



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>

		Live Chat with Cambridge (Judge) Admissions Coordinator - Charlotte Russell
		Topic set by Narenn on Tue Sep 01 2015 20:12:50 GMT+0530 (India Standard Time)
20:30	Narenn	Hello Everyone, Thank you for joining GMAT Club Cambridge (Judge) Q&A session today and a big welcome to JBS Admissions team member – Charlotte Russell.
20:31	Narenn	Today Charlotte will answer your questions regarding applications, essays, interviews, and life at Cambridge.
20:32	Narenn	Dear Participants, this chat is now open for Q&A. Please ask your questions to Charlotte.
20:32	Cambridge_Charlotte	Thanks Narenn and everyone for joining. Happy to answer questions on all aspects of the Cambridge MBA
20:32	Solarus	Hi Charlotte, thank you for doing this today. On the CV template available on the application form, it doesn't clearly state where volunteer experience may fit in. Should I put this under my work experience in the same format?
20:33	Cambridge_Charlotte	Hello Solarus, great to hear that you have volunteer experience to add to your profile
20:34	Cambridge_Charlotte	Where you place it in your application will probably depend on how serious the volunteering was. In most cases I would put it under your Hobbies and Extra curricula interests.
20:35	Cambridge_Charlotte	If the volunteer experience is relevant to your future goals, please make sure that you mention it in your career essay too though - to really highlight it.
20:36	tapis	In some schools, there might be a disadvantage for candidates who have exceeded a certain age to apply for the MBA programme. Is this the same for Judge?
20:36	Cambridge_Charlotte	Hello Tapis, thanks for joining us today.
20:37	Cambridge_Charlotte	There is no upper age limit but our class tends to range from about 25 yrs old to 45 yrs old. We have taken students with more work experience who are older - it really depends on your motivations for the MBA. Many older candidates don't want to study full-time and prefer to opt for a EMBA or Part-time programme.
20:37	Cambridge_Charlotte	Don't let this put you off though - if a full-time programme is right for you then use the Career essay to explain why
20:38	tapis	thanks a lot for the reply and advice, Charlotte



20:39	AnkitM	Hi Charlotte , for the essay questions especially" the spectacular failure " one , is it ok if a candidate is exceeding the same by 20/30 words or should it strictly be under 200 words ?
20:39	Cambridge_Charlotte	Hello AnkitM, don't worry we can give you a bit of flexibility with the word count on essays. An extra 20/30 words is fine - we just don't want an additional 200 😊
20:39	Solarus	In my particular case, I spent a year as a volunteer firefighter in the sub-arctic (essentially a second part time job) and currently am a recruitment chair on a cancer non-profit board. Both I feel are able to be elaborated on in the same manner as work experience. Would this be discouraged? (sorry to refer back to my initial question)
20:40	Cambridge_Charlotte	Hello Solarus, yes I think it is fine to include your experience under the "Professional work experience" section
20:41	Solarus	Thank you very much Charlotte 😊.
20:41	dgangwar18	What are the criteria Cambridge looks for in an application?
20:42	Cambridge_Charlotte	Honestly, there is no right type of candidate that we are looking for. We want you to use the application to explain about your profile and how the Cambridge MBA will help you to achieve your goals.
20:42	Cambridge_Charlotte	The main elements that we look for in a strong application would be 1. solid academic ability (the Cambridge MBA is a fast paced one year programme so we have to be sure that you will manage the workload)
20:43	Cambridge_Charlotte	2. interesting professional experience / career progression (there is lots of group work on the Cambridge MBA so we need to see that you have interesting perspectives to add to the class discussions)
20:43	Cambridge_Charlotte	and finally 3. how the Cambridge MBA is going to help you. (Use the Career essay to really explain how our programme is going to be the right option for you and help you with that next step)
20:43	dgangwar18	thanks a lot for detailed answer 😊
20:44	PrasanthNalle	Thank you
20:44	AnkitM	Thanks 😊 Charlotte . The other question in regard with the GPA . The website mentions 3.3 as the criteria. My educational institutes(Grad , Post grad) have all followed a percentage system. Should i keep it as percentage in my application as I am not sure on the conversions?
20:44	Cambridge_Charlotte	Regarding AnkitM question, please keep all your marks in their original format and report them as the original %. We have many international candidates so are familiar with different marking systems.
20:44	jaspreets	Hi charlot, i have a question about financing the study.I can't afford the education fee due to certain reasons.Let's i get selected, so what could be the financing options and how long it would take to pay off the amount, and how would be the job market after MBA so that loan payment could be taken care of...may be it's lot to ask



20:45	PrasanthNalle	what is the minimal Gmat score expected with 5yrs of work experience?
20:47	Cambridge_Charlotte	Before I answer the more detailed career question, PrasanthNalle our average GMAT is around 690 and we would expect a strong candidate to score somewhere in the region of 640 - 740.
20:48	Cambridge_Charlotte	Candidates with weaker GMAT scores, 650 and below, really need to evidence academic ability through their undergraduate studies and a strong career path. We look at the whole application so don't worry about just this one section.
20:49	Cambridge_Charlotte	Hello Jaspreets, I think you have the million dollar question!
20:50	Cambridge_Charlotte	Many candidates fund their MBA through a mixture of personal savings, loans and possibly a scholarship so it's not unusual to need some financial assistance.
20:51	Cambridge_Charlotte	Please take a look at our scholarships/loans page as there are too many options to discuss but we work with Prodigy Finance to provide loans to MBA students and this might be a good option for you if you need to borrow a significant amount -
20:52	Cambridge_Charlotte	Link for funding - http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/programmes/mba/funding-your-mba/scholarships-funding/
20:52	jaspreets	that's what i'm currently looking at .. 😊
20:53	Solarus	That's a great link! Thanks for the reference! I'll place it in the main class of 2017 applicant thread 😊
20:53	Cambridge_Charlotte	Great. Most candidates would be looking to pay back their loans within about 3 years but much depends on where you are working and the sector.
20:54	Narenn	Charlotte, How good is Cambridge MBA program for those who wanna go in Investment Banking sector? Can you name a few investment banks that recruit at JBS?
20:54	Cambridge_Charlotte	This links well to Narenn question, we have a number of companies that will come on campus during the year.
20:55	Cambridge_Charlotte	Usually we don't have Investment Banks because they recruit in a different way, but we do have Consulting firms and lots of Industry clients such as BP, Google, Amazon for example.
20:55	Solarus	What is the procedure for uploading transcripts? Are we allowed to simply scan an official copy for immediate use? Or is there an additional process involved?
20:56	Cambridge_Charlotte	Regarding the question for Solarus, when you are completing your application you can just scan an official copy. If you are then invited to interview, you need to bring or post the official copy to us.
20:56	Solarus	Thank you very much Charlotte.
20:56	AnkitM	From a consulting standpoint I see Strategy Consulting firms such as BCG , Mckinsey and other firms list Cambridge university as a priority campus. Does it mean that they conduct events at Judge business school as well?



20:58	Cambridge_Charlotte	Yes AnkitM, many of the Consulting firms you mention will hold on campus events. These might be through our dedicated Careers Team or they might be more alumni led, informal sessions that are organised by the student clubs.
20:59	Cambridge_Charlotte	Don't forget, your classmates will also be coming from many of these backgrounds and are a valuable networking and preparation resource.
21:00	Cambridge_Charlotte	For example, ex-consultants helped their classmates with case study interview practice during their lunch hour
21:01	AnkitM	Sure . Thanks Charlotte that is really good to know.
21:01	jaspreets	Charlotte I'm looking for career in International business, and have learned 5 languages. Would that make impact on adcom even if I end up getting low gmat score?
21:02	jaspreets	and low gmat score doesn't mean too low but around 680
21:03	Cambridge_Charlotte	Jaspreets, it's great to hear that you have 5 languages behind you and this will definitely help with your goal of a career in international business and making you agile with job opportunities. In terms of carrying weight with Adcoms, we would still need to see evidence of your academic ability though - either undergrad studies or GMAT. A GMAT of 680 would be fine, especially if it is quite a balanced score.
21:03	chatpro	Charlotte can you shed some light on Cambridge's admission process? i.e. What happens in background from submitting an application to getting an interview invite 😊 (or denial without interview 😞)
21:04	Cambridge_Charlotte	Hello Chatpro, so we run a staged admissions process and will review all applications together after each round. Readers will look through your full application and if we feel you would be a good fit with our programme then you would be invited to interview. No offers are made without a candidate being interviewed first.
21:05	Cambridge_Charlotte	A quick point to highlight on our process, we only use MBA teaching faculty to conduct our interviews, either on campus or via phone
21:05	prasanth	What is the strength of alumni network and how it helps us to get placed?
21:05	Solarus	Is a GMAT score that is 10-20 points higher than the class mean and a sharp upwards trend in senior year grades (for a difficult major) be sufficient to alleviate concerns over a low cumulative GPA?
21:06	Cambridge_Charlotte	Thanks Solarus, it sounds like your academic ability would be demonstrated fine then. If there is a weak area on your undergrad transcript, you could also use the "Additional information" section on the application to explain more fully
21:07	AnkitM	Adding to chat pro's question I couldn't figure out when the interview invite results would be declared post the 18th September Round 1 submission. Is there a specific date?
21:08	Cambridge_Charlotte	To follow up on AnkitM question, the review process usually takes about two weeks so we usually get back to candidates about two to three weeks after the deadline.



21:10	Cambridge_Charlotte	And Prashanth, don't forget with the Cambridge MBA you have two alumni networks
21:10	Cambridge_Charlotte	You will have a solid, 150-160 MBA class network but in addition you also have the wider university and college network
21:11	Cambridge_Charlotte	The alumni network is great in terms of giving you informal information about different sectors and also an insight in to the working culture and culture in general at the company
21:12	Cambridge_Charlotte	I would encourage all candidates to look at our alumni profiles to learn more about the post-MBA career outcomes of students - http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/programmes/mba/people/mba-alumni-profiles/energy/
21:13	Solarus	Thank you Charlotte, that is very reassuring 😊.
21:13	Solarus	Have graduates from the Energy and Environment focus had success penetrating the renewable energy sector? Gathering business ties to wind energy specialists in Germany and Denmark would be very beneficial to my post-MBA career goals and both renewable energy and emissions reductions initiatives interest me.
21:14	Cambridge_Charlotte	Renewable energy is definitely an area of interest and I know we have students working in that sector in the US and New Zealand
21:15	Narenn	Charlotte, Any idea what percentage of applicants generally get interview invites and how many of those interviewed get final offers? I just need rough estimate.
21:16	Cambridge_Charlotte	Just a quick comment on application numbers and interview numbers, we don't operate any quotas so please submit your application when you feel it is at its strongest. Typically we would invite to interview about half the applicants in each round but this is not exact and really depends on the quality. Ultimately we have a small class (approx. 160) compared to many schools so the application stage is competitive
21:17	Rafid	How the experience of an exchange studentship under Erasmus Mundus increase a candidate chances to get selected for the program?
21:19	Cambridge_Charlotte	Hello Rafid, we often see that applicants have completed an exchange as part of their undergrad experience and this is great to show your global outlook. The exchange in itself doesn't guarantee you a place on the course but use the career essay to bring out how it has influenced you or what you gained from it.
21:20	Cambridge_Charlotte	Many candidates that complete an exchange in Europe want to come back for their MBA because they enjoyed the experience so much!
21:20	Rafid	Will the certificates of different international business competition achieved during the undergraduate program helps?
21:22	Cambridge_Charlotte	And Rafid, you are welcome to mention competitions that you have participated in. They probably won't add much weight unless they relate directly to your career goals but they are still a good experience to show.
21:23	Prajat	I came to know that the University prefers candidates who can visit the campus for interview. Does it reduce the chances of admissions for those who can't?



21:25	Cambridge_Charlotte	Hello Prajat, please be reassured that a visit to campus is not necessary and does not have any impact on your admissions decision. We have such an international class that for many students it is simply not practical for them to visit.
21:25	Cambridge_Charlotte	However, I would really encourage you to try and come to campus if you are invited to interview
21:26	Cambridge_Charlotte	This doesn't increase your chances but it will allow you to meet our team and some of the other applicants who are going to be your possible future classmates!
21:26	Prajat	Yes, of course. Thanks for the response, Charlotte
21:27	Rafid	Charlotte, thank you for your response. Just a quick query does having 1\2 publications add value?
21:28	Cambridge_Charlotte	Rafid, you can certainly mention any publications in your CV. I think if you have any doubts it's always best to include information. Use the "Additional information" section.
21:28	Solarus	How diverse is college selection at Cambridge? The College system is a very interesting aspect of the whole package and seems very unique and fulfilling
21:29	Solarus	I'm sorry, I should clarify that by "diverse" I mean, are a large number of colleges open to MBA applicants, or is it more streamlined than say an undergrad?
21:30	Cambridge_Charlotte	There are 31 colleges at Cambridge and you are right, they really add another aspect to your MBA experience. It's a great way to meet students and faculty from other departments. Don't worry about the College application process at this time, we will work with you once you have an offer to secure membership.
21:31	Cambridge_Charlotte	In terms of being accepted at all 31 Colleges, there are three that only accept women and some others that are more undergrad focused but otherwise you still have a really broad "choice"
21:31	Solarus	That still looks like a lot of options after going down the list. Thank you 😊
21:32	Narenn	Thanks everyone for participating in this chat today. This was the 3rd and last chat session with Cambridge Judge Admissions Team.
21:32	Narenn	My sincere thanks to Charlotte Russell and James Scales for taking time from their schedules for our live chats and Rose Hahn – MBA Marketing & Communications Coordinator at Cambridge – for making these chats happen.
21:32	Narenn	There won't be any Cambridge adcom chat sessions on GMAT Club in this application year; however, GMAT Club and Cambridge Admission office are working together on organizing a couple Cambridge student chat sessions in which current JBS students will come visit GMAT Club to chat with prospective applicants.
21:33	Narenn	We shall make the announcement of this in JBS forum once we finalize the schedule.
21:33	Cambridge_Charlotte	Thank you everyone - great questions and we very much look forward to receiving your applications in the coming months.



21:33	Narenn	We will also publish a condensed transcript of this chat in JBS forum in few days.
21:33	Narenn	Finally, I encourage all applicants to share their application updates with fellow applicants in Cambridge forum. We are eager to know how you are approaching to your application essays, your interview debriefs....
21:34	Narenn	If you are visiting Cambridge (Judge) and sitting in a class, we would love to read your school visit experience.....
21:34	Narenn	Most applicants can't visit the school, so these reports would be immensely helpful for such applicants in figuring out their fit for Cambridge program.
21:34	Narenn	Here is thread for Cambridge class of 2017 applicants http://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-judge-cambridge-applicants-2016-intake-class-of-200762.html
21:34	Narenn	Thank you again and have a great day!!
21:35	Cambridge_Charlotte	Thanks Narenn, and just a reminder - our first deadline is 18 September. Good luck everyone!
21:35	AnkitM	Thanks Charlotte . The session was really informative.
21:36	Solarus	Thank you Charlotte for this interview series. I've found the information gained here extremely useful and feel it will benefit my application process.

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>

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/1MPOquZ	Current Student Blogs	http://bit.ly/1NPG4rD
Live Chats with B-School Adcoms	http://bit.ly/1NJ7v4w	All school discussions	http://bit.ly/1KON43a
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/		