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Uncovering the MBA Placements Process - Chat with Souvik Bhattacharya, Ross'20

Souvik's GMATClub Profile: <https://gmatclub.com/forum/members/member-252884.html>

Souvik: Hi everyone. Welcome to the chat. We will spend some time talking about recruitment @ B-School, and happy to share my experiences as well as take questions.

Just for starters, I am at Ross (Class of 2020), just finished my first semester and recruiting for Tech (plan A) and Consulting (plan B).

Before coming to Ross, I was an engineer for two years and then pivoted to social impact, and worked on GMAT Club for many projects in the last 5-6 years. Wanted to recruit consulting at the beginning of the school year, and then changed my mind to tech.

I have heard that networking events start very early in the first semester. Can you elaborate how early is "very early", and what roles do these networking events play in recruiting?

Souvik: Sure thing. Networking events for IB starts almost 2 weeks into school. Crazy. But most IB networking is in NYC/Boston/Chicago. Consulting networking starts a little bit late - think September. They will come to campus, do events (both general and invite-only) and case comps. Tech comes later in October stretching into November. Networking is pretty important in some firms while some do not care. I think networking has helped me for Bain and Microsoft, but I am pretty sure McKinsey or Amazon does not care.

If a company does not come to campus, and you are attending a school that is not one of the companies "core schools", how difficult is it to land an internship/full time offer?

Souvik: I'd say hard but doable. You will probably have to go out of your way to "network" - but honestly sometimes it is dumb luck. Ross is not a feeder at Apple and Bridgewater but I will be interviewing with both of them. Apple happened through sheer luck because they had a role that fit my past experience a lot, and Bridgewater happened because my former boss works there and recommended me. My other interviews (5-6 of them) have been entirely through campus.

Do students put more time/effort into networking/researching internships/preparing for interviews than they put into school work/classes?

Souvik: YES. Oh MY GOD YES. Nobody cares about classes here (or any other school) unless they are sponsored.

Very interesting - so GPA's are not much of a factor - I know many schools have a GND policy

Souvik: Yup. Most schools. I think a lot of people care about learning because some of the concepts taught in class are pretty crucial for interviewing success.

How competitive is it within school for the top jobs.. do students generally support each other or is it everyone mostly on their own? Also, if you don't mind sharing.. what type of role are you interviewing for at Bridgewater?

Souvik: Most people are collaborative at Ross. That can be a good thing or not so much when you are trying to get sh\$% done. But for most people, getting jobs are very important and it is competitive. At the same time I have friends who are helping each other and preparing for stuff together.

What pre-work/research would you recommend to incoming first years to accomplish prior to start date in regards to desired internships/companies?

Souvik: hmm good question. I thought about this too. I think it would largely depend on whether you are in the US or internationally located. If you are in the US and want to recruit tech, I would recommend starting to network early. Maybe visit Seattle/SF and build a relationship with Microsoft/Salesforce/Dell etc. If you are NOT in the US, it will be hard but try to connect to pre MBA events. Most consulting companies have those (MBB especially) and Amazon too.

A follow up question on the H1b visa thingy. So the odds are 1/3, and if someone gets placed in the company of their choice but does not get the H1b, do then what happens in such a scenario? Do they return to their home country and continue working for the same company in their country?

Souvik: Depends if the company has a base in their home country. It is also possible to send you to Europe/Asia and then bring you back to the US on an L1.

Does this happen often? I've always found it difficult to find stats on what happens to those who get a job in the US, but do not get H1b.

Souvik: Happens more often than you think. Even if you get an H1B it might not be enough. You can get RFE'd and without good evidence, your H1B can get cancelled, especially in consulting.

If I am planning on attending a program, and I know a current student has either interned or taken a full time offer at a desired company, how early is too early to start a conversation with them about their journey/advice/etc?

Souvik: If you are going to recruit consulting maybe wait it out. But if he/she went to tech, why not. Just shoot a message. I think it is OK to reach out either way.

How much helpful is the placement cell in guiding a candidate for his/her interview process?

Souvik: can be a hit or a miss. sometimes they can be really helpful - sometimes they are not so much.

how many rounds of interviews are there for internships? Specifically, do you know for marketing roles in CPG space?

Souvik: Generally, 2. I did not recruit for CPG but I would assume it would be like others.

Did you find relevance of GMAT score, undergrad GPA and accomplishments, or previous work experience, in placement interviews? Which areas these interviews generally revolve around?

Souvik: well, the GMAT may matter in consulting recruiting, especially if you are an international students. Other than that I dont think it matters anywhere else. For tech/others GPA and work experience may matter somewhat but I would not stress on it so much. Most people switch careers, and while having a few big names may help, it can go either way.

How is the interaction between 2nd years and 1st years? Do seniors provide any guidance/ assistance on study areas as well as recruiting?

Souvik: Yup. Ross has a very structured peer coaching program. It's a portal where MBA 2s update their timings (they also get paid for this by Ross) and as MBA1s you can book appointments based on what you want (interview prep, casing, resume review etc). It's also formal and informal. But to be honest, you get all the help you need and at some point, there's only so much others can do.