

Gourav2ndYear: Hi Jitvimol

Ilya 1st Year: Hi Poonam

Kat 2nd Year: Hello Jitvimol and Poonam

Poonam_India: Hi All. I am an Early Action applicant to the Smeal MBA program.

Ilya 1st Year: Hi Poonam

jitvimol: Hello everyone, Good evening!

jitvimol: Hello P'Kat,

Ilya 1st Year: Good Morning

Radoslav 2nd Year: What time is over there?

Feng 1st year: Good morning jitvimol

Poonam_India: I have a few questions about the school.

Gourav2ndYear: Sure Poonam, how can we help you?

Poonam_India: Gourav, compared to other state Univs, Penn State is somewhat expensive. What are the options available for financing the course?

Kat 2nd Year): Hello! Welcome to the Smeal MBA Program online chat. We've got students and the Admissions Team with us today. What questions would you like us to answer today?

Ilya 1st Year: We award scholarships and assistantships based on merit: leadership potential, work experience, GMAT score, and undergraduate GPA are the main factors taken into consideration when determining financial awards.

jitvimol: (FYI: I will be back in a mins.)

Poonam_India: And how is recession affecting the Univ ?

Radoslav 2nd Year: Best place to be in during recession

Gourav2ndYear: Poonam, we are as much affected by the recession as are all other schools worldwide.

JimmyVarghese: Hiii Good evening all of you... how are you today?

StaceyMBAadmissions: Good evening!

Gourav2ndYear): Hi JimmyVarghese

Ilya 1st Year: Hey Jimmy

Feng 1st year: Hi good morning Jimmy

UdayBroca: Good morning/evening all..

Dave 1st Year: Hello Uday! Welcome.

Poonam_India: Thanks Ilya, but are there any loan programs available?

Gourav2ndYear: Good Morning Uday

Vita: Hi, everyone, I am this year's applicant from Taiwan.

Poonam_India: Hi Uday

Ron 1st Year: Hi Vita!

Wenxing Li: Hello everyone

Feng 1st year: Hi Vita good morning

Radoslav 2nd Year: Where are the other guys from?

Feng 1st year: Hello Wenxing

Dave 1st Year: Jimmy. Glad you could join us.

Poonam_India: I am from India ..as says my ID :)

Gourav2ndYear: Poonam, there are education loans available, for international students, Citigroup offers a cosignor based loan

Wenxing Li: Hi Feng!

UdayBroca: First round applicant here... had some specifics on consulting career opportunities for international students...

Wenxing Li: I am from China

JimmyVarghese: Hi Radoslav... I'm from India. Hi Dave... seems like you are idle in facebook... :)

Feng 1st year: I'm from China too, Wenxing

Poonam_India: How much Penn State values experience?

StaceyMBAadmissions): Hi Poonam--work experience is important, but it is only one part of the application

Dave 1st Year: Jimmy. What can we answer for you today?

Gourav2ndYear: Uday, can I help answer a specific question you have

JimmyVarghese: Gourav, how has been the Smeal experience from an Indian point of view?

StaceyMBAadmissions: we will look at all aspects of the application --including GPA,GMAT, letters of recommendation, etc.

Wenxing Li: Glad to know that, Feng. Actually, I read the information about you and other Moderators 8 hours ago.

Poonam_India: I have a very different profile, I have worked in a manufacturing firm which is not usually a domain of females. I was the first female ever to join the 20-30 yr olds manufacturing plant. Do you think this aspect can add value to my candidature?

Gourav2ndYear: Jimmy, about 10% of the students in each batch are from India, we have a lot of fun here...

Vita: Hi, I'd like to know more about your MBA Programs' strength compared to other schools'

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, glad to know that. I'd be happy to help you with any questions you might have

Poonam_India: thats nice Gourav. But are these fixed percentages?

staceycao: Hi! I'm still a senior student at college, but I'm interested in applying for Smeal, and I was wondering, but how many undergraduates do you admit each year?

StaceyMBAadmissions: Poonam--absolutely, anything that can make you stand out and distinguish yourself is helpful

UdayBroca: Well basically im looking at getting into MC.. not really from an operations/SCM point of view.. more into strategy and marketing/organization change... I here Penn State is good with SCM but what about these other avenues of MC specially for international student...

Kat 2nd Year): Vita, can you clarify which area of strengths you are interested in?

Gourav2ndYear: Poonam, no these are not fixed percentages.. I was just approximating

Poonam_India: Thanks Stacey. How many applicants are you planning to admit in Early Action/ 1st cycle? Are the no.s fixed?

Ilya 1st Year: Vita, we are one of the few programs in the nation wuth a student-managed investment fund. Uday, we have several students pursuing careers in consulting now

Wenxing Li: Th anks, Feng, I do have some questions. First, is there any access to learn and practice in Supply Chain Management during the Smeal MBA experience?

JimmyVarghese: Dave, is there a way if I can know of my transcripts have reached Smeal?

UdayBroca: Also, any idea on the % of applicants that are interviewed and beyond that % accepted?

Kat 2nd Year: Vita - One thing that I think really stands out about Smeal is the personal focus. Because our classes are small, it's easy to get access to professors and faculty.

Dave 1st Year: Stacey. We generally admit only a small percentage of students graduating from an undergrad program. This year, I believe we have between 3 and 5.

Carrie Smeal Admissions Staff: Stacecao - we have about 6 out of 103 who have come directly from undergrad.

UdayBroca: Thanks Ilya.. just that the employment statistics for last yr aren't very attractive...

Radoslav 2nd Year: Staceycao, I think in our class we have one person who came directly from the college

rajatn: Hello everyone

Poonam_India: hi Rajat

JimmyVarghese: Hi Rajat... how are you this morning?

Ron 1st Year: Hi rajatn

Wenxing Li: Hi Rajatn

JimmyVarghese: Good to see you could make it...

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, we have Supply Chain Association here, and Penn State is very strong in supply chain management

Ilya 1st Year: Sure Uday, as a first year student I believe it's all about successful networking. We have good connections with some top consulting companies

Gourav2ndYear: Uday, I am assuming you are referring to Management Consulting as MC... and there are different facets within MC that people go to from here. I know of a friend who is interviewing tomorrow with a marketing consulting firm..

Kat 2nd Year: Jimmy - we can check the status of your transcripts for you. Can we ask you to email us at SmealMBA@psu.edu?

Poonam_India: Stacey, has there been an increase in no. of applications this year?

UdayBroca: Thanks Ilya and Gourav..that's quite encouraging to hear...

JimmyVarghese: Thanks Kat... I shall send out a mail then.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Poonam--thus far, our applications are on par with last year, although we expect to see an increase for the next deadline

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, you will have good opportunities in getting access to practice in supply chain management. And my classmate Ron kindly offers to address any specific questions you may have related to supply chain management.

Ilya 1st Year: Sure Uday, anything else I can help you with?

UdayBroca: Also, any idea on the % of applicants that are interviewed and beyond that % accepted?

Ilya 1st Year: Uday, we typically accept between 30 and 35 percent

JimmyVarghese: Regarding the curriculum of SCM, do full-time students get to interact with the Faculty of the Executive program. And how much access do the students have access to SCM center of research??

Vita: Because I am interested in marketing concentration in the future. I'm wondering how is Smeal's marketing courses? Or which part do you think is especially strong in Smeal, such as finance or..?

UdayBroca: And how many of the applicants are actually shortlisted for an interview... I got an invite so just trying to judge my chances :P

Ilya 1st Year: Vita, Smeal has one of the best research centers – ISBM

Ilya 1st Year: It has connections with more than 60 Top Marketing companies

Vita: I'm also getting the interview chance :) just next week. kind of nervous.

Wenxing Li: Thanks Feng.

rajatn: My question is for the admissions committee - Thank you for the quick response on my application. I have enrolled for the webcam interview to be held on Thursday. However, the question is that in case the webcam transmission is slow or there are some network issues, will the interview continue as a normal telephonic interview or do I have to reschedule it?

StaceyMBAadmissions): Uday--the number of applicants invited for an interview varies by deadline

Poonam_India: Typically how long does it take for you to send i/v invite once you receive an application?

Feng 1st year: You are very welcome, Wenxing, and hope that helps.

Gourav2ndYear: Poonam, it is typically 3-4 weeks

UdayBroca: Can someone elaborate on their Capstone project experiences

Kat 2nd Year): Vita - we have a strong B2B marketing focus here. We also have the ISBM (Institute for Study of Business Markets), which is a research/consulting center for B2B companies.

Ron 1st Year: Jimmy, the Executive MBA faculty and the full-time MBA faculty are the same, so we have plenty of opportunities to interact with them. We have opportunities to work with and participate in

research at the SCM Research Center as well based on individual interest and the needs of the research center.

Kat 2nd Year: Vita - That said, our marketing curriculum includes courses such as Brand Management and Integrated Marketing Communications, which are applicable to both B2B and B2C realms of marketing.

Radoslav 2nd Year: Uday, we still haven't done Capstone course - it is in the last semester.

JimmyVarghese: Thanks Ron, sounds great.

Wenxing Li: Yes, all your information helps. And I still have several other questions. How is the work placement of international students, esp. when the employers are the U.S. companies? And who are the main employers?

Poonam_India: This question is to all current students - How has the experience been so far? You all must've been learning a lot from your peers and profs, do u guys have enuf opportunities to interact directly with industry people? How's the alum network?

Gourav2ndYear): Uday we regard the Capstone as learning by doing. You earn academic credit for working on a live business problem.

Ron 1st Year: Glad I could help, Jimmy!

Kat 2nd Year: UdayBroca - the Capstone is relatively new; it is starting next semester for the second year class. We work on real, current business cases and work in conjunction with outside companies.

Ilya 1st Year: Poonam, I had absolutely great experience so far

Kat 2nd Year: UdayBroca - so basically, in the Capstone course, we may think of ourselves as consultants analyzing business cases for selected companies.

Gourav2ndYear: Poonam, it has been an enlightening experience, all the professors are extremely approachable and all Penn State alums, (not just Smeal alums) are ready to help in any possible way

Dave 1st Year: Poonam. I've loved the experience so far. I was amazed how quickly I made friends with both domestic and international students. I've made numerous contacts through the Supply Chain Career Fair and company information sessions. I've also already had three interviews. Furthermore, Each student receives an alumni mentor.

JimmyVarghese: I hope I can squeeze in this question specific to myself. My transcripts are on the way or must have reached. My TOEFL scores will take another 1.5 weeks for reporting. My question is if my application (which is complete in other respects) will be processed without the TOEFL score?

Poonam_India: That sounds very encouraging :)

Ilya 1st Year: Poonam, Professors are easily accessible and you will have a chance to interact a lot with them. Both during their office hours and in between classes. They are always here to help.

UdayBroca: Thanks Gourav and Kat.... any ideas on the type of projects... Is it specific to local companies... Are NGOs Community service target... I know its a new initiative so you guys might not have all the answers.. any info would help :)

StaceyMBAadmissions: Jimmy--unfortunately, we cannot process your application until it is complete-- that will mean waiting for your TOEFL score

Kat 2nd Year): WenxingLi - the main employers depends on the concentration you are interested in. For supply chain, there are companies such as Mars, Dell, J&J that recruit here.

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, it's approx 90% 90 days after graduation for international students. And we got many major employers, such as Dell, Dupont, Sears, ExxonMobile, just to name a few.

JimmyVarghese: ohh... okies Stacey... I guess I will have to wait then...

Vita: Hi, this question is about the future career for international students. I have heard information about staying in US is really difficult now for international students, cuz the economic situation is hard for them to find job there. So how do you think about this?

Ron 1st Year: Poonam, we have tons of opportunities to interact with industry people. We have graduates in almost every area of business imaginable, and nearly all of them are willing to talk with us. Our alumni routinely visit campus to talk to us and run information sessions as well--this past Friday, Dan Mead, the President of Verizon Services Corporation, was on campus to speak about his career.

Kat 2nd Year: UdayBroca - there is a mixture of types of projects. It also depends on the availability or interest of the companies that become involved. I would say it is hard to answer because it varies each year, but they try to have a wide range of business cases. Does that answer your question?

Poonam_India: Thanks to all of you for taking out time for our queries. I apologise, I have some committments and I need to leave now.Thanks again ..

JimmyVarghese: I'm looking for the posting of one webinar on your site- "How to finance your MBA". It has not been done yet. How soon would this be posted?

StaceyMBAadmissions: Poonam--thanks for coming

JimmyVarghese: Poonam, have a nice day.

Gourav2ndYear: Have a good day Poonam

Kat 2nd Year: No problem, Poonam. Thanks for joining us!

UdayBroca: Yes definitely thank you Kat....

Ron 1st Year: Thanks for stopping by, Poonam. Have a good day/night!

Ilya 1st Year: Vita, the situation is getting a little bit worse. However we have several companies that do recruit international students. Our placement rate for international students is over 90% within 3 months after graduation

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, did I answer your question?

Radoslav 2nd Year: Vita, it is certainly a bit harder right now then it was, say, a year ago, but it's not impossible. Many companies are still looking for international talents, especially those with global operations.

Wenxing Li: Yes, Feng. Sorry I left the computer for some issues minutes ago.

Feng 1st year): Wenxing, no problem. Take your time.

UdayBroca: But Radoslav isn't that quite a risky proposition to get into considering the financial implications? I know I'm going to go ahead and take the lunge this year but apprehensions are still there...

UdayBroca: *plunge

JimmyVarghese: I think this question was missed out: I'm looking for the posting of one webinar on your site- "How to finance your MBA". It has not been done yet. How soon would this be posted?

Gourav2ndYear: Uday, the situation relates to all schools, it's the economy not a particular career path

Wenxing Li: Feng, is there any resources for a second language learning? For example, to learn French.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Jimmy--it should be up by the end of the week. With the Thanksgiving break mixed into the schedule, we're a little behind in posting it.

rajatn: I think my question was missed out, so posting it again: My question is for the admissions committee - Thank you for the quick response on my application. I have enrolled for the webcam interview to be held on Thursday. However, the question is that in case the webcam transmission is slow or there are some network issues, will the interview continue as a normal telephonic interview or do I have to reschedule it?

JimmyVarghese: Looking forward to hear that Stacey :)

Gourav2ndYear: Jimmy, you can however find it up on iTunes University

StaceyMBAadmissions: Rajatn--if we have technical problems, we will continue via phone

Vita: Thank you all guys for previous response. I would also like to know that, since I have interview appointment next week, is there anything I should particular aware of?

Ilya 1st Year: Wenxing, During your second year you may enroll in any other college within Penn State. I am planning to learn Spanish

JimmyVarghese: I still am having only 4 webinar recordings for download, the older ones.

rajatn: Thank you Stacey.

Vita: *response

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, you have plenty of opportunities to learn another language if you want. You can take courses that are given by Penn State. I will be taking a course in German and Spanish next year.

Wenxing Li: Thanks for the information, Ilya.

Ron 1st Year: Jimmy, we just checked and it has not yet been migrated to iTunesU. We'll make sure it's up by the end of this week!

Ilya 1st Year: Sure Wenxing

Kat 2nd Year: Vita - I think the key is to just be prepared for your interview. Be ready to speak about your resume, background and leadership experiences.

JimmyVarghese: Okies Ron... Thanks for that... I appreciate all the webinars, they are very generic in nature, very informative. Thanks for that !

StaceyMBAadmissions: Jimmy--glad they are helpful to you!

UdayBroca: What is the grading system used.. is it a letter grade or the high pass, pass system? Basically how cut throat is the competition or is a collaborative experience?

Vita: thanks, Kat!

rajatn: I am interested in the concentration of Finance. How are the internship opportunities available in the field of Finance?

Ron 1st Year: Glad to hear that, Jimmy!

Wenxing Li: And thank you Feng. Would you tell me something about lives of international students? How do you like your life in PSU? Anything special for international students?

Gourav2ndYear): Uday, we have a letter grade that translates to your GPA.. on a scale of 4

Vita: i would also like to know Wenxing's question's answer. :)

Ilya 1st Year: Rajtan, this is by far one of the best concentrations in terms of recruitment. Finance companies are typically early on campus, and we have lots of students that already secured finance internships

JimmyVarghese: I wanted to ask a similar question with Wenxing. How has the experience been for all you students?

Radoslav 2nd Year: Uday, it is risky, especially if you think of MBA education as just of a way to immigrate to US. If you look at it as a long-term investment, and if you are ready to consider other, global opportunities then it is not.

Gourav2ndYear: Uday, competition at Smeal is healthy, I appreciate the kind of competition that thrives here, makes me want to work hard regardless of the grade I obtain

rajatn: Thats a great news Ilya. Thank you for your response.

Ilya 1st Year: Sure Rajtan.

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, I like it here very much. Even though it is a small town you still get many chances to be involved in international students associations as we have a very diverse student body at Penn State. Also there is a Chinese Student Association that provides many different cultural events.

Kat 2nd Year): Wenxing and Jimmy - I think the hardest part of the adjustment for me is the weather! I have to say that it is pretty cold here. I'm from Thailand, where it is usually 80-90 degrees Fahrenheit. Right now in State College, it is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit!

Wenxing Li: That's great. Thank you, Feng.

Feng 1st year: Sure Wenxing.

Radoslav 2nd Year: C'mon Kat, weather is not so bad :)

JimmyVarghese: does it snow there Kat?

passiutpal: Stacey or Carrie: I am really interested in Smeal, Planning on giving the GMAT in Mid Feb, i know the deadline is Feb 1st. Can i submit the application with all the required documents and send the scores later?

Wenxing Li: Thanks Kat. But the experience in PSU as a whole is great, isn't it?

Ilya 1st Year: Jimmy it never snows here

UdayBroca: Radoslav, I am looking at it from getting a solid education followed by hopefully landing my dream consulting job... and then lets see how it goes from there.. but due to the current global economy the apprehension is obviously going to be there.. since there is quite a financial burden involved... that said I definitely think its the right time in my career path and im going ahead :)

Vita: Oh, no~~ Kat, I'm from Taiwan....I'm also afraid of cold weather. :P

Kat 2nd Year): Haha. To me it's pretty cold. Jimmy, it does snow here. It's not so bad right now, but it will get worse in Jan-Feb.

Vjuneja: Hello everybody...

Ilya 1st Year: Hello Vjuneja

Ron 1st Year: Jimmy, the first-year students have been extremely busy, but we've also had a lot of fun. The program is challenging without being unpleasant, and our small class size of 100 students allows us to form a strong community. In short, it's been a blast so far. I'm going to miss being here over our winter break!

StaceyMBAadmissions): Passiutpal--The international student deadline is 2/1, you will also need to have GMAT scores to submit to consider your application for that deadline

rajatn: Hello VJuneja

JimmyVarghese: I havent been to a snowy place before, it must be beautiful. :)

Vjuneja: Hi Rajatn

passiutpal: Thanks Stacey

JimmyVarghese: Hi Vjuneja... how are you?

StaceyMBAadmissions: You're welcome

Kat 2nd Year: Wenxing - the whole experience here has been great so far. In all honesty, it's been challenging managing our busy schedule, but we are learning a lot in the process, both in the classroom and outside the classroom.

Feng 1st year: Hi Vjuneja

StaceyMBAadmissions: Passiutpal--Just to clarify the 2/1 deadline--that is February 1st

Ilya 1st Year: Jimmy there's one of the best ski resorts here. SO you will be bale to work on your mountain ski skills in between classes

UdayBroca: On a side note how far is Scranton from Smeal (The office):)

Vjuneja: I am fine Jimmy..how are u?

Wenxing Li: Glad to hear that Kat. That's also the kind of challenge that I would like to face.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Uday--Scranton is about 2.5 hours from here

Vjuneja: Hi Feng..

JimmyVarghese: Do Smeal students, with their tight schedule, manage to see the Penn State football matches?? :)

passiutpal: Got it stacey

StaceyMBAadmissions): Jimmy--absolutely!

Radoslav 2nd Year): Uday, definitely it is the right time. As I said in the beginning, this is probably the best moment to enter the school, since the job market is weak. And by time you graduate, crisis will be over and companies will need a lot of new people. It is harder for my class, since we will graduate in couple of months...

JimmyVarghese: I'm doing good Vjuneja, thank you... :)

UdayBroca: Thank You Stacey, Radoslav....

Ron 1st Year): Jimmy, we absolutely go to the football games. In fact, the MBA program sponsors a tailgate at each game!

Kat 2nd Year): Jimmy - football games are something we try not to miss! And we definitely don't miss the MBA tailgates - which are barbeques that we have before the game.

JimmyVarghese: Great to hear that Stacey. It must be a terrific experience. :)

Wenxing Li: And for the experience and challenges, I would like to know that how do you guys feel about the way Smeal MBA helps to enhance you leadership skills?

StaceyMBAadmissions: Jimmy--it's a phenomenal experience, definitely a social highlight of the fall

JimmyVarghese: sounds like you guys work hard and party hard too!! :)

UdayBroca: How are the sports activities/clubs.. I am very interested in playing soccer and basketball... any opportunities?

Dave 1st Year: Jimmy. Most of us try to frontload our work/class schedule throughout the week, such that we can have Saturday completely open for football and fun

UdayBroca: I read on vault that the motto of Smeal was work hard party harder so that kinda answers it :)

Ilya 1st Year: Uday, we have several clubs here. In addition we play soccer every Friday and basketball every Saturday.

JimmyVarghese: nice point Uday. :)

Radoslav 2nd Year: Uday, there is a lot of sports facilities, both indoor and outdoor

Gourav2ndYear: Uday, there are weekly soccer sessions that the MBA Association helps organize.. Smeal also has a basketball team and Penn State has state of the art sporting facilities... only for those who can squeeze out some time out the school course work

Vjuneja: Stacey..I have scheduled my interview for Thursday..Can we know beforehand who will be taking our interview? Alum/Admission Committee Staff member?

Wenxing Li: I have similar question like Uday's. Is there any facilities for playing badminton or swimming?

StaceyMBAadmissions): Vjuneja--all interviews will be done by admissions staff

Kat 2nd Year: Wenxing - I don't know about other people, but the program has helped me build and strengthen my leadership skills. First, with the way the classes are structured, discussion and participation is encouraged. As an Asian student, I wasn't really used to it, so I had to push myself to speak up. There are also leadership opportunities outside the classroom, such as becoming officers of different associations.

Ilya 1st Year): Wenxing, we have a badminton club here at Penn State. Also we have several swimming facilities, so you will definitely enjoy your time here

Vjuneja: Thanks Stacey

UdayBroca: That's wonderful news... can't wait for the Friday soccer games now :(

Feng 1st year): Wenxing, I know that many Chinese students go to Gym every weekend to play badminton. You can go to Gym with a fitness card if you like swimming

Dave 1st Year: Uday, my nickname here is actually "Soccer Dave"

Ron 1st Year: Uday, that motto on the vault was probably posted by one of Penn State's undergraduate students. Although we do have time to relax and enjoy ourselves, much of our day is taken up by classwork and extracurricular activities. We tend to be very busy, but I've had a great time so far.

Ilya 1st Year: Good news Uday!

Kat 2nd Year: Wenxing - I forgot to mention that in the first year, there is a year-long communications class that teaches us how to communicate effectively as leaders. That's definitely helped me as well.

UdayBroca: Oh well I guess I have to nail the interview now!

JimmyVarghese: Coming back to academics, Stacey, is there an Alum from Smeal, who went into Academics post an MBA? could I network with him/her? And how frequently do students go into teaching post an MBA?

UdayBroca: Dave fav. club? ;)

Radoslav 2nd Year: Wenxing Li: Two swimming pools, one olympic and one half olympic. On the smaller one you are very often the only person in the pool :) You have to buy fitness membership which is, if I am not wrong \$50 per semester. Not sure about badminton

rajatn: Stacey - After roughly how many days can we expect an admissions decision? Is the scholarship decision given with the admissions decision only or separately?

Vita: I have the same question with rajatn. :)

Dave 1st Year: Uday. I'm a big fan of Manchester United.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Jimmy--while I don't have an exact statistic for you, there are alums who pursue academia--We could certainly pair you up with someone who went that route. Typically, MBAs then go into a Phd program if they choose that route.

rajatn: I mean after how many days of the interview?

Wenxing Li: Thanks for all the information, Kat, Ilya, Feng and Radoslav.

Ilya 1st Year: Sure Wenxing

Kat 2nd Year: No problem, Wenxing.

Feng 1st year: no problem, Wenxing.

UdayBroca: Oh well then we might have some very interesting arguments if i get there...

StaceyMBAadmissions: Rajatn--those who applied for the December 1st deadline will have an answer by January 31st...so, it could be a few days after your interview...or several weeks--depending on when the interview was scheduled

StaceyMBAadmissions: Those who apply for the February 1st deadline will have a decision by March 31st

UdayBroca: I think someone asked this earlier.. any idea on who would be taking the phone interviews...

JimmyVarghese: Stacey, do they choose the Phd immediately or do they choose to work for another 5-6 years or more, and then choose to go into academics?

StaceyMBAadmissions): Uday--all interviews are conducted by a member of the admissions team

rajatn: Thank you Stacey. That means that admissions decision is also made on a rolling basis based on the interview dates?

UdayBroca: Thank You Stacey...

StaceyMBAadmissions: Jimmy--career path varies based on the individual--it's a personal decision

StaceyMBAadmissions: Rajatn—correct

rajatn: Thank you Stacey

StaceyMBAadmissions: In regard to financial awards, graduate assistantships and scholarships are granted based on merit

StaceyMBAadmissions: Graduate Assistant decisions are typically made with the admissions decisions, scholarship allocations come later in the process (usually in the spring)

UdayBroca: I read on the website that there is no real fixed limit on no. of student intake since its a rolling process.. but there must be some max. target right? Also, are students dinged at times to maintain and increase yield %

Dave 1st Year: Can I help anyone with questions on housing or social events?

StaceyMBAadmissions: Uday--we aim to keep our class size right around 100

JimmyVarghese: Okies Stacey. I would appreciate if you could dig up an Alum who went into Academics. Should I drop a mail to Smeal on this regard?

rajatn: Thank you

Wenxing Li: Feng and Kat, may I have your email addresses? In case I come to some further questions.

Kat 2nd Year): Jimmy - I'll find an alum for you to email with that went into academics. Is there a specific area of study you were interested in?

JimmyVarghese: Yes Dave. That slipped out, how does the housing of students generally work?

rajatn: That would be great Dave. How are the housing facilities in and around Penn State? How expensive is it?

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, my email is fyw100@psu.edu

Kat 2nd Year: Wenxing (and others) - you can email me directly at azk154@psu.edu if you have questions.

Dave 1st Year: Jimmy. Most students live in graduate housing, which is usually fairly quiet. One bedroom apartments can range anywhere from \$700-\$1000, but I found a roommate on craigslist (we share a house for only \$350 a piece).

JimmyVarghese: Yes Kat... Supply Chain Management, Management Information Systems.

rajatn: Thank you Kat and Feng for sharing your email addresses

Wenxing Li: Thank you.

Dave 1st Year: Should you be accepted, make sure to have your housing arrangements secure long before moving to Penn State

Feng 1st year: Sure, Rajatn, Wenxing, feel free to send us emails if you have questions

UdayBroca: Also, are students dinged at times to maintain and increase yield % any thoughts?

JimmyVarghese: So Dave, there is no compulsion that one should reside in the graduate housing?

rajatn: Thank you Dave, how far is the Graduate Housing from the Business Building?

Dave 1st Year: There is an apartment complex called Allenway in which many of my friends live. I sometimes wish that I had moved in there, because so many of my friends are in a close proximity, but you can choose to live wherever you please

UdayBroca: Thank You Stacey... that about answers it..

JimmyVarghese: I guess Dave, I shall hold out further questions on housing. I'm first keeping my fingers X on the admissions... :)

Kat 2nd Year: Rajatn - graduate housing isn't too far. Walking distance, actually. But the bus routes in State College are pretty convenient, so commuting shouldn't be too much of a problem.

rajatn: Thank you Kat.

UdayBroca: Dave on the social events front.. how is the live music scene in around campus?

Dave 1st Year: Uday - there is normally a live band playing somewhere every thursday, friday, and Saturday

Dave 1st Year: We have a friend in the program who plays in a live band each night

Ilya 1st Year: Uday, one of our fellow calssmates plays every week.

Kat 2nd Year: No problem, Rajatn.

UdayBroca: Wow thats wonderful!

UdayBroca: thans ilya and dave..

UdayBroca: *thanks

Ilya 1st Year: No problem Uday

Dave 1st Year: My pleasure

rajatn: Is there an option to pursue dual concentration in Modules V-VIII? Can courses be taken in 2 concentrations? I would be interested to pursue concentration of Strategic Leadership along with Finance if such a provision is there.

StaceyMBAadmissions: What else can we answer for you tonight?

UdayBroca: I really don't know where you guys get the time for all this academics... career services.. social cultural events... recruiting.. the list goes on and on... Do you get time to do everything?

Wenxing Li: Feng, some questions about the accommodation. Are the houses that students live in have kitchens? Can you get access to usual Chinese flavorings around Penn State?

JimmyVarghese: I have a similar question on Indian spices? :)

Gourav2ndYear: Rajatn, we are in the last week of mod 6 now, and I am looking forward to graduating with 2 portfolios.. the curriculum is quite flexible and you are free to build your own course as long as the credit requirements are fulfilled

Ilya 1st Year): Uday, you're right in the money ... Time management is absolutely critical. It may seem a little insane in the beginning but it will go smoother once you survive the first module :)

rajatn: Thanks Gourav. What are the credit requirements for completing one concentration?

UdayBroca: ummm yes ive heard about the dreaded first module... any thoughts on the 7-1-7 system...

Ron 1st Year: Uday, we learn to balance everything--things were crazy in the beginning, but after a few weeks I got the hang of it. Once you learn to balance work and personal life, it's much easier.

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, yes, most of the houses have a kitchen. There are several Chinese restaurant here, and a couple of Chinese/Asian grocery stores where you can buy oriental/Asian food, spice, or other stuff

Gourav2ndYear: Jimmy, there's an Indian store in downtown and one of the large grocery chains has an international sections where most Indian spices are available

UdayBroca: Does it give you the opportunity to go in-depth on subjects of choice?

Dave 1st Year: Uday.

Uday - Time is a valuable commodity here. There are so many value added activities, that it would be impossible to attend them all. In any given week you'll divide your time between class, group projects, working with the career services team, attending sporting/social events, and sometimes, even getting some sleep

Radoslav 2nd Year: Wenxing, we have couple of international stores in State College, so it's not a problem to buy Chinese flavorings/food

JimmyVarghese: Good to hear that Gourav, I was thinking of packing a load of them... :)

StaceyMBAadmissions: Rajatn--it takes 60 credits to complete the program. The core courses are completed in the 1st year, the concentration work and electives are integrated into the 2nd year.

UdayBroca: haha good one Dave.. even getting some sleep... ;)

Ron 1st Year: Uday, students start to explore subjects in-depth during the spring of their first year. In your second year, you have a lot of freedom in your class choice--some of our classmates are learning foreign languages, and you can take almost any course (even undergraduate ones) that the University offers.

Ilya 1st Year: Uday. it took me a while to get used to it. Think about it, you will have to learn a lot within 7 weeks. For example if you do not have any accounting background that may seem a little difficult, but good thing is your teammates will be willing to help

Wenxing Li: Thank you Feng and Radoslav. So I guess the life there would be comfortable.

rajatn: Thank you Stacy

Kat 2nd Year: Uday - there are numerous courses and electives you can take for each concentration.

JimmyVarghese: Kat, regarding the Alum, I hope you didn't miss the specializations that I'm looking for : Supply Chain Management, Management Information Systems.

Vita: I have another question about career. I currently worked in automobile industry. however, i planned to get into tech industry in the future. are there any tech oriented courses in Smeal? For example, i have read about some special technological management certificate offering on other school's website?

UdayBroca: I think Ilya hit the nail there... I was wondering from the point of view of not having any accounting experince and having to do a lot initially in the 7 weeks...

Kat 2nd Year: Jimmy - got it!

Dave 1st Year: Hello Mia!

Dave 1st Year: Hello Thakkar!

Wenxing Li: Since you guys mentioned time. I really want to know that how much time you spend on sleeping on average? Is it hard to have a good rest according to the intensive learning?

Kat 2nd Year: Does anyone have other questions for us? :)

Dave 1st Year: Wexing, I average about 7 hours a sleep per night (I could get 8 if I didn't stay up so late)

Ilya 1st Year: We're in the same boat Uday. My friends are always here to answer all of my questions. In addition you will have your Professor and a Teaching Assistant ready to help you.

JimmyVarghese: Good question Wengxing!

Lina: Ron, you mentioned taking electives of foreign language, so what are the options of learning other languages? :)

UdayBroca: A general question for everyone... what is the one thing you feel separates Smeal from other Top Schools....

thakkar_rajiv: Hi Dave..

Kat 2nd Year: Wenxing - In the first year, I must admit that I was a little deprived of sleep. I used to get around 5 hours a night. In the second year, it depends on how much work you want to take on.

Ilya 1st Year: Uday, it's the personal attention you get from the very first second

Dave 1st Year: Thakkar. What questions can we answer for you?

thakkar_rajiv: i was a late joiner so was catching up on the missed out conversations....so I do not repeat the same questions....

StaceyMBAadmissions: Thakkar--welcome!

Ron 1st Year: Vita, we have a few courses that tie into our Information Science college at Penn State. Also, you can take any class that the university offers during your second year. My undergraduate degree came from Penn State's Information Science program, and one of my TAs was from the business school.

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, it varies. I definitely get more sleep during weekends when I catch up on some sleeps. I guess it just takes a bit of time to get used to the busy schedule. I usually sleep 5 hours on average

Kat 2nd Year: Thakkar - no worries. Feel free to ask any questions you have in mind.

Dave 1st Year: Welcome Lina!

thakkar_rajiv: I would like to hear about internship and career prospects of concentrations like strategic leadership & general management in smeaal....I was always given an impression that prospects are great in finance mostly...is that true?

Wenxing Li: Well, 6 or 7 hours may be enough for me. But 5...wow...maybe I shall get used to it now.

Lina: Hi dave:)

Kat 2nd Year: Uday - For me, what sold me on Smeal is the personal focus. There is a sense of community here, and it's great for someone like me who doesn't like the cut-throat kind of environment.

Vita: thanks for Ron's information! that's great for me. since I didn't have any technological background, i really need to enhance my knowledge about tech industry.

Wenxing Li: Anyway, thank you all for the information and sharing.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Thakkar--students do their concentrations in many different areas, not just finance. There are many options!

Feng 1st year: No problem, Wenxing

Ron 1st Year: Lina, it's tough to take extra courses during your first year because of the workload, but you can take any language we offer during your second year. Feng is planning to take up German or Spanish next year; we also offer French, Italian, Latin, and many others.

Dave 1st Year): Thakkar - I plan to specialize in strategic leadership and supply chain management. I've already had three interviews.

Lina: I'd like to know is there some entrepreneurial background students at Smeal?

Ilya 1st Year: Thakkar, Strategic Leadership is very broad. What exactly is your desired field?

Gourav2ndYear: Uday, the alum network is extremely helpful.. we get to reach out to one of the largest alumni networks around which is not typical of any other program with a small class size

UdayBroca: Thank You Kat.. I have pretty much the same reasons for choosing Smeal... I really feel that the collaborative spirit along with the personal attention really sets Smeal apart...

Lina: Ron, that's amazing, thanks!! I think I can take advantage of the language courses!:)

Ilya 1st Year: Thakkar, one possible avenue may be Management Consulting

Ron 1st Year: Glad I could help, Lina!

Dave 1st Year: Uday - It was truly the people that really sold me. I came up here for a three-day weekend and met most of the current students and faculty. It's almost like a family.

UdayBroca: Thank You Gourav... read about that big small school phenomenon on some forums... largest alumni network in the US I hear..

Kat 2nd Year: Thakkar - Strategic Leadership may be a good concentration to take in conjunction with another concentration. I am taking Strategic Leadership with Marketing, and I feel that enhances my management/interpersonal skills in the area of marketing. There are internship and career opportunities for people in all concentrations, not only just finance.

Gourav2ndYear: Uday, 160742 Penn State alums in the world.. you can imagine the possibilities :)

JimmyVarghese: Regarding specializations, can a student come into the program with a particular concentration in mind, and then decide to change concentrations when one learns more about the others?

Ron 1st Year): Lina, several of our students have their own businesses. In addition, Entrepreneurship/Strategic Leadership is one of the primary portfolios that MBA students can pursue while at Penn State.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Uday--that's only the dues paying members of the actual alumni association--not all of the alumni!

Ilya 1st Year: Jimmy absolutely. I will not be surprised if you change it at least twice by the New Year

Gourav2ndYear: Jimmy, I came here with Strategic Leadership in mind, then I migrated to finance and now am doing Supply Chain Management and Strategic Leadership with some courses in finance.. so it's quite flexible.

Wenxing Li: Ron, would you please offer me some specific information about SCM? Such as the projects available to students to get involved in or seminars focus on SCM?

thakkar_rajiv: Thanks Stacey & Dave.....actually I am presently working in automation industry...and ever since I have started work...leadership has always excited, whether I was doing sales or operations

Lina: Ron, thanks:)

Radoslav 2nd Year: Jimmy: Yes, a lot of students do that

UdayBroca: Dave being an international student makes it difficult to visit Smeal... but I guess Chat sessions like this are very encouraging... Just want to than everyone for answering my exhaustive list of questions :)

JimmyVarghese: Great to hear that! That was really one area of concern for me.

Ilya 1st Year: My pleasure Uday

Kat 2nd Year: Uday - it was our pleasure! :)

UdayBroca: Gourav thats a staggering figure !!!

JimmyVarghese: Do all of your alums use the Smeal Connect effectively? What all features/benefits does it offer?

thakkar_rajiv: currently I am doing sales & marketing and it helps to know from ilya and kat that I can combine this with another concentration

JimmyVarghese: Yes I thought the same Uday... That is indeed a huge number of Alums !

Dave 1st Year: Uday - Glad we can help!

Ron 1st Year: Wenxing, several of our first-year students took an optional course this semester where they worked with the University's procurement department to identify ways we could improve the environmental friendliness of our paper products while reducing costs.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Overall, there are over 450,000 living alumni in the world

JimmyVarghese: Hi Carrie glad to see you here :)

Ilya 1st Year): Thakkar, as a marketer I suggest you take a finance concentration. Coupled with your marketing background it will definitely position you well upon graduation

Carrie MBA Admissions: Hi there to all!

Kat 2nd Year: Jimmy - Smeal Connect is something that we just rolled out recently. It's still in the beginning phase, but our members are increasing gradually. I guess you can compare it with a networking site such as Facebook, but only specific for Smeal alumni.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Jimmy--Carrie may have had to step away for a moment, I will let her know you said hello in case she misses your greeting!

thakkar_rajiv: Thanks Ilya.. what kind of career options would I be open to on selecting marketing & finance???

Wenxing Li: Wow, that's amazing! Is there any documents available to PSU alums that containing all their possible information for contact?

JimmyVarghese: OK Stacey... that would be nice.

UdayBroca: University Park has around 30,000 students at any given time... Is the figure correct?

Carrie MBA Admissions: Wenxing - even better. An online alumni database.

Lina: Ron, how has the current economic crisis affected the school life, for example, internship opportunities or anything else?

Ron 1st Year: Wenxing, the SCMA also sponsors information sessions, career fairs, and other events throughout the year that provide students with the opportunity to connect with alumni and industry insiders. In addition, all of our MBA students are given access to a database that contains contact information for nearly all of our alumni.

Wenxing Li: Carrie, you have done a great job on that!

Lina: Hi Carrie:)

Ilya 1st Year: Thakkar, as I mentioned you will be able to leverage your marketing experience. In addition the current trends are that Marketing is getting more and more "numbers" oriented. More and more companies require not just one specific concentration, but rather a broad knowledge.

Carrie MBA Admissions: Oh - the database is much bigger; I can't take credit. I can look up my brother who graduated from Penn State in 1971. Should I have admitted that?!?

Dave 1st Year: Welcome Radhika!

Gourav2ndYear: Lina, the economic crisis has affected us the same way as it has affected everyone else. Considering opportunities, we have had the same opportunities as we had last year, but a little constrained in the numbers.

thakkar_rajiv: noted ilya....

Wenxing Li: Thanks Ron, the information is heart-stirring.

Carrie MBA Admissions: Hello Lina - good to hear from you.

Lina: Thank you Gourave!:)

radhika_saksena: Hello...

JimmyVarghese: Carrie, your brother might be mad... if you havent been keeping in touch with him in any other ways! :)

Gourav2ndYear: you're welcome Lina

Dave 1st Year: What can we answer for you, Radhika?

Carrie MBA Admissions: Jimmy - no worries. He'll be here in the Happy Valley for Christmas. Just don't tell...

JimmyVarghese: One question on statistics, as I could not find this info on the website. Any approximate percentages on the students who find jobs post an MBA, based on the initiative of the college?

Vita: Hi, Ilya, I am currently in marketing position. So do you think it would be a problem for an international student to find US's marketing jobs, i mean since there may be some different cultural habits or humor....?

radhika_saksena: Well I'm catching up with the log...

Carrie MBA Admissions: Jimmy - on our Career Placement page, you'll find a downloadable .pdf with that info in it. I'll go look it up...

Carrie MBA Admissions: <http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/careers.html/stats.html>

JimmyVarghese: Oh I must have missed that out.

Carrie MBA Admissions:

<http://www.smeal.psu.edu/mba/careers.html/2008%20Employment%20Stats%20PP.pptx>

JimmyVarghese: Thank you !

Ilya 1st Year: Vita, It's your advantage actually. It all depends now how you will leverage it. Most of the companies now look for international experience. In addition you may be employed by the US company with the country of your origin

Vita: Will there be any mathematical courses for students to take in advanced before the semester begins? I know some schools will need students to take this kinds of courses first.

agingc: Hi there... I am currently working on the technology side of investment banking and would like to shift to the risk analysis and the business aspects. Would that be considered well by the school?

Kat 2nd Year: Vita - I would say that it is a little difficult, because I'm pursuing a career in marketing as well. The culture and the environment is definitely important to marketers, so I would say we have to work a little harder than domestic students to understand the market.

Dave 1st Year: Vita. We have a preterm accounting course that occurs in the first two weeks of orientation. I hadn't taken an accounting class in about four years, so it really helped me to get back in the swing of things.

Dave 1st Year: Otherwise, no other classes are mandatory before starting the program

agingc: hello..

Carrie MBA Admissions: Vita - you can also do something called MBAMath, an online preparatory program we make available before classes. We have a partnership for educational pricing with them.

Ilya 1st Year: hello Anvesh

Dave 1st Year: Welcome Anvesh!

Kat 2nd Year: Hello AnveshSati

Feng 1st year: Hi Anvesh

thakkar_rajiv: My question to all current students...it would be quite informative to note each one of your academic & career backgrounds before entering smeal and also to find out about what concentrations & goals you all have and how is smeal helping you achieve your ambitions finally as you move on...

Gourav2ndYear: agnigc, I used to work in the technology side of a financial services company prior to Smeal, and the experience can be leveraged to look for jobs which are more into the functional side rather than technology. It depends entirely on your interests and opportunities here do encourage career switchers

UdayBroca: Carrie-- can you expand on MBAMath

staceycao: Hi, sorry I had to miss out on the chat for a while~ I understand that undergraduates are rarely admitted into the MBA program, but could strong class leadership roles and extensive extracurricular activities compensate for lack of work experience?

AnveshSati: Hello Feng... and the rest

Dave 1st Year: Thakkar: I worked for two years as an Operations Supervisor with a logistics firm. I plan on majoring in supply chain and strategic leadership.

Vita: Thanks for Ilya, Kat's info. Actually, because I am working for an international brand now, so I can feel that the cultural differences really influence some marketing works. :)

Kat 2nd Year: Thakkar - I have an advertising background from Thailand. I'm focusing in marketing and want to pursue a career in brand management. I guess I can say that Smeal has helped open doors to new opportunities and contacts that I otherwise would not have had.

Gourav2ndYear): thakkar_rajiv, I have a computer science and engineering background, spent 3 years in software dev. am concentrating in supply chain and strategic leadership at smeal, and looking forward to a career in consulting..

Ilya 1st Year: Stacey, that may at your own best interest to wait at least 2 years before entering the program. However Smeal accepts limited number of recent undergraduates every year. In that case strong academics and leadership roles will be the key

Ilya 1st Year: Absolutely Vita

Ron 1st Year: Thakkar, I graduated from Penn State's undergraduate program with an Information Science degree in May of 2007. I went to work for a year as a software analyst before I decided to come back to school and get my MBA. I plan to move into the supply chain management field and hope to work in procurement after I graduate in 2010.

staceycao: thanks Ilya.

Carrie MBA Admissions: <http://www.mbamath.com/> - It was created by a professor who started a prep course at Tuck, then expanded it online. Of course, like any great entrepreneur, he now has his own business...

Ilya 1st Year: My pleasure Stacey

Vita: thanks for Dave and Carrie also. So, if my undergraduate education was in business background, may I waive some courses?

Feng 1st year: Thakkar, I have a media background in China and research experience in China and the US. I'm look at marketing and finance

JimmyVarghese: Regarding entrepreneurship, are there any current group of students in Smeal who are opting to go into a business venture together?

agingc: oh that is great... what are the requirements I should have for making a switch? If one cannot show any experience in consulting, can one still make a switch to consulting?

StaceyMBAadmissions: Vita--that's great you have a business background from undergrad, however, you will still need to take the required MBA courses

Carrie MBA Admissions: Vita - because the curriculum is collaborative and at a graduate level, they can't be waived. They are also from a different perspective - looking at things from a managerial perspective rather than strictly functional.

Wenxing Li: Good question and idea, Jimmy. I am interested in that, too.

Vita: thanks, Carrie. I got it! :)

Gourav2ndYear: Jimmy, one of my classmates in the entrepreneurship class last mod spoke about the company he started in the summer... and he plans to go back to it after graduation.. I specifically remember of another alum who pitched to the Garber fund for his own company last year .. so there are some entrepreneurs around

staceycao: Another question- does the resume in the online application have to be limited to one page only?

Carrie MBA Admissions: aginc-I actually came from mgmt consulting before admissions. The key is to have some focus - vertical, functional, industry - you'll need an area of expertise in which to enter the field. And your problem solving and client relationships skills are absolutely key.

StaceyMBAadmissions: Stacey--if it goes slightly over one page, that's ok, but you should try to stick to the one-page format

agingc: thanks carrie... that helps

staceycao: okay,thnx, I'll keep that in mind

Ron 1st Year: Vita, I took a few classes in another program before I came to smeal, but I was only able to transfer a few of my credits to the MBA program--and they will all count as electives during my second year. However, because the courses here are such high quality, I plan to retake those credits rather than use them as transfers.

agingc: can we see the chat transcripts online?

Carrie MBA Admissions: aginc - a note on consulting. The biggest concern I see with applications of those interested in the field is that they show very little understanding of it. Do some homework - show you understand the industry, the players, the business models, the structures, the culture, and the lifestyle.

Kat 2nd Year: agingc - yes, transcripts will be posted by early next week.

Dave 1st Year: Does anyone have any questions about the campus itself or the business building?

Vita: thanks, Ron. I guessed I will take them all...if I have chance to get into Smeal. :)

Ron 1st Year: Glad I could help, Vita!

AnveshSati: Is the concentration for entrepreneurial ventures from students mainly in the tech space or conventional businesses also?

Carrie MBA Admissions: Kat - when all you students will be off enjoying a well earned holiday!

Vita: Sure, Dave, I'd like to know that!

JimmyVarghese: Dave, you mentioned that you have chosen SCM as specialization. How does the IBM OnDemand Lab help you in learning process? how much of it are you exposed to?

AnveshSati: yes dave...what are the levels of interaction with the other universities in the region...

thakkar_rajiv: thanks again...

Radoslav 2nd Year: Any questions about summer internships?

Dave 1st Year: Anvesh: Several of our students compete in case competitions (marketing, supply chain, net impact). They often visit other campuses to compete.

JimmyVarghese: Yes Radoslav, could you share with us how your experience was? What kind of roles do you get for internship?

thakkar_rajiv: hi radoslav....would like to know about internships in general as well as summer internships.....

AnveshSati: thanks dave!

Lina: Hi, Radoslav, roughly how many percent of people do internship to get a permanent position? and how many percent just go for experience?

Gourav2ndYear: Anvesh, entrepreneurial ventures are not always in the tech space here. It again depends on your area of interest. Last year I saw a new company trying to obtain funding from the Garber fund. It planned to launch a unique product and based on a differentiated marketing plan for making profits..

Dave 1st Year: For more information on our new business building:

<http://www.smeal.psu.edu/building/>

Wenxing Li: And Radoslav, I would like to know that if there is anyone who failed to have an intern and why

Ilya 1st Year: Lina, our internship rates over 90%

thakkar_rajiv: lina...you hit the target...thanks for wording my question...

Vita: Are there any chances for students to have some international business trips? or global exchange program?

thakkar_rajiv: that really encouraging...thanks ilya

Ilya 1st Year: Vita, we have our global immersion program available in spring

Radoslav 2nd Year: Jimmy: my experience was great. I was working for Black&Decker, power tools manufacturer in Towson, Maryland. I was part of their Financial Development Program.

AnveshSati: also...are background in VC/PE/Investments preferred for choosing student managers of the VS Fund?

Ilya 1st Year): Every year, first-year students spend a week abroad studying global business. Last year students had the choice of Shanghai (China), Santiago (Chile) or Istanbul (Turkey), and San Francisco for international students seeking additional US experience. This year, we have replaced Turkey with Prague as an option.

Lina: You are welcome thakkar:)

thakkar_rajiv: i would like to know about global exchange program??? which universities does smea tie up with for the same typically

Kat 2nd Year: Anvesh - can you clarify what you mean by VS fund?

JimmyVarghese: That sounds great Radoslav.

Radoslav 2nd Year: Thakkar: Since we are pretty busy during the academic year, we generally do summer internships only

Lina: Thanks ilya, that's a very good number

Ilya 1st Year: Thakkar, we do not have official exchange programs

Ilya 1st Year: My pleasure Lina

AnveshSati: sorry :) meant the student managed fund (VC Fund)

AnveshSati: fund

Vita: Thanks, Ilya. That sounds great!

Ilya 1st Year: Sure Vita

Radoslav 2nd Year: Lina, I don't have such a statistic. One important thing is that even if your internship does not end up with having an offer from the company, it makes your resume so much stronger! For me, internship was first US job, and a first job related strictly to corporate finance.

JimmyVarghese: I think this question was missed: with regard to SCM as a specialization, how does the IBM OnDemand Lab help you in learning process? how much of it are you exposed to?

Lina: Thanks Radoslav

Kat 2nd Year: Anvesh - From what I know, there are student managers, but there are no specifications on their backgrounds. It is mostly based on their interest and initiative.

Radoslav 2nd Year: Wenxing: I would say only people who did not want to have one from some personal reasons (family, travel...). But remember, all students (and career service) worked really hard to get an internship.

AnveshSati: thx kat!

Lina: And how are the married-single ratio at Smeal generally?:)

JimmyVarghese: I hope that question was relevant.

agingc: Hi Radoslav, what sort of experience did you have before smea?

Wenxing Li: Thanks for answering, Radoslav.

JimmyVarghese: What I am actually looking to know is the emphasis on technology in the SCM curriculum.

thakkar_rajiv: oh i see. Carrie:- Hello. I have a question about graduate assistanships. Would like to know of basic qualifications for achieving the same and if you could share some trends or % , it would be quite helpful .

agingc: did you get an internship based on your experience?

JimmyVarghese: Are we trained on ERP systems and similar technologies?

Kat 2nd Year: Lina - approximately one quarter of our students are married.

Ron 1st Year: Jimmy, sorry it took me a little while to get back to you--I wanted to check and make sure I answered your question completely. Our Supply Chain Lab was linked into IBM's Shared Research Laboratory in 2005, and its computing power is joined with that of other universities around the country. We use it in our day-to-day activities in several of our classes this semester, and students that participate in research at the Supply Chain Research lab use it actively.

Carrie MBA Admissions: Thakkar - in our recent curriculum revision, we've arranged the curriculum such that the first semester of the 2nd year is typically the time to study abroad. PSU undergrad has one of the highest study abroad rates in the country. So we have the system down; but what we've found is that in the timeframe it never seems to fit. more...

Lina: Kat, thanks:)

Radoslav 2nd Year: Agingc, I was working in book publishing industry, all sorts of things, but my experience was not strictly finance related. This means that some companies are very open to career changers.

agingc: good to know Radoslav, thanks

Dave 1st Year: Welcome to Ramising!

Gourav2ndYear: agnigc, I had prior experience in software dev, but my internship was in a project that dealt with manufacturing strategy.. so I wouldn't say that the area of your prior experience is a criteria for your internship

Carrie MBA Admissions): Thakkar - because during year one students are acclimating then focusing on internships, and off over the summer, they have little time to arrange study abroad. Also, the fear that being gone 2nd year first semester puts them behind in the full-time search. So good idea, tough to execute in practice.

Ron 1st Year: Jimmy, the MBA program doesn't include ERP classes by default, but you are free to take classes from any other area of the University in your second year. My undergraduate program in Penn State's Information Science program focused heavily on ERP systems, and you can definitely take some of those classes if you choose to.

Radoslav 2nd Year: Certainly general business experience was important for them.

agingc: thanks Gourav...

Gourav2ndYear: you're welcome Agni

JimmyVarghese: Thanks Ron. That sounds perfect.

ramising@gmail.com: Gourav, does Smeal welcome customization of MBA curriculum (entrepreneurship + Agriculture)?

Carrie MBA Admissions: Another note on % married. About 1/2 of those married also have children. During our Thanksgiving dinner, the students showed "Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving" on a screen for the kids. Well, and for the adults.

Kat 2nd Year: We're winding down to our last ten minutes. Do you have any other questions? :)

thakkar_rajiv: thanks carrie..that explains it. shall wait for your reply on grad assis. Question

Vita: How's the living expense in Smeal? I am sure that MBA students have abundant social lives. :) Would that cost a lot?

Wenxing Li: Feng, are you still here? Do you know how many Chinese students got financial awards? And what are the requirements for financial awards such as GA?

JimmyVarghese: How's the Christmas season looking out there? how are the celebrations going to be like? :)

Lina: Good to know about that, Carrie, and that must be a very interesting dinner:)

Gourav2ndYear: Ramising, it is considered in a case by case basis, you would need to complete the required credits in the business school and work with our Dean in order to identify how you can complete the required credits in the Agriculture School.

Carrie MBA Admissions: Very fun. We also celebrated Diwali and are looking forward to a Chinese New Year dinner as well.

Dave 1st Year: Vita - Living expenses are fairly cheap here for our students who have come from a big city such as New York or Philadelphia

Ilya 1st Year: Vita, it's very affordable here ... Especially compared to Philadelphia or NYC

Ron 1st Year): Jimmy, we just hosted a Christmas event for disadvantaged children in our local community last night. We did arts and crafts with them, treated them to dinner, and one of our second-year students dressed up as Santa and brought them all gifts. The holiday decorations around the campus are out in full force right now as well, and they look great!

Vita: thanks a lot, Dave & Ilya !

Ilya 1st Year: Sure Vita

ramising@gmail.com: Thanks Gourav, I understand that customization will be with approval and with taking all consideration. I am just wondering if Smeal rejects such candidates outrightly? I mean they are not considered good?

JimmyVarghese: Ron, must be real fun. Good to hear that there is community service is well integrated into the culture. Would love to see some snaps of the campus decorated for Xmas.

Gourav2ndYear: Ramising, the concern here would be whether the customization you seek be a good fit with your career goal.. It would not be held against your case, otherwise.

thakkar_rajiv: I have one last question for all. How easy or difficult is it to finance your tuition through scholarship & grad assistantship opportunities at smea? It would be helpful to know recent % or no. of students to receive the same...

Feng 1st year: Wenxing, I'm still here :). Roughly 30-40 out of 100 students in our class are on graduate assistantships, plus scholarships and fellowships. That makes 2/3 got either assistantships or scholarships. All GAs and scholarships are merit-based.

Dave 1st Year: Sorry Jimmy. As much as we'd love to send some your way, we have no pics available at this moment.

ramising@gmail.com: Thanks Gourav. Customization is as per my career goal.

thakkar_rajiv: oh its answered already...thats a lot...everyone for sharing your thoughts.

Vita: Thanks for you all. Your kindly responses really help a lot! I'm really looking forward to get into Smeal. Wish I have good luck for my next week interview. :) And hope you guys have wonderful campus lives! I'm gonna leaving now.

JimmyVarghese: No problem Dave, I know I'm asking too much. :)

Dave 1st Year: Good luck!

StaceyMBAadmissions: Vita--thank you for joining us!

Ron 1st Year: No problem, Vita. Glad you could come!

Wenxing Li: Feng, are domestic and international students considered for financial awards respectively or in the same pool?

Ilya 1st Year: Jimmy you're absolutely right

radhika_saksena: Hi feng... 1 q...you said you had a background in media and research and then the switch to marketing and finance... how easy/difficult was it for you to convince the adcomm... was the switch difficult?

Gourav2ndYear: you're welcome, Ramising

Feng 1st year: They are in the same pool, Wenxing

Ron 1st Year: Yes, our campus is well-decorated for the holidays, and we'll need to remember to take pictures--especially once we have some snow! :)

JimmyVarghese: One last question, with the current state of the market, how easy/hard is access to loans without a co-signer, for international students??

StaceyMBAadmissions: Radhika--if the switch makes sense for your goals, we try to be supportive in what will work for you

thakkar_rajiv: It was great to touch base with sméal for the first time...with a session like this....thanks to all for making it as insightful...

StaceyMBAadmissions): Thakkar--we' re glad you could join us

radhika_saksena: ok.. That sounds great. thanks..

Ilya 1st Year: Thank you Thakkar. Good Luck!!

Ron 1st Year: Thanks for stopping by, Radhika. Glad we could help!

Gourav2ndYear: Jimmy, I do not know any loan options for international students without a co signor, regardless of the economic scenario

Dave 1st Year: Good Luck!!

Ilya 1st Year: Good Luck Radhika!

JimmyVarghese: Have a good day Thakkar and Radhika

agingc: thanks a lot everyone for answering the questions.... I am looking forward to get into Smeal

Radoslav 2nd Year: Jimmy, I don't think that it is possible to get a loan without co-signer if you are international

radhika_saksena: Thank you every one

Wenxing Li: Thanks Feng. Does it mean that I should be considerable in all the aspects such as GMAT, work experience, academic performance, and potential leadership? Or it is ok that I be outstanding in some but not all of these aspects?

thakkar_rajiv: Thanks jimmy..wish you the same...

rajatn: Thank you everyone from Smeal MBA. This chat session was really helpful.

Carrie MBA Admissions: Good luck on remaining finals to all our students!

Dave 1st Year: Thanks Carrie!!

Ilya 1st Year: Thanks Carrie!

Ron 1st Year: Thanks, Carrie!

rajatn: Thank you Carrie!

Gourav2ndYear: Thank you Carrie

Lina: Thanks a lot and hope to see you guys at campus

Kat 2nd Year: Thanks to everyone for joining us at these odd hours of the day!

JimmyVarghese: Goodnight Carrie

StaceyMBAadmissions: Thank you all for participating in the chat!

Wenxing Li: Thank you all for the time and efforts.

JimmyVarghese: Thank you all... It was nice talking to you...

Kat 2nd Year: We hope you found this to be a productive and informative session, and we're really glad you could join us. Please feel free to contact us at SmealMBA@psu.edu for any further questions. Thank you for spending the time with us, The Smeal MBA Program Team.

Ron 1st Year: Thanks, Jimmy. You too!

Gourav2ndYear: Thanks Jimmy

Dave 1st Year: Have a good night!

JimmyVarghese: Before everyone leaves... Smeal team, could I provide everyone with the link of the facebook community I'd started, for prospective Smeal students?

Ilya 1st Year: Thanks Jimmy

JimmyVarghese: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=33785174845>

StaceyMBAadmissions: thanks!

StaceyMBAadmissions: have a good night!

Ron 1st Year: Thanks!

JimmyVarghese: hope you all could join us there...

Ilya 1st Year: That is fantastic

Lina: It's nice Jimmy:)

agingc: that is a great idea jimmy

JimmyVarghese: Do join and contribute... :)

Carrie MBA Admissions: There's also another - hope this isn't too confusing:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/University-Park-PA/Smeal-College-of-Business-MBA/35765722963?ref=ts>

agingc: he he.. is that the official one?

JimmyVarghese: Great to see that community Carrie.

JimmyVarghese: Could we put forward our questions regarding the fall 09 intake over there?

Carrie MBA Admissions: Both are options - "official" just doesn't exist in the millennial world!

Wenxing Li: Feng, I will send you an email upon the end of this chat about the question I delivered before. And thank you for all the help.

Carrie MBA Admissions: Good night everyone, signing off and hanging holiday lights now. Best wishes to all on applications and happy holidays!