



Carlson (Minnesota) Live Chat Transcript - Nov 3, 2017



Dana Daniele, Associate Director of Admissions and Recruiting at Carlson.

- **Carlson MBA Discussions:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-carlson-minnesota-applicants-2018-intake-class-of-248689.html>
- **Carlson Decision Tracker:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/carlson-minnesota-222/app-tracker.html>

vivek6199

Welcome everyone in the weekly open chat session with Carlson MBA Adcom. We have Dana Daniele - Associate Director of Admissions and Recruiting from Carlson School of Management- to address our queries.

vivek6199

Welcome Dana and we look forward to a great chat session!! Guys, please ask your questions!

ddaniele

Thank you!

Gonner

Dana, do Indian candidates who have English as medium of education also need to give TOEFL?

ddaniele

You do not need to take an English language test if: You have completed your previous education solely in English in a country where English is not an official language. Your transcript must indicate that English was the language of instruction, or you must provide a statement from your university indicating that English was the sole language of instruction in order to be exempt from the testing requirement.....OR..... If you have completed the last 2 years of a bachelor's degree or 1 year of graduate school (full-time) in the U.S., U.K., Ireland, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand. Most candidates from India do not need to take TOEFL.

kgfball88

Hi Dana, thanks for doing this chat today. How competitive is this year compared to previous cycles? Has Carlson noted a decline in applications, as reported by the GMAC that overall apps are down to U.S. business schools? Also, is there any preference to in-state vs. out-state candidates?

ddaniele

Hi kgfball88. Compared to last year we're trending right on pace. While there have been some declines over the last few years, we do not change our admissions standards, meaning it will be competitive every year. But, we do not give preference to in-state versus out-of-state candidates.

vivek6199

Hi Dana, I have a query . Can the students cross enroll for a course outside the business school if its related to one's career aspirations? Suppose I want to take a course in the School of social work or in the Sustainability Education program, will I be allowed to do so?

ddaniele

You are eligible to take 8 credits outside of the MBA program, but enrollment in courses outside of the MBA program will depend on availability and requirements of that program. We also offer several dual degree options which you can see here: <https://carlsonschool.umn.edu/degrees/mal-degrees>

ACAlegal

Hello. I read an article on Poets N Quants where Carlson said that its recruiters were not that keen on hiring international students. Is that true and if so, what prospects could you suggest for future international pass outs?

ddaniele

Hi **ACAlegal**, it is difficult to find employment for international students in the U.S. But, we have a strong Graduate Business Career Center who are working on finding more opportunities year over year. We had a 97% employment rate from last year's class and 96% from the class of 2017, with an overwhelming majority of students staying in the U.S. I recommend international students work hard at finding employment by taking a lot of networking meetings, applying to multiple opportunities, and taking frequent meetings with a career counselor. It also helps to remain open to multiple opportunities. I hope this helps!

vivek6199

Hi Dana. Carlson is well known for its Experiential Learning experience where students get a chance to work with top consulting firms. However, is there any opportunity to do some kind of social work or maybe a pro bono consulting?

ddaniele

vivek6199, absolutely! Our Graduate Volunteer Consultants do just that -- members of that club get a chance to do pro bono consulting work with local nonprofits. We also have Carlson 4 Community which runs a charity auction to raise money for a different nonprofit each year and Common Grounds which is an interdisciplinary consulting club that also does pro bono consulting work for local nonprofits.

ddaniele

Just to clarify though -- the Carlson Consulting Enterprise do not work with major consulting firms. The students in CCE are the consultants and work with companies on real business challenges like the consulting firms would.

kgfball88

How is Carlson's job placement? Do most students find jobs within their specialty? How many stay in the Twin Cities?

ddaniele

kgfball88, Our latest employment report (just released yesterday!) is attached. As you can see, employment rates are quite good at 96%. Industry and job function breakouts are attached though this fluctuates every year depending on interest. Last year's class was quite interested in marketing and the class before that had higher consulting numbers. Most students do stay in the Midwest, either Minneapolis or Chicago. Though, we've seen an increase of students taking tech jobs on the West Coast.

souvik101990

ddaniele, Does Carlson have a C4C - consulting with local not for profits - initiative?

ddaniele

souvik101990, As I mentioned we have the Graduate Volunteer Consultants and Common Grounds that do just that!

ddaniele

If anyone is interested in connecting with a student ambassador, please feel free to email mbagrad@umn.edu. That will connect you with a graduate assistant who will work on matching you with a current student who can answer your questions about student life/academics/life in Minneapolis. Please put "Current Student Connection" in the subject line.

Raksat

what about scholarships ?

ddaniele

Raksat, Scholarships are merit-based and announced at the time of admission. No separate application process is required. We recommend reviewing the Class Profile on the website. Generally a competitive application for scholarships has a GMAT score above our median score and the application was submitted in one of the earlier rounds. But, you should not rush your application to meet an earlier deadline if you're not ready to apply. In other words, you should prioritize submitting the strongest application possible and then meeting the earliest deadline you can.

ng90

Is it recommended to apply by Round 2 for scholarships?

ddaniele

We don't have any deadlines on when we stop awarding scholarships. As I stated, you should apply as early as possible, but don't sacrifice quality to do so.

Raksat

According to financial times international students percentage has come down from to 4% (a reduction of 3%). Is it difficult for international candidates to get admission in Carlson or is there any shift in acceptance policy?

ddaniele

Raksat, I'm not sure what statistics you're referencing. We're actually up 10% in international student enrollment for the class of 2019. But, not we haven't made any shifts in our policies. We definitely want international students at Carlson.

ACAlegal

Dana, please help me understand the curriculum structure. Do I get to choose a specialisation only after completing the first year core subjects? Or is my curriculum tailored to a specialisation that has to be accepted during the first year itself?

ddaniele

ACAlegal, Sure! Students are enrolled in core courses in the first semester and half of the second semester. From there you can take electives and declare a specialization. You also enroll in your enterprise during the second semester. After the first year you go on an internship and come back to take electives or specialization classes and your enterprise. At some point, you will be required to do either a study abroad or a "glocal" class.

abhi2ume

How do students prepare for internships as company fares start within 1 month of course commencement

ddaniele

abhi2ume, The two-week orientation spends a lot of time preparing you for the job & internship search. But, generally speaking internship interviews do not begin until January. You'll spend the first-semester networking -- arranging coffee chats (GBCC and second years can help with this,) attending conferences (National Black MBA, National Hispanic MBA, etc.,) Career Treks (West Coast Trek & East Coast Trek,) and attending networking events (I don't have specific names but we have several opportunities to attend these sorts of events both on or off campus.)

Raksat

what do you ideally look in academics of an applicant ? And does work experience in core industry has any value?

ddaniele

Raksat, We look at academics (GMAT and Academic Record,) professional work experience (not just the company/industry, but also progression throughout your career, leadership experience, teamwork, innovation, etc.,) and fit (alignment with career goals and our community.) Industry can play a role when we determine fit (are you a career changer? are you a career accelerator?) but would never be the only determination. We try to give every applicant a holistic review using all elements of your application including your test scores and transcripts, interview, essay, resume, and letters of recommendation.

abhi2ume

I have read that most of the companies (almost 80%) do not hire international students bcoz of H1B uncertainty. Then how intrnl students get jobs ?

ddaniele

abhi2ume, There are companies that hire international students. I recommend chatting with a current international student to get a better understanding of the opportunities available. You can email mbagrad@umn.edu to be connected. As I mentioned our placement rates are quite high and most students are placed in the U.S.

pushpitkc

Hi Dana, Thanks for doing this chat. I had a small question with regards to Retail jobs for international candidates?

ddaniele

pushpitkc, Thank you for the details! We work with CPG companies like General Mills, Best Buy, Target, Land O'Lakes, Johnson & Johnson, 3M, EcoLab, etc.

ACAlegal

Dana , apart from the conditions provided on the website, are there any other TOEFL/IELTS exemptions available? Say my undergrad and school degree was in English, but then my college does not really practise sending out statements bearing that English was the mode of imparting training. Any other option available, or is the TOEFL mandatory ? I am asking because my previous TOEFL exam had to be cancelled due to medical reasons and my new TOEFL result might not reach Carlson before the round 2 deadline.

ddaniele

ACAlegal, Have you asked your university? These letters are a fairly common request and Universities should be able to send them. But no, we do not make exceptions -- you have to provide proof of English either way.

Abhishank

Hi Dana, I met and spoke with you at the New Delhi QS MBA Fair. I am now planning to apply to Carlson, with 2 possible post-MBA routes to my long term goal - 1. Working in an education firm, or 2. Working in consulting. which one would be more feasible through Carlson?

ddaniele

Abhishank, We are strong in consulting, but do not specialize in education.

ACALegal

Due to certain shifts in administrative staff in my college, processing a request to have the said letter sent might be delayed. Dana, what if I take the TOEFL before the second round deadline, but the score reaches say, a couple of days after the round 2 deadline has gone. Shall I still be eligible for consideration during round 2, if all other parts of my application are complete?

ddaniele

ACALegal, an application must be complete by the deadline. Feel free to email with more questions.

vivek6199

Hi Dana. We know that Carlson MBA is known for its four Carlson School Enterprise programs where we can address the real-world challenges of client businesses. I am slightly confused if the enterprise program is same as an internship?

ddaniele

vivek6199, the Enterprise programs are 2 semester long courses. They happen in year 1, 2nd semester and year 2 first semester (with the option to add on a third project in year 2, 2nd semester.) The internship happens between year 1 and year 2 with the average pay around \$39.00. The enterprises are not paid, rather you are doing the projects for credit. Therefore, you have an opportunity to interact with multiple companies, industries, and projects/business challenges throughout your time at Carlson.

abhi2ume

After MBA from Carlson, Is it possible to enter consultancy jobs without prior work experience in consulting industry ?

ddaniele

abhi2ume, Definitely. Most students at Carlson are career changers.

ddaniele

Thank you, everyone, for your questions! Please email ftmba@umn.edu with further questions. We're happy to help! **vivek6199**, Thank you for organizing!

vivek6199

Great questions guys! Thanks everyone for participating in the chat today.