

Web Resources:

- Darden Website: <http://www.darden.virginia.edu/>
- Darden Full Time MBA Class of 2018 Discussion: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-darden-uva-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-198658.html>
- Valuable content from Darden Class of 2016 Applicants' discussion: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/important-posts-from-darden-class-of-2016-discussion-196173.html>

20:03		Live Chat with UVA Darden Admission Directors: Kristen Egan and Catie Yielding!!
		Topic set by Narenn on Tue Sep 29 2015 20:03:12 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)
20:32	Narenn	Hello Everyone, Thank you for joining GMAT Club UVA Darden Q&A session today and a big welcome to Assistant Directors of Admissions of UVA Darden - Kristen Egan and Catie Yielding
20:32	Narenn	Today Kristen and Egan will answer your questions regarding applications, essays, interviews, and life at Darden.
20:33	Narenn	There are around 12 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 our guests can answer most of our questions
20:33	Narenn	1. Ask the questions one by one. Before posting your question, make sure the earlier question is answered.
20:34	Narenn	2. Do not ask profile specific questions e.g. What are my chances etc.
20:34	Narenn	3. Keep the question typed in advance and paste them in chat box when earlier question is answered.
20:34	Narenn	Before we begin the session, I would request Kristen and Catie to give us a short introduction of your roles and responsibilities at Darden
20:34	SeshankShekar	Hi Kristen and Catie, thank you for taking the time to answer our queries today.
20:36	Darden_Kristen	Hi everyone my name is Kristen Egan and I am here with my colleague Catie Yielding. We are both members of the Admissions Committee and are looking forward to answering your questions today. We are gearing up for our Round 1 application deadline next week on 8 October. Please let us know what may be on your mind at this time.
20:36	Narenn	Thanks!! Dear Participants, this chat is now open for Q&A. Please ask your questions to Kristen and Catie.
20:37	nizam1	can I go first?

GMAT Club Chat with Darden (Virginia) Admissions Team

Kristen Egan – Assistant Director of Admissions, UVA Darden

Catie Yielding – Assistant Director of Admissions, UVA Darden

September 29, 2015.

20:37	Narenn	Sure
20:38	nizam1	I was hoping you guys could help me with a couple of very specific queries. I am a 27 year old sports lawyer from India and my primary motivation for pursuing an MBA is to transition into, in very broad terms, the business side of sport and perhaps pursue a career in an international sports organization or a sports team or franchise.
20:38	nizam1	I was wondering if you could give me some information on the 'Media, Entertainment and Sports' industry specialization that Darden offers? What kind of exposure (in terms of treks, projects internships) to sports franchises and organisations in particular can a student expect if he is admitted into the programme and chooses this specialization?
20:40	Darden_Kristen	I would encourage you to reach out to one of the current student leaders from our Media, Entertainment & Sports club: http://www.darden.virginia.edu/mba/academics/industry-specialty-areas/media-entertainment-sports/ . This is not an academic specialization, but a great career related club where students are able to connect with industry representatives.
20:41	Darden_Kristen	The National Basketball Association (NBA) was just recruiting here at Darden yesterday
20:42	Darden_Kristen	There is also an elective during the second year focused in Media, Entertainment and Sports Management. And one of our professors leads a class to the Cannes Festival each year.
20:44	nizam1	thanks kristen!
20:46	RAHKARP27071989	Hi Kristen, My name is Arjun and can you please have a look at my profile. 1) 10th standard- 72% 2) 12th - 67% B.tech graduate with 63% and have experience of 3.5 years (2 Years with HCL Technologies+ 1.5 Years with Accenture) as an IT associate I am planning to switch to Finance industry Can You please suggest what should be my descent GMAT scoe to apply t
20:46	Narenn	RAHKARP27071989: Please do not ask profile specific question. Thank You!!
20:47	Darden_Kristen	Unfortunately, I cannot evaluate your credentials at this time. You are welcome to view our Class Profile to see where you are in comparison: http://www.darden.virginia.edu/web/MBA/Students-Alumni/Class-Profile/
20:48	Ignatius	Hi Kristen. For domestic applicants, is there a quant sub score that is typically seen as insufficient or concerning, even if the overall score is competitive?
20:50	Darden_Kristen	Hi Ignatius - our admissions process is holistic and the GMAT is one component of our review process. In addition to your GMAT score we will review your academic history and professional experience for additional insight into your quantitative proficiency.
20:51	Darden_Kristen	We have many students who come to Darden from non traditional backgrounds. We provide additional quantitative support before students step into their first class through our "Darden Before Darden" program, which allows students to get some additional support before launching into our case method environment.

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20:53	Ignatius	Definitely encouraging. Thanks again. I'll aim to improve upon my 690 (Q42.V42) but in either case am looking forward to submitting in R2.
20:54	Darden_Kristen	We look forward to reading your application in Round 2 Ignatius!
20:54	RAHKARP27071989	Alright, Can you please tell, does Darden helps in industry change..As I have 3.5 years exp in IT and I want to switch to Finance..
20:55	Darden_Kristen	Yes many students pursue an MBA to switch careers and we have a robust Career Development Center to help you in that process. You may also consider connecting with a student from our finance club to hear about their experience: http://www.darden.virginia.edu/mba/community/student-clubs/finance/
20:55	kogyee	Kristen, what percentage of your MBA applicants get admitted?
20:56	Narenn	Is there any disadvantage in Applying for Round 2 instead of Round 1?? Pertaining to scholarships and admissions
20:57	Darden_Kristen	Overall we encourage applicants to apply when they can submit their strongest application. We do encourage applicants to apply earlier in our process when the most seats and scholarships are available. If you apply Round 3 please use the additional comments space to give us some additional information on why you may be applying at that stage.
20:57	mib_p38mfh	If someone has earned a Masters degree in a quant field with a high GPA, would that help to mitigate an undergraduate GPA which is lower than your mid-80% range (assuming a good GMAT as well of course)?
20:58	Darden_Kristen	As we mentioned with Ignatius's question earlier, the admissions process is holistic. We know that you cannot change your GPA and academic performance as that is in the past. We take it into consideration though your current work performance and GMAT score help us get a fuller picture of your ability to be successful in our classroom environment as well.
20:59	Guest17461	How would you describe Darden student as person?
20:59	Darden_Kristen	Darden students are motivated, ready to make an impact in their communities, ready to get involved here and ready to share their perspective in the classroom. We have a very responsive global alumni network who I encourage everyone to connect with to better understand your opportunities as a Darden student and alum
21:00	te20jas	will there be an advantage of getting a scholarship or a fellowship If a student applies in round1 rather than round 2 for international students
21:00	Darden_Kristen	Yes all scholarships are available during Round 1, but Round 2 also tends to be our largest application round when we still award many scholarships
21:01	mib_p38mfh	For someone who intends to apply next summer for Fall 2017 matriculation, when do you

		prefer campus visits? The fall semester or the spring semester prior to applying?
21:02	Darden_Kristen	We encourage you to attend when class is in session if possible. Please check our calendar to see when class visits are available: http://www.darden.virginia.edu/web/MBA/Admissions/Visiting-Darden/
21:03	Darden_Kristen	We understand that many international candidates may not have an opportunity to visit. You can check out a video of our case method in action to get a better idea of what our students experience: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfJ-Mk2g1NY
21:03	pankajvashist	Hi Kristen, I have done degree from India which grade its score out of 10. Can you please tell me about that did I need to convert into the scale of 4. As well as college transcript need to be sent through college or student can send it them-self.
21:03	Darden_Kristen	Pankaj- We receive applications from all over the world and are familiar with different grading scales. You do not need to convert your GPA on a 4.0 scale. You can submit a scanned copy of your transcript to complete your application, but we will need official transcripts from the institution upon admission and your decision to enroll.
21:04	te20jas	thank you Kristen
21:04	VishnuMohan	Hello Kristen .. i have 4 years work experience in IT ...however post mba i want to pursue a career in Finance as I see I want to be in FS industry for a long time ...does this difference in IT experience and post mba goal in finance affect one's application ...also does clearing the CFA levels count positively in one's application
21:05	Darden_Kristen	Hi Vishnu - we recognize that many students come to Darden and pursue an MBA to switch their career field. We have dedicated career advisors who work with our students interested in finance and I'd also encourage you to reach out to one of the members of our finance club to learn more about their network and support here.
21:05	Darden_Kristen	Yes - any advanced degrees or certifications are looked at positively in your application in regards to the CFA question.
21:06	mib_p38mfh	Oh thank you so much Kristen! This is a helpful video for someone who is a bit confused about the format surrounding the case study method.
21:07	te20jas	Can you provide us some tips for essays and what does Darden in specific look for in our essays
21:09	Darden_Kristen	On tips for essays - answer the question provided, be sure that you are telling us something more about YOU, proofread and consider having friends or family review your response to make sure it is authentic and genuine to who you are and answers the question.
21:10	Darden_Kristen	We want you to use all of the space provided in the application to tell us more about you. Be sure to use all the space provided to your advantage.

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Catie Yielding – Assistant Director of Admissions, UVA Darden

September 29, 2015.

21:11	te20jas	thank you
21:11	Narenn	How does the admission committee view our inability to get our current manager as a recommender?
21:12	Darden_Kristen	We prefer to see a current manager or supervisor. If you are unable to get your current manager/supervisor please use the additional comments space to let us know why - perhaps you just started working with them or you have not disclosed that you are pursuing an MBA at this time. Be sure to choose someone who can speak to your professional contributions and accomplishments - a senior team leader or former supervisor may be a good option too
21:14	mib_p38mfh	So if we have held 2 positions at 2 different firms - would you prefer a supervisor from each over supervisor from 1 and a client from the same firm?
21:15	Darden_Kristen	mib - this is ultimately your decision to choose 2 recommendations who know you best and can provide the most helpful insight.
21:15	mib_fqr03r	Is round one preferable to the subsequent rounds?
21:16	Darden_Kristen	Apply when you can submit your best application! While all seats and scholarships are available in Round 1 - a rushed application will not serve you well in our review process.
21:16	mib_p38mfh	Kristen - understood; thank you!
21:16	Darden_Kristen	You're welcome!
21:18	Darden_Kristen	For any international candidates joining the chat today I want to point you towards this helpful resource: http://www.darden.virginia.edu/web/MBA/Admissions/Application-Process/International-Applicants/
21:18	Narenn	What advice do you have for re-applicants?
21:19	Darden_Kristen	We encourage re-applicants to take advantage of the feedback call that we offer over the summer. We expect to see additional examples of career and personal growth in addition to any specific feedback we may have provided during the call.
21:20	Narenn	Does the admissions committee check the online presence of the candidate such as linkedin, instagram, twitter, blogs etc. and give weightage to a good social presence?
21:21	Darden_Kristen	It's good practice to make sure all of your online profiles are professional.
21:21	mib_p38mfh	Considering that Darden is a bit of a hike from some business centers such as NYC, does the school still have some visits or some type of way of immersion for a day or two for students in their desired field? (i.e. someone in the investment banking track being exposed to that field directly for a day or something)

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21:24	Darden_Kristen	Yes more than 100 companies come to Darden each year to meet with our students. We also help organize industry related job treks such as Week on Wall Street where our students spend substantial time with financial institutions.
21:24	Darden_Kristen	We hold these treks all over the world and in a myriad of industries.
21:25	Darden_Kristen	Our Career Development Center also hosts Career Discovery Forums at the start of the year to hear from industry representatives and some of our alumni in various fields to learn more.
21:25	Darden_Kristen	Check out all of our career support here: http://www.darden.virginia.edu/mba/career/counseling-support/career-prep/
21:25	Darden_Kristen	I know we are running out of time. I wanted to be sure to share a link to our Admissions Dean - Sara Neher's blog: http://www.darden.virginia.edu/mba/admissions/sara-neher-blog/ . She provides helpful tips and guidance throughout the entire admissions process.
21:25	mib_p38mfh	Kristen - awesome! I will do more research on the Darden site about these, thanks again!
21:26	Enkhmurun	How deeply do you consider the GMAT score of the applicant who is from one of the very poor countries?
21:28	Darden_Kristen	Enkhmurun - The GMAT is one component of our review process. You can see our class profile here to compare your current profile, but keep in mind these are averages and students have a wide range of scores and experience. http://www.darden.virginia.edu/web/MBA/Students-Alumni/Class-Profile/
21:29	Darden_Kristen	Sorry I can't chat longer. To stay up-to-date on news from Darden Admissions, read our Admissions & MBA blog (http://blogs.darden.virginia.edu/admissions/). It was so nice chatting with you all! We look forward to reading your applications or seeing you at a future event!
21:29	Narenn	Alright!!!... We'll wrap up here
21:29	Narenn	Thanks everyone for participating in this chat today.
21:29	Narenn	Thank you very much, Darden_Kristen, for spending your valuable time with us and answering applicants' questions. Hope you enjoyed the chat.
21:29	Narenn	The next chat session with Darden team is on November 05. 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
21:29	Narenn	We will publish summary of this chat in Darden forum in few days. Keep an eye on this thread... http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-darden-uva-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-198658.html

21:30	mib_p38mfh	Thank you!
21:30	pbjones3	thanks, kristen
21:30	Enkhmurun	Thank you Kristen

1) Upcoming Darden Chat session:

- **November 05**

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/1IecA6z
All MBA Deadlines	http://bit.ly/19RSTSX	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		
For More Information Visit	http://gmatclub.com/forum/business-school-and-mba-115/		