



**Adcom Members:** Eddie Asbie, Lisa Curry, Chelsea Hann, & Mandy Choie (Tech MBA)

**Current Students:** Gina Tucker, Two-Year MBA'19

- **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](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!

**Private:** How was your experience of internship recruiting? What support did you get from career services?

**Gina:** I did both on-campus and off-campus recruiting but chose an internship from on-campus. The career center absolutely helped me find my internship and network with this company. I identified them as a first-choice right off the bat and the career center and alumni helped me make my dream a reality! The company is Danone North America and I will be in their Denver office.

**Rianaamy:** Want to know more about the Cornell nyc courses...can the 1yr mba students do the whole program in Cornell nyc? And can the 2 year program students finish both the last 2 semesters in nyc?

**Gina:** Cornell students can do either 7 weeks or a full (14 weeks) semester in NYC! I am currently here about to start the 7-week program. There are 2 options to choose from, FinTech or Digital Marketing. 1-year MBAs can do the Cornell Tech immersions as well!

**Rianaamy:** How about the Cornell tech students? Is Tech MBA done both in Ithaca and nyc?

**Mandy:** Yes, Cornell Tech MBA students spend their summer semester in Ithaca alongside the 1-year Accelerated MBA students and then continue on at Cornell Tech for their fall and spring semesters.

**Pratham287:** Pls tell me more about weekend courses at NYC ? Can i take up both the courses?

**Chelsea:** Great question- you may take up to 2 electives in 1 weekend. The weekend electives are in the fall. The intensives are in the spring semester- 1 in fintech and 1 in digital marketing. You must select 1 intensive and after those 7 weeks, you may enroll in a half semester elective either in NYC or in Ithaca.

**Private:** Can you throw some light on interview process of Tech MBA? How interviews are conducted, What is assessed in interviews, and how to prepare? A couple of tech MBA applicants who received interview invites recently are looking for resources/tips for the interview prep.

**Mandy:** Happy to! Interviews will be conducted by video this round. Candidates are sent a case study 48 hours before the interview, which they need to present as part of their interview. The rest of the interview is a conversation about the candidate's academic and professional background, goals, and specific interest in the Johnson Cornell Tech MBA. I recommend taking the full 48 hours you have to research and prepare your case and try to stick to the 5-7 minute presentation limit that's outlined in the instructions.

**Private:** I am from Singapore, interested in 2 year MBA to transition into investment Banking. Do you think the location at Ithaca is disadvantageous for recruiting compared with institutions at NYC? How many bulge bracket banks recruit at Ithaca campus? Thank you!

**Eddie:** Thank you for joining us for this chat. For those interested in Investment Banking they are not at an disadvantage by being in Ithaca vs. NYC. Investment Banking at Johnson is well known and very strong. This past year, the conversion rate from internship to full time offers in IB was over 90%. Compared to other schools where it is around 70%. As far as number of banks that come to campus, I am not 100% sure but feel free to follow up with me (Eddie Asbie) at [ea356@cornell.edu](mailto:ea356@cornell.edu).

**Private:** Thank you Eddie! That is wonderful to hear regarding the high internship conversion rate, I will definitely reach out to you. Does Cornell Johnson have direct ties with renewable energy/ cleantech finance? I see that one of the immersion paths is on Sustainable Global Enterprise, sounds like there is a focus in this space. Hope Cornell is building a stronger network with the renewable energy industry!

**Chelsea:** Our students place in IB working with a number of industries, but sustainability is a large focus here at Cornell, so it's definitely an option when thinking about the industry you'd like to focus on in IB.

**Rianaamy:** I've another question about application documents. Do I need to submit signed official transcript? I've given unofficial certificate of my partial completion of business courses which was unsigned.

**Lisa:** You may apply with unofficial test scores and unofficial transcripts as you work through the application process. Should you be admitted into the program, your official documents will then be requested at the time your first deposit is due. You however are more than welcome to submit your official documents as you submit your application.

**Private:** Thanks Gina. I've a couple more questions on recruiting. (1) 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? (2) Do students put more time/effort into networking/researching internships/preparing for interviews than they put into school work/classes?

**Gina:** In most interviews, the primary focus will be previous job experience. You are welcome to discuss your GMAT if you find it relevant, but I've never been asked about it on a job interview. Sometimes a job application will require you to input your undergrad GPA and even SAT scores (typically consulting roles) but that is rare. Typically the recruiters want to know why you are interested in the role, what makes you a good fit, and a bit about your background and skillset. To answer your second question, this totally depends on the student. Some of my classmates are very focused on their education and want to get the most out of the amazing professors we have at Cornell, and others primarily want to get their top choice internship or job and focus less on school. Regardless of how much energy they put into classwork, our recruiting numbers are very good so I would not say that devoting energy to classwork is a hindrance for recruiting. We also just passed grade non-disclosure which relieves some of the pressure to get good grades while still enabling students to learn at their own pace.

**Ilprieto1987:** What are the main financial alternatives available at Johnson? Loans on what length/rate? Scholarships rate?

**Lisa:** Welcome! All applications are reviewed for merit based scholarship at the time of their evaluation, so long as you check the box in your application that you'd like to be considered for merit-based opportunities. About 30% of our accepted students are awarded scholarships and they range in amounts anywhere from around \$5000 to full tuition. We do not have an average monetary award to share, as this always varies annually. I have included a link below where you will be able to find information regarding the scholarships we offer, as well as information on loans for international students: [http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs ... I-Planning](http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Programs...I-Planning)

**Skyline393:** How does gap in employment affect to the admitted chance of student?

**Chelsea:** If you have a gap in work experience, be prepared to explain in your optional essay and/or admissions interview. Help connect the dots for the admissions committee so we don't have any unanswered questions when looking at your work experience and resume.

**Private:** Dear team, I am a round 2 applicant. I had submitted my application before the deadline. However, by mistake, I had missed to upload the unofficial GMAT report though the portal stated that all the necessary documents are uploaded (I had entered the scores manually as required). I have sent a copy of my GMAT score report to the concerned adcom member. However, my application status is yet to be updated and still says incomplete. Just wanted to know that my application will be considered for round 2 right?

**Lisa:** Hi there! Our round 2 application deadline was November 15th and applications that remain incomplete are processed when required documents reach us. Typically what happens is that our team processes these incomplete materials as they're able to get to them and applications may be pushed to a future round or have other processes delayed, such as interviews, notifications, decision notification, etc. You may follow up with me directly, Lisa Curry ([lmc334@cornell.edu](mailto:lmc334@cornell.edu)) so that I may look into your situation further.

**Ambitionpill:** I am curious about the culture in Cornell 2 year MBA. Is it considered more competitive or collaborative? Some nearby business schools are widely considered to be among the most competitive. Also, are there opportunities to extend your network beyond the business school?

**Gina:** The culture is definitely collaborative, especially now that we have grade non-disclosure! In recruiting, Johnson students always make their peers shine in the best possible light in front of recruiters. At the beginning of the year, the 2nd years teach the 1st year students proper etiquette for company briefings, such as not taking over conversations with alumni and taking turns speaking with recruiters. When I first got to Johnson I was nervous that briefings would be very competitive and awkward, but they were actually enjoyable and a great way to get to know companies in a non-competitive environment.

As far as expanding your network, there are several ways to do this. There are weekly happy hours for all grad students at a bar on campus called the Big Red Barn. We also get to know some other grad students in our elective classes, which are open to students outside Johnson. You can also enroll in courses at other grad schools at Cornell or even undergrad courses! Some of my friends took an undergrad class called "robot ethics" and loved the chance to network with other Cornell students.

**Pratham287:** I wanted to know further about how teams are selected for the Product studio @ cornell tech. It was interesting to know that there is some automated process - can you pl elaborate on this?

**Mandy:** Sure, teams are made based on an algorithm - Dream Team, which was developed by past Cornell Tech students - that puts together multidisciplinary teams based on a student's Master's program, challenge of interest, technical skill set, and demographic details (gender, country of citizenship, etc.). The idea is to create very diverse teams that have students from different programs and backgrounds all working together on a product they're interested in.

**Narenn:** You said your post MBA goal is to get in to CPG Brand Management. I would like to know if you had admits from any other bschools apart from Johnson. If so, why you thought Johnson is better suited to your post MBA aspirations.

**Gina:** Yes, I had a few other options! I chose Johnson for 3 reasons. 1) The immersion. I was transitioning from sales to marketing so I wanted a "practice" internship project before jumping into the real thing. 2) The small community. I wanted a smaller MBA program not in a big city so that I would get to know all of my classmates. The Johnson community is very tight and strong and I can say that I know every one of my classmates on a personal level! 3) The companies and marketing program. We have a solid set of CPG companies that come to campus and a strong marketing club to prepare students for interviews. Because the marketing club is fairly small, marketing students get great 1-on-1 time with recruiters and we have had 100% internship placement in marketing for the last decade!

**PachoH:** Do the interviews conducted during the Consortium Super Day differ from the standard admissions interviews?

**Lisa:** No, the interview process for Consortium Super Day are not different than the standard interviews.

**Bptmt:** I was wondering if you could provide some insights into the review process. For example, if an applicant doesn't receive an interview invite after their profile has been reviewed early on, has the decision been made, or are you waiting for more apps to be reviewed for comparison's sake? And if the latter, would you consider new GMAT scores after the initial review has been done?

**Eddie:** Thank you for joining the chat. Interview invitations are reviewed on a rolling basis. Our Admissions team is reviewing a large load of applications and it takes time to make a recommendations. Please review our website with important dates: [https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program ... tant-Dates](https://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Program...tant-Dates). This will give you a sense of when you will heard from Johnson. If you are planning on submitting a new GMAT score, please let us know ASAP. We will make a note of this and add to your file when reviewing your application.

**Private:** What advice do you have for career switchers whose intended functions recruit for internships in the fall to be as prepared as possible?

**Gina:** Most students at Johnson are career switchers, and the CMC makes sure we are extremely prepared for recruiting. My best advice is to get as familiar with the industry and companies as possible before getting to Johnson, join the professional clubs related to that industry, and reach out to Johnson alums early in the recruiting cycle to express your interest. These companies do not expect you to be an expert as an intern - that's what the internship is for! They want to see passion, transferable skills, and people skills.

**Private:** What kind of resources will be available to enrolled students prior to campus arrival?

**Chelsea:** If you are offered admission and choose to matriculate with us at Johnson, you will receive a number of communications from members of our community to ensure that you hit the ground running once the program begins. You will receive communications from our Career Management Center as well as our Student Services team, and we will make sure you are also in touch with other admitted students so you can begin networking with them as well.

**Private:** What is the key differentiator between 1yr and 2yr programs? Who is the ideal candidate for 1yr?

**Lisa:** Our 1YR program is ideal for those looking for a fast-track to their career trajectory. The program offers a sequenced but flexible curriculum, with options to take coursework at Cornell Tech in NYC. What's missing from the 1YR program is an internship component, which is the defining difference between the 1YR and 2YR program. Those interested in a career switch or those looking to move into a different industry are ideal for our 2YR program. The 2YR program provides ample time for career discovery and hands-on internship experience.

**Gina:** As far as a difference between 1 and 2-years, I would add that the 1 year students take their core classes over the summer, then join elective courses with Johnson 2nd years for the remainder of the year. They also may take the immersions with the first-year students. It's been lovely getting to know some of the AMBAs as a second year!

**Private:** What is H1B VISA norms and associated RISK involved in case of no sponsor for H1B after study VISA expires for 1year MBA program from Cornell?

**Chelsea:** We have a great Career Management Center and alumni network and are still placing students in the US post-MBA, but students should be aware of visa challenges and the recruitment process for your intended industry. Being flexible with preferred industry, employer, and/or location can be helpful you be successful.

**Sampath:** Will the applications for Round 3 processed after the deadlines like other rounds or will it be evaluated and processed as and when the application is submitted?

**Eddie:** Applications for Round 3 will be processed and evaluated after the previous round has been fully evaluated.

**Raptor94k:** During the video interview, are we able to screenshare materials for the presentation, or is it just a speaking only situation?

**Mandy:** Yes, you are welcome to share a slide deck during your interview, if you'd like.

**Sampath:** What percentage of the class is already filled by the April round?

**Eddie:** It depends on yield and how people have been admitted by April. By April we usually see a good majority of our class admitted but we still give offers in April.

**Moderator:** Chat is concluding! Thank you all of the Cornell folks for all of your wonderful insights!

**Chelsea:** Thanks all! Best of luck going forward.

**Chats/Webinars with Cornell: Calendar, Recordings, & Discussion 2018-19**  
<https://gmatclub.com/forum/chats-webinars-with-cornell-adcoms-calendar-recordings-discussion-272584.html>