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- **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](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.

**KM2018AA:** I have submitted my Applications for Cornell 1 Y MBA program before the Nov deadline, by when can I expect to hear about Interview Invites? Has the Admissions Team started rolling out invites?

**Lindsay:** Great Question! Thanks for applying to the one-year program! Initial notification for the November Round is January 10th - if you are selected to interview, you will be notified by Jan 10th. Invitations to interview are going out on a rolling basis as applications are reviewed.

**KM2018AA:** Do recruiters have specific preferences for 2 Y MBA students against 1 Y MBA students ? Or are they treated on the same platform?

**Lindsay:** No - for the residential MBA, we welcome and enjoy considering students from the one-year and the two-year MBA programs. Preference is not given to a particular program - both are important!

**KM2018AA:** Thank you for your response. I meant to ask- do recruiters (for full time placements) prefer 2 Y students over 1 Y?

**Lindsay:** Thanks for clarifying. No. However, an important caveat in that the one-year residential program is not aligned with Investment Banking recruiting. Students from the one-year and the two-year residential programs recruit to all areas. If you are interested in talking about your specific interests, we are happy to chat with you individually.

**KS15:** theduzzi813, Do students get hired for IB(M&A,ECM, DCM)? Also, how is banking recruiting for internationals going?

**Brian:** yes, we have had great success with IB recruiting for the Class of 2018, and our Class of 2019 students are in NYC this week recruiting for summer internships. We were recently featured on Clear Admit ([https://www.clearadmit.com/2017/10/top- ... banking/4/](https://www.clearadmit.com/2017/10/top-...banking/4/)). For international students, our Old Ezra Finance Club is making great strides to customize the recruiting experience for these students. We hold additional events and activities to help them understand the IB recruiting process.

**ToshitaBharti:** Good morning Cornell students, ex-students and admissions committee. I will be applying to SC Johnson in Round 2 and I'm keen to understand what you expect from the student when asking the 2nd Essay question regarding the table of contents for our life story? Can you please help us understand what you are looking for in this essay?

**Ann:** From the Admissions Committee perspective, we look at the Table of Contents essay as an opportunity to get to know you a bit better. It's the perfect place to include information you can't include in your resume or other essays. There is no preferred format or contents that we look for in the essay. Feel free to be creative and have fun with the essay.

**Matt:** The table of contents is your opportunity to tell your story (in whatever format you choose!) to the admissions committee. As it's your story, there is no "right" way to do it, but make sure that you are communicating what you think are the most important things Cornell should know about you. It's also an opportunity to link back to why Johnson is a great fit for you. But most important of all, it should be a reflection of you and what you bring to the Johnson community.

**Private:** Hi, I am a typical Indian IT male candidate. I scored 740 on the GMAT and have been working in an Indian IT firm for 3 years. I plan to apply to Cornell in R3 and want to know what I can do to differentiate myself from the crowd since Indian IT male is one of the most common profiles.

**Lindsay:** Thanks for your question. To stand out in the admissions process, we are looking for students with a strong academic profile, good work experience, intellectual curiosity and fit with Johnson. We recommend that you connect with current students, ask questions [https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... h-Students](https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program...h-Students)

**gargarchiit:** Good morning every one, I want to know how is technology at Johnson. What does Johnson do exclusively in the field of technology which differentiates it from other schools.

**Brian:** We have a number of partnerships with Cornell Tech and across the Cornell campus in Ithaca. We offer classes in looking at how technology affects business; our newest intensive in NYC is around blockchain and fintech taught by a former IB managing director and utilizing resources from NYC and Cornell community. We also have student activities focused on Big Red Tech Strategy (<https://johnson.campusgroups.com/brt/about/>) as well as a robust tech club (they are currently on a trek to visit companies now!).

**gohjj122:** Hi, I would love to attend Cornell with my wife, because I am an international student I would like to know what kind of activities can she do, can she audit classes, organize activities, join other clubs? I also want to know more about taking a semester in New York City, is the process for selection very difficult? Do you offer this to both one year or two-year students?

**Matt:** There is so much to enjoy in Ithaca and the Finger Lakes area. At Johnson there is a club called Joint Ventures (JV) (<https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/New-Stu...s-Families>) that organizes events for families and spouses. Your wife could take on a leadership role in JV and organize events for other Johnson couples and families. Your wife is also always welcome to attend lectures and visits from alumni and other distinguished guests that come to Johnson and Cornell in general.

**gohjj122:** I would also love to do an exchange and immersion learning, is it possible to do both and a Tech elective?

**Ann:** It is possible to take an immersion and an exchange semester as well as Tech electives, but it may take some planning. The immersion programs are offered in the spring semester of your first year, so there's no real conflict with Exchange programs or tech electives. Tech electives and Exchange semesters generally take place in your second year, so you could do a Tech elective in the fall and international exchange program in the spring.

**aanchalkawatra:** Hi! I had my interview for the two year MBA program on 15th Nov. By when can I expect a response?

**Ann:** We review applications on a rolling basis after the interview. Generally you can expect a decision in 4-5 weeks after your interview. The American Thanksgiving Holiday slowed us down for a bit, but we're working on getting decisions out soon!

**gargarchiit:** How is working at startup and then building your own startup treated by adcoms? Is not having big MNC experience negative for my application?

**Brian:** I was the Co-VP of Capital Markets and Asset Management for Old Ezra Finance Club. We are involved in multiple stock pitch competitions and preparing students through our Parker Investment Center. I am currently helping to plan a Cornell Asset Management Competition for first-year MBA students for business students. We have had students recruit and work for Fidelity, Putnam, Barclays, and more! Serving on the Cayuga Fund was a great highlight of my first year (<https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Parker-...ayuga-Fund>).

**Lindsay:** Applicants come from diverse backgrounds and each student is considered on a number of factors. If startup/entrepreneurial work is part of your resume, we consider that accordingly and is not a deterrent to your admissions application.

**holamundo:** Approximately how many people does Johnson put into MBB per year?

**Ethan:** In terms of MBB, there is not a specific number per year into terms of both internship and full-time placements. However, we have very strong relationships with each one of those firms as well as other top consultancies. Regularly, about 60-70 people from a graduating class land consulting offers.

**2coolforBschool:** Question wrt the application form: for qualifications such as the CFA Charter, what are the documents that need to be uploaded to the application form?

**Rick:** With regard to professional certifications, there is a section on the application where you can list the certifications, but no formal documentation is necessary.

**nrobb1995:** For applicants with little background in math, I understand that the quantitative score on the GMAT is an important measure of technical math abilities. What quantitative percentile ranking on the GMAT suggests to the Cornell Admissions Committee that an applicant has what it takes to succeed in the program?

**Matt:** The GMAT is just one part of your broader application (albeit an important one!) but I would encourage you to do the best you can on both sections of the GMAT. In terms of readiness for Johnson, the Core curriculum has a significant amount of quantitative components, so we definitely recommend doing what you can to be ready for that coursework.

**Yachit:** Hello everyone from Cornell admissions! Will the applications in the January round be at a disadvantage compared to October and November rounds?

**Lindsay:** No, January round applications are not at a disadvantage. The advantage of early round is a higher amount of available seats and scholarship dollars, however we see very talented and competitive applicants in each round.

**sid1sinha:** How much weight does the community/social service activities carry in the application? Is it sort of "mandatory" or good to have

**Ann:** From the AdCom perspective, there isn't a specific weight or value given to community service or social activities, but it is an indication if you are likely to get involved in activities within our community.

**Brian:** Community and social service is a great thing to have because it shows a passion that you might have and demonstrates early leadership potential and application. We like to have well-rounded students in our tight-knit community at Johnson. Your willingness to give back to your community is one of the many ways that you can show leadership skills and passion. It's also a fun way for you to continue to build a community once you come to Johnson; we have Johnson Board

Fellows who serve on local community board of directors (<https://johnson.campusgroups.com/jbf/about/>), and Johnson Community Impact, a student group that is engaged in giving back to the Johnson, Cornell, and local community.

**gargarchiit:** I will be applying in Round 3. There is a common perception that international applicants are at huge disadvantage in applying in Round 3. Is that right?

**Chelsea:** Thanks for your question! There are more seats and scholarship dollars available in the earlier rounds, but International students are not at a disadvantage applying in January. A great applicant will be admitted regardless of the round in which they apply.

**ToshitaBharti:** How does Cornell facilitate achievement of the the short term goals of a student in terms of landing a particular job role, e.g. a role in Marketing?

**Matt:** Johnson has a robust program in place for students to land the job in the industry they are targeting. The Career Management Center organizes Career Work Groups, in which second-year students who have just finished the recruiting process (for marketing, banking, consulting etc) guide first-years through the process and give them the practice they need to succeed in those interviews. It runs throughout the first semester of your first year and is a central part of recruiting prep at Johnson. Here's a little more information on the CMC and all the work they do to help students land the jobs they want! <https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Career-Management>

**KM2018AA:** Any tips for the admissions interviews. I haven't been invited yet , but I expect to be

**Ethan:** For the interview, make sure to explain why you are interested in getting an MBA and getting an MBA specifically at Johnson. Johnson and Cornell is a unique community so we want to ensure that you have done your research about the program. As well, make sure to be prepared to answer questions about your work experiences, leadership, teamwork, and challenges you have faces. Overall, be human. The interviewer is simply trying to learn more about you and how you fit into the Johnson community so make sure so bring your full personality.

**KM2018AA:** Not sure whether you would have this information readily available but I would like to know what is the average GMAT score of Indians admitted to the 1 Y MBA program (batch of 2017/2018)

**Lindsay:** The cycle is different each year with a very competitive pool so it is a difficult question to answer that question. It's also important to add that GMAT is just one of many factors in the admissions decision.

**gohjj122:** Can current students provide more insight on their JOE experience and core team experience? In addition, at JOE do you only work with your core team ?

**Ethan:** As a first-year who just went through the core team experience I can say it was one of the highlights of my semester. I was able to gain a group of friends that I will keep in touch with for a lifetime. A big part of the core team experience is that the leader for each team deliverable rotates. As such, you are always provided an opportunity to become both a better leader as well as a better

team contributor. In providing feedback to your teammates after every project, you learn about how to provide more effective feedback that you can then use in your internships, jobs, and other team experiences.

**Rick:** Thank you for the question. JOE, a day long retreat with all your classmates, was a great experience. For the first part, core teams are paired together to complete in team building exercises. For the second part of the day, you are given free time to get to know other classmates and relax by the lake. For the last part of the day, you are put into random groups and tasked with completing a comedy skit. With regard to the academic core team experience, I found it be very valuable. Through multiple case competitions and group projects, the core is structured in a way in which you are given a chance to learn as both a leader and a team member, depending on your role for a specific task. I found the experience of learning in this format very valuable to my personal development.

**pmenaria:** Hi. I have a Master's degree and an Undergrad. Which GPA would you consider? I have a low GPA and a GMAT score of 680. But I have entrepreneur experience with only Product Manager experience at a startup with a successful exit. I am looking for a 1 year tech MBA with my post MBA goals to get back as Product Manager. Should I opt for 1 year or 2-year program? Also will a low GMAT stop me to apply in round 2?

**Lindsay:** Great question. If you are considering the residential programs in Ithaca (one-year or two-year) you qualify for the one-year program. I would recommend starting your research there to see if your interests align with the one-year program. We offer one-year program consultations to determine if that program is right for you. Check out this website for a listing of consultation options: <https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program...ons/Events> If you are interest in the Tech MBA, we have a rep here, Mandi Choi who can follow up to this question.

**KM2018AA:** What do you mean by Career treks? I hear that a lot

**Matt:** Each of the professional clubs organizes treks to meet companies that work in the industries they are focused on. For example, the consulting club goes to NYC to meet with firms, the High Tech Club goes out Silicon Valley to meet with start-ups. This is a great opportunity to ask questions of professionals working in the space you are targeting for your career, and make connections with Johnson alumni.

**gohjj122:** If we take exemptions from the core classes, are we able to choose other electives in the place of those core classes?

**Rick:** Thank you for the question. Yes, if you are exempt from core classes, you can take electives in their place. Having said that, taking the core while trying to recruit is a very intense and time-consuming process, so some students who exempt from one core class do not take electives. Rather these students use the additional time to focus on recruiting. If you exempt from more than one core class, then I would recommend considering filling some of the open time with electives to ensure you remain on track for graduation.

**Brian:** I exempted from two core classes and I added three finance electives. It is a personal decision how many classes, if any, that you choose to exempt, but the core class is a very important part of the first-year bonding experience. It is also important that you have this knowledge when working on your core team and for future elective courses at Johnson.

**gohjj122:** Is it possible for a 1st year student to join a leadership expedition or is it only available for 2nd years ?

**Matt:** First years can absolutely do leadership expeditions. The hiking and canoeing trip in the Adirondacks is very popular among first-years. Here is some more information about the expeditions: [https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... xpeditions](https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program...xpeditions)

**pikolo2510:** What is the difference in the experience between a 2 year MBA and Tech MBA if a student wants to get into product management post MBA?

**Jonathan:** As a current MBA student at Cornell Tech, I can speak to how this is in my program. Many of my classmates will be going into Product Management roles at big tech companies, as well as in startups. Much of our curriculum is geared towards instilling the hard/soft skills that product managers use on the job through Product Studio and Startup Studio, where we build digital products on 5-person cross-functional teams. The Studio faculty are industry practitioners as well, many of whom have worked in product management. There is also a Product Management elective taught in the Spring.

**Lindsay:** I can speak to the two-year residential program and the Tech MBA student/admissions officer can speak to it from a Tech MBA standpoint. Both a great options! If you are interested in the Tech MBA, studio based curriculum and completing the degree in one-year, I encourage you to review those options and speak to the Tech MBA admissions office. A two-year residential program will address broader business issues with the opportunity to delve deeper into tech (digital tech immersion), while recruiting for a product manager role.

**KM2018AA:** Which interview question have you seen most interviewees get stumped ?

**Ann:** One of my favourite interview questions (not everyone asks this question) is "what 3 things do you want me to convey to the admissions committee?" - I think it's important that each candidate be able to identify their strengths and fit with our program in a short answer format.

**saagarvarma01:** Hi, are international candidates eligible for the Park Fellowship?

**Brian:** The Roy H. Park Fellowship is only available to US citizens.

**piklo2510:** How is Tech MBA placements this year for International students considering all the things currently going on in the USA?

**Mandy:** It's too early to determine how placements are for this year, but so far two international students have interviewed and were accepted into Amazon. In the past we have had 100% placement rate for all of our students, including internationals.

**gohjj122:** If I am not an MBA/JD student is it possible to join the MBA/JD Society? Can current students give insight on what are some of the fun clubs they have joined?

**Ethan:** For me, I have enjoyed getting involved in BR Consulting as it has allowed me to work on an actual consulting project over the course of the academic years. From a community perspective, I have loved being active in In Out for Business, our LGBTQ+ and Ally group. Being in that organization has been a key part of helping me to be my full self while here at Johnson.

**Brian:** It is not typically possible to join the MBA/JD Society, but there are a number of activities that are partnered with the Law School. Our Old Ezra Finance Club has hosted events, both academic and social, with the Law School. Two of my favorite student groups have been The Cayuga Fund and Big Red Venture Fund (<http://www.brventurefund.com/>) because they were practical and collaborative, and allowed me to work with my fellow classmates outside of the core curriculum during my first year!

**holamundo:** For current students, what tilted you toward Johnson versus other MBA programs?

**Jonathan:** As a Cornell Tech MBA student, it's important to note that I'm still a Johnson student (wanted to clarify that!). The reason I chose the Johnson Cornell Tech program is that there's literally nothing like it in existence. And the industry involvement and the faculty here from both the academic and industry side are second to none. At Cornell Tech, for example, the ex-CTO of Twitter is on the Studio Faculty. And on the academic side, we have Gautam Ahuja now at Johnson (Ithaca and Cornell Tech), who won some 16 or so teaching awards during his time at Michigan Ross

**Ethan:** In speaking with Johnson alumni, the consistent word that they used to describe the school was family. I thought it was unique for a business school to be described in such a way and made me excited to know that my classmates would be invested in my success. Additionally, as I have particular interest in human resources and human capital issues, I like being able to pursue the MBA/MILR dual degree and take advantage of the resources of both the Johnson School and ILR School.

**Brian:** Johnson is an incredibly collaborative, supportive and tight-knit community that I knew was essential for my personal and professional development. From the top-notch Finance classes, mixed with leadership development opportunities (Johnson Leadership Fellows was an amazing opportunity to give back), I saw Johnson as an ideal place for me to expand upon my knowledge. I love Ithaca and the community is growing with Cornell Tech!

**Matt:** When I was looking at business schools, I was focused on the quality of academics, the size of the class, and the location. Johnson's focus on the core curriculum was essential for me. Without a formal business education, I knew that I wanted to build that strong foundation in business school right away. Class size and organization was also important to me. I wanted the chance to meet as many of my classmates as possible, and the Core team program allowed me to be in class with every single one of my classmates in the first semester. Finally, I wanted to be in a place where the students were committed to the Johnson experience, i.e. not traveling and leaving school every weekend. People are here because they want to be in Ithaca and build a community while they're here. Happy to expand on this, just let me know!

**Rick:** Personally, I picked Johnson for the culture and community feel. When I visited campus to sit in on a lecture, I felt a sense of community that I did not feel elsewhere. Every student was eager and willing to help the next, and it felt like an environment that I wanted to be a part of. Having

experienced Johnson for a year and a half now, I can say that it is true. Johnson is a “pay it forward” culture where everyone is willing to help their peers succeed, and that was extremely important in my decision making process.

**gohjj122:** Who are your favorite professors? why are they your favorite? What are some events first-year students should not miss?

**Ethan:** As someone who just went through the Core classes, I appreciated learning Accounting from Robert Libby. Given that I do not have a quantitative background, it was for sure a challenging class for me. However, he made the course very approachable and I came away with a strong understanding of accounting concepts. I for sure felt that he cared about the well-being of his students.

**Brian:** I loved my Entrepreneurial Finance professor, Lizzie Berger, and my Behavioral Finance professor, Matt Baron. Both were incredibly accessible, practical, and hands-on. They brought guest speakers from Wall Street and Silicon Valley to speak with us, and they were very interested in my personal and professional development goals. Regarding first-year events, we offer a number of social events organized by Student Council, but our Follies (and after-party) are not to be missed! Any time our school band(s) play, we always have a great night out and learn a bit more about our talented classmates.

**Matt:** There are many fantastic professors and must-attend events at Johnson. Justin Johnson (actually his name) is a fantastic strategy professor. Jay Russo teaches a couple of fantastic electives in second year. In terms of events- Diwali is amazing. Also, Johnson has an uber-competitive bowling league in the spring which is not to be missed.

**Private:** What is your opinion on the political climate and visa-rule revamp program in USA? Do you foresee any challenges for International Students in the forthcoming years?

**Ann Richards:** It's really hard to predict what factors will impact future placement - the economy is always a big factor in job placement regardless of citizenship. I think international students may have to work a little harder to get jobs in the US, but we continue to see our international students in all our programs receive job offers in the US. It's important for any candidate to do "due diligence" on the opportunities available in the US.

**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!

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