Cornell Johnson Live Chat Transcript
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Admission Directors: Chelsea Hann, Lindsay Martin, and Kim Szpiro.

Current Students: Ethan Erickson, Devashish Murkya.

- **Cornell Class of 2021 Discussion:** https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-johnson-2019-applicants-class-of-267888.html
- **Cornell Decision Tracker:** http://gmatclub.com/forum/johnson-198/decision-tracker.html
- **Cornell Reviews:** https://gmatclub.com/reviews/business_school/cornell-johnson-16

Moderator: Hi Everyone, We are now officially starting the chat with the Cornell team. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions about applying to Cornell's Two-Year MBA, One-Year MBA, and Cornell Tech MBA programs. You will also be able to learn more about Cornell's performance learning approach, new NYC based curriculum, and life in gorgeous Ithaca! The current students are very eagerly looking forward to sharing their experiences with you, so please grab this opportunity with both hands. All the best!

Lindsay: Hello! Welcome to the Johnson Chat! It's great to be with you today! My name is Lindsay Martin, Assistant Director of Admissions and Financial Aid!

Chelsea: Hi everyone! I'm Chelsea Hann, Assistant Director of Admissions at Cornell. Thanks for joining us today. We look forward to answering your questions.

Kim: Hi everyone! My name is Kim Szpiro, Assistant Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. I am excited to answer your questions!

Ethan: Hello Everyone, Ethan Erickson here. I am a second year at Johnson. Additionally I am a dual degree candidate at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations pursuing my MBA/MILR degree. I spent my summer in the Twin Cities as part of their HR Leadership Development Program. Back at Johnson I am involved with Out for Business, our LGBTQ+ and Ally association, and BR Consulting a student-led consulting firm.

Cheekymcgivs: As a young applicant, what should I focus or emphasize in my application? I graduated from Cornell 2017.

Lindsay: Great question! It's important to note that the Johnson MBA students have a range of work experience. Although our average years of work experience is 5 years, we see students with 1-2 years of work experience all the way up to 8-10 years. We will be looking at all aspects of your application, similar to other applicants - GMAT or GRE score, undergraduate performance, recommendations and fit for Johnson. Thrilled to see that you are a Cornell undergrad though!! Go Big Red!

Cheekymcgivs: For the current students, describe the culture and atmosphere of Johnson and student body.

Dev: Johnson community is highly collaborative. Since I came here, I made the best friends of my life and achieved my career ambitions. Everyone here is very helpful. And being in a small town like Ithaca helps a lot, since you hang out with your friends a lot

Private: I would like to know about an older candidate, who is 35 years of age, getting into Full-time MBA program? How friendly is Johnson for older candidates?

Ethan: As a current student I would say we have a pretty wide age range in our year between those that had 2-3 years of work experience to those that had over 10. No matter what background or age people felt included within the community. The one thing I would add though is that with candidates that have over 10 years sometimes our Executive MBA program might be a better fit. You would have to determine for you which style of education you would prefer between our full time residential program or executive program.

KS15: Hello Team-my questions are 1-What is the maximum years of experience that can be admitted to the 2 year program? 2. How are multiple GMAT attempts looked at?

Kim: There is not a maximum age but the average years of work experience in our program is approximately 5 years with a range of 2-7 years. Regarding GMAT we typically see applicants taking the test 2-3 times.

Cheekymcgivs: For the current students at Johnson, what attracted you and overall pick Cornell out of your other school choices? Right now my top choice (and realistic choice) is Johnson

Ethan: For me it was two things. With my interest in human resources and human capital the dual degree program with the ILR School provides a unique experience I could not get elsewhere to be a more business minded human capital practitioner. Secondly, speaking with alumni the consistent word used to describe the program was family. I thought that was very unique for a b-school to be described as such and for sure has borne to be a reality as I have been able to know my cohort extremely well.

Private: How does the Cornell Admissions team perceive startup experience? Throughout my college years I have had 3 years of full-time startup experience and am curious if those years will be "discounted" (not weighed as much as typical 1-2 year full-time jobs after graduating college). The startup company has secured funding and has 10+ employees (just a little background info, not sure if it is important).

Kim: We strongly value start up and entrepreneurial experience. Make sure you highlight your impact and opportunities from these experiences.

Private: Can you please explain a little with regard to 'Advanced degrees eligible for credit' as mentioned for 1 year MBA. I have an MA degree in HRM with close to 3.5 years of work ex. Will I be eligible for 1 year MBA?

Chelsea: The One-year program requires an advanced degree (meaning masters or terminal degree) or professional certification (CFA, CPA, PMP) for admission. If you have a masters degree, you would be eligible for the One-year. You can check your eligibility here: https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... ligibility

Cheekvmcgivs: For the current students, have you studied abroad for a semester? I know I want to study abroad for a semester during my full-time MBA specifically at either Paris or Milan.

Dev: I have not studied abroad but many of my friends have, so I can provide some perspective. Cornell has several study abroad opportunities and you can find the list of partner schools on the admissions website. I know my friends are going to LSE, IESE and a school in Isreal. Few students also elect to study at Cornell's tech campus in NYC. In general, if you have a school in mind and if Cornell has a partnership, its possible to study abroad at that school.

Ajowen21: What opportunities are there to learn about the tech/digital space within the 2 year full-time MBA program? I have an interest in this space and feel it is increasingly important in today's economy, but I do not have tech background.

Lindsay: There is a wide range of Digital Tech offerings at Johnson! The heart of the academic experience is our immersions - we offer an immersion in Digital Tech - https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... Technology Students recruit to tech firms and tech roles in a broad range of companies. Outside of the classroom, you can be involved with and/or lead the Digital Tech Club!

Daks02: How does Cornell MBA help in building a Strong Career in Finance, I am a CPA by profession.

Ethan: We have an extensive co-curricular model to help support students in finance. From an academic perspective our Investment Banking and Corporate Finance immersion provide real-word practice of what it is like to be a finance professional before your internship. From a professional development perspective the resources of the Career Management Center and Old Ezra Finance Club help in connect students to finance professionals and Johnson alumni. Additionally they provide thorough and well-organized education and support to get student ready for the finance interview processes.

Antrixmic: If English is not my native language but the language of instruction in my undergraduate was English then am i eligible for a toefl waiver?

Kim: If your language of instruction was English then you are eligible for a TOEFL waiver.

Waqui90: This one is for seniors, how strong is action learning pedagogy at Cornell - in term of opportunities to work on live projects in the industry of one's preference?

Ethan: We have a plethora of means to get involved in real-life projects. We have Big Red Tech Strategy where you can help assist in the commercialization of different ideas. For finance interested individuals you can get involved in the Cayuga Fund and Big Red Venture fund. Additionally for those in the Strategic Marketing, Operations, and Sustainable Global Enterpise immersions you can work on a consulting project over the duration of your immersion.

Dev: There are multiple opportunities to work on live projects. For example, I was part of BR Consulting program through which I helped a traditional WWII museum client build a business strategy to expand in the education sector. BR Consulting experience helped me to be more prepared to face clients during my internship. Similarly, there are more such opportunities through BR Tech Strategy, BR Ventures, etc. There is also a course called Management Practicum led by professor Randy Allen that has real clients on a project.

Cheekymcgivs: For current students, do most MBA students live either in the dorms, collegetown, or downtown Ithaca?

Kim: There are a number of housing options available including married student and graduate student housing on campus as well as plenty of options for off campus housing. Historically the majority have chosen to live off campus

Kaps770: How much international exposure matters in evaluation? I don't have any but as I work as consultant for more than 10 years, I do have plenty of exposure with teams from many nationalities. How do the admission team see this?

Chelsea: Good question! Highlighting your experience working with diverse teams would be helpful and will allow the committee to see that you have experience working with different types of people and backgrounds, similar to how you would in an MBA program.

JosieRod145: The immersion semester is one of the things that appeals to me most about Cornell. How useful was that, versus just a standard finance club or consulting club?

Ethan: The immersions are unique in that they can serve as a sort of pre-internship preparation. They provide opportunities for you to help refine your skills sets to help set you apart when you go off in your internship. For our instance our Investment Banking and Marketing immersions are well known for getting students ready for the real-life duties and responsibilities they will face in the IB and Marketing space. Personally as well they are a great opportunity to work on developing skills sets to make you more well rounded. For me even though I am going into human resources, I wanted to learn more about finance so the Corporate finance immersion gave me to exposure of that financial world and helped to make me a more business minded HR practitioner.

Katk1ki: Do I need to show transcripts from my Master's degree along with my undergrad?

Lindsay: Yes - please submit all transcripts - undergrad and grad.

StrugglingGmat2910: How receptive is Cornell for students from mechanical engg background,students with little or no exposure to finance and management related stuffs but interested to join the same . also how does Cornell provides extra to help them comfort with others of the finance and management background ; prep classes and other things

Dev: I was a mechanical engineer working as an aerospace engineer before joining Cornell. After coming here, I started focusing on M&A consulting career path that requires a good understanding of finance. I was completely fine Cornell brings people with diverse backgrounds and there is no expectations for you to know finance or accounting before you join the program. The program is structured to allow you to learn all the skills once you join. Plus, if anything, having an engineering background helps because you would be good at analytical skills.

Cheekymcgivs: Should I take quantitative classes to strengthen my MBA application? I have not yet taken accounting, finance, nor microeconomics and was considering taking it at my local community college

Kim: Great question! If you have had limited exposure to quantitative courses then taking courses such as accounting, finance and statistics can be very helpful.

Daks02: Does professional qualification of an International applicant count for being eligible for applying for 1year MBA. I am an Indian Chartered Accountant , similar to CPA qualification of US.

Lindsay: Yes - the India Chartered Accountant is the US equivalent of a CPA - meaning you would qualify for the one-year program. If you are interested in the one-year MBA, I encourage you to sign up for a consultation with a member of the Johnson Admissions Team! We are happy to speak to you about your interest and goals in the one-year program. https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... nsultation

Antrixmic: how feasible is career change after 2 yr cornell mba with 8yrs experience? Do recruiters see this negatively?

Kim: Many students in the 2 YR are looking to change careers. Make sure you highlight your transferable skills in your application and interview.

Ethan: In terms of career switching, that is incredibly common within Johnson. For us going through the recruitment process it is all about how you tell your story in interacting with alumni, hiring managers, and recruiters. Through the professional development workshops that we provide with the Career Management Center and the second year led Career Work Group you will receive tremendous practice in articulating your passions and figuring out how to best connect your prior experience to that of your target industries and companies.

Paibhargav: How much does your past work experience influence the kind of internship you land?

Chelsea: Good question! Many of our students are looking to change either industry or function of their career (sometimes both!) The MBA core and immersion program will help provide you with the skills necessary to make a shift in your career industry or function. Be sure to research your intended career path and identify a clear recruitment strategy.

Krowlyn: What is the perspective on online courses such as HBx CoRe program (Harvard's online business core program)? Does this strengthen applications or just offer potential transfer credits?

Lindsay: If you have limited exposure to quantitative courses in your undergraduate education, we encourage you to prepare for the MBA curriculum by taking a course if you can. This could be an online course - Coursera, HBX, ect or a course at the local college. It could be helpful to you as you prepare for the GMAT and demonstrate that you are preparing for the quantitative aspects of the core curriculum.

Krowlyn: I suppose I worded that question incorrectly. How are online micro-MBA courses perceived at Cornell? Some schools offer micro-MBA degrees online through EdX or Coursera, does this experience strengthen your application? Or will this only count towards transfer credits or as assistance to GMAT preparation (referencing the past answer about quantitative skills).

Chelsea: Coursera courses can be helpful in showing the committee that you are prepared to handle the quantitative rigor of the program, however, they are not accepted as transfer credits.

Workharder15: Does having a 3-4 year old GMAT score affect the way one's application will be be evaluated? I plan to take the exam by 2018 end,work for a few years,and then apply.

Kim: I think that sounds like a great plan. We do not have a problem with a 3-4 year old GMAT!

Cheekymcgivs: For the current students by any chance are you in the retail luxury club or marketing club? Both clubs I am very interested because I work in the marketing sector of the fashion industry.

Chelsea: Feel free to check out our (lengthy) list of student organizations and don't hesitate to reach out to the Retail & Luxury Club or Marketing Club! https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/For-Rec ... anizations

Daks02: Are the employment opportunities available to a one year MBA pass-out and Full time MBA pass-out same or there some differences?

Lindsay: One-year MBAs have the same Career Management support as the two-year MBA students. You will have a dedicated CMC staff member working with you in your career goals. I encourage you to consider our one-year MBA employment report (https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Career- ... -Year-MBAs). The majority of jobs obtained are facilitated by the relationship of of Johnson's Career Management Center and alumni base, however many students also choose to search for jobs through their own networks and connections.

Waqui90: @EthanCErickson, As you are part of MBA/MILR program, how is the startup ecosystem - with respect to HR Tech space? Are there any incubators within the Labour School.

Ethan: The startup ecosystem is very much more at the Cornell level as that best engages our budding entrepreneurs with different perspectives and resources. So we do not have a specific incubator within ILR but moreso at the Cornell wide level. However, I will say that being a part of the ILR School gives you access to the most up to date scholarship on HR issues and the best network of HR leaders and executives in the world. In a could of a weeks we will be having an HR

Executives roundtable inviting over 20 senior HR VPs and CHROs to campus to interact with students. So you get great thought leadership access through the ILR school.

JosieRod145: How’s the Cornell alumni network? I’ve heard it’s similar to Dartmouth, in the "small town, small school, strong network" effect.

Ethan: I have the unique perspective in that I am a Cornell undergrad as well so I am already a Cornell alum. I was active in the Cornell Club of Wisconsin. Cornelians are everywhere and we are proud of the fact we are Cornelians. I can strongly say that my alumni interactions lead to my pre-MBA job and the alumni network at Ecolab has playing a strong part of my development. I have seen in my first year so many Johnson and Cornell alumni come back to Ithaca to help mentor and support current students.

Mihirf977: i am working for a year and a half in an italian multinational and had have a chance to change domains from production planning to customer service, i am thinking of getting an mba, what kind of a major should i go for?

Lindsay: There are so many things you can do! It’s important to mention that there are no "majors" in the MBA but areas of focus or concentration. https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... Curriculum The other important aspect of your statement is - what are your goals? Consulting, finance, general management, sustainability focus, tech, entrepreneurship - the opportunities are immense.

Antrixmic: I have a small doubt regarding goals statement essay. Though i understand the 250 words limit for "How has your experience prepared and encouraged you to pursue these goals?" essay, do the immediate and 5-10 yrs goals statement prompts need to be completed within 250 words limit each as essays or we just need to fill in the blanks in these 2 prompts and complete them as a single line statements?

Lindsay: You will do both - complete the "fill in the blanks" portion and provide additional context. You can further elaborate on your goals in the short answer question.

Waqui90: Which round (R1/R2) would be good for timely decisions on financial assistance for international applicants? What factors affect these decisions beside good profile/GMAT score?

TuakAdmissions: Scholarship is decided at the time of your admissions decision. The availability of scholarship is greater in earlier rounds so applying in round 1 or 2 is great. You will be evaluated for scholarship against other applicants in the round.

Lindsay: If you are interested in the one-year MBA, we encourage you to schedule a "one year consultation" with a member of the admissions team - discuss your eligibility, goals and interest in the program! https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... nsultation

Kim: The admissions team will be on the road and travelling to cities across the globe. Please come and see us in a city near you https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs/Full-Time-MBA/Admissions/Events

Nightblade354: What is the best way for someone to reach out to you guys? Or Johnson Adcom in general?

Ethan: The best way to interact with current students is through touching base with our Communications Ambassadors, which you can find here: https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... h-Students

Waqui90: Is there any appreciable difference in avg. GMAT for 1 year vs 2 year program?

Lindsay: The GMAT average is the same for the one-year and two-year programs. Great Question!

JosieRod145: What are some red flags in an essay or application?

Chelsea: Check for spelling and grammar errors! Also be sure to be authentic in your essays and telling your story. Be mindful that the committee wants to learn about you and the essays are a great way to help connect the dots for us. Additionally, doing your homework on why youre interested in Johnson can be helpful in completing your essays and in your interview.

JosieRod145: Any loves/hates about Ithaca?

Lindsay: Over 100 waterfalls, set on Cayuga Lake, no traffic jams - it's an idyllic setting. Also love the food, enjoying all four seasons.

Ethan: What I love about Ithaca the most is the blend of city and country. Through our Commons and surrounding areas for great a great vibe. Then you can pair that with the surrounding Finger Lakes and the natural scenery that provides for swimming, hiking, wine tours, skiing, and all sorts of outdoor activities makes it a pretty magical place. It terms of hates it can sometimes be difficult to get to Ithaca but we are within a reasonable distance of a number of cities include Philly, NYC, Boston, and Toronto, all of which I visited in my first year.

Cheekymcgivs: Looking back on studying and taking the GMAT, what are your best tips, advice, and recommendations?

Dev: Dedicate some time every day for few months and do your best to get a good score. It matters not only for admissions process but for recruitment (at least in consulting). I think that spending 2 to 3 months with dedication is more helpful than spending several months with less time commitment. Use GMAC resources because they are extremely useful and are representative of real exam.

Learnwithanany: How to prove self employment in unregistered business? No documents of incorporation available.

Lindsay: We do not require documentation of self employment at the time of submission but you will be asked to complete a background check in the event that you are admitted. I would recommend revisiting that question when it arises with the background check company.

Antrixmic: How do recruiters see candidates from a niche industry ie. Merchant Navy, Veterans, Fashion etc.?

Chelsea: We have a very diverse class, veterans, fashion designers, photographers, etc. Each student in the class adds value and perspectives to their peers. An MBA can be applicable to many different industries.

Narenn: Students: Any tips on Dos and Don'ts specific to Cornell application?

Ethan: My biggest advice is to demonstrate that you have done your homework on Johnson and demonstrated a clear connection between our programs and offerings and how that fits with your goals and personality. It was great chatting as well.

Kim: It was great chatting with you all!

Lindsay: Thanks so much for your questions everyone! It was great to spend some time with you - please stay in touch! mba@johnson.cornell.edu

Chelsea: Thank you all for your questions today! It was great chatting with you.

JosieRod145: Thank you for your time!

Dev: Thanks everyone for great questions. For additional questions to current studnets, feel free to reach out to communications ambassadors listed on Johnson's website.

Lindsay: Huge Thank you to all the moderators and to GMATCLub for hosting us today!

Cheekymcgivs: Thanks so much for going out of your time to answer our questions. your responses were all very helpful. I really appreciate it!

Waqui90: Thank you Cornell team, seniors and moderators.

Moderator: Thank you for your time Lindsay, Kim, Chelsea , Dev and Ethan! **Note:** The transcript of the chat will be available in the official Johnson thread https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all- ... 67888.html ...... So make sure to follow it!

Chats/Webinars with Cornell: Calendar, Recordings, &Discussion 2018-19

https://gmatclub.com/forum/chats-webinars-with-cornell-adcoms-calendar-recordings-discussion-272584.html