

Username	Message
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Welcome Jay T--we'll get started in just a moment
Jay T	Jay T: thanks
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Hello! Welcome to the Smeal MBA Program online chat. We've got students and Admissions with us today. What questions would you like us to answer?
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): No one has any questions? :)
Jay T	Jay T: hi Stacey, How do you determine how much financial aid a prospective student can get
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): Hello, I'm Cecilia Tan, first year MBA student of Smeal. I'm from Shanghai, China. I will be glad to answer your questions.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Jay T--all applicants who apply before February 1st are automatically considered for merit-based aid
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): We base aid awards on the merit of the application (not need)
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): What is available each year also determines how many people we can make awards to and how much we can award. Typically we award 30-35 graduate assistantships and 15-20 scholarships
Jay T	Jay T: and this is determined by applicant's academic performance only ie transcripts and gmat score?s
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): no--the ENTIRE application
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): Hello Jay, welcome to the chat..I am a second year MBA student and an admissions graduate assistant here at Smeal

ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): GPA, GMAT, transcript are only part of it--we also look at work experience (quantity and quality), essays, recommendation letters--everything found in the application itself
Jay T	Jay T: i ilve in ghana. we currently have no gmat test centres in the country (can be verified from the us embassy). what happens if i'm unable to submit my gmat scores before february. am i automatically disqualified?
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): We will also accept GRE scores this year
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Additionally, if you have a situation that is extenuating, we will do our best to work with you
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): The issue with submitting too late is timing with visa issues--hence the February 1st deadline
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Jay T--Akshay just did some research and it appears there is a testing center in Accra
Jay T	Jay T: where? can i get the address pls?
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): Jay, here's the address: Test Center: SiliconPro Address: No.45, Lokko RoadOsuOsuAccra, BOX 6502Ghana Telephone: [233] 21 781294 Directions: Three Blocks from the Christian Council on the right Hand Side, Coming from the mobil traffic light.Around the VRA Clinic
Jay T	Jay T: silicon pro is one of the places i first checked out. i was told they have problems with part of their set up and that they may be back online sometime in january
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): aaah --ok
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): well certainly keep us posted if it is an issue

ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): even if you test by 2/1 it should be fine
Jay T	Jay T: ok. thanks
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): You're welcome--what else can we answer?
Jay T	Jay T: ok thanks
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Hi Jay, My name is Moulik
Jay T	Jay T: what's te average gmat score
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): I'm a first year student here at the MBA program
Jay T	Jay T: hi moulik
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): This year's incoming class had an average GMAT of 652.
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Do you have any questions about our class? I'd be more than happy to answer
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Hi Sathya
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: hi moulik
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Welcome Gundip
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Hello Moulik
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Hello stacy and cecilia
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Hello Sathya
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Hello Everyone
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): Welcome, Sathya and Gundipsingh. I'm Cecilia Tan, first year MBA student.
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Sathya, Gundip, Do you have any questions that I might be able to help you with?
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: i wanted to know whether would it impact the chances of a international student provided they apply in the second round.

ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): Hello Sathya, this is Akshay, 2nd year MBA and an admissions GA. The application is reviewed on the same reference points irrespective of the round that you apply in. However as Smeal offers admissions and GAs on a rolling basis, it is always in your best interests to apply as soon as possible
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): GAs = Graduate Assistantships and Financial Aid
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Jay, if you dont mind me asking, are there any specific concentrations you are looking to pursue?
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: From a international student perspective , i will like to understand the impact of recent business enviorement on Penn State MBA..specifically around the opportunities for international candidates.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: thanks akshay
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Thanks for the question Gundip. There have been quite a few changes and of course the economic environment does have some impact.
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): I really wanted to highlight the fact that the Smeal College of Business has experienced a higher placement of international students than domestic students in the recent graduation classes
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: that is good to know moulik
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Hello Akshay - What are the type of GA's that international students typically get?
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Did that answer your question, Gundip?

gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Thats a interesting and a very positive indicator Moulik
Jay T	Jay T: iYes moulik. i have a bias towards entrepreneurship
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): The GAs typically don't depend on whether you are a domestic or an international student. GAs range from working with admissions, career services to teaching assistantships
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Assistantships are placed based on the needs of the college and the qualifications of the GA pool. We try our best to match interests
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Yes, that is great Jay. There are quite a few second year students (around 15%) who are interested in taking up the Entrepreneurship track.
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Moulik - Thanks for your answer. It was definitely useful. As a aspirant and a international student, is there anything that i can start doing right away that will enhance my prospects when i enroll for a MBA program.
Jay T	Jay T: Great, Moulik. Does smeal in anyway assist students to access student/educational loans
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): We have a financial aid office at Penn State that assists with loans, however, most international students must secure loans privately
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Gundip, I'd recommend that you research the program and different career tracks. This is so that you have a sense of where you want to be after you graduate.

ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Jay T.--More information on aid can be found here: http://www.psu.edu/studentaid/
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): I know it may be too early in the process, but it does help to have a direction so that you can make the best of the MBA program. Because there are a LOT of resources here in the Smeal MBA program
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: That goes along with the applications. Infact that's one great aspect about applying to a good international business school. You end up doing a lot of introspection and knowing a lot about your interests and aspirations..
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): and you would want to get involved in everything, and so you'd want to focus in on a specific area and fine tune your professional skills.
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): That is absolutely correct. You must research a program well and find the one that fits, because you will be spending a lot of time with the faculty, students and the staff once you are here. So that is definitely an important consideration.
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: sure, i got your point Moulik.
Jay T	Jay T: thx Stacey. I'm checking it out now. Akshay, Cecilia, Moulik: what's the class schedule/programme like? is theory biased or practical?
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): We have classess from Monday to Thursday 8am-12:30am
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): Some tasks are finished individually and some are finished by teamwork
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey - Based on your experience , have you seen any recent trends on the visa success rates for Penn State Smeal MBA admits ?

ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): gundipsingh--There really haven't been any issues in the past two years from India
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): or really anywhere
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): a few unusual situations, but certainly no trends
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Sounds good. Thanks for your word Stacey.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): surely
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Hi stacey, is there a cap on the number of candidates smeal admits from a particular nationality /
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): Jay- so basically we have classes every morning. There are some papers, exercises, presentations to do.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Sathya--no, there are no caps--it varies every year. Our goal, however, is to have diversity in the class, so we like to see many different countries, cultures, functions, backgrounds, etc. represented
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: ok, thanks stacey for answering that
Jay T	Jay T: Thx Cecilia. What i'd like to know is if there is a healthy balance between classroom work and applying that knowledge practically through placement with businesses?
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Stacey - Do we have any Penn State alumni / admissions event lined up in India ? Something similar to the one held in China recently.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): We will hold one in New Delhi during our Global Immersion trip in march

ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Where are you located? If that is not convenient, we can try to connect you directly with someone in another city that is convenient
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: That will be great. Infact i am based right out of New Delhi.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): excellent!
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): The classes are practical. Smeal has a lot of associations that you may want to attend: supply chain, finance, marketing, entrepreneur. So there are also a lot of activities of association.
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: So i will look forward for the event.
Jay T	Jay T: great. thx cecelia
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): Hello Gundip..I will be travelling to India with a group of MBA students in March. I would be more than happy to meet with you and answer any questions that you might have
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: hello akshay, would you be touring south india too ? Say banglore ?
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: Akshay- I will love to connect with you and other students. Will look forward to hearing from you more on your visit.
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): Hello Sathya...due to the time constraints, we would probably not be visiting Banglore.
Jay T	Jay T: any alumni in ghana you can get me in touch with, stacey?
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): However we will probably be in Goa during our spring break that follows the immersion week

ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Jay--there may be! If they are not currently there, we DO have alumni working in the US who are originally from Ghana. Let me look up some information for you tomorrow
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: thats okay akshay. thanks.
Jay T	Jay T: thanks. will appreciate it.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: oh ok akshay, thats close. ill try and meet up with you there
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Absolutely
gundipsingh	gundipsingh: It time for me to make a move. The session has been very informative. I will like to thank you all for your time today. Appreciate it .
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Thanks for joining us
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Any other questions, that we might be able to help with? In the mean time, please do visit the Smeal MBA Blogs to get an 'insider's' perspective on the school
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): It was nice talking to you Gundip. Good luck with your application process.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): And remember, the last deadline for international applicants is February 1st!
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Welcome to the Smeal International chat Boyang!
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): Hello, Boyang! I'm Cecilia, first year MBA student. Welcome to join us.
Boyang	Boyang: Sorry i am so late!!
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): No problem--what can we help you with?
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): No problem. Do you have any questions?

Boyang	Boyang: i am applying for 2-year MBA and i wonder if there is any exchange program?
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Unfortunately, there is no exchange program
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): the program is simply too short
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Hi current students, anybody here pursuing the supply chain concentration ? if so, how has been your experience ?
Boyang	Boyang: yes, i am
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): Hello Sathya..I am pursuing a supply chain concentration. Due to Penn State
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): 's great reputation in SCM research, you get to learn a lot of things from professors who are well respected in the SCM academia
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: thats great to know akshay.I saw in the website as well about SMEAL's command in SCM. Im looking to pursue SCM too.
Jay T	Jay T: is a thesis to be submitted by students before completion of the programme?
Boyang	Boyang: i really love SCM! i worked for skenergy for 3 years and purchased raw materials for JVs.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Boyang--excellent! We look forward to seeing your application
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): Jay - No, the MBA program doesn't entail a thesis
Boyang	Boyang: that was challenging.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: oh great boyang, nice to know.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Current students, could you please share more about your global immersion experience ?

Boyang	Boyang: Thank you so much! Akshay. I love PSU too. One of my friend introduced me SCM in PSU long ago, i am very interested MBA program in PSU
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Sathya--no students here have yet been on Global Immersion but they can tell you where they are going in the spring
Jay T	Jay T: Stacey, are there any other alternatives tp paying the application fee if one has no credit card?
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): This year the trips are Shanghai, New Delhi, Prague and Johannesburg
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Jay--you can pay by check or money order
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): there will be a place in the application to select that option, then you can send it via mail
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Absolutely Sathya. I will be attending the Global Immersion in Spring 2011 (i.e. Feb 2011 - March 2011) and can tell you what I expect from the experience.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: thats great
ga	ga(Akshay-2nd year MBA): Sathya - Usually Global immersion is a part of the first year curriculum..I was supposed to go to Chile last year. Unfortunately while I was in-flight, Santiago experienced an earthquake and our flight was turned around. We had to cancel the Chile immersion and hence I will be travelling this year.
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): The Global Immersion is a week long 2-credit assignment, and there are several destinations to choose from
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: ok.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: where would you be travelling to moulik ?

ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): This year our options were Johannesburg (South Africa), Prague (Czech Republic), Shanghai (China), New Delhi (India) and San Francisco (US)
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): I will be going to Prague. And there is a week long agenda where we meet different companies operating there
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): San Francisco is an option for international students who can't leave the US due to visa issues
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Typically the list of companies include local companies, and US companies operating in the region to get multiple perspectives on how business is conducted differently
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): We have company visits, group meetings with executives where they share their insights with the students.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: thanks for sharing in detail moulik.
Jay T	Jay T: Thx everyone. You've been great. Is there an evenue through which we can ask further questions should the need arise?
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): Then there are cultural events planned which showcase the local culture, which is quite interesting if one has never experienced a different environment
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): You are very welcome Sathya
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: I have worked with Hewlett packard in prague. Its a wonderful place.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): You can e-mail smealmba@psu.edu. Additionally, I am available at sld138@psu.edu

ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): Sathya- Not sure which companies we will visit in Prague but I look forward to global immersion trip! And it's good that you had international exposure.
sathya.narayanan	sathya.narayanan: Thanks cecilia, i hope you have a good time as well :)
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): We have a few minutes left to take questions--what else can we answer for you?
Jay T	Jay T: Thx again. I'll be starting my application later today. Thx Akshay, Cecilia, Moulik. It's 2 am where i am, so i guess this is it. Goodnight.
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Great--thanks for joining us Jay
Jay T	Jay T: My pleasure!!
ga	ga(Moulik-1st Year MBA): You're welcome Jay T. Good night and thanks for joining us.
ga	ga(Cecilia Tan): Good night Jay T.
Jay T	Jay T: 'Night
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): Good night
ga	ga(Stacey-MBA Admissions): 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.