

GMAT Club Chat with Current LBS Students

Pawan Kaul (LBS 16) | **Sherene Tan** (LBS 16)

July 9th, 2015. Special Thanks: <http://www.admithour.com/>

Web Resources:

- LBS Website: <http://www.london.edu/>
- LBS Class of 2018 (Full Time MBA) Discussion: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/lbs-london-calling-all-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-200248.html>
- LBS Class of 2018 (MIF) Discussion: [http://gmatclub.com/forum/lbs-london-calling-all-mif-applicants-200249.html](http://gmatclub.com/forum/lbs-london-calling-all-mif-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-200249.html)

21:05		+++ Narenn set to mode +iwx
		Chat with MBAs from London Business School
		Topic set by Narenn on Thu Jul 09 2015 19:46:52 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)
21:29	Narenn	Hello Everyone
21:30	Narenn	Good Morning /Evening (depending on where you are 😊)
21:30	Narenn	Thank you very much for joining this chat.
21:30	Narenn	I request Akkshay_AdmitHour, Co-founder of AdmitHour, to do the introduction of guests and then we can start Q&A session.
21:30	Akkshay_AdmitHour	Hi everyone, welcome to the LBS chat and thank you to GMAT Club, AdmitHour connects MBA applicants with Current MBAs/alumni at Top Business Schools for admission guidance and insight.
21:31	Akkshay_AdmitHour	Today we have Sherene and Pawan from LBS to give you the inside scoop on life at LBS and how to actually get in to one of the world's most coveted MBA Programs
21:31	Akkshay_AdmitHour	I will allow them to introduce themselves and take it from here
21:32	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	Hey guys
21:32	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	Quick background about me: I am first year MBA student at LBS. I am a Chartered Accountant by background and spent the last seven years working for an Indian mid-market private equity fund in its investment team.
21:33	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	Hi, I'm also a 1st year MBA student at LBS, from Singapore. Prior to LBS, I was working in a marketing and strategic planning role in the oil and gas industry.
21:33	Narenn	Thank you Pawan and Sherene for joining us today.
21:34	Narenn	Dear Participants, this chat is now open for the discussion. Feel free to ask your questions to LBS students
21:34	ankushbagwale	I have been into development of Green & sustainable habitats. I am currently into developing the only second Greenest integrated Government habitat of India, viz. Green R

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		& D centre for Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Can you shed some light on avenues to continue in this area / domain while pursuing MBA @ LBS?
21:37	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	Hi Ankush there are various ways that you can engage with LBS clubs to develop your project. LBS energy club is one of the largest and an active club in campus. I am sure you would receive support from them.
21:40	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@Ankush, you could also check out CleanTech Challenge and JP Morgan Sustainability Competition - these are competitions that could be interesting to you
21:40	mib_izjw8	I am from Indonesia, I earned my bachelor degree last year in Accounting but I have been working full time since 2008 as accounting and administrator. I mean as an accountant and administrator. I am curious how to get admitted in to LBS especially for GMAT Score, anyone could give me some points for this matter?
21:41	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	Mib@ GMAT score is just one of the criterion. Other things such as your essays, past achievement (personal or professional), work ex etc. are also closely looked at by the adcom.
21:41	Aditya3110	Could you please shed some light on life at LBS in the first and second year in terms of time spent in clubs, class and lecture related activities as well as the amount of time spent on networking. I am trying to get an idea of the life balance and a gauge on the lifestyle led by students at LBS. Thank you
21:42	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	Hi Aditya, there is a good balance of academic, social and club-related activities that give you ample opportunities to network. In the 1st year, we have on average 14 hours of lectures a week and multiple clubs & networking activities almost every evening, you will be spoilt for choice. There are also plenty of speaker series and company-sponsored events
21:42	ankushbagwale	There is a myth doing round these days that work visas in UK are super tough? How the students @ LBS dealing with it?
21:42	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	Well really not a myth but UK has been getting tough on the visa regime due to inflow from migrants from affected eurozone areas. There is no major impact for LBS students as of now. Consulting, Corporate and banks generally sponsor visa.
21:43	abhinay	LBS as a school has a reputation of churning out Investment Bankers... how far behind is Consulting? And from your experience how easy is it for a non EU national to secure a Consulting job in EU/UK
21:44	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	abhinay@ actually placements for investment banking is decreasing. It's a function of the slowly recovering economy as well as folks opting for other areas. Consulting is a big churner for LBS. If you observe the last few years placement there has been an increase in consulting recruitment. The top consulting firms are open to sponsoring visas.

21:44	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	As Pawan mention, most global companies typically sponsor work visas, with the exception of GSK, P&G, J&J
21:45	mib_pralvj	Since the LBS application is not yet out what should I do to start preparing for the application process.
21:45	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@mib You can research more about what unique aspects LBS offers that attracts you, read up on the programme, courses, clubs, visit campus if you can. Feel free to also reach out to Pawan or myself on AdmitHour for any specific help
21:46	ankushbagwale	Exxon has recently declared entering into the Petroleum R & D centre setup in India & US. Is it amongst the group of companies that sponsor visa in US? Which other global energy companies do recruiting in bulk?
21:46	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@Ankush Do you mean the UK? Energy companies that actively recruit at LBS include Shell, BP, Statoil, Schlumberger Consulting
21:47	mib_pralvj	could you tell us how should we select our recommenders?
21:48	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@mib You should select recommenders that know you well and would be in a good position to commend your work and motivations, also support and understand your MBA ambitions. Recommenders need not necessarily be of very senior positions at your workplace
21:48	abhinay	In your experience, typically how good is the conversion rate from an internship to a full time job?
21:49	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	abhinay@ the conversion rate is pretty high at almost 90%.
21:49	abhinay	cool... good to hear
21:49	ankushbagwale	Yes I meant UK as well as US ...How about non natives ? How many internationals got recruited by these firms in the last one year? What did it look like?
21:50	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@ankush I don't know the exact number but I do know non-natives getting recruited by Shell and Schlumberger so its not a problem
21:51	mib_4ohe56	What were your motivations for selecting LBS?
21:51	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	My main motivations were brand, diversity and the location (London). The school is right in the heart of London and you can meet anyone at a short notice. This helps during recruiting and coffee chats.
21:52	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@mib the school also has a very strong alumni base, its very easy to get support from them. Also its very accessible to vacations anywhere around Europe, which will be a large part of your MBA life 🤔
21:53	Vishalr	How did you approach your essays?

21:53	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	For the essays, I made sure I could envision how I would fit into LBS and contribute actively to the school, motivations for why you want to pursue the MBA at this time and reasons for choosing LBS are critical as well
21:54	Narenn	Pawan / Sherene, Can you throw some light on admission process of LBS ? GPA, GMAT, Application Essays, Interview, Work Experience, and Extra Curricular. If you asked to arrange these parameters in the order of their importance at LBS – what would it be?
21:56	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	In my opinion, in order of importance: Work experience, Essays, GMAT, Extracurricular, Interviews. LBS also values diversity a lot. Interviews are lengthy and detailed, but once you get shortlisted for interview stage, your chances are already more than 60%
21:58	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	The admission process is quite similar to any other bschool. The admission takes place in four rounds. The applicants submit their applications, which include about three to four essays, recommendation, resume and GMAT score. Once the applications are selected it proceeds through various shortlists for interview. In my view your work ex, essays, GMAT and then extra circular.
21:59	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	I think the most important factor that one needs to highlight for LBS admissions is how are you different from any other candidate. LBS is the most diverse school around and it prides itself on that.
21:59	abhinay	Any particular disadvantages to completing the course in 15 months except for the fact that International Exchange is ruled out if you do 15 months. Any other negative factors?
22:00	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	The only negative I can think of for 15 months is that once you complete the program you have another 3 months to stay within the UK to find a job and then you would have to re-apply for a short term visa
22:01	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	Few people that complete in 15 months are typically either sponsored or have found full time jobs
22:02	abhinay	ok is that the same case with 18 months?
22:02	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	It is the same - but with 18 months, you can go for international exchange
22:02	rol432	@Shreren @Pawan LSB mentions in the FAQs that work experience while pursuing an under-graduate program can also be considered. Do you have any classmates who fall under such criteria? Where are they from?
22:03	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	rol432@ There are a few students who did work during the under grad program but they are far and few. Maybe four or five. I am not sure which geography are they from though. You probably need to show something exceptional you did during that work period.
22:03	mib_4ohe56	What are the classes like? More case studies or traditional? Do you study in groups

22:03	mib_4ohe56	Are most jobs after LBS based in London or europe?
22:04	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	Most jobs after LBS are indeed based in London/Europe but there are people who go back to the Middle East, Asia and US etc
22:04	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	Classes are more case studies focused. Yes during the first year there are groups of five to six students from different countries.
22:05	Narenn	I heard that LBS is one of few top schools that strongly encourage prospective applicants to do school visits. How true is it? Does that affect your chances significantly?
22:06	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	Narenn@ I think for any b school. The underlying theme with most schools is that they want the prospective applicants to "want" them. A visit to the school is recommended. Also from a practical aspect you can sit in a class and gauge the professors that teach.
22:07	Narenn	Thanks Pawan. But my question is Is it must have??
22:07	Narenn	especially for international applicants, who will have to spend around \$3000 - \$4000 only on the travel
22:08	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	@Narenn definitely i wouldn't say it's a must have. But if you bump into the admissions director during your visit here (like i did) there is a chance that she would remember while reviewing your application process. You have to play on the softer aspects.
22:08	mib_4ohe56	Does LBS have scholarships or do they offer any financial aid or do they guarantee student loans?
22:10	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@mib LBS does not guarantee student loans, but there are a number of scholarships - when you apply, you are automatically considered for the scholarships you would be eligible for, but you would only know the results after accepting your place at LBS. For student loans, you can check out Prodigy Finance that ties up with LBS.
22:10	ankushbagwale	Are there opportunities for UN wings or IMF or ECB etc. post MBA from LBS?
22:13	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	@ankush i have not seen any IMF/ECB jobs. Though there are job postings from ADB and IFC.
22:13	mib_4ohe56	How important is it to have international work experience outside of your home country?
22:13	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@mib for LBS I would say it is quite important if you can show that you have a global outlook, so emphasising on international work experience or working for a multinational company would be a plus. However, that said, I do know classmates who have only worked in their home countries and still got into LBS.
22:14	ankushbagwale	What are the opportunities for hiking & cycling at LBS? Any specific club or events? & yes what about marathon races?

22:15	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	@ankush there are many opportunities for hiking and biking in the English countryside. Clubs often organize treks all around scenic Europe during the year. There are ample travelling opportunities. Happy to discuss offline.
22:15	ankushbagwale	Any specific courses that comes to your mind regarding Project management?
22:15	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	@ankush there is an elective on project management.
22:16	mib_4ohe56	What are the best courses & professors at LBS?
22:16	mib_4ohe56	Would you say LBS is only good for students looking to get into finance & consulting since I'm interested in startups
22:17	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@mib You don't get to choose core courses, but there are a number of popular electives such as Negotiations & Bargaining, Brand Management, etc. There are many outstanding professors - Alex Edmans, Randall Peterson, Gillian Ku. Many examples!
22:17	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@mib LBS is definitely strong in consulting and finance, but they are increasingly focusing on entrepreneurship/start-ups/VC/Tech - there are really good entrepreneurship courses such as New Venture Development and Pathways to Start-up Success. We also have the Entrepreneurship Summer School and LBS Start-up Incubator, very valuable resources
22:18	mib_4ohe56	I come from a finance background and want to switch to either tech or startups. How easy is it to do that post an MBA from LBS
22:18	abhinay	When it comes to consulting do you happen to see preference given to EU nationals given they know the area better? I heard geographical familiarity is a key consideration in EU based consulting jobs
22:19	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	@abhinay i have known many non EU nationals to get into consulting. Language skills are more preferred in banking rather than consulting.
22:19	ankushbagwale	Who has made a profound impression during your time @ LBS & why do you consider it worth mentioning?
22:20	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	Alex Edmans; He made corporate finance very interesting
22:20	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	For me it would Gary, Rajesh Chandy, and Alex Edmans.
22:21	abhinay	How long did both of you take to get your whole application together for LBS?
22:21	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	The completely honest answer is - I spent 2-3 weeks thinking about my essays, and 1 day putting it together
22:21	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	but that is not typical! haha
22:22	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	abhinay @ it took me about two to three months. Though I was working on a few

		college applications at that moment.
22:22	abhinay	alright and I presume prior to that you would've spent a fair amount of time researching about LBS etc? or did you just think LBS and within one month your app was done
22:23	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	abhinay@ yes I spent quite a bit of time on researching about the school.
22:23	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	of course I spent 3-4 months before that really thinking and crystallizing my motivations for the MBA, and of course researching LBS; Once you know your motivations inside out - it becomes a lot easier
22:24	Narenn	How was your interview experience? Was that on-campus or off-campus? What types of questions you faced in interview?
22:24	abhinay	@Sherene I noticed you are from NUS as well... so am I 😊 and i wanted to echo Narenn's question - who took your interview in Singapore? ANd is there any advantage that I'll get being from Singapore given that not many students will be from singapore
22:25	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	narenn@interview experience was fairly cordial. The questions were pretty standard. It is about your experience and why do you want to pursue the program.
22:26	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@abhinay my interviewer was an American LBS Alum based in Singapore. I don't think there will be any unfair advantage, they will evaluate your application based on the same criteria and standards
22:26	abhinay	cool... i was hoping for a +1 for diversity points haha
22:27	abhinay	and one more thing... how much is entrepreneurial experience valued in the admissions process? I am working for Merrill Lynch but I've also had a startup in the past. Do you think I should play that up in my application or LBS tends to focus more on corporate experience
22:28	abhinay	for instance some B Schools are sticklers for entrepreneurial experience... can the same be said for LBS?
22:29	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	@abhinay entrepreneurial experience is valued but not a game changer, happy to discuss specifics offline
22:29	Akshay_AdmitHour	Hey guys just a reminder if you are interested in applying to LBS, you can get guidance from Sherene and Pawan on www.admithour.com
22:29	abhinay	cool thanks
22:29	ankushbagwale	great
22:30	Narenn	We are about to wrap up.... any last questions??
22:30	abhinay	just wanted to say thank you to both Sherene and Pawan :) very helpful guys thanks for doing this

22:30	abhinay	and yes, noted about admithour...very smart initiative that :)
22:31	Akkshay_AdmitHour	thanks abhinay!
22:31	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	Thanks guys, best of luck!
22:31	Sherene_AdmitHour_LBS	Come to LBS 🍀
22:31	Narenn	Alright!!
22:31	Narenn	Thanks everyone for joining today. Thanks Pawan and Sherene for joining us today and answering queries of applicants.
22:31	Narenn	SPecial thanks to AdmitHour team for their support in organizing this event
22:32	Narenn	We will publish a condensed transcript of this chat in LBS forum. Keep an eye on this thread... http://gmatclub.com/forum/lbs-london-calling-all-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-200248.html
22:33	Pawan_AdmitHour_LBS	Thanks to the organizers and GMAT club. All the best folks! Hope to see you guys on campus soon!
22:33	Akkshay_AdmitHour	thanks narenn
22:33	Narenn	Thank you everyone again and have a good day!!

2015 Live Q&A Sessions Schedule: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/announcement-mba-info-sessions-on-gmatclub-174827.html>

GMAT Club's MBA Resources

All MBA Rankings	http://bit.ly/1FaDIT3	Application Experiences of Applicants	http://bit.ly/1IecA6z
All MBA Deadlines	http://bit.ly/19RSTSX	MBA Applicant Blogs	http://bit.ly/1Hx5LJE
All School Stats	http://bit.ly/1MPOguZ	Current Student Blogs	http://bit.ly/1NPG4rD
Live Chats with B-School Adcoms	http://bit.ly/1NJ7v4w	All school discussions	http://bit.ly/1K0N43a
MBA Admission Consultant Reviews	http://bit.ly/1y6eLpt	Best MBA Books	http://bit.ly/1Cvz2qC
2015 MBA Applicants' Profiles	http://bit.ly/1DJKnBO		
For More Information Visit	http://gmatclub.com/forum/business-school-and-mba-115/		