

Jan 4, 2019: Chat with Abhimahna

Emory Goizueta Class of 2020

Abhimahna's GMATClub Profile: <https://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-528330.html>

Moderator: Welcome to the chat session with our very own, **abhimahna**, member of the GMATClub team and current MBA student at Emory Goizueta. The chat is open for Q&A. Feel free to ask your questions to Abhimahna.

I have a quick question about interviews firstly, any advice?

Abhimahna: Just calm down. Take a deep breathe and be yourself. If you give right answers confidently and with a big smile on your face, I think you can crack it very well. Right answers -- Very Strong Path from past to the present and then to the future with supporting points. You can check my experience from last year here: [https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all- ... l#p1963418](https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-...l#p1963418)

How are you finding the program thus far?

Abhimahna: It has been a good experience but very tiring. Coming from a non traditional background was a big challenge for me but it worked out very well. I have started thinking like a "business" man.

It's been around 8 months since you started the MBA at Emory. So how your perception about business education as well as Emory's MBA program has changed/improved.

Abhimahna: I think I was missing a lot in life before. Learning about the failures and success of leaders of the world such as Coca Cola, Southwest Airlies, Delta, Levis, Gillette and 100s of others has been a very rewarding experience. I would have never thought of the loopholes in my life without going through this education system(highly case based). Emory's MBA program has been very helpful in terms of casing and the great professors we have.

Outside of the program, do you engage in any other activities?

Abhimahna: I really want to but I couldn't yet. First semester has lots of core subjects and tons of other things going on such as networking, company events, etc. I have lots of plans to execute once I get my internship. Nothing for now. (Include tons of Parties a part of events that will happen for sure :p) It has been around 6 months now and I don't even now where did this time go.

Can you give us a glimpse of typical day of an Emory MBA student?

Abhimahna: Sure, so our life will start with lots of classes in the morning, lots of individual assignments, team related tasks, followed by company events or coffee chats with 2nd years or alums. Then some parties at the end of the day once or twice a week. We have KEGS event every Thursday to chill out, drink and chat with people. (This is the 1st semester experience). Once you have internship offer in hand, you will have a different routine or sure.

How's the internship recruitment scene? Are there enough companies open for internationals?

Abhimahna: It depends on your target. For internationals: Consulting - MBB, EY, Deloitte, Simon Kucher and ATK. Nothing else this year. Tech - Lots of options but it is very unstructured process. You need to apply and wait. Others: Less options.

What would be your best advice for interviewing candidates? What are the top 3 (or 5) things that people must do during interview prep?

Abhimahna:

1. Be yourself
2. Show them that you have done your research well about the school
3. Why MBA and why Emory are the most important stories.
4. Your STAR stories should be crisp and to the point. Talk about what you did and what you learned.
5. Try to make the interview conversational rather than too formal
6. Have a BIG SMILE on your face.

Coming back to your bschool experience, given the present uncertainty over H1B visas do you see its impact on recruitment of international students? Are companies still offering placements to int'l students in the same way they used to do few years back?

Abhimahna: It does have an impact. Many companies have started to back out. We had Pwc Event 2 months ago. Just a week before that event, Pwc announced that they won't sponsor from this year. So, yes the situation has changed alot. You have to really do alot of hard work to distinguish yourself. It's hard but not impossible. As I mentioned, consulting options are only those listed above. For tech and Investment banking, we still have alot of options but its competitive

I know we already talked on this in general terms but I would like to ask you a specific question. As someone who has spent 6 months in business school, what transformation have you witnessed in your perception of an MBA education. Today, according to you, what MBA can do and can not do to help achieve your future goals?

Abhimahna: I think MBA has really changed the way I looked at things. These days whenever I look at anyone selling anything in the market, I always think of marketing strategies they are using, what is their value proposition and how can they actually enhance their business. Basically, my thinking ability has changed completely. MBA can help me grow my business by thinking about the right tools at the right time. I can already think of what my previous organizations have been doing in terms of business and what everyone around me is doing. Obviously, this education can help me grow myself as a leader and my company but it can't help me from failures if I make stupid and trivial mistakes. But MBA isn't the only requirement for my future goals. I really need to have good communication skills, good personality to excel. MBA is the starting point but it isn't everything.

Moderator: Thanks very much Abhimahna for joining us today. I appreciate you talking time out amid your internship prep to talk to us today. We wish you good luck for internship as well as rest MBA journey.

Abhimahna: Thank you! I am happy to answer any other questions applicants may have. They can post your questions here and I will try to answer as soon as possible. ([https://gmatclub.com/forum/emory-goizue ... 83019.html](https://gmatclub.com/forum/emory-goizue...83019.html))