



Ann Richards, Sr. Associate Director | **Eddie Asbie**, Associate Director

Kim Szpiro, Assistant Director | **Eddie Chan**, MBA'18 | **Matthew Muskin**, MBA'18

Shawn Weger, MBA'19

Mandy Choie, Assistant Director, Cornell Tech MBA | **Jonathan Kroll**, Cornell Tech MBA Student

- **Cornell MBA Discussions:**

1. **Full Time MBA** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-johnson-2018-applicants-class-of-243913.html>
2. **1 Year MBA** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-johnson-cornell-1-year-mba-applicants-2018-intake-244380.html>
3. **Cornell NYC Tech MBA** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-cornell-nyc-tech-mba-applicants-2018-intake-class-of-244378.html>

- **Cornell Decision Tracker:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/johnson-198/app-tracker.html>

- **Cornell Reviews:** https://gmatclub.com/reviews/business_school/johnson-16

Moderator: Welcome everyone. This is going to be a moderated Chat with Johnson! Your messages will only be public if it is approved by a moderator.

I wanted to welcome the team from Johnson. Thank you so much for taking the time out to chat with potential applicants. It's officially 8 am PST! So feel free to post your questions.

Cal28: Hi, I am from China and would like to know that are there plenty of companies that come to Cornell to hire student before graduation of the MBA study? Is it hard for international students to find a job after graduation?

Ann: Because there are changes under consideration for visas and work permits, it may be tougher for international students to find jobs in the US, but there are a number of variables that influence that. Many international students are getting jobs outside the US, either in their home country or region, or another country where they are work authorized.

sidiitm2004: Hello all. Thank you for taking time out and helping applicants like me. I have two questions. 1) Is Age a factor for the 2 year MBA program? and 2) What resources does the school provide if one wants to break in into Asset management. I see that very few actually go into asset management from Cornell (source: Cornell employment report)

Eddie Chan: Age isn't a factor for the 2 year MBA program. I have several classmates that span a wide age range. Although not that many students recruit for Asset Management, there are multiple

opportunities for AM. I don't think the reason why there are fewer students in AM are the result of less opportunities. We have several resources for AM such as the Parker Center for Investment Research to help with recruiting into AM.

sidiitm2004: I have a follow up. What is the typical turnaround time for applications in the November round? Is there any benefit from submitting in between the deadlines? (in case it is rolling)

Ann: For applications received in the November round, it will take about 2-3 weeks to start issuing invitations and we'll continue to issue invitations through January 10. There's no real advantage to submitting before the deadline, except you are first in the queue to be processed.

nadeemkamal: to expand on the age question, above: how does the adcom look at a candidate with 8 yrs of exp. with a good career progression?

Eddie: Thank you for joining us. When looking at an applicant, we focus on the quality of an applicants work experience, not the quantity. Work experience plays an important part in our decision making.

jiaming2k: Hi, I have a question about the interview. Will it be conducted by a member of the admissions team, a current student, or an alumni?

Eddie: Our interview process is conducted by members of our admission team, along with our trained 1st and 2nd year students.

KS15: Here are my questions 1. I have work experience both in F500 firms and currently working in family business-how does Cornell view such experience?2. Is it late to apply in Jan Round? 3. Do we have application fee waivers?

Kim: We value both experience in F500 Firms as well as family business. We actually have a number of individuals in family business at Johnson and there are a number of resources for those in family business here. It is not too late to apply for either the November or January rounds. Unfortunately we do not offer application fee waivers.

pram84: Hello All, Can you tell us some of the interesting courses that the Johnson Program offers for students with Entrepreneurial/Family Business aspirants?

Ann: here's a link to the Smith Family business initiative - it has a lot of information on the programs, classes and resources available [http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Smith-Fa ...](http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Smith-Fa...) at-Cornell

bk2018: Hi, thank you for doing this chat! Can you give us an indication when interview invites are starting to come out? Also how long does it take after the interview to get a decision?

Eddie: Thank you for joining us. Our Admissions team is working hard to review applications now. We have started reviewing applications and sending out interview invitations. Our initial notification to hear back from us is November 15th.

Mandy: Interview invites from Cornell Tech have been sent for Round 1. We anticipate that the entire review process will take about 3-4 weeks.

Private: Hello Sir, Wish you a happy Diwali! I would like to ask about consulting opportunities in 2 yr. MBA vs Tech MBA

Jonathan: I can speak to Cornell Tech -- recruiting is in full swing here on Roosevelt Island. The digital arms of all major consulting firms have either been here or will be on campus recruiting in the near future. McKinsey was here yesterday.

Eddie Chan: Happy Diwali to you as well! I can speak to the 2 year MBA program. All the major consulting firms recruit here in Ithaca as well as several boutique firms. There are several resources available here to recruit for a career in consulting.

Private: Hello, I had met with Kim when I had come to visit Cornell just last month. I have also submitted my application for round 1 and am really excited to hear back from the university. I have already submitted 2 recommendations. Is it possible to send in another letter from an Johnson Alum who I have worked with in the past? And will it get attached to my application, even though it the status says "Under review"?

Kim: If a Johnson alum would like to send in an endorsement letter they can do so but it is not necessary for your application. If you have them send it to the main MBA email address it will be attached to your application.

bmholden: Can you tell us what a weekly class schedule is like for a two year MBA in their first semester?

Shawn: Happy to help! Johnson's first semester is primarily broken down into classes that are part of the Core requirements. In your first seven weeks, you will take Financial Accounting, Marketing, and Microeconomics. For the second seven weeks, you will take Critical & Strategic Thinking, Finance, and Strategy. It's a great structure because all first years take the same set of core classes together, so you all are having a similar experience and can work together to help each other succeed.

akpiper86: Hello everyone, I wanted to know if I can complete additional internships while still doing classes at Johnson, and whether it typically helps international students get jobs in the US?

Kim: The curriculum is very demanding and you will not have time to tackle an internship while doing classes. That said, you will have many opportunities to interact with employers through regular recruiter visits as well as opportunities through clubs.

Private: I would also like to know how often an Ithaca 2 yr MBA campus student work in collaboration with Engineering school team. How easy it is to do so.

Eddie Chan: There are opportunities to work with the other schools here at Cornell; specifically through case competitions and organizations like BR Consulting or BR Tech Strategy. Last year I took part in the SSO immersion which had several graduate engineering students enrolled as well. I had the opportunity to work very closely with them through group work and in class.

dan3067: I am interested in the 2 year program with a focus on alternative energy/technology. Is there any opportunity for 2 year candidates to participate in the NYC tech campus opportunities?

Ann: We are just starting joint classes with the campus - students can spend 1/2 or full semesters at the NYTech campus in their second year. We're also offering mini courses and video conference options.

sajinket: I want to expand my social enterprise to a national scale, so I seek an MBA build the right skill sets. For this, I plan to apply to Cornell especially for its immersion programs - Strategic Marketing and Sustainable Global Enterprise. I also want to gain experience in the strategy space first. Would employability be a challenge for an Indian of primarily 3 years of Software Development experience and such a route of education?

Shawn: Hi sajinket, so I chose Cornell because of the immersions as well! I will be pursuing the Strategic Marketing Immersion (SMI) in the spring. What is beneficial about the immersions is that, after having taken the core classes in the fall and laying the foundation for your MBA education, you can further specialize in the function of your choice. The immersion is perfect for people looking to delve deeper into things they may be already passionate about, or to try something totally new to build out new skillsets - which makes it a perfect option for career switchers. The immersions give you a customized set of classes in that specialty but also allow you to take electives in additional areas you may want to pursue further. Happy to answer more questions specific to SMI.

adamcoates: Good morning I am interested in pursuing an MBA and MHA at Cornell. What are some things I should consider when trying to pursue multiple graduate degrees?

Eddie: adamcoates, Thanks for joining us this morning. When considering a dual degree with MHA, I would make sure you understand the structure of the program. Also, be aware that you are applying to the One-year MBA program. Applicants are reviewed from each program independently. I would encourage you to connect with current students from both programs to get a sense of who the program best fits within your career goals. If you have further questions, email me at ea356@cornell.edu.

MAFaiz: I have a question about the consulting immersion learning, it is my understanding that one has to choose on immersion offering in the first year. I am interested in sustainability so will choose SGE. But I am also interested in consulting, so my question is if I can take both the consulting program and the SGE immersion at the same time? If not the how do people interested in consulting typically take the consulting program(second year)?

Eddie Chan: MAFaiz, The SGE immersion is actually very popular for aspiring consultants due to the nature of the capstone project that happens throughout the immersion. This project is very similar to an actual consulting engagement as you work with a real client to help them through an

engagement. You can definitely take both the consulting program and SGE immersion at the same time. A lot of the coursework overlaps between both the immersion and the consulting program.

iris5330: Hello, thanks for taking time to answer the question. I have 6 years working experience in FMCG industry and function as digital marketing, include digital marketing & e-commerce solution, I want to transfer to e-commerce tech company after MBA and take my family business in the long run. I have two questions 1. I don't have a background in science and engineering but do have digital experience, also, I will relaunch the products of my family business and may need entrepreneurial experience, one of the reason I am interesting in tech mba. Is it suitable for me to apply for Tech Mba? 2. Is tech MBA also enjoy the resource for family business?

Mandy: **iris5330**, For the Cornell Tech MBA, you DO NOT need a technical degree or specific technical background to be eligible for admission, though having that background would certainly help you. We are looking for students with a strong technical intuition and a few years of relevant work experience. I'm not quite sure what your second question is asking, but the JCTMBA will give you many resources, tools, and networks to help fulfill your entrepreneurial goals.

cai28: And I still have 2 more questions, 1. How do you think of the focus of the MBA curriculum, is it focusing more on building hand-on experience, learn by doing or more academic? Can you name some of the featured courses that is focusing on solving the real life problems or on building hand-on experience? 2. How do you describe the alumni relations of the Cornell alumni? thank you.

Shawn: Two great questions **cai28**, the Johnson curriculum is truly a balanced approach. There will be certain classes that are rooted in the theory, but ultimately each class will have you put it into practice. For instance, with the Strategic Marketing courses, you'll learn about a certain topic, apply it to a specific case, and then be able to put it into practice with a semester long consulting project with a real life company. Overall, its a great blended approach. To your alumni question, Johnson alumni (and Cornell alumni) are exceptional! You'll have access to a wealth of individuals who are so passionate about giving back to the school. It is a tight-knit community, and truly engenders a sense of belonging when at the school and beyond. I've already reached out to many alumni for informational interviews, and they 100% of the time have responded within 24 hours (and many even less!) Plus - the alumni love to come back to campus, so you'll be able to engage with them in classes, at recruiting events, and beyond!

KS15: Hello Team, Would like to know how is finance recruiting looking given a lot of automation is happening in the banks leading to dwindling interest in the sector?

Eddie Chan: **KS15**, Finance recruiting is still very strong despite the trend in automation that is occurring in the industry. Finance is one of Johnson's strongest areas in terms of recruitment and you will have several opportunities within Finance specifically in Investment Banking, Asset Management, General Management, Technology, and other areas.

threepeat: Hi thanks for making yourselves available! Wanted to know what Adcoms look for in a R3 application? How much does a GMAT score impact your decision in this round?

Ann: **threepeat**, we look for similar strengths in every round - academic strength, career success, community involvement, initiative, drive, team skills and fit. The GMAT (or GRE) is useful as a common denominator and a second resource for determining academic strength. It's not the

determining factor, but it may carry more weight as we get closer to the end of the enrollment cycle.

trengbretson: Thank you for your time and candor! Can you please speak to the Sustainable Global Enterprise Immersion and how students typically combine it with other competencies?

Matthew: trengbretson, The SGE immersion is a great opportunity to be immersed in the world of sustainable enterprise and understanding the intersection of sustainability and for-profit business. Students work in groups with clients from many different walks of sustainability. The immersion also includes a class called Strategies for Sustainability, which focuses on real questions that companies face and class discussions on how to operate successfully when a changing environment threatens a business. Overall, the immersion is a great opportunity to manage client relations, scope a project and its deliverables, and understand how sustainability can be reflected in business decisions. For more info, be sure to see Cornell's SGE website: [http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs ... Enterprise](http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs...Enterprise)

bmholden: Thanks swm273! To follow up, is that like a 8-5 Monday-Friday or varies depending on the schedule?

Shawn: bmholden, So, for my first seven weeks, I had classes Mon, Tues, Thurs. This seven week section, I have classes Mon-Thurs. However, your Wednesdays in the first seven weeks will fill up quickly with club meetings + group meetings, and your Fridays will likely have loads of informational interviews or seminars on specific topics that may be of interest to you (like an Excel skills course or a seminar on how to handle solving cases effectively)

bk2018: Is it difficult to get into BR Consulting? how many students join each year?

Eddie Chan: bk2018, There is an application process for BR Consulting that includes a written application as well as an interview. Each year, roughly 50 students join. BR Consulting is a great opportunity to gain some first hand consulting experience. If you are interested and passionate about joining the organization, you will probably be successful in being admitted into BR Consulting.

brendanbmcgrath: Hi Johnson Admissions team - thank you for your time! What factors determine who a candidate meets with for the formal interview? I'm asking as someone who visited campus, met with admissions associates while at Cornell and at MBA fairs, and curious about potential next steps. Thanks!!

Kim: brendanbmcgrath, Our interviews are conducted in person on campus or via skype and can be conducted by Admissions staff or current students. It does not matter from an admissions perspective if you come in person or do a skype.

Private: Hi! Thanks for answering my earlier question. As I am aware, the initial notification date for Round 1 is in November. Does that mean we will hear back from the university on that date or can we expect to hear from the university before that date as well?

Kim: By the initial notification date you will learn if you have been granted an interview, waitlisted or denied. You may hear from us before that date as we release decisions on a rolling basis.

sidiitm2004: Hi. Does cornell have Grade non-disclosure policy? I am trying to understand how competitive the curriculum could be and any impact on how much time one could spend recruiting.

Ann: **sidiitm2004**, we cannot release a students grades to anyone (other than the student), but our CMC does not prohibit our recruiters from asking a student for a copy of their transcript. It hasn't seemed to have had a negative impact on our students in the recruiting process. I understand there may be a review of the policy in the next year.

imcominghome: Are your classmates mostly career switchers or are there also career enhancers?

Matthew: **imcominghome**, This is a great question. Most of my classmates are career switchers, but there are certainly some career enhancers. Johnson's Core curriculum is built to put all incoming students on a level playing field and be competitive across industries, and then enhance their capabilities through the electives that they choose, such as their Immersion, club choices, and second-year classes. If you have a specific question about one type of career, please let us know!

12dannj: Do you have any examples of what could be submitted for the creativity requirement in the application for the one year tech MBA? What background and characteristics make someone successful in Cornell's one year tech mba?

Mandy: **12dannj**, Creativity statements should be, as the name implies, creative! We have had students who have submitted videos, websites, slideshows, essays. We want to know who you are as a person beyond what your resume and grades can tell us. I would advise that you keep your CS succinct - videos should ideally be under 3 minutes long, and essays under 1000 words to give you an idea.

threepeat: Thank you for your answer. Is there somewhere I can your GMAT range? I have seen the average and middle 80 figures...but I'd like to see the data to determine if I would have a shot in R2. Low GMAT but I believe I am very competitive in the other parts of the application and I just need to go to Johnson!

Eddie: **threepeat**, Thank you for joining us. We only publicize our middle 80% and average (700 GMAT). If you have any questions regarding your specific GMAT score and profile, please email me (Eddie Asbie) at ea356@cornell.edu and we can discuss further.

Eddie Chan: It was great speaking with everyone! I have to run to a class that starts in 5 minutes. Best of luck in the admissions process everyone. Feel free to reach out to one of the Communications Ambassadors ([http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs ... h-Students](http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs...h-Students)) with any additional questions!

Souvik: **ec785**, Thanks so much for your time!

abhshkrv: Can you share the class profile of Cornell Tech's MBA class?

Mandy: **abhshkrv**, A typical MBA student from this year's class is 29, has 5 year work experience, and about a 700 GMAT. We have students from all different backgrounds academically, culturally, and professionally.

nadeemkamal: My interests lie in Water technology. Does Johnson have recruiters that offer graduates role in this industry?

Matthew: **nadeemkamal**, The Center for Sustainable Global Enterprise and the SGE Club work hard to make connections with alumni and others in many industries. Meeting recruiters and companies related to Water technology would most likely happen through those groups, especially if it is a niche industry.

Justin0909: I'm interested in the few different study areas, one is the field of Entrepreneurship through Acquisition. Could you speak to whether this topic is covered in the Entrepreneurship program? Also, any clubs or other Cornell resources you can point me to would be helpful. Thanks!

Ann: **Justin0909**, here's information on the entrepreneurship offerings at Johnson: [http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs ... Curriculum](http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs...Curriculum) Keep in mind that there are a lot of additional resources through the rest of the University and local community.

Shawn: Hi all! It has been great to chat. I have to duck out for a class, but if you have further questions - for me or for others in our program - feel free to take the opportunity to connect with some of our current students: [http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs ... h-Students](http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs...h-Students)

12dannj: Hi, I'd like to learn a bit more about the one year tech MBA. You say that you look for someone with a "strong technical skill-set". Can you elaborate a little bit about that requirement?

Mandy: **12dannj**, We keep our "technical" requirements broad because we welcome students from all different professional and academic backgrounds. If you don't know how to code, for example, that's no problem - we'll teach you here. But if you have only been an investment banker or a project manager without any exposure to product development or other technically related fields, you might not be a strong fit for the program.

wkla: With the new Cornell Tech campus on Roosevelt island, what is the expected class size for 2018?

Mandy: **wkla**, We anticipate a class of 80 for Fall 2018. The current class is 62.

Narenm89: Hi Team, are there PE/VC firms visiting the campus in the 1 year MBA program?

Eddie: Narenm89, Yes, there are PE/VC firms that come on campus to meet with our students. It is difficult for students to make this move in this space, especially without connections in the industry coming out of an MBA.

Tan2017: Good Morning! What are the volunteer opportunities available for students admitted into Cornell?

Kim: Tan2017, There are many opportunities to volunteer both at Johnson and in the community. You can volunteer with Johnson Leadership Fellows or Johnson Board Fellows to name a few.

Squizadoo: Thanks for your time. What do you think sets your program apart from others?

Eddie: Squizadoo, Here is the link to applicants who qualify for a fee waiver: [http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs ... quirements](http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs...quirements)

sidiitm2004: Hi. Another question from my side. How are scholarship decisions made? What part of the profile attracts more weight?

Ann: sidiitm2004, scholarships at Johnson are offered on the basis of merit - we do look closely at academic performance (GPA, rigor of program, major) and GMAT or GRE scores, but we also take into consideration other strengths you bring to the class through work experience, leadership, community involvement.

aanchalkawatra: Apart from our background and other experiences, what type of questions can we expect in the interviews? Also, are questions relating to our previous curriculum completed during under graduation asked as well?

Kim: aanchalkawatra, In the interview we will also try to clarify points that may not be clear from your application. We also will ask about your goals and how you feel Johnson will help you achieve your goals.

nadeemkamal: Regarding second essay, can you guys shed some light on it. Does the table of content have to make a form of story?

Eddie: nadeemkamal, There is no right or wrong answer to the TOC essay. This is your opportunity to tell your story on who you are. It does not have to form a story but ultimately give us insight on who you are. Have fun with this essay!

MAFaiz: Another question about recommendations, would it be better if I submit two recommendations.

Kim: MAFaiz, You are only required one recommendation but if you feel a second recommender can shed additional light on your candidacy then a second recommendation can be helpful.

Moderator: Thank you everyone for Cornell Johnson. We had a LOT of questions and I am glad you all were able to hear from adcoms. Thanks for sending them in. This was the busiest adcom chat we have ever done!

Johnson - admission officers and current students - thank you for your time! I really hope most of our audience have a better sense of the application and the class. Here's to a great class of 2020!

Kim: It has been great chatting with you. If you have additions question or your questions were not answered feel free to reach out to me at mba@johnson.cornell.edu

Eddie: Thank you all for joining us! We wish you the best in the application process. Feel free to reach out to our team if you have further questions, mba@johnson.cornell.edu

Mandy: Thanks everyone! You can email admissions@tech.cornell.edu with any further questions.

Cornell (Johnson) Chat Session/Webinar Calendar <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-johnson-2018-applicants-class-of-243913.html#p1900133>