

Matthew Moll – Associate Director of Admissions | Kelsey Kephart – Assistant Director of Admissions

December 03, 2015.

Web Resources:

- Columbia Website: <http://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/>
- Columbia Full Time MBA Class of 2018 Discussion: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-cbs-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-198369.html>
- Columbia 'J-Term' Applicants Discussion Class of 2017: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-cbs-j-term-applicants-jan-2016-intake-class-of-198423.html>
- Ask Columbia Admissions: <http://gmatclub.com/forum/ask-columbia-gsb-admissions-121805.html>

		HAPPENING NOW: Live Chat with Columbia Admission Directors - Matthew Moll and Kelsey Kephart Ask your queries about CBS application to Adcoms.
		Topic set by Narenn on Thu Dec 03 2015 22:04:24 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)
22:32	KelseyKephartColumbia	Hi, all! My name is Kelsey and I've been with the admissions team at CBS for over a year now. Looking forward to speaking with everyone!
22:33	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi Team - My name is Matthew Moll. I am an admissions officer and I have been in MBA Admissions for the past 8 yrs. Look forward to chatting!
22:33	CBS_Moderator	Dear Participants, this chat is now open for Q&A. Please start asking your questions one by one.
22:34	CBS_Moderator	Please avoid asking Multi-part questions as they create a logjam on the chat. Though you are welcome to ask follow up questions!
22:34	thor5517	How do you normalize the interviews since there are so many alumni and all varying styles?
22:35	KelseyKephartColumbia	Hi, Thor! We communicate with our interview ambassadors and give them guidance and training on what we're looking for in the interview process. Although we understand that each alum is different, most alums have done multiple interviews.
22:35	thor5517	Thanks!
22:37	kunalarora23	Hi, How do you make sure that no alum is biased towards certain specific background/profile/education etc?
22:39	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi Kunalarora23 - We ask our alums to consider all of our candidates equally during the interview process. Keep in mind the interview is one aspect of the application and one piece

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		of the holistic interview process. We will consider the interview along with the rest of the application when we make the final decision.
22:37	zzhangho	For those early R1 RD applicants, are we expected to hear our decision (not only admit but also reject/waitlist) within 6 weeks (or in practice 4 weeks) from Nov.18?
22:38	KelseyKephartColumbia	For regular decision applications, we started reviewing on November 18th. The 6-week clock for those applicants who submitted before that time begun on November 18th.
22:38	mbagnoli	Hi all! I've heard great things about the NYC Immersion Seminars from the few students I have spoken to. As a prospective student with an interest in healthcare, I was wondering if there are plans in place for a healthcare-specific Immersion Seminar in the near future. Thanks!
22:40	KelseyKephartColumbia	Hi, mbagnoli! Excellent question. We met with the healthcare department last month. They're working on some exciting ventures, though currently there is not a healthcare immersion seminar in the works as far as I know. That said, the NYC immersion program itself is new - there could be something in the works for upcoming years.
22:40	mator	Are applications reviewed in an exact order of date of completion or is it based on more of a rough period of completion date?
22:40	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi Mator - We review the applications in the order we receive them. If you happen to know someone applied earlier/or later than you keep in mind that there isn't an exact speed for the process. Our goal is to move candidates to the next step of the process (either denied or invitation to interview) within six weeks of submission.
22:41	thor5517	If fortunate enough to receive an interview, what is the typical wait time to hear a decision after feedback is submitted?
22:41	KelseyKephartColumbia	Thor - after feedback is submitted, applicants will hear within 2 weeks. It could be the next day, it could be the full 14 days. It depends on the volume of applications at that current moment.
22:41	baustaines	Hi! Are re-applicants penalized? I would like to apply in the spring and, if not accepted, apply Early Decision in the fall. Could this negatively affect the fall application? Thank you very much.

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22:41	KelseyKephartColumbia	Baustaines - re-applicants are absolutely NOT penalized. I love re-applicants! Those who decide to reapply are showing that a little adversity doesn't stop them, a skill that will serve re-applicants well, not just in b-school but throughout life!
22:44	baustaines	Kelsey - that is music to my ears. Thank you so much.
22:45	KelseyKephartColumbia	Absolutely. If you have questions about the re-app process (when the time comes) please reach out to our admissions office! It's better to ask a question than to spend unnecessary time stressing over the process.
22:45	baustaines	Smart answer 😊
22:42	mbagnoli	Great, thank you Kelsey!
22:43	CBS_Moderator	Hi Matthew, Considering the current H-1B Visa Cap which is making it really DIFFICULT for International students to land jobs in US post-MBA, how CBS and its Career Service department can help Internationals in building up strong network to secure internship & post-MBA jobs ?
22:43	CBS_Moderator	It'd be really great if you could shed some light on this because the H-1B problem can affect international MBA candidates' internships as well as their post-MBA job prospects!
22:43	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi CBS_Moderator, Our class is about 40% international and if it is a priority for a student to work in the US they are able to take advantage of the resources on campus which includes professional clubs and the career management center to find a position in the US.
22:44	Narenn	Newly Joined Members: Welcome to the Q&A session with Columbia Admission Directors – Matthew Moll and Kelsey Kephart. If you have any questions about CBS application, you are free to ask them to Matthew and Kelsey. But before posting your question, please make sure earlier questions are answered. Thank you!
22:44	Narenn	Moderator Note: We will be saving a condensed version of the chat for the record and reference. Everyone in attendance will have a chance to ask their own questions. If for any reason you want us to exclude your username from chat transcript, please let me know.
22:44	JPrufrock	Hi! I was wondering if you will release all ED decisions before starting to send out RD decisions. The reason I ask is because I am an ED applicant who interviewed 3 weeks ago but

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		my interviewer hasn't submitted feedback yet. Thanks!
22:45	popovs	Wasn't interview to invitation target 3 weeks earlier, unlike 6 weeks stated by Matt? Is there any such change or I am mistaken!!
22:45	KelseyKephartColumbia	Popovs - the invitation target changes week-to-week, depending on the application volume. Earlier in the summer, target can sit anywhere from 2-3 weeks. Around November and December, it shifts closer to the 6 weeks.
22:47	MatthewMollColumbia	Popovs - to follow up the timeline has not changed as far as our goal, but we are often able to move faster in the process. Six weeks is the latest a candidate will hear.
22:47	CBS_Moderator	Thanks Matthew. Any input on how much of this 40% internationals got job in US post-MBA, clearing the recent Visa hurdle?
22:48	mib_fk3ks	What is the scholarship process like?
22:48	KelseyKephartColumbia	mib_fk3ks - the scholarship process is 2-pronged. Merit-based fellowships are awarded by the Admissions Office. There is no separate application process, your entire application is the merit-based fellowship application. In order to be considered for merit-based fellowships, you must apply by January 6. The other half of this is Financial Aid...
	KelseyKephartColumbia	You can begin working with the Financial Aid office as soon as you're admitted. You can find more information here: https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/programs/mba/financial-aid
22:49	mib_fk3ks	Thank you Kelsey. When will these begin going out?
22:50	mib_fk3ks	(merit)
22:49	KelseyKephartColumbia	We begin awarding the majority of merit-based fellowships in February, but that process can continue up until August. If the fellowship is awarded later in the summer, we'll notify you.
22:50	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi CBS_Moderator - Employment stats can be found here https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/recruiters/employmentreport
22:50	baustaines	Would you recommend that I retake the GMAT if I think I can do better, or would you prefer a lower score with fewer re-takes? (For example, an 800 after retaking 6 times might give red flags?)

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22:51	mib_6y4t35	I doubt a school is going to care how many times you take it if you get 800!
22:52	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi baustaines - The number of times you take the GMAT does not impact your application. If anything it shows us that you are dedicated to the process. If you feel you can do better on the GMAT then we encourage you to consider retaking it if you have the time and resources to do so.
22:52	CBS_Moderator	Could you please let us know what sort of Career Coaching students (both domestic and international) can expect from the Career Service at CBS?
22:55	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi CBS_Moderator - All students are able to take advantage of industry specific career coaches as well as alums. There are also second year career fellows who are industry specific and available to all students. The clubs are also a great resource for our students to get career and alumni advice.
22:52	JPrufrock	Hi! I was wondering if you will release all ED decisions before starting to send out RD decisions. I am an ED applicant who interviewed over 3 weeks ago but my interviewer hasn't submitted feedback yet. Is there a recourse for alternate arrangements (another interview or Skype interview with AdCom) if my interviewer doesn't submit feedback soon? Thanks!
22:52	KelseyKephartColumbia	Hi JPrufrock - we finish up reviewing the early decision applications before we start reviewing regular decision. This doesn't necessarily mean that we will have rendered a decision on all early decision applications (as interviews can take longer than expected, for example). We monitor whether the feedback has been submitted. Please know that a late report does NOT reflect negatively on an applicant. We follow up with the interviewer by email or phone - we begin following up on behalf of the applicant.
22:55	JPrufrock	Thanks Kelsey!
22:55	KelseyKephartColumbia	JPrufrock - feel free to send me an email to speak about your situation. I'd be happy to speak about this!
22:48	mib_kh3zjp	Hello! For an ED applicant who has unforeseen life changes arise after submitting an ED app, what are the consequence (lawsuit, offer rescind) of applying to another school?
22:52	zzhangho	Could you please shed some lights on how an application is reviewed? Is it initially reviewed by a committee vs an admission officer, etc?

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22:53	MatthewMollCol	Hi ZZhangho - Applications will be reviewed by at least two admissions officers and then by committee before a final decision is made.
22:54	thor5517	Is it appropriate to ask an interviewer when they think they'll be able to submit feedback since it is a rolling process?
22:54	KelseyKephartColumbia	Thor - Ambassadors are instructed to submit within 48 hours. After that, we begin "nudging" them. I advise not to put yourself in an uncomfortable situation to ask when they believe they will submit feedback. Let us "nudge" them for you!
22:56	thor5517	Makes sense! Thanks!
22:55	baustaines	What are you looking for in terms of the financial planning portion of the application? Are self-payers preferred?
22:57	KelseyKephartColumbia	Baustaines - we ask that you consider the full cost of the 2 year program. We ask this so that you begin thinking about the financial logistics of taking on a program. We do not consider this in our decision process, per se. Every applicant has a different financial situation. We aim to have a diverse class, even when it comes to personal finances
22:58	baustaines	Kelsey - that's what I hoped was the intent. Thank you!
22:59	Narenn	Matt, I guess mib_kh3zjp asked a question on consequences of declining ED Admit and I don't think it's answered. would you mind answering it?
23:00	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi Narenn - I don't see the question. Sorry we missed it!
23:01	Narenn	No worries.... I am reposting it...
23:01	Narenn	“Hello! For an ED applicant who has unforeseen life changes arise after submitting an ED app, what are the consequence (lawsuit, offer rescind) of applying to another school?”
23:01	mib_kh3zjp	I'd like to clarify that the ED deposit has been paid and CBS remains the #1 choice. But currently, geographical flexibility is also a concern. MBA is a large commitment, and should I not be able to move to NYC, I don't want to relinquish my MBA goals
23:02	KelseyKephartC	When you submit an ED application, we have applicants sign the honor code. This states that

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	olumbia	if you are accepted, you withdraw all other applications to schools. That said, life happens sometimes. Declining will not result in a lawsuit. We cannot force a student to matriculate if they simply cannot afford it, though we try to make it financial feasible for all
23:03	KelseyKephartC olumbia	I want to add that we encourage students to consider all factors before they apply. If they aren't able to consider all these facets, we encourage students to apply regular decision.
23:04	KelseyKephartC olumbia	MIB - you can also talk to a current student about relocating. We have a list of wonderful students who volunteer their time to speak to prospective AND admits about relocating, and more! https://apply.gsb.columbia.edu/portal/contact-students
23:05	mib_kh3zjp	Thank you, Kelsey and Matt! I applied ED because CBS was and is my top choice. However, now I may not be able to move to NYC, but I would still like to pursue an MBA.
23:06	KelseyKephartC olumbia	MIB - shoot me an email! We're here to help make resources available to you so you can make these sorts of decisions. kfk2107@columbia.edu
23:08	mib_kh3zjp	Thank you!
23:01	D2d13	Hi, do the upcoming holidays slow down the admission process? Do you think September RD applicants could have final decisions by the end of the year?
23:05	MatthewMollCol umbia	Hi D2d13 - We will be closed for parts of the holidays, but we will not have a complete shutdown during the holidays for more than two days so we will still be making decisions. We have started inviting RD candidates to interview so it is possible that decisions will be made before the end of the year.
23:04	CBS_Moderator	Hi Matthew/Kelsey, Could you please shed some light on OTP opportunity for career changers?
23:06	MatthewMollCol umbia	Hi CBS_Moderator - Are you able to clarify your question? The OTP is available for all students no matter career goals.
23:05	popovs	Considering the timeline that you have mentioned and the volume of RD applicants that you might have seen is it safe to assume that RD applicants who submitted in Nov or Dec will receive interview invite at least 6 weeks after they have submitted?

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23:05	KelseyKephartColumbia	RD applicants who submitted after November 18th will have a maximum of 6 weeks before they hear back from us regarding interview/reject.
23:07	CBS_Moderator	So, if J-term folks (both domestic and international) want to avail OTP/internship opportunities then will it be possible to do so?
23:09	MatthewMollColumbia	Yes the OTP is available for both January and August international students CBS_Moderator
23:09	Narenn	Matt, what is one thing about Columbia that prospective students will NOT get to know from online resources like the college website or chat rooms?
23:10	MatthewMollColumbia	Narenn - I think every candidate who is considering Columbia Business School should visit campus if they can. This way they can see for themselves how collaborate, fun, and diverse our student body is.
23:11	CBS_Moderator	Thanks MatthewMollColumbia. Btw, by OTP, you meant internship opportunities, I think. Am I correct?
23:12	CBS_Moderator	A follow-up question on Narenn's question : is it applicable to internationals as well ?
23:12	D2d13	Thank you, Kelsey and Matt!
23:13	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi CBS_Moderator I am referring to Optional Practical Training (OPT) which is for international students.
23:12	mib_4wxrm3	Hi, what weight and consideration does a business certificate from Columbia's school of continuing studies have for potential candidates?
23:13	KelseyKephartColumbia	MIB_4wxrm3 - A business certificate from any school, not just Columbia, shows a dedication to education and familiarity with the CU campus - which is great! All prospectives don't have the ability to take a continuing education course (due to time, money, other obligations), that said.
23:14	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi CBS_Moderator it looks like we are talking about two different things. Can you clarify
23:15	mbagnoli	Kelsey & Matt, another healthcare-related question -- with the Healthcare & Pharmaceutical

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		MGMT Program now under the direction of Ms. Lorraine Marchand, can you please speak to the changes she has in mind for the program going forward? Thanks!
23:17	KelseyKephartColumbia	MBAGNOLI - this is a rather large question! I would suggest reaching to a current student in the healthcare program: https://apply.gsb.columbia.edu/portal/contact-students I will say that AdCom met with her last month to discuss the changes. To start more integration with NYC and BioMed companies, to put it in a few words.
23:18	mbagnoli	Awesome, thank you Kelsey! I will certainly reach out to someone that is currently in the program for more information.
23:15	CBSModerator	Alright Matt.So, any inputs on how exactly Optional Practical Training (OPT) is different from internships ?
23:16	CBSModerator	Aren't they happen to be same?
23:17	MatthewMollColumbia	Hi CBSModerator - They aren't necessarily different. You can use the OPT - the extra year after graduation - to do full time work as an intern.
23:18	CBSModerator	Thanks MatthewMollColumbia!
23:18	CBSModerator	This chat will end in another 10 minutes from now...
23:18	MatthewMollColumbia1	Hi Everyone - I was kicked off the chat, but I'm back!
23:19	baustaines	Is there a resource to find students who are in school to change careers?
23:20	KelseyKephartColumbia	Not necessarily, Baustaines. I would use the contact-a-student page. Often times if the student isn't the exact resource you need, they'll refer you to a friend!
23:20	baustaines	Interesting. Thanks Kelsey!
23:21	CBSModerator	Will all H1B applicants at CBS (both August entry and J-term) have to pass through the newly introduced lottery system to get sponsored ?
23:22	MatthewMollColumbia1	baustaines - to follow up, most of our students are making a career change of some kind. You will find that the resources available to make a shift in your career are outstanding, but

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		ultimately it will be up to you to take advantage of those resources for the next step in your career.
23:22	KelseyKephartColumbia	CBSModerator - There isn't a lottery for student VISAs. Student work with our International Student Services Office upon being admitted.
23:23	baustaines	Thanks Matthew!
23:23	CBSModerator	Thanks KelseyKephartColumbia. But I was referring to H1B Visa, NOT the student VISAs (re F1)!
23:24	KelseyKephartColumbia	CBSModerator - please refer to this page for more information on the H1B Visa http://www.columbia.edu/cu/isso/faculty/H_dpt_mgr/botdoc.html
23:25	CBSModerator	Thanks KelseyKephartColumbia!
23:26	CBSModerator	We are ending the chat in a couple of minutes...Any final question guys??
23:23	mib_4wxrm3	Thank you for your response! Apart from the essay, how else can candidates seeking to change careers communicate in the application their desire for an MBA? Volunteer work, attending professional seminars, etc.
23:26	MatthewMollColumbia1	Hi MIB_4wxrm3 - The application process is holistic so there isn't a check list what you need to do to express your interest. I encourage you to present you and your experiences genuinely and we will get to know you through your application.
23:27	mib_ssylv	Hello, I have a question about interviews. Are all interviews conducted by alumni only, or do you also do adcom interviews?
23:29	KelseyKephartColumbia	mib_ssylv - 99% of interviews are conducted by alums. Only in rare cases with an interview be conducted by adcom (there are 0 available alums in your area and you are not travelling to another city, adcom is traveling to your city and is available to interview prospective students). Alums know what it was like to be a student, so their feedback is valuable!
23:29	CBSModerator	So, we'll wrap up here...! Thanks everyone for participating in this chat today.
23:29	mbagnoli	Kelsey & Matt, thank you for taking the time to answer our questions!

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23:29	KelseyKephartColumbia	Thanks everyone for your questions! Lovely speaking with you.
23:30	baustaines	Thanks Kelsey & Matt!
23:30	CBSModerator	Sincere Thanks to Matthew and Kelsey for spending time with us and answering applicants' questions. Hope you enjoyed the chat.
23:30	MatthewMollColumbia1	Thank you! Good luck everyone!
23:30	CBSModerator	The next chat session with Columbia team is on January 04. 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
23:30	CBSModerator	We will publish summary of this chat in Columbia forum in few days. http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-cbs-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-198369.html

- 1) Upcoming Columbia Chat sessions:
 - January 04
- 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/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/		