



Questrom School of Business Live Chat Transcript - Nov 29, 2017

Marisa Morgan, Associate Director of Admissions and Recruiting

marisamorgan: Hello everyone! My name is Marisa Morgan and I am the Associate Director of Graduate Admissions at Questrom School of Business. I'm looking forward to chatting with all of you today. I'm happy to take any questions you might have about Questrom, or our admission process.

vivek6199 Welcome everyone in the weekly open chat session with Questrom MBA Adcoms. We have Marisa Morgan - Associate Director of Admissions and Recruiting from Questrom School of Business- to address our queries. Welcome Marisa Morgan and we look forward to a great chat session!!

vivek6199: Let me start with the questions. Can you please tell what the Adcoms are looking for in an interview?

marisamorgan: Of course. Our interviews are really a chance to get to know you aside from what we see on paper. We want to see how you present yourself, learn more about your goals and why you might be a good fit for Questrom, and why we might be a good fit for you. We also use them to try to assess your leadership potential, and how the work that you've done might translate to our classroom.

himanshu04: Can you comment on the leadership changes happening at Questrom?

marisamorgan: Sure - As some of you might have heard, our Dean, Ken Freeman has announced that he is stepping down at the end of the school year. Ken has been an amazing influence on the school and on our programs and we're all sad to see him go. But we're looking forward to seeing the candidates for the new Dean and to learning more from them. The hiring process will include students in our programs as well as faculty and staff, so we're confident that we will be able to find the right fit!

vivek6199: I wish to ask about the typical fit qualities that you are looking for? Since it's a small class is team skills and collaboration valued the most in the application essays and interviews?

marisamorgan: That's a great question. We have a fairly unique culture here of collaboration that we do look for students who show those qualities. We take seriously our mission of "creating value for the world" so want to see students who will be engaged not just with the academics here but also as active members of the community. And we also want to see how you might be as a team member. You'll see some questions along those lines in the interview, and your recommenders will see them in their recommendations. Our students spend A LOT of time working on teams in the program, so we want to know that you will be someone that your classmates will want to work with!

vivek6199: That's a great tip! Could you please throw some light on how can a student contribute or give back to the school?

marisamorgan: Of course. We have an active student body with many clubs and organizations. It's always great when our students want to play an active role in activities both in and out of the classroom. Many of our key programs have come from student ideas. Link Day, where local non-profits can get consulting help from our students (and where students can get real world consulting practice). Some of our international field seminars have developed from student led treks. The one that comes to mind is a new seminar in Israel looking at their startup and entrepreneurship culture. That started out of a non-credit trip that our Entrepreneurship Club members planned.

Kiosk

Thanks for chatting with us Marisa. Is there any EMBA program for working professionals? I am currently working on my start up and can't attend the full time MBA but I can take a break of 1-2 months in an year for studies on campus. Is there any program that provides us flexibility to work while doing MBA?

marisamorgan: My best advice to you once you've been admitted to schools and have joined a program, Questrom or another program, is to take advantage of opportunities both academically and extra-curricular.

marisamorgan: We have both a PEMBA (Professional Evening MBA) program and an EMBA (Executive MBA) program. Our PEMBA program is part time and in the evening, but conducted on campus. Students generally take 2 classes a semester meeting 2 nights per week

vivek6199: Thank you Marisa for sharing so much details.

marisamorgan: Our EMBA program is technically a full-time program. Some of it is done online, but EMBA students do come to the school at least once per month for a full weekend. Our EMBA program is technically a full-time program. Some of it is done online, but EMBA students do come to the school at least once per month for a full weekend.

Narenn: Thank you! I am not in the states so can't really come to the school every month but anyway thanks for the info.

abhimanyu9: Hello, just wanted to ask you when can we expect to hear back on Round 1 applications

marisamorgan: Sure! I hope that means you've applied. Our 1st round applicants will hear back from us no later than December 20

daboo343: Hello. Is Boston help me find the job as a operation consultant in energy industry

marisamorgan: We have a new concentration in Energy and Environmental Sustainability. This is an exciting field that we think will have a lot of job growth in the future. The concentration has a faculty director who is great at helping students make connections. Our career center will also help to point you toward companies that are hiring in that area. Ultimately the job search is up to you - we can't just find you a job - but you get a lot of support from our team throughout your two years.

abhimanyu9: Thank you. Yes, I have applied but still haven't heard anything from BU on the status of the application.

marisamorgan: I am happy to speak offline and look at the status of your application. You can feel free to email me at morganm@bu.edu after the chat.

vivek6199: Would the scholarship decision for Round one be released by the same date (20th Dec.)?

marisamorgan: As for scholarship decisions - yes - merit scholarship decisions are given at the same time as admission decisions. Our merit scholarships do not require a separate application, we make those decisions during the admission process. They are merit based so we look at all aspects of your application, but pay particular attention to test scores, GPA, and work history during that process.

daboo343: I want to amalgamate operations, consulting and energy related course as per my need. Is it possible to do that at Boston

marisamorgan: We have a group of career coaches who sit within our Graduate Development Center who help with the "soft skills", interview prep, resume, LinkedIn, etc. And we have our Feld Center for Industry Alliances that works with students to network with companies and alumni. And yes - you can absolutely do more than one concentration. EES and Operations would be a great combination!

daboo343: That nice. Thanks for the info

himanshu04 Can the decisions be released before Dec 20?

marisamorgan: It is possible that you will hear from us earlier than December 20. It depends on how our admission committee process goes. If you need a decision prior to December 20 for a particular reason, we can chat separately about that and I can see what we can do to accommodate.

daboo343: Could you please provide us with the glimpse about kind of scholarship available at school

daboo343: And what percentage of student get a scholarship

marisamorgan: About 91% of our incoming students receive some form of merit scholarship. That can be anywhere from \$10,000 per year to a full tuition scholarship. Our average scholarship award is just over half of tuition.

himanshu04: oh no! I was under the assumption it will be on the exact date so wanted to check.

daboo343: Ok. Does good gmat score help a student get a good scholarship

marisamorgan: We certainly take GMAT into account when looking at merit scholarships. It won't be the only criteria, so a strong GMAT score won't automatically guarantee a good scholarship - it depends on all aspects of your application. But having a good GMAT score certainly helps

vivek6199: I too had the same question. Is scholarship heavily dependent upon a high GMAT score? Do candidates scoring well in GRE stand an equal chance of getting one?

marisamorgan: That's a great question. GRE takers do have an equal chance at scholarship. We don't prefer GMAT over GRE, so we don't penalize GRE takers when it comes to scholarship. They tend to be looked at in comparison to the pool of applicants with GRE.

marisamorgan: While I have you all here on the chat, I will also point you to some exciting news that came out today from the president of BU. We have developed a new innovation center at BU. You can read the article here: [http://www.bu.edu/today/2017/university ... -students/](http://www.bu.edu/today/2017/university...-students/)
For those of you who might be considering entrepreneurship, this is an expansion of some current programs here including our BUzz Lab which is an accelerator for students looking to start their own business. This new initiative will expand that to capture resources from across the university, and will have some exciting partnerships with business and venture capital in the area.

vivek6199: I am interested in case competitions. Suppose, I wish to streamline the whole process of case competition team selection and participation by starting a Case Competition Special Interest group. Will I be allowed to do so?

marisamorgan: We have a number of different Case Competition groups at the school, including some already specialized (including one in health care technology and one in social impact). We have a faculty director of our case competitions who oversees our teams in terms of support and learning. If there is a particular area you'd like to see us competing in, he would certainly love to get the ideas and help students develop them!

vivek6199: Are you talking about Mr. Greg Stoller?

marisamorgan: I am! He's one of our favorites here.

pcygnii: How important are recommendations during the application?

marisamorgan: We look at applications holistically, so recommendations definitely play an important role as one component of your application. We use recs to see what type of work you are doing/have done, what your potential for leadership might be, and what contributions you might make in the classroom.

pcygnii: I work for an intelligence agency and due to the nature of the work, the said intelligence agency in my country has refused to give official recommendation. Will that affect my chances or can the recommendation be waived off in my case?

marisamorgan: I absolutely recommend your two recs be from people familiar with your work, rather than any academic recommendations. I also recommend that they actually are familiar with your work. It is far more important to us that the recommender knows you well rather than is someone "high up" in the company. We often have applicants whose recommendations don't fit the standard profile. Students who own their own companies, for example. Your case is fairly particular and certainly you would not be penalized for that. I would recommend finding colleagues or clients who are willing/able to speak about you as a candidate. and then writing an optional essay explaining the reasoning behind who you've chosen. It doesn't have to be a long essay, just something to explain so we're not wondering why you don't have a supervisor in there!

pcygnii: The intelligence agency that I work for has asked its employees not to hand out recommendations or talk about the organization. Hence the question. I've asked my supervisors for a recommendation but they've all refused citing security reasons.

marisamorgan: Why don't you email me separately (morganm@bu.edu) and we can talk through some ideas for what might work for you.

vivek6199: Four to five months ago, there was an opportunity for prospective applicants to virtually attend classes such as the Social Media Marketing and Fundamentals of Non-profit Management. Can we please have more of such virtual sessions?

marisamorgan: Yes! Give me one moment and I can check our calendar for the next virtual class opportunity. It will be the week of March 12. We also do livestream all of our information sessions, including one next Monday (December 4).

vivek6199

Guys, Any last questions? We are closing the chat in 15 minutes.

daboo343: does more number of experience than average is a disadvantage and what about older people who is 31 now. i was little skeptical about my 6+ year of experience

marisamorgan: More experience is never a disadvantage. With more experience comes more contribution to class discussion. Our 80% range is 2 to 8 years of experience, but we certainly have students who come in with more than 8 years. It is not very typical to see many students with less than 2 years.

vivek6199: What are the different ways in which students can approach networking?

marisamorgan: That's a great question as well. Networking is going to be your greatest tool in finding an internship and job.

There are many opportunities while here at Questrom to network. Network with classmates, with classmates from our PEMBA program who are currently working in companies you might be interested in. As I mentioned before, get involved with those extra-curricular activities. Student clubs will often do events where they bring in alumni and other community members for networking. Use our career center to help find connections at companies of interest. You will often see a Questrom alum or alum from Boston University as a whole at one of those companies. They can be great resources for informational interviews and connections to the right people.

You will definitely get support from our Career Center teams in helping to find those networking opportunities.

vivek6199: Sure, Thanks Marissa. I have another question. How specific should be a candidate while talking about his goals? Do you want us to mention the specific firms, roles and responsibilities or be quite flexible?

marisamorgan: We want to see that you have an idea of what you want to do. You don't need to know the exact role in the exact company. But have a sense of industry or role or both. I would also say to have an idea of some back up plans.

Some roles/industries are really competitive and if you have your heart set on something and can't see an alternative to get you where you want to ultimately be, it's a harder sell.

But...being completely open ended is not a good option. We sometimes see applicants who tell us that they're not sure what they want to do so want an MBA to "figure it out". That's not really the goal of business school. It's only 2 years and you have to pack in a lot! That doesn't mean that things can't be flexible, but if you have absolutely no idea of industry or role, that's not a great sign.

vivek6199

Can the backup plan be in the same function and industry? For example, if my goal is to be a CSR Advisory at Big 4, can back up plan be to pursue a similar role of Associate/Strategy Intern at Education Pioneers, Education Resource Strategy or the Gates Foundation?

marisamorgan: Yes - I think that would make sense

So for example: Wanting digital marketing, but open to industry (possibly CPG or Tech). Or: I know I want to work in hospital administration but I'm interested in exploring whether operations or HR is better for me

vivek6199: *Guys, Any last questions? We are closing the chat in 5 minutes.*

chinmay96

How much weight age does undergrad score have in the selection criteria? does a bad undergrad score act as a major hindrance?

marisamorgan: Your undergrad grades/GPA are a component of the application. We don't really weigh any one component over another. So - a lower GPA with a stellar application otherwise won't knock you out. But if it's a concern, write something in an optional essay that tells us why we should be less concerned about it. And know that if it's a combination of lower GPA and a low test score, that will be harder to overcome.

vibhormittal

Is there any Indian in current batch?

aboo343

and yes could you please tell me the percentage of Indian in the class

marisamorgan: If you are asking if we have Indians currently in our application pool - yes. We always see a number of Indian applicants and love having Indian students here in the program! I'm not sure off hand of the percentage specifically of Indians. Our class is about 32% international.

gocoder

Does BU offer application fee waivers?

marisamorgan: We do offer some application fee waivers. I point you to here for more information [https://www.bu.edu/questrom/admissions/ ... -time-MBA/](https://www.bu.edu/questrom/admissions/-time-MBA/) but we also offer them to people who join us on campus or register for our virtual information sessions (next one on December 4).
You can find info on the virtual info session here: [http://www.bu.edu/questrom/admissions/v ...](http://www.bu.edu/questrom/admissions/v...)
December-4/

vivek6199: For someone who has applied in the first round, what is the last date till when he can submit an improved test score?

marisamorgan: For the first-round I believe it is technically at the end of this week.

vivek6199: I submitted my application yesterday. Can that be considered for the first deadline?

marisamorgan: But if you have a particular situation, you can contact me, and I can see if it will work. Otherwise, you can ask to hold your application to round 2.

vivek6199

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

marisamorgan: Thanks, everyone! It was great chatting with you. Feel free to email me at morganm@bu.edu if you have any other questions. Or join us for our virtual information session next week!

vivek6199

Thank you very much, Marisa, for resolving our queries. It has given us great insights into the program. It was great to have you on GMATClub.

marisamorgan: And thank you Vivek for organizing.

vivek6199

We, GMATClub community, really appreciate your help. Have a great day ahead. Thank you

daboo343

Thank you for giving us your valuable time.