



August 27, 2015.

Web Resources:

- Yale SOM Website: <http://som.yale.edu/>
- Yale Full Time MBA Class of 2018 Discussion: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-yale-som-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-200065.html>

21:13		Welcome to the Live chat with Rebekah Melville, Director of Financial Aid and Member of Admissions Committee at Yale SOM!!
21:13		Topic set by Narenn on Thu Aug 27 2015 21:13:57 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)
21:30	Yale_Rebekah	Hello and thank you for joining me today. My name is Rebekah Melville, and I am the Director of Financial Aid and a member of the admissions committee. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.
21:30	Narenn	Hello Everyone, Thank you for joining GMAT Club Yale SOM Q&A session today and a big welcome to Director of Financial Aid and Member of Yale SOM Admissions Committee – Rebekah Melville.
21:31	Narenn	Today Rebekah will answer your questions regarding applications, essays, interviews, and life at Yale.
21:31	Narenn	There are around 30 chat participants and more are expected to join in couple of minutes, so it is humble request to all participants to adhere to the following rules during chat so that Rebekah can answer most of our questions
21:31	Narenn	1) Ask the questions one by one. Before posting your question, make sure Rebekah has answered the earlier question.
21:31	Narenn	2) Do not ask profile specific questions e.g. What are my chances etc.
21:31	Narenn	3) Keep the question typed in advance and paste them in chat box when earlier question is answered.
21:31	Narenn	Before we begin the session, I would request Rebekah to give us a short introduction of your roles and responsibilities at Yale
21:33	Yale_Rebekah	I'd be happy to do that. Essentially, the admissions committee is responsible for forming a class of 325 (or so!) students who will engage with the Yale community in a way that will allow people to learn from one another. We look at your competitiveness based on academics, work experience, leadership potential, and other dimensions.
21:34	Narenn	Thanks!! Dear Participants, this chat is now open for Q&A. Please ask your questions to Rebekah.



August 27, 2015.

21:34	YaleinMind	Hi Rebekah, could you please put some light on impact investing career opportunities available in Yale, what companies do recruiting for impact investing profile? What is the typical career progression in this sector after Yale MBA?
21:36	Yale_Rebekah	Impact investing has become a very important source of employment for our students. Obviously, the firms are smaller than the bulge banks or financial services firms, so I hesitate to drop too many names (many hire just one or two graduates/year given their size). That being said, Acumen Fund is a name that many will recognize.
21:36	Yale_Rebekah	On an extra-curricular level, I'd recommend that you join the finance club to prepare for interviews and Net Impact club for contacts.
21:36	KC	Hi, I already hold a MBA degree from University in India. Can I Apply for Yale SOM?
21:37	Yale_Rebekah	KC: You can apply. We have admitted people with previous MBAs in the past, but you will need to explain why you need a second MBA. That can be difficult for some of our applicants.
21:38	mbastudent12	Hello, since Yale SOM is a very global business school - are there ways applicants can make up for a lack of foreign work experience in other ways to demonstrate a global perspective? (Domestic nonprofit work with different cultures, travel, etc.) Thank you!!
21:38	Yale_Rebekah	mbastudent12: While we love people to come with us with a global perspective, the more important trait for you to demonstrate is broad-mindedness. Are you willing to learn from others who aren't like you? If the answer is yes, you'll fit in fine here.
21:38	YaleinMind	What is the typical career progression in this sector after Yale MBA?
21:38	Whittierst	What advice to you have for an applicant who had a "rough" time in college as demonstrated by a below average GPA? For instance, do graded post-graduate on-line extension courses (i.e. through Yale or another university's extension) help mitigate that issue?
21:39	Yale_Rebekah	whittierst: That's a great question. We recognize that there is no perfect applicant or application, and you can often make up for a less than stellar academic record through subsequent work experience or academics.
21:39	ankurgupta03	Hi Rebekah, can you please tell me about the opportunities in education domain post graduation
21:40	Yale_Rebekah	ankurgupta03: The education space is another big employer of our students. Many work for public sector consulting, Teach for America (or its affiliates), or charter schools in the USA and abroad. We help make this possible through our post-graduation loan forgiveness program, which provides up to \$101,000 in post-MBA support for all students in public service



August 27, 2015.

21:40	Doctorhm	Yale's first year is core-based. Though, definitely different from many colleges. That's great. But, nevertheless are students allowed to take electives in their respective areas of interest prior to summer internship? Thanks a lot Rebekah.
21:41	Yale_Rebekah	Doctorhm: Yes, you actually must start taking electives in the spring term of your first year. There may be an opportunity for electives in the fall, but probably only if you exempt out of a core course that term.
21:41	Pillarsofcreation	Hi Rebekah, Thank you for doing this. I am a prospective candidate from India. For the past 2 years I have been running a startup, and now plan to move into product management or similar roles in tech companies. How successful have Yale MBA's been in getting a job/internship at startups such as Uber/AirBnB or large tech companies such as Amazon/Google/Apple?
21:43	Yale_Rebekah	Pillarsofcreation: The tech sector has been a growing sector for us over the past several year. Many of our Indian graduates have great success obtaining jobs at Amazon, Facebook, Google, etc. We run an annual job trek each year to Silicon Valley to meet companies and employers, which is a great way to continue your job search.
21:43	abhinavverma09	Hi Rebekah , I see that your website mentions employment statistics by function as well by employer industry but can I gauge out for myself what roles/functions are offered by what sector firms. For example A general management role in Healthcare or an operations role in healthcare. What firms would offer roles like these?
21:44	Yale_Rebekah	abhinavverma09: You're right - there's only so many ways we break down this data. It's a little more heavily weighted towards the management side, as operations often require a specific background (depending on industry).
21:44	Tad	How does the admission committee view our inability to get our current manager as a recommender?
21:45	Yale_Rebekah	Tad: Another great question! We understand that many people are applying in confidence, as letting their boss know they'll be leaving shortly is not something they want to share! As long as you explain this to us -- the reason why you're not using your current supervisor -- we understand. A great location to do this is in the Optional Statement section.
21:45	whittierst	Several business schools are offering online "readiness" programs to prospective MBA students. What do you think of those and how might they be considered as part of an applicant's overall presentation?
21:47	Yale_Rebekah	whittierst: If you use these for quantitative preparation, that's fine. Courses that focus on 'softer skills' are harder to teach online and therefore viewed with a little more skepticism. Any preparation you do is viewed positively, but not required if you don't need it.
21:47	rachitjain	Is Yale Silver Scholar Programme any different from a regular MBA?



August 27, 2015.

21:48	Yale_Rebekah	rachitjain: Yes, the Silver Scholars program is a little different because it is 3 years. You complete your first year studies at Yale SOM, obtain an internship in your second year (no tuition!), and then return for your third year.
21:49	Gerca93	Hello Rebekah, what advices can you give to reapplicants? How do you see reapplicants different from first time applicants?
21:49	Yale_Rebekah	Gerca93: Reapplicants have the same rate of admission as non-reapplicants. I'd recommend that you request feedback, if the office provides it (Yale does, in June each year). Take a look at what you think is a weakness and refresh it.
21:50	mashinaliahmed	What activities on campus are most popular with students?
21:50	Yale_Rebekah	mashinaliahmed: Some of our most popular student clubs are Net Impact, consulting, finance, food/wine and entrepreneurship.
21:51	Doctorhm	How do you view mbamath.com course? If we take the course in test mode.
21:51	Yale_Rebekah	Doctorhm: mbamath.com is fine, but I don't want to see a 31-page report please!
21:51	mib_zndbeb	How important are the video questions? And secondly, is there any benefit to submitting your application well before the deadline or are all applications viewed together after the deadline?
21:52	Yale_Rebekah	mib_zndbeb: Video questions are helpful because they show your ability to think 'on your feet' and it allows us to assess English. You will be representing Yale, so can we put you in front of a recruiter with a little coaching? To be honest, most people are completely fine - it's somewhat unusual for a candidate to distinguish themselves negatively!
21:53	abhinavverma09	Another question Rebekah , How do you view a candidate who has been diverse in his approach all through his life and is not sure of his post mba goals. He is sure what he needs to learn would guide him to his final goal but isn't sure what his short term goal immediately after an mba would be. ?
21:54	abhinavverma09	For example My work is Software engineer in EDA industry + free lance consulting(in operations and business expansion) and i am not sure which industry would i be the best fit for.
21:54	Yale_Rebekah	abhinavverma09: We recognize that many of you are career switchers, and are often pursuing an MBA with vague goals. That's alright, but try to have a sense of what is interesting to you (is it a function rather than an industry, perhaps?).
21:54	YaleinMind	Can we still get feedback for last year's application or is it available in June only?
21:55	Yale_Rebekah	YaleinMind; I'm afraid we need to limit the feedback to June only.



August 27, 2015.

21:55	ArielH08	Is there any benefit to submitting your application well before the deadline or are all applications viewed together after the deadline?
21:55	Yale_Rebekah	ArieH08: There's no advantage to applying early I'm afraid - we don't start reviewing applications until after the deadline for that round.
21:56	Doctorhm	31 page report? I did not get you, I am sorry! mbamath would send the score to the respective schools. Is that a 31 page?
21:56	hoodprincess	I had a question about Yale Silver Scholars. How many people are admitted to the Silver Scholars program every year?
21:56	Yale_Rebekah	hoodprincess: This year, we have 17 Silver Scholars. They started just a week ago!
21:56	AttorneyBrian	How is Yale SOM adapting or changing its curriculum to suit the change in the job market in the recent years? What changes are on the horizon? How have employers reacted to these changes in Yale SOM's curriculum or program?
21:57	Yale_Rebekah	AttorneyBrian: We think we have a strong curriculum that teaches management from different perspectives. This was launched in 2006, and we've only made tweaks to it. We've strengthened our leadership development program for example, to respond to students' needs to more experiential learning.
21:57	Tad	How important are GPA and the GMAT for granting aid/scholarships/waiver? What are the typical scores for successful scholars?
21:58	Yale_Rebekah	Tad: GPA and GMAT are important factors for granting scholarships, but it's really the strength of the whole profile. Please note that like many business schools, we only have merit-based scholarships.
21:59	rachitjain	I will be completing my under graduation by May 2016 so can I apply for Yale Silver Scholar Programme in 2016-17 or do I need to apply in 2015-16 itself?
21:59	Yale_Rebekah	rachitjain: You should apply this year to be a Silver Scholar.
21:59	hoodprincess	What would be the acceptance rate for Silver Scholars? Also, what are the statistics, in terms of GPA and GMAT scores for this program?
22:00	Yale_Rebekah	hoodprincess: I don't have the exact admission rate for the program, but our selectivity is around 21%
22:01	Pillarsofcreation	Thank you Rebekah. Follow up question : How does Yale support candidates who are looking to startup a business in US? What are some key features of the entrepreneurship programme that was launched in 2014?



August 27, 2015.

22:03	Yale_Rebekah	Pillarsofcreation: Great question. Kyle Jensen sits just downstairs from me, and makes sure there is an academic component to our course offerings on entrepreneurship, as well as co-curricular offerings (like the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute) and clubs. There's also a program that pays the interest on your educational loans for 2 years so that you develop your idea here at SOM post-graduation.
22:03	YaleinMind	Does admission committee review previous year's application along with present application for re-applicants?
22:03	Yale_Rebekah	YaleinMind: Yes
22:04	rachitjain	What is the conversion scale that should be used for GPA calculation by international applicants when applying to Yale?
22:04	Yale_Rebekah	rachitjain: We don't really convert the GPAs. We know that a first class, first division is really, really good. 😊
22:05	mib_k5wzxd	Does Yale SOM also take into account the number of attempts for the GMAT?
22:05	Yale_Rebekah	Yes, we actually do. We generally tell applicants to stop at 3 attempts because no one ever seems to improve that much after 3.
22:05	xsoto	Thank you Rebekah, I couldn't find in the website information for the GRE, Does YALE SOM divulge the range for GRE?
22:06	Yale_Rebekah	xsoto: We haven't really calculated this in the past. Anecdotally, we like to see scores above the 70% percentile on the GRE.
22:06	sbj8591	Hi Rebekah, can you please elaborate on what parameters are judged via the three A/V questions?
22:07	mbastudent12	Can you expand on the recent grading policy changes - especially related to disclosure? And how this compares to other business schools and trends in recruiting?
22:09	Yale_Rebekah	mbastudent12: Our grading change....The big change is that we now have a forced curve at the bottom for core courses. The bottom 5% of the core receives non-proficient grades. There were no changes to grades disclosure: the student owns their record.
22:10	Pillarsofcreation	Amazing, did not know about that Rebekah. One more question : I understand the value of recommendations in the admission process. Since I have been working as a co-founder of a startup for more than 2 years, I don't have any supervisor, but only my partner to recommend me. How do candidates who are admitted to Yale after heading a business manage recommendations?
22:11	Yale_Rebekah	Pillarsofcreation: In your situation, I'd recommend a recommendation from your partner, and



August 27, 2015.

		perhaps one from a customer or investor?
22:13	Pillarsofcreation	That makes a lot of sense. Thank you Rebekah.
22:13	xsoto	Rebekah, How many scholarships are awarded each year for The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management applicants?
22:14	Yale_Rebekah	xsoto: The Consortium is a great network for many of our candidates and we provide a handful of full fellowships each year. We also provide other merit-based scholarships to Consortium members.
22:14	Doctorhm	Are loans provided by Yale to individuals without co-signer? Does Yale have a tie up with Prodigy Finance?
22:14	Yale_Rebekah	Doctorhm: Yes. We use Prodigy Finance as the provider for international student loans.
22:15	Pillarsofcreation	Sorry for asking so many questions, but Yale is one of my top choices. Question : What do you think is the biggest misconception about Yale SOM and the admission process in general that we as candidates don't know about?
22:15	Yale_Rebekah	Pillarsofcreation: Another great question. I think the same misconception is shared across all of my colleagues at different schools. To get into a strong program like Yale, you don't have to have done unusual and crazy things. You don't need to be extraordinary. In fact, most of our admitted students are very ordinary people who have done very ordinary things. They've just done them extraordinarily well.
22:17	Pillarsofcreation	Superb response Rebekah. Again thank you for doing this.
22:17	whittierst	Should an applicant who is interested (or even applying at the same time for) a joint degree in, for instance, Global Affairs, mention that in his/her application?
22:18	Yale_Rebekah	whittierst: Yes! If you're applying to two degrees at Yale, we like to know. I'd expect it would also inform how you answer the questions along the way as well. We can't guarantee acceptance, but we can coordinate with them a little bit as well.
22:18	kyngst1	I am an older applicants with advanced degree. How much does Yale SOM value PhD's? Is there any data o the % of students with PhD's?
22:19	Doctorhm	Yale follows a bidding course for electives, if I am not mistaken?
22:19	Yale_Rebekah	Doctorhm: Yes, there is a bidding system.
22:19	Doctorhm	*bidding method. Apologies for a typo there.



August 27, 2015.

22:20	hoodprincess	Is it possible for you to share the average GPA and GMAT for the Silver Scholars program?
22:20	Yale_Rebekah	hoodprincess: I don't know it. Sorry.
22:21	whittierst	And when an applicant is applying into a joint degree program, do the two admissions committees/staffs coordinate, or are the applications reviewed totally separately?
22:22	Yale_Rebekah	whittierst: Applications are reviewed completely separately, but we do coordinate a little bit.
22:22	Doctorhm	What are the most famous electives, irrespective of concentration?
22:22	Yale_Rebekah	Doctorhm: Popular courses include: Entrepreneurship, Venture Capitalism, Doing Business in the Developing World, anything taught by Jeff Garten 😊
22:23	rachitjain	So an Indian applicant doesn't need to approach an evaluator service that provides U.S. Grade Point Equivalent for Percentages scored in Indian Universities?
22:23	Yale_Rebekah	rachitjain: No, please don't.
22:23	Doctorhm	Thank you Rebekah. I have two more questions. First, on an average how many clubs are students usually part of?
22:24	Yale_Rebekah	Doctorhm: It depends on the clubs because some are pretty intense. If you have a leadership position in the finance club for example, you probably will do that and one 'fun club'. The hockey (ice, not field) is very popular here too. Other people belong to 3-4 clubs, assuming they don't have leadership positions.
22:24	Whittierst	Is it more customary for a joint degree applicant to wait until after being accepted to one program to apply to the other or to tackle them simultaneously as first year applicants?
22:25	Yale_Rebekah	whittierst: It's really a mix, with the exception of the JD/MBA program with the law school. The majority of those students come to us after their first year at the law school.
22:25	Doctorhm	Thank you once again. My second question is what role do student career clubs play in the career search?
22:25	Yale_Rebekah	Doctorhm: Again, this depends on the club. Finance and consulting help prepare each other for interviews and are invaluable in a career search. Others play a truly extracurricular role (i.e., food and wine club, soccer club).
22:26	mib_k5wzxd	How much of a focus is given on seeing the extra-curricular side of the applicant? Is it quite considerable? Or does that only enhances your profile



August 27, 2015.

22:26	Yale_Rebekah	mib...: It's not really quantity, but quality. Why do you participate in this activity? Is it just to look good on your application or something you care about? Not everyone has the time to do anything other than sleep, eat, and work. We understand that too. It's just more about getting a sense of who you are and what 'makes you tick'.
22:26	mbastudent12	Can you talk about recruiting opportunities within the sports industry? I noticed some of the professional leagues in the employment reports
22:27	Yale_Rebekah	mbastudent12: Yes, we've got some great opportunities at the NBA and other sports organizations. This is a growing field because many of these leagues have only caught on to the value of the MBA in the last decade or so. It's pretty exciting, and surprisingly, they don't always take our students who were competitive athletes (but I'm sure that doesn't hurt!).
22:28	Doctorhm	Haha, yes my question was for the professional clubs 😊 Thank you. Regarding the essay, is it okay if we concentrate on one story, and do a brief mention of two other instances where we have must had an impact? Is it important to explain in the essay also why we want to do an MBA from Yale? Or sticking to just the impact part is suffice?
22:29	Yale_Rebekah	Doctorhm: That's up to you. The essay just gives us a more complete profile.
22:29	hoodprincess	Do you admit students directly from three year Indian undergrad programs to Ph.D programs?
22:29	Yale_Rebekah	hoodprincess: I don't know. I do admissions for the MBA program only.
22:29	mib_k5wzxd	Thanks for your time and patience! Much appreciated
22:29	YaleinMind	Are rotational leadership positions open for non-US citizens also?
22:30	Yale_Rebekah	YaleinMind: There are fewer rotational programs for non-US citizens, to be honest.
22:30	Narenn	Alright!!... We'll wrap up here
22:30	Narenn	Thanks everyone for participating in this chat today.
22:30	Narenn	Thank you very much, Rebekah, for spending time with us and answering applicants' questions. Hope you enjoyed chatting with GMAT Club members.
22:30	Narenn	We know that we could not answer everyone's question due to timing constraint. The next chat session with Yale team is on September 24. To view complete Live Q&A schedule visit this thread... http://gmatclub.com/forum/live-q-a-with-b-school-adcoms-2015-season-174827.html
22:31	Narenn	We will publish summary of this chat in Yale forum in few days. Keep an eye on this thread... http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-yale-som-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-200065.html



August 27, 2015.

22:31	Narenn	Also we need a ThreadMaster to lead discussions in Yale forum. Please PM me if anyone is interested. Here you can learn more about this status. http://gmatclub.com/forum/be-the-coolest-guy-in-the-mba-forum-be-a-threadmaster-152204.html
22:32	Yale_Rebekah	Thank you for your time everyone! Good luck with your applications!
22:32	hoodprincess	Thanks Rebekah! 😊
22:32	mbastudent12	Thank you! 😊
22:32	whittierst	Thank you Rebekah. Great answers!
22:32	whittierst	Is there a way to get a transcript? I'd like to share it with a friend who couldn't be here.
22:32	Doctorhm	Thank you Rebekah for your patient answering and Thanks to Narenn too 😊
22:33	YaleinMind	Thanks much
22:33	ankurgupta03	Thanks a lot for your time Rebekah

1) Upcoming Yale (SOM) Chat sessions:

- **September 24. Presenter:** Margie Adler, Associate Director of Admissions.
- **October 27. Presenter:** Maria Derlipanska, Associate Director of Admissions.

2) 2015 Live Q&A Session Schedule: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/announcement-mba-info-sessions-on-gmatclub-174827.html>

3) All Chat transcripts are available to download here <http://gmatclub.com/forum/live-q-a-with-b-school-adcoms-2015-season-174827.html#p1416987>

GMAT Club's MBA Resources

All MBA Rankings	http://bit.ly/1FaDIT3	Application Experiences of Applicants	http://bit.ly/1lecA6z
All MBA Deadlines	http://bit.ly/19RSTX	MBA Applicant Blogs	http://bit.ly/1Hx5LJE
All School Stats	http://bit.ly/1MPOquZ	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		
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