulting jobs require more years of work experience ( greater than 3 years) ?
22:15	JonAdmissionado	<b>akumar - not necessarily. some people go INTO an MBA with a consultancy career</b>
22:16	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>@akumar321 - the trouble with consultants is that there are MANY, so you need to set yourself apart in some way, and that's hard, since most consultants have VERY similar experience. so you need to figure out what makes YOUR experience different</b>
22:16	mbaseeker	Jon and Laura, between LBS and INSEAD which one, in your opinion, has better global brand recognition? And which one has better recognition in the US?
22:16	JonAdmissionado	<b>they're both awesome but very different</b>
22:16	JonAdmissionado	<b>LBS for finance though. I think INSEAD is just as good for consulting</b>
22:16	akumar321	I have seen most of the top schools have greater % of jobs in consulting rather than in other fields. Is that correct?
22:17	mbaseeker	@Jon, that's pretty much what I have as the key difference. Any one you think is better recognized in the US? Overall?
22:17	JonAdmissionado	<b>For INSEAD for Sure.</b>
22:17	JonAdmissionado	<b>Last I looked at LBS Consulting and Finance were quite close. Overall, LBS maybe a tad "Better".. but again.. INSEAD is really good for industry/manufacturing/energy; they have a lot more folks going to Industry jobs than most MBA programs</b>
22:17	akumar321	I am thinking about consultancy in energy sector.
22:18	Lauren-Admissionado	Well, @akumar321, what are you doing now? What sort of consulting?
22:18	Narenn	There has been a lot of debate on forums on applying in Round1 vs Round2 vs Round3. What is your opinion on this? What advantage, if any, is there in applying in a specific round over another?
22:19	JonAdmissionado	<b>What the schools say is true.</b>
22:19	JonAdmissionado	<b>R1 is equal to R2</b>
22:19	JonAdmissionado	<b>although R1 has the GREAT advantage of leaving you R2 afterwards if things don't work out</b>
22:19	JonAdmissionado	<b>r3 is kinda sucky, unless your profile is very strong. i.e. strong enough to kick people off the waiting list who have already been half selected</b>
22:19	akumar321	I am working in Oil and gas field ( service industry). I plan to do operation management in energy or consultancy in energy. I am confused
22:20	JonAdmissionado	<b>akumar: dont be confused. Apply to both. And when you get INTO both, then be confused</b>

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22:20	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>Ah, so you're not in consulting now? You want to go INTO it?</b>
22:20	Narenn	I heard that R2 is more competitive than R1. Is it true?
22:20	JonAdmissionado	<b>Theres no wrong choice there</b>
22:20	JonAdmissionado	<b>more people tend to apply in R2</b>
22:20	jdharris	but more people get accepted in round 2, too
22:21	akumar321	and I am targeting in US only as there are more opportunities
22:21	jdharris	soooooo, are they comparable?
22:21	JonAdmissionado	<b>exactly... that's what I said.. th schools tell the truth r1 is like r2.. expect for that strategic advantage in r1</b>
22:21	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>Well, your goals really depend on the experience you have. So its hard to tell you which way to go without knowing more about you, of course 😊</b>
22:22	akumar321	I am thinking to get into consulting whether it will give me much more benefit than operation management? I am researching on that but not get a clear view yet
22:23	JonAdmissionado	<b>akumar, it depends on your past experience</b>
22:23	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>Well, to be honest, you don't need to think about that just yet. What's more impt is which goal will make the most sense in your apps. Once you get in, you can figure out which way to go!</b>
22:23	revul	Admissionado team - is it worth being honest on the 'what other schools did you apply to?' question... do they have any way of checking? I just don't want to make it obvious to my safety school that they are my safety school
22:24	akumar321	I think schools in Texas are better in energy sector as texas is an energy hub
22:25	JonAdmissionado	<b>akumar: yeah for example, Rice.. not a top school, but look at their energy connections.. Whoa!</b>
22:24	jdharris	sorry, Jon. I stepped away and didn't reread your earlier comments
22:24	JonAdmissionado	<b>revul: I think you've just answered your own question 😊</b>
22:25	chicasayshi	Hello, thanks for participating in the chat session. I was wondering I have 4 years experience in retail from early high and college, and 2 years experience working at a bank. Would these jobs help me with admission to MBA program?
22:25	JonAdmissionado	<b>chica: you can go to an MBA from any job... but keep in mind that work before you graduate doesn't count</b>
22:27	chicasayshi	Ohh okay I wasn't aware thanks for informing me I was curious what counted.
22:27	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>Guys, I got to jet (lots of clients need me!) but don't hesitate to email if you have ANY more questions or need some more help: lauren@admissionado.com</b>
22:27	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>I'm around... always. And I am happy to help however I can!</b>
22:27	JonAdmissionado	<b>Yep.. see ya Lauren</b>
22:27	chicasayshi	Thanks
22:28	akumar321	thanks
22:28	pway1	Hi Jon, I wanted to ask about Round 3 chances in Stern. I am applying to all schools in round 2 but it's already round 3 in Stern. It's one of my top schools but I don't want to waste my time and energy if very few seats are left

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22:28	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>And don't forget: GMAT Club members are eligible for our Friends and Family discount...</b>
22:28	JonAdmissionado	I'm sticking around for another five so get those last questions in
22:28	JonAdmissionado	Otherwise drop us a line
22:28	jdharris	How much is that discount?
22:28	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>15% off of our regular prices. Woohoo!</b>
22:28	jdharris	👏
22:28	jdharris	wow, not bad
22:28	akumar321	great
22:29	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>@jdharris, I think you mean "wow, that's amazing!"</b>
22:29	jdharris	lol
22:29	Lauren-Admissionado	I'm sure autocorrect got in your way there 🤖
22:29	JonAdmissionado	<b>Stern: lemme clarify that. its LAST round that is bad (when there's more than 3)... so R3 is cool</b>
22:29	jdharris	yea, darn autocorrect
22:29	jdharris	👏
22:29	pway1	thanks Jon! 😊
22:29	JonAdmissionado	<b>You got it</b>
22:30	JonAdmissionado	<b>Alright folks... so keep it real. Drop us a line whenever about whatever.</b>
22:30	mbaseeker	What if any, are some non-school scholarships available to ALL MBA students? Any good sites to find them?
22:30	akumar321	Could you pls tell me an approx. cost of studying full time mba in US school for an international student?
22:30	JonAdmissionado	<b>And you can always fill out our questionnaire to figure out how you might do and chat with someone:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/mbafcGC">http://bit.ly/mbafcGC</a> ⓘ
22:31	JonAdmissionado	<b>cost of MBA between 120-200K. it a lot of dough!</b>
22:31	JonAdmissionado	<b>but then again, you make it all back</b>
22:31	JonAdmissionado	😊
22:31	JonAdmissionado	<b>which is the point...</b>
22:31	akumar321	get it back after 2 years?
22:31	akumar321	so its a positive investment
22:31	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>you gotta think of it as a long-term investment, my friend</b>
22:31	Lauren-Admissionado	<b>because that's what it is</b>
22:31	JonAdmissionado	<b>hey i thought you left?</b>
22:32	JonAdmissionado	😊

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22:32	Lauren-Admissionado	i am leaving now
22:32	Lauren-Admissionado	bye!
22:32	JonAdmissionado	Can't stop answering Qs... 😊
22:32	JonAdmissionado	Me too!
22:32	jdharris	lol
22:32	JonAdmissionado	Bye!
22:32	akumar321	thanks Jon
22:32	akumar321	bye
22:32	JonAdmissionado	Alright Thanks a lot GMAT Club... It's been good... Drop us lines!

### GMAT Club Live Q&A Sessions Schedule

<http://gmatclub.com/forum/live-q-a-sessions-with-admission-consultants-188123.html>

<http://gmatclub.com/forum/announcement-mba-info-sessions-on-gmatclub-174827.html>