

Dec 9, 2018: Chat with Subir Roy

An Indian Chemical Engineer who got in to LBS, INSEAD, and Cambridge

Subir's GMATClub Profile: <https://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-704031.html>

Moderator: We are officially starting the chat session. Feel free to post your questions to subirroy. Those who want to know more about him and to know his application experience, watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwMc3DnxDz4>

How was your interview experience for INSEAD Subir?

Subir Roy: Very nice ! Both my interviewers were super helpful. They wanted to know about my career plans, post mba, and they gave some good advice. Be prepared to answer the what if question - What if your first choice career in consulting / finance/ tech doesn't work out, what's your back up plan ? How are you going to implement it ?

You already have stated about your background, reasons for doing MBA in the video. We would further like to know which component of your applications you found most challenging?

Subir Roy: Definitely the essays. The reason is that you have to really really put a lot of effort into introspecting, and searching for stories. However its not enough just to have a story - you need to know how to implement it, or rather put it across so that it conveys the very point you're trying to convey.

How much do you think your global experience mattered in your application?

Subir Roy: I think it mattered a lot! Especially with Insead and LBS - they're quite open with saying they're looking for people with "international motivation" . Plus it gives you so many stories to tell - one of my teamwork stories revolved around a 2 week project in West Africa, which was in the middle of a massive Ebola outbreak at the time!

You applied to LBS, INSEAD, Cambridge and received admits from all of them. Which factor(s) do you think contributed most in your success?

Subir Roy: I think it was a combination of a high GMAT and my work experience. Sorry guys, but you Indian male engineers and Caucasian finance guys are going to have to really put in that extra effort.

You've talked briefly about the political conditions in US in your video. Is that the main reason for choosing all European schools?

Subir Roy: Yes absolutely. Plus my family is in Europe. I went through my fair share of racism when I lived in Germany, and I don't ever want to go through that again.

Is it a good idea to apply in R3/R4 specially in INSEAD?

Subir Roy: I always think the earlier the better. But yes most schools state the chances of admission are equal across rounds. How true is this ? Only the AO's know :-)

How does the current employment affect one's admission? Does he have any chance to get admits with unemployment situation when he applies for B school? - specially in Master degree

Subir Roy: I would imagine that if you have a good reason for being unemployed, that would be taken into consideration. But of course in general, I don't think it works in your favour. Perhaps try to do some volunteer work to fill in the gap in your resume?

Who you chose to write your recommendations?

Subir Roy: My ex supervisor from Germany, who is no longer with my firm. He was my boss for over 4 years across a variety of roles, and we were very close. The other referee was the head of HR of the Malaysian subsidiary where I worked. Again we were very close. I think its important to have a recommender who a. Knows you and b. Has time to sit down with you and discuss parts of your profile that you want them to highlight in their recommendation.

So none of them was your direct supervisor while writing recommendations, right?

Subir Roy: No. I did not let my direct supervisor know that I was applying. In hindsight I could have, because he's been so supportive, going as far as to discuss funding options and post MBA return plans. I did use optional essay to explain reasoning behind not choosing my current direct supervisor to write my recommendations. I think its important that everyone uses that optional essay to address the rationale behind their recommendation choices, especially if they aren't a direct supervisor as you said.

Thanks! I think it could be a key takeaway for future applicants - it's widely accepted fact that current superior is the best choice for writing your recommendation, but above all the person you are choosing should be the one who KNOWS YOU WELL. I think this rationale was behind not choosing current direct supervisor in your case.

Subir Roy: Agreed 100%

Hi subir, I have 1.5 year experience wanting to be get admission in LBS need your suggestion. Either i wait more and again more workexp or apply for MIM,LBS? chances of get admission with only 2 years work-ex in LBS MBA.

Subir Roy: If you look at the average age of the incoming class at LBS, it's a lot closer to people with 5-6 years of experience. Of course people with less than that get in, but your profile would have to be really, really special ! The logic behind this is that the MBA is also about learning from your classmates as well. And the more experience you have, the more you can contribute :)

Did you visit all 3 schools(LBS/INSEAD/Cambridge) during your application and do you recommend school visits if someone is thinking about it?

Subir Roy: I visited LBS and Cambridge, and INSEAD Singapore. I would recommend it to everyone, BUT please don't spend a ridiculous amount of money going to see a school. If work or a holiday takes you there, sure do it but flying in for 2 days from Singapore to England was a decision I regret so much.

Thank you for all these insightful answers. I've another question - Where you plan to move after MBA: Europe or Asia?

Subir Roy: I'm very conflicted ! I'd love to come back to Singapore - it's a great city with great food and lovely weather. But I think I would end up in Europe just to be closer to my family. My girlfriends job opportunities would also affect my final decision :)

Moderator: We'll wrap up here. Thank you very much Subir for stopping by and chatting with prospective applicants. We wish you all the best for your MBA journey at LBS/INSEAD (wherever you decides to go :-))

Guys, Don't forget to watch Subir's video on his application experience. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwMc3DnxDz4>

