

Incoming Student Chat	05/03/11 01:00 PM - 05/03/11 02:26 PM
------------------------------	--

Username	Message
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): Hello Pjayoub - Welcome to the Smeal Admissions Chat
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): How may we help you today?
ga	ga(Winston_2nd Year): Hello Simon, Welcome!
ga	ga(Ana_2nd Year): Hello Rounak, Happy Tuesday All!
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: Hello, every one!!
pjayoub3	pjayoub3: Hello
rounak	rounak: Hello
ga	ga(Robin_student services): Good Afternoon ~ please ask any questions you may have.
pjayoub3	pjayoub3: Ill start with a random question and it may save me the trip to the HUB. I am in State College and I was wondering if I could go to the HUB to get my student ID yet or would I have to wait until orientation begins?
ga	ga(Robin_student services): Not yet but certainly before orientation. We will need to ensure you are in the system as a matriculated student and we usually do that by mid-June. Great question and good to plan ahead.
pjayoub3	pjayoub3: Okay thanks Robin.
ga	ga(Ana_2nd Year): Hello ashauger, welcome to the chat
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): Hello Rounak...do you have any questions/queries that we could help answer?
ashauger	ashauger: Along those lines, I imagine we'll get more information towards the end of June about registering for courses? I know we don't have much choice - but we still need to actually register on e-lion, right?
rounak	rounak: Hi Akshay I had a question about the I-20 .. how long after finishing the online application can I expect DISA to mail the I-20?
ga	ga(Robin_student services): Actually the MBA Program will register you for your 1st year classes.
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: Does it is necessary to buy a car while studying in Smeal? or taking the bus is convenient for students?
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): Rounak - usually it takes about 2 to 4 weeks for DISA to process and mail your I20
ga	ga(Robin_student services): With regard to courses in the 1st year you will take the MBA core courses and then have the option to pick one or two elective courses in Module IV (2nd half of spring semester).

ga	ga(Ana_2nd Year): Well, Simonhsu..it depends on where you live. If you live walking distance I'll say it maybe not that useful to have a car. But if you live in an area where the buses run every hour or more spaced then it may be helpful to have a car
ga	ga(Winston_2nd Year): Hi Simon! I don't think it is necessary to buy a car in State College. The bus system is well developed here. Many students including myself take bus to school. I find it very convenience.
pjayoub3	pjayoub3: I am planning on purchasing a new laptop and was wondering what brand many of the students decide to purchase and do many of the students purchase their laptop through the Penn State Computer Store (it seems they are heavily favoring Apple on their website)?
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: Thanks Ana and Winston.
rounak	rounak: I have an existing laptop which meets the requirements but it was bought outside the U.S. Does that mean I have to buy a new one?
ga	ga(Robin_student services): We will be posting information to the admitted student site in the near future regarding laptop specifications. Students often purchase prior to arrival at Penn State. While the computer store may be favoring Apple, as a general rule, MAC laptops are not as prevalent in the MBA program. There is is not a huge support network for MACs and while students have made them work - it depends on your comfortable level.
ga	ga(Robin_student services): As long as a laptop meets the specifications which will be outlined shortly - it should be fine. We do not require students to purchase new laptops.
pjayoub3	pjayoub3: Okay great thanks.
rounak	rounak: Thanks Akshay and Robin
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: If I do not find a house now, can I fill the Smeal College as the contact address in U.S., while applying my F-1 Visa?
ga	ga(Robin_student services): The preference would be that you utilize the address for Global Programs at 410 Boucke Bldg; University Park, PA 16802
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: Thanks a lot Robin.
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): Hello Ellen...Welcome to the chat...How can we help you today?
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: While searching houses near PSU, I find some half-basement (lower-level) options of townhouse. Is there any risk if I choose to live in half-basement?
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): Hello Simon...There is no risk per se in a half-basement apartment. That said, the half-basement apartment might have less natural light and so its more of an individual preference question than a risk.

ga	ga(Scott_Admissions): Simon always keep your eyes on the smeal mba message board http://php.smeal.psu.edu/mba/forum/ . It is a great place to find opportunities to room with another mba student.
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: Many thanks Akshay and Scott.
ashauger	ashauger: I live in State College Simon and it seems like things pop up over the summer - so don't panic to get into a place. You can get on some wait -lists for professionally managed rentals and/or keep looking through the summer. I've known people to have last minute luck.
ellen	ellen: Hi Akshay and everyone, thank you all for this opportunity! Above all, I'd like to get some suggestion about how we international students get famaliarized with the life in smeal and State college. How many days before orientation date do you suggest that I arrive in SC?
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): Hey Ellen...Depends on whether you have your apartment squared away etc...Some students like to get here earlier to get a feel for the place and get to know the town. I would say that a week is sufficient for all purposes...please keep in mind though, that if you don't have your place locked down, you might need to get here earlier as that is a VERY busy season for real estate in State College and finding a place to live can take a while
ellen	ellen: and what I can do during this period to get myself better prepared for my future life there? Thanks! Sorry for the terrible speed...
ga	ga(Ana_2nd Year): Hi Ellen, I think you can prepare ahead by buying business suits and warm clothing in your country.
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: Thanks for your suggestion Ashauger.
ellen	ellen: Thank a lot Akshay and Ana! what is the lowest temperature in SC?
ga	ga(Robin_student services): Additionally Ellen you may want to visit the Admitted Student Website to see the variety of information we have posted that helps to acclimate you to the State College/University Park area so you begin to have a sense of your 'home' over the next two years.
ga	ga(Ana_2nd Year): In addition, try to google State College and read about the town, thing to do, and surrounding places you can visit. Also participate in our facebook app for admitted students so you can get acquainted with your classmates
ga	ga(Winston_2nd Year): Hey Ellen, my suggestion would be - get familiar with the environment, so you can better concentrate on your study once school starts.
ga	ga(Ana_2nd Year): http://apps.facebook.com/smealmba/enrolled/default.aspx , this is the address for the FB app

ga	ga(Robin_student services): The temperature can be very low in mid-winter at times but averages out. We have seen a low of -5 but that is rare.
ga	ga(Scott_Admissions): Ellen, you can get an idea for the rough temperatures here http://www.weather.com/weather/wxclimatology/monthly/graph/USPA1575
ga	ga(Winston_2nd Year): This link might be helpful to know about the temperature, as well as the town: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_College,_Pa
ellen	ellen: Sorry, I was offline just now. Thank you all for the wonderful advice!
ga	ga(Scott_Admissions): Doesn't anyone have any more questions? It's so rare we such great minds in the same place at once.
ellen	ellen: Besides, I'd like to know sth about the student association/club. Usually how many associations/clubs an MBA student would attend and how much time will be spent for their activities? And any recommendation for the associations/clubs?
ellen	ellen: -_-.... I am so sorry and embarassed by my speed...
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): Ellen - Most students belong to two or more associations. Pretty much everyone is a member of the MBAA. Students then choose to become member(s) of the functional association of their choice depending on their schedules. Usually you can expect to spend between 1-2 hrs per week on association events. Of course if you choose to become (and are elected!) an officer of any association, then the time commitment is much higher
ellen	ellen: I got to know from the internet that PSU is one of famous party school. how many parties do MBA students usually have? and what do you do?
ellen	ellen: Thanks for the information Akshay
ellen	ellen: Robin, may I ask for airport pick-up service if I arrive in SC around July 31?
ga	ga(Robin_Student Services): Dear Ellen, The best means of transportation upon arrival at the airport is the local taxi service. Taxis are very reasonably priced and often are there awaiting passengers. You should not have any difficulty to secure service.
ga	ga(Akshay_2nd Year): Hey Ellen - although MBA students do enjoy socializing (especially after some VERY hectic weeks!), they don't usually "PARTY" a lot. For one, MBAs don't have the time not to mention the fact that MBA students are very cognizant about their 'social' and 'professional' reputation(s) and so prefer not to go all out in social situations.
ellen	ellen: :-) I see. Robin. Thanks
ga	ga(Robin_Student Services): You are welcome Ellen.

ga	ga(Scott_Admissions): Well we are getting ready to wrap things up here in a minute or two. Are there any final questions that need answered before we sign off?
ellen	ellen: Time is exactly what I am most concerned. Thanks a lot for the info, Akshay.
ellen	ellen: No more question from me. Thank you all so much for the advice and info!
Simonhsu	Simonhsu: No more questions now. Many thanks you all.
ashauger	ashauger: Thanks for your help. Sounds like we'll be hearing more in June/July about next steps. Enjoy your week!
ga	ga(Scott_Admissions): Ok. Thank you all very much and we look forward to seeing you this fall. email us anytime at smealmba@psu.edu.
ga	ga(Robin_Student Services): Good bye Everyone -- looking forward to meeting you in the fall.