

Web Resources:

- Cambridge Website: <http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/home/>
- Cambridge Class of 2017 (Full Time MBA) Discussion: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-judge-cambridge-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-200762.html>
- Ask Cambridge Admissions: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/ask-cambridge-judge-admissions-117002.html>

16:22		Live Q&A with Cambridge (Judge) MBA Students!!
		Topic set by Narenn on Tue Oct 13 2015 16:22:30 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)
17:05	Narenn	Hello Everyone, Thank you for joining GMAT Club Cambridge (Judge) Student Q&A session today and a big welcome to Current JBS MBA Students - Michelle Avelena, Daria Zarubina and Somesh Dwivedi.
17:05	Narenn	Today Michelle, Daria, and Somesh will answer your questions regarding applications, essays, interviews, and life at Cambridge.
17:06	Narenn	Before we begin the session, I would like to request all participating students to give us your brief introduction.
17:06	mib_1znut2	Hello Michelle, Daria and Somesh
17:07	Daria-CambridgeMBA	Hi everyone
17:07	Daria-CambridgeMBA	I'm an MBA candidate at Cambridge Judge Business School at University of Cambridge. I started school in September and I'm loving it here. Fell free to ask any questions that you might have.
17:08	Cambridge_Student_Michelle	Hi everyone, my name is Michelle Avelena. I am an Indonesian national. I did my undergraduate studies at the University of Nottingham in UK in Engineering. My work experience has been in entrepreneurship/management.
17:08	Somesh_CambridgeMBA_Intakeof20	Hi everyone, I'm Somesh. A biotech major and I've been at Google for most part of my work life, in strategy, marketing & sales and data intelligence role. I was working at Google Chicago before coming to Cambridge for MBA.
17:09	mib_1znut2	So I've read a few things about the college system but it seems quite complicated. What can you tell me about the colleges and what is life like? Are you actually part of University of

		Cambridge?
17:09	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Yes, we're integral to University of Cambridge. The business department is an important part of the university. The collegiate system implies that you get to interact to other undergrad/grad students at Cambridge too, aside from the business school students.
17:09	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	The college is more like a "home" for you. Most of the time you will be spending your time in Judge Business School as the MBA is a fast paced and packed programme.
17:10	Daria-CambridgeMBA	My college is Magadlene (pronounced as /'mɑ:dli:n/). It was founded in 1428 and it is still a very traditional college. We have formal hall (fancy dinner) in gowns and by candlelit every night, where you can sit next to a Nobel prize winner or fellow students from various fields. That is where ideas cross pollinate and you get the unique exposure.
17:10	rh638	Hi Somesh, Daria and Michelle - how did you find the whole experience from application to starting on the course
17:10	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Hi rh368, I found the experience very engaging and enlightening. From a highly intuitive application interface to speaking to representatives of the Cambridge office and alums and of course, starting the program last month, it's been a great experience and a massive learning curve to be a part of such a bright cohort.
17:11	Funsuk	Hello Students, I've a common question for you'll. What were your motivations for selecting JBS?
17:11	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	I chose JBS because it is strong in entrepreneurship. It's also a one year course so it's perfect for me as I don't want to spend too much time & money on two years courses. Also I went to the interview day and really liked the experience.
17:11	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Sure Funsunk. I chose JBS for several reasons. 1. I was looking for a 1-year program as opposed to the traditional 2-year MBA and Cambridge MBA is one of the finest 1-year programs going around. 2. I have worked at Google for quite a few years and I look to get back in the tech space. Cambridge MBA lies right at the heart of Silicon Fen in the UK and there's
17:13	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	so much to learn from the large local tech community. 3. Cambridge MBA has been

		<p>rising up the rankings and was featured at no. 13 in FT's list of world's best business schools. 4. The name Cambridge is one of the most hallowed names in the education space and I'm elated to be a part of a prestigious university that dates back to 800 years.</p>
17:15	JackRim1	<p>What would you say are JBS' downsides?</p>
17:18	Cambridge_Student_Michelle	<p>It depends on your circumstances: I come from an entrepreneurial background, therefore I planned to do a bit of work while studying. I was advised that it would be a really packed year ahead, so I managed to delegate all my work to my partner. A sound decision, because there is a substantial amount of workload.</p>
17:20	Daria-CambridgeMBA	<p>I guess one year is both a benefit and a downside. You hear a lot that 1-year programs are intense, but it's hard to imagine before you get here. You need to have your goals defined really clearly. Personally, I knew there will be a lot of b-school activities (academics, career, social), but I did not factor in all the amazing college activities</p>
17:20	Narenn	<p>What are the classes like? More case studies or traditional? Do you study in groups? Are most jobs after JBS based in UK / Europe?</p>
17:21	Somesh_CambridgeMBA_Intakeof20	<p>The classes are a fine mix of the case method and lectures. That way, we get to have a strong grasp on the theory/business concepts before running with them in real-life business scenarios.</p>
17:23	Somesh_CambridgeMBA_Intakeof20	<p>There's a lot of group work. One thing that truly stands about the Cambridge MBA is the practical application. 3 weeks into the program, we're already consulting local startups as part of the Cambridge venture project. This will be followed by a bigger consulting project in March and an internship in June.</p>
17:24	Somesh_CambridgeMBA_Intakeof20	<p>All of these projects are a great opportunity to use your business knowledge and apply it to real-life business situations.</p>
17:24	Narenn	<p>Newly Joined Members: We are chatting with Cambridge MBA Students – Michelle Avelena, Daria Zarubina, and Somesh Dwivedi. If you have any questions about Cambridge's MBA program, feel free to ask them to students.</p>
17:24	Narenn	<p>Could you please shed some light on life at JBS Cambridge in terms of time spent in clubs,</p>

		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 Cambridge. Thank you
17:26	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	Just to give an idea, the classes start at about 9 AM and finishes roughly at about 5.30 PM. That will be followed by careers/networking event up to 8 PM.
17:28	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	You do have a lot of fun though, mostly with your MBA cohort (dinner, drinks, weekend activities like punting, formal halls, college dinners etc). But since you will have to revise/study in your spare time, it may be a bit tricky to incorporate a lot of extracurricular activities into your schedule.
17:29	Daria-CambridgeMBA	And then outside of Judge you have the famous Cambridge Union Debates (200 years of tradition), rowing clubs (a must here!), meetings with start-ups from Cambridge Fen, formal hall swaps with other colleges, etc.
17:29	skoll	What according to you is fit for JBS ...as in what qualities is JBS looking for besides the obvious leadership experience
17:29	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Hi skoll, while there's no one mould for the Cambridge MBA, but the common qualities you'll see among Cambridge MBAs are that they're bright yet friendly people, highly enterprising and collaborative and people with good social skills given that you'll be part of such a diverse cohort.
17:30	JackRim1	There seems to be a high ratio towards people from tech or entrepreneurial backgrounds. Is this a significant trend in whom they are admitting?
17:32	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Hi Jack, interesting observation. There's definitely some advantage in the proximity to Silicon Fen that does attract a lot of tech enthusiasts. That said, there's a ton of bankers and consultants in my class. I'll say it's quite an even spread.
17:32	Daria-CambridgeMBA	My advice: get to London, take the speed train to Cambridge and you will be blown away!
17:33	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	@jack people's backgrounds are as diverse as lawyers, media, journalists too in addition to bankers & consultants
17:34	RP	Thanks for the insights guys and congratulations on your starting the program! I hear good

		stuff all around and that's very much expected of JBS. What about the challenges (I read someone asked that), what are the key difficulties, how demanding are the units, is it more theory and then practical (field) or are the lectures more of a discussion then one sided?
17:34	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Hi RP. The most challenging part for me is picking and choosing wisely. You can be very busy at JBS without getting much accomplished and that's because the number of things on offer.
17:34	RP	Excellent take Somesh, thanks. Abundance of choice sounds like a good problem to have.
17:35	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Aside from the lectures, there's speaker series, recruitment events, client meetings for several of our projects, networking sessions, etc. etc. Like Daria said earlier, coming in with a ballpark plan of what you want to get out of the MBA will help you pick and choose.
17:35	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	RP, one of the things that I really like about my experience so far is the lectures. The lecturers make time for us to make comments/give insight to the topic. It's very interesting to hear from classmates from different experiences give their feedback on a certain topic.
17:36	Daria-CambridgeMBA	All lectures are more of discussions with some fair amount of cold calling in some classes - so you have to come prepared, but the contributions from classmates are so valuable!
17:36	JackRim1	Ok thanks. Without meaning to make this profile specific towards me; are there many people looking to transition to tech from non tech backgrounds? Is this a wise ambition? (I'm ex military, for example)
17:37	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Good question Jack. Quite a few people in the program that come from non-tech backgrounds are shooting for roles in the Tech space. It's not uncommon.
17:38	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	Yes, definitely not uncommon. An alumnus came in last week. He was a lawyer before he came in to the MBA, and now he is doing an internship with Google.
17:38	skoll	Who has made a profound impression during your time @ JBS & why do you consider it worth mentioning?
17:40	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	Hi skoll, it's still early days so I wouldn't pick just 1 thing/person that's impressed me

		<p>the most. That said, I've been blown away by the company of so many super talented people. I learn from my classmates as much as I learn from the lectures.</p>
17:42	RP	<p>And how about the fun of spontaneity? Does the school work with very strict schedules or are there often some elements of ambiguity, the fun of learning in an instant? I have often heard from Alumni big schools can be quite monotonous (I studied at IIM B recently, they are very close to it)</p>
17:42	Daria-CambridgeMBA	<p>As you probably got from my earlier posts already, I enjoy calling Cambridge home enormously 😊 The town has a lot of character and history, yet filled with energy and innovation. Lots of great pubs, theatres, shops, etc right in the center.</p>
17:43	Daria-CambridgeMBA	<p>And you are not really a Cambridge student without a bike 😊</p>
17:43	Somesh_CambridgeMBA_Intakeof20	<p>Hi RP, the school's view on lectures is that they're integral to your time in Cambridge. It's a 1-year program and we're rattling along. It's important to ensure optimal attendance in order to get a hang of the concepts. So the school has a pretty strict view on attendance. That said, there's a lot of time after lectures (read 5:30 pm) for fun activities.</p>
17:44	RP	<p>Thanks All, good day!</p>
17:44	Cambridge_Student_Michelle	<p>RP, the college system from Cambridge makes JBS less monotonous in my opinion. So many activities and quirky (at least for me) things to do, both fun and educational.</p>
17:46	JackRim1	<p>How is the course geared towards finding you a role afterwards? My gf has just started on the Warwick MBA and they've just completed pretty intensive psychometric analysis and career profiling with a view to start looking for a job already.</p>
17:46	Daria-CambridgeMBA	<p>We had a fantastic alumni panel from Cambridge MBA alumni working in internal and external consulting (BCG, Gallup, Unilever, and BP) and all 4 were impressive, brilliant, yet personable.</p>
17:47	Somesh_CambridgeMBA_Intakeof20	<p>Hi Jack, we started talking to career services even before getting to Cambridge to get help on our CVs and cover letters. 3 weeks into the program and we've already had quite a few recruitment events. There are skill workshops too, for instance, consulting workshop designed to help you better solve a case</p>

17:48	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	All in all, job search begins right at the top of the program and the Career Services are an immensely useful resource.
17:48	JackRim1	Cool thanks
17:49	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	The Careers Center is very integral in the MBA. We have dedicated days for Career related activities. JBS has its own Careers Centre on top of the Careers Center from the central university. You are assigned a Career team member to personally assist your goals. On top of this you are also assigned an external Career consultant who may be based abroad.
17:49	JackRim1	Ah interesting
17:49	Daria-CambridgeMBA	And on the college side: the Master of my college Rowan Williams is the ex-head of the Church of England and a big controversial character in the UK, so a very interesting person to get to know.
17:50	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	The careers center is also aware and understands that you may have career goal changes during your MBA, and that's why a constant communication with the careers team is important.
17:51	JackRim1	What's the size of the intake this year? And what round did you guys apply?
17:52	Daria-CambridgeMBA	We have some sort of career event literally every day of the week (company presentation, 1-2-1 session with a coach, panel, skill workshop, meeting with your client company for the project etc.)
17:52	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	157 people in all. There's about 5 or 6 rounds in all but the sooner you apply because so many smart people are competing for these 150 odd spots.
17:53	Cambridge_Student_Mic helle	I applied in Round 1 and was offered a bursary towards my tuition fees.
17:54	Somesh_CambridgeMB A_Intakeof20	the sooner you apply, the better it is
17:56	Daria-CambridgeMBA	I was in Rnd3 which coincides nicely with Rnd2 in US schools, so you can get all your offers at the same time and make a decision based on that. Was also offered a scholarship (bursary). Also the earlier you apply the better choice of colleges you

		have: ancient and prestigious ones fill their slots very early.
17:56	Cambridge_Student_Michelle	Yup, definitely should consider the colleges option 😊
17:58	JackRim1	How much work is done in syndicate groups?
17:59	JackRim1	And do they stay the same throughout?
17:59	Somesh_CambridgeMBA_Intakeof20	Your groups change over the course of the program. As about the amount of work you do with them, please refer to one of my earlier replies about working a lot with your group
18:00	JackRim1	Thanks very much for your time guys, good luck!
18:00	Narenn	Alright!!... We'll wrap up here
18:00	Narenn	Thanks everyone for participating in this chat today.
18:00	Narenn	Thank you very much, Michelle, Daria and Somesh, for spending time with us and answering applicants' questions. Hope you enjoyed the chat.
18:00	Cambridge_Student_Michelle	Thanks everyone 😊

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

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

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Live Chats with B-School Adcoms	http://bit.ly/1NJ7v4w	All school discussions	http://bit.ly/1K0N43a
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