

Username	Message
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): 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?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Hello Vitalina,welcome to our chat!
Vitalina	Vitalina: ??Hi! Looks like I am the first one :)
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Yep :)
Vitalina	Vitalina: Thanks Jingwen.
booboo	booboo: ??Hi everyone!
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	Welcome recent participants.?? Please ask any questions you may have.
Vitalina	Vitalina:
	While we ae waiting for everyone to find the codes, could you elaborate a bit on the first year: impressions, workloa, etc?
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: ??Hi everyone, Great to see you all.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Hi Vitalina, do you have any questions for us today?
btay8383	btay8383: ??Hello everyone, Biko Taylor here...
booboo	booboo: What happens during the two weeks of orientation?
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: hello every one , I am Vaibhav from India
booboo	booboo: by the way, I am Adina Craiut :)
ga	ga(Paari First Year): ??Hi Biko, How are you today?
booboo	booboo: from Romania
btay8383	btay8383: i'm great Paari, thank you
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Orientation will be very busy.?? We begin with some intro activities but there will be about 12 hours of pre-term accounting, assimilation to Penn State and the surrounding community, laptop set-up, access and id details, Career Services workshops,?? -- all activitites are required.
Vitalina	Vitalina: hello everyone, I am Alina Pospelova, from Norway-Russia :)
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Hi Vaibhav, welcome to the chat!
booboo	booboo: thanks, Robin!
btay8383	btay8383:

	welcome Viitalina, Vaibhav and Adina
	??
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Vitalina: my impression of Smeal MBA program is pretty good. As a international student, we had really nice environment to get to know another culture. The workload in first year is challenging, but you will still be able to handle them as long as you utilize your time wisely.:)
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): ?????????????? ??????????????????!
booboo	booboo: will I have the time during these two weeks to go shopping for a new laptop?
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Orientation also includes honor and integrity activivties relating to the Honor Code at Smeal.?? There are opps. as well to mix and mingle with 2nd years and of course, a culminating activity at which you will learn who your team mates will be for the fall semester.
Michael Shi	Michael Shi: ??Hi, I'm from Shanghai, China. Good to c u all.
booboo	booboo: I see; so I will also meet my team; it sounds great!
Vitalina	Vitalina: Sounds like a very busy week, orientation, and the 1st day is the 7th of August, right?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi Michael Shi, good to see you here! Feel free to ask any questions.
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	If possible, you will want to arrive with a laptop rather trying to make the purchase upon arrival.?? Many of the activities start with laptop activities.?? We will be posting some details with regard to minimum requirements for laptops.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Vitalina: You should be here on campus on the 7th August.
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Orientation is definitely very busy, especially because a lot of us are still moving in and getting used to the town - but it's a lot of fun, too. ??We have a lot of events planned to help you get to know your classmates, and it's structured to make sure you have a great time, too! ??We spend time doing a scavenger hunt around campus to learn the area, take a day to visit a nearby park and do teambuilding exercises, and do a bunch of other related activities as well.

Vitalina	Vitalina: sounds great, can't wait for august :)
booboo	booboo: it sounds great!
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Vitalina, that's correct - you should be here by August 7th.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: ??Hello everyone ! Congrats to everyone for their admit... Sorry for joining in a bit late... Good to interact with other admitted students as well... :)
booboo	booboo: how are the classes dispersed throughout the week?
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Team, post orientation, will we be having classes on all the weekdays in the first semester?
Vitalina	Vitalina: but before we can come to the orientation, if i have an question regarding the I-20, whom should I bother? ISS=
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions):
	Vitalina,
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): You will attend class Monday-Thursday.?? While classes are these 4 days do not anticipate that Friday's are free.?? There are lots of team activities, Executive Insights, projects, small group interactions with executives, etc.
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Hi booboo, classes run from Monday through Thursday, from 8 AM to 12:30 PM. ??You'll generally have a lot of work, community events, team meetings, and organization activities to keep you busy outside of class, so weeks tend to be busy but a lot of fun.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): I believe you emailed me on this already? I will definety get back to to you this afternoon. You will need to talk with Global Programs I will give you the name of your point of contact
booboo	booboo: thank you Robin and Ron!
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Hi Jimmy, Welcome to the admissions chat!
Vitalina	Vitalina: Thanks Scott!
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Sorry again for the delay in response. It has been a crazy week!
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	Hi Michael
booboo	booboo: Scott, I have the same questions like Vitalina has. I already sent an email to ISS but no answer yet!

vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: I have been hearing about lots of options regarding accomodation. What do you think is preferable on-campus or off. Also, if offcampus , it will be great if you can give me some pointers to do some research before landing there
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Thanks Paari... how's the first year going for you?
Vitalina	Vitalina: No problem Scott! And yes, booboo is right, it feels like ISS doesnt reply )
Michael Shi	Michael Shi: Hi Robin, good to see you here. I'm wondering if there's any student club about photography, I love it and I don't want to drop it due to the busy curriculum.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): booboo, I know ISS can take a while. Is it a general question or one specific to your individual case? If it is more general you can email it to me and I may be able to track down an answer for you.
Vitalina	Vitalina: Are there any sports clubs? I play tennis and was wondering if i can keep on doing it while I a in PA
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Hi Michael,???? There isi probably a student club within the University that you could join.?? Also, some students have taken introductory classes such as photography but that tends to be in the 2nd year rather than the 1st year.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Vaibhav... let me help you a bit on that since I'm from India and I've done a bit of research on accomodation... As per my investigations 2 off campus apartments look pretty convincing for me: 1. Vairo Village and 2. Parkway Plaza.
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Team, What kind of role one shall anticipate in??GA work?
Michael Shi	Michael Shi: Sounds great
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: I'm actually looking for a room-mate to book a housing...
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Vaibhav, there are a lot of options when it comes to??accommodation; please visit the admitted students site to see some of the available options and also see ones which tend to be??preferred??by MBA students
booboo	booboo: Scott, there are a few general questions about the whole process regarding the financial documentation I have to send in order to have my I-20 and paperwork issued
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Vaibhav, housing tends to be nicer (and in many cases, cheaper) the further you get from campus. ??However, there are a lot of advantages to living on or close to campus. If you don't have a car, living within walking distance of campus is highly recommended - I'm doing that this year, and it's very convenient.

vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: oh great Jimmy, I guess you can send me the details about the place and we can handle it offline.
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	GA work ranges from teaching undergraduate sessions to research projects to administrative work.?? Assignments are handled during the summer months.
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Jimmy, first year has been a great experience so far. It is a lot of work, and a lot of fun.??
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: I have a question regarding the housing in Vairo village. I hear that there are a lot of members from the Indian community... my concern is, if I stay in a place like there, will I miss out on the diversity factor??
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: Thanks Robin
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: (sorry for the specific question)
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): booboo I can try to answer them here if not I may need the afternoon to do a little research and track you down an answer
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Vitalina: Unfortunately there is no tennis club in MBA program. However, you won't find it hard to get any good tennis players to play with.??
Vitalina	Vitalina: Ron, can i jump a bit ahead of time (for myself) and ask about your graduation, you are done soon (ish), how is it going with job search? i hope the prospects re better than last year
booboo	booboo: vitalina, I can play tennis with you; I am no pro, but I love it! :)
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	Additionally for those looking for housing - you are encouraged to secure your housing early.?? There is information on the Admitted Student Website - including a list of housing, on- and off-campus options and as well options with regard to other resources for seeking housing.
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): We also have an undergraduate tennis club, and a lot of our students organize a variety of regular sports matches (including tennis!) within the MBA community.
Vitalina	Vitalina: Thanks Jingwe and great booboo! i was wonderin if?? sould pack my racet :D

Michael Shi	Michael Shi: Jingwen, for Chinese students, do they cook everyday or go eat outside, how's the food there? I'm not good at cooking.
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: @booboo and @vitalina : count me in too?? for tennis
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Jimmy, there are a number of MBA students at Vairo Village. You will be able to experience a lot of diversity within the MBA class, the MBAA has many events that will allow you to learn cross culturally.??
booboo	booboo: Scott, I think it would be better if you would give your email address and I will write you. What do you say?
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Robin, am I correct in saying that it is better to take a 12 year lease starting from August? or will there be housing available where the lease starts at the start of September?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions):
	booboo sure you can email me directly at ssylves@psu.edu.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Michael: I think the answer for dining is : it depends. Because of the busy schedule in the first mods, most of us have no time to cook everyday. Some students purchase the meal plan from school so that they can have meals within \$10 per day. It is really helpful for busy MBAs.
amna.shahid.malik	amna.shahid.malik: ??I am glad to see that I am not the only one who the International Student Services hasn't replied to! I have sent like 4 mails to them so far!
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Ok Paari... I'm really looking forward to gain a good first hand experience of the American way of life. :)
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	The State College apartments typically require a 12-month lease.?? Here is the link to the Admitted Student site. <a href="http://mbastudents.smeal.psu.edu/admitted-students">http://mbastudents.smeal.psu.edu/admitted-students</a>
booboo	booboo: Thank you , Scott!
Michael Shi	Michael Shi: that's not expensive at all.

ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Vitalina, that's correct - I'll be graduating in just four weeks! ??And because I am my class's VP for Academic Affairs and Student Relations, I'm working very closely with Robin and other program staff to plan our graduation ceremony. ??Job prospects are looking fairly good for my class, and I'm currently talking with two companies: ??VWR (a transportation firm in West Chester, PA) and Applied Research Labs (a Penn State affiliate that does major defense contracting with the US Navy and designs the propulsion systems for all of their torpedoes, submarines, boats, and the like).
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): I'm a supply chain major with a focus in transportation, and so these two companies are great fits for what I'm looking for.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Scott, I still haven't received the admissions package... and I've decided to contact the ISS for getting my I-20 without that... I hope that is fine, right?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Michael, yes, it's not. You can check it out on psu.edu, search "Meal Plan
	"
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Housing agreements usually start in August.?? You may need to negotiate for an earlier lease start date so that you can settle prior to the start of orientation -- so by August 7th.
Vitalina	Vitalina: Sounds great Ron, good luck with that! What's the geographical span students are looking into? East coast?
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: great Ron, Can you also tell me about the job fairs and their locations and frequency and how helpful have they been to students in recent years
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Jimmy you should have received a packet by now, I will try to find out why you have not. Nothing of much importance in the packet. It is no problem to move forward without it. Your first step should be if you havent to complete the Visa Application and Financial Guarentee Statement and send them to Global Programs.
booboo	booboo: When do we have to pay the student activity fees?
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	As an extension to Vaibhav's/Vitalina's question, has the placement scenario opened up??for international students as compared to last year?
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):

	The orientation fees will be assessed at the beginning to the semester.?? However the other student activity fees assessed by the University will appear on your fall semester bill - usually released in mid-July.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Also one key thing that Global Programs has initiated this year is they will not process an i-20 until a student is enrolled. This is a new policy for this year. Therefore you can send your documents in, but they will not start the process until you have enrolled.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Mehul, Could you elaborate?
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Vitalina, our students go all over the place. ??Some of us stay in the united states, but we go all over the place - west coast, east coast, midwest, down south, and so on. ??A lot of us go overseas, too - some of us are international students going home, some of us are domestic students who want to live and work abroad for a few months or a few years, and some of us just want to work in a new place. ??We have students going to Prague,??Kazakhstan, Russia, India, China, and throughout Europe. ??It's safe to say that if you want to find a job in a particular country, we can help you find your way there. :)
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Vaibhav: I can add to Ron's response. There are a number of career fairs and they have been very helpful to the MBA students in the past. There are two supply chain career fairs held in the business building specifically for Smeal students. There is also a university wide career fair held in the Bryce Jordan center. Some of our MBA's have also visited national MBA career fairs such as the National Black MBA career fair, and the Hispanic MBA career fair. Our students have had??success at these career fairs.???
amna.shahid.malik	amna.shahid.malik:
	Scott - I have a question along similar lines - My father is a permanent resident but is not currently living in the US, thus do I need for him to send in an affidavit or fill form I-134?
	??
booboo	booboo: Thank you, Robin!
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Ok Scott, I will be enrolling soon... currently in the process of arranging my Financial Guarantee Statement...
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: Sure Scott. Last year, I think the placement scenario for international student wasn't so great, not just in Smeal, but all throughout the United States. Has it improved this year?
Vitalina	Vitalina:

	Great perspectives Ron, thanks! ))
vaibhavamehrotra	vaibhavamehrotra: thanks Ron and paari
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Amna, I am afraid you will have to forward that question onto me at my email and I will have to find an answer for you.
abhishek	abhishek: ??Hi Mr Scott, I am Abhishek
amna.shahid.malik	amna.shahid.malik: Sure - will do so
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Hello Abhishek
Vitalina	Vitalina: one is enrolled when??one confirms the offer?
	??
abhishek	abhishek: I am still waiting for the letter of offer and instructions
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: I have a question to Ron... how has the market been this year... has it been easy on the MBA students who were trying to switch careers using an MBA, has everyone found employment?
booboo	booboo: Being awarded a GA, will I receive my monthly stipend even if we are on holiday?
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Placement continues to remain steady.?? It seems that there is less concern that the H1B cap will be met as early as in year's past.?? Many international students are looking at placement outside the US
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Jimmy, most of my classmates are career switchers, and the market has been fairly good for us so far. ??A small handful of people did end up changing their minds and returning to their former industries (although at different companies), but most of us have not.
abhishek	abhishek:
	Mr Scott, When can I expect the final verdict regarding financial assistance?
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Hi BooBoo,?? Stipends are paid on a 10-month basis and assistantship checks are issued on the last working day of the month.?? First-year GAs work a 10-hour per week basis.?? The stipends is based on 15-weeks per semester.
Michael Shi	Michael Shi: I have the same question with abhishek
abhishek	abhishek: The Global program office is not answering
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Abhishek, I had a conversation with Ann Mallison regarding the same. You can expect the last date for knowing if you have financial aid is around April 23rd

Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Abhishek, All Financial awards have been distributed at this time. A very small amount will become open and sent out again by approximately the 20th of April at the latest.
booboo	booboo: Thank you, Robin!
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: I stand corrected. :)
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott- I am really at a loss how to proceed further
vaibhavamhrotra	vaibhavamhrotra: Scott, Is?? there any thing I can do to improve my chances to be awarded with fin. assistance
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott- I would like to request you if you may kindly let me know whether I am in the race of financial assistance or not?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Jimmy no you are correct, I mistyped. Sorry for the confusion. It is the 23rd, but like I said it is highly unlikely because only a very small amount of aid will become available.
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	For the I-20, do we need to send the financial documents by mail only.. or we can scan and email??those.
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott my query is same as that of Mehul
Vitalina	Vitalina: i have a curriculum question. in mod 1, for example, we have 5 classes. time is distributed evenly among all 5, or do we have 'majors' an 'minors'?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): All decisions on Financial Aid are made by the Admissions committee. There is no way to improve ones chances at this time. The committee makes decisions on a meeting basis when it becomes available. There is no list or ranking system and every candidate whether enrolled or not is considered.
booboo	booboo: If I choose to self-design my concentration, should I start working on that with some one from Smeal before August 7th?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): You will need to send a hard copy, but if you would like to scan and email a copy to Global Programs as well, it cannot hurt the process
vaibhavamhrotra	vaibhavamhrotra: ok , Thanks Scott. I have my fingers crossed :)
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: Thanks Scott.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Vitalina: I think most of us spent almost evenly time among all 5 classes. But of course, since there are some students from accounting or other relevant background, they may spend less time in a certain course.
Vitalina	Vitalina:
	ok, thanks )

ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Vitalina: From Mod 4, which is the last mod in your first year, you will be able to choose your own elective course, which will be your major.
abhishek	abhishek:
	Mr Scott- I appreciate you patience- however my query about the global program office remain unanswered
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Hi booboo,?? Typically devising a customized concentration will begin after your arrival at Smeal.?? However, you can begin to search possibilities that may exist at Penn State with regard to courses.?? If you have an idea as to what that concentration will entail - you can begin a general search for courses in Penn State.??
Scott	Scott(SCott MBA Admissions): Abhishek, Im sorry I thought I had answered. Which question was yours again?
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Considering the August 7th start date, how many days prior to 7th August, you think we shall plan to??reach Smeal???
970029577	970029577:
	??Hi everyone, my name is Phuong-Anh.
	??
	??
abhishek	abhishek:
	I hav yet to receive any communication from your global program office and Mr John has not replied- i am awaiting further instruction as to how to proceed?
booboo	booboo: Robin, I don't know if I understood correct, but are you saying I can chose courses outside Smeal in order to customize my concentration? If yes, will these courses be covered by the GA?
beccal	beccal: ??Hi all, I am Becca from Beijing, china. Good to c all of u
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): 970029577, Welcome to the chat!
970029577	970029577: Can I ask you when I should start finding an internship position for summer?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi Beccal, welcome~ Is there any question you want to ask us:)

ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	Plan to arrive by August 7th at the latest.?? A few days prior may help you settle into your housing and to start to become familiar with the area.
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Hi Becca - Welcome
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott I could only book my air ticket on 10 Aug 2010- will it be Ok?
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Becca, Welcome to the admissions Chat!
beccal	beccal: I have the same internship
	question with 970029577
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Thanks Robin
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: What subjects you would suggest me to prepare about before the orientation/course begins.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Abhishek, First of all I am afraid to tell you that the process will continue to move slowly at times. I am afraid that is unavoidable. Like I mentioned once you send in your Visa Application and financial documents they will begin to process your i-20.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): 970029577 and Becca: We started our internship hunting right away. The earliest on campus recruiting starts in September.
	ber.
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Approximately, how long does it take for ISS to prepare I-20 and send it to us after they successfully receive our documents.
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Dear Abhishek,?? You should work on having your flight changed so that you can arrive by the 7th if at all possible.?? You will find that orientation is extremely busy and arriving even a few days late could prove frustrating for you as you try to 'catch-up.'
970029577	970029577:
	Could u tell me when
abhishek	abhishek:
	Thanks Mr Scott, I would like to know if its Ok that I arrive at State College on 10 Aug and then attend the familirization process?

970029577	970029577: could you tell me where I can buy food and clothes at cheap prices?
970029577	970029577: thsss Jingwen!
beccal	beccal:
	Sep,??sounds like??we need to get prepared ASAP
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Mehulpathak, it can be very helpful to brush up on accounting and statistics as they tend to be the most challenging classes in the Fall semester, and we recommend that our students make sure they are familiar with Excel before classes begin as well.
abhishek	abhishek: I am trying to?? fix my living accomodation
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: For students who havent received financial aid or assistantships, what other opportunities are available in the campus to work part-time?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Mehul, again I am afraid it is impossible to say. The actual process doesn't take as long, but because they hadle all International issues for an entire campus of over 40,000. It does often take a while for your "turn in line" to come.
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Thanks Ron.
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): You're welcome :)
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): 970029577& Becca
	: I think you will receive letters from Career Service before you come here. Start to work on your resume and your career plan as soon as you receive their suggestions.
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Becca and 970029577: We started preparing for internship search before we came to Smeal. The Career services team will send you a 'PCS' document that will help you get started.??
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: Thanks Scott, the message I understand is sooner we send the documents is the better !!
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Abhishek, I am afraid that arriving that late will not work. First of all you would miss key events during orientation and you would have no time to move in, shop, and even slightly recover from jetlag.
beccal	beccal:
	Ok, thanks jingwen

booboo	booboo: Scott, if we send scanned copies and then hard copies in the mail, will this speed up the process?
970029577	970029577: thsss P
	aari
Vitalina	Vitalina: yes, that's strange that we have to send in hard copies, i understood from my talk with global office that sans are fine as well?
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott, Since it may not be possible for me to change my flight plans, May I request you to let me know whether I may join the orientation process??on 11 Aug or not?
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Jimmy, from time to time hourly positions as graders or part-time research positions become available. ??These don't provide any tuition reimbursement, but they do offer a way to make some extra money. ??In addition, some students do pick up part-time jobs at local businesses (cashiers, waiters, sales assistants, etc.); regardless of what you do, we strongly recommend not working longer than ten hours per week in your first year, and no longer than twenty hours per week in your second year. ??You will probably find that a lot of your time is devoted to coursework each week.
beccal	beccal: and I have a question about housing, I do understand the MBA study will be very busy and stressful, so I wonder which is a better choice? live in campus or off campus? Is it easy to schedule a campus apartment? Will it be very competitive?
booboo	booboo: Thanks, Ron! This is good info for me too!
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): booboo, it certainly could not hurt. This is for the financial documents. Also if possible include your 9 digit PSU ID # in your email to Global Programs.
booboo	booboo: Is State College bike friendly?
970029577	970029577: I have enrolled in the program and deposited \$1000, I also sent my hard copies of bank balance confirmation in my application package. So will the ISS send me the I-20 soon or do I have to do anything else to get the form sent to me???????
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: Can we carry our own laptop? also if yes, will Smeal be formatting our laptop to install smeal specific image?
ga	ga(Paari First Year): Abhishek: from a student perspective, it is very hard and almost implausible to catch-up if you come in late. I would strongly encourage that you rebook your tickets. You will find orientation has a lot of??valuable information and prepares you for the first year of your MBA.????
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	Hi booboo - State College is bike friendly - there are many bike trails that bring you to campus.?? The only time that would be difficult to travel by bike would be during the winter months.

ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Hi Becca: Yes, you are right you definitely should choose a quite apartment. You can check out the housing information on the "Admitted Students" websites.?? There is a rich list of apartments and comparisons between them. And we suggest you to start house hunting as early as possible.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): 970029577, Yes that is correct, they will alert you if there are any issues if not they will send you your i-20.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Thanks Ron
booboo	booboo: Thanks, Robin!
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott, Since it may not be possible for me to change my flight plans, May I request you to let me know whether I may join the orientation process??on 11 Aug or not? I have same question as Mehul- i will bring my own laptop too.
970029577	970029577: oh thss scott.
booboo	booboo: Thanks, Scott! But I do not know my 9 digit PSU ID #. Whom should I ask for it?
beccal	beccal:
	OK I see, Thanks Jingwen
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): The University will send you the information via email or through a letter.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: I'm not yet in the process of booking air-tickets, I'm first figuring out the how to arrange finances and the visa application process. Shouldn't booking of the air-ticket wait until I receive my Visa??
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Paari- I am sure I will catch up- what I am asking is whether its permissible? I searched the sites and am not able to find any flight.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: oh Abhishek. Then I might also face the same problem !
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Jimmy: I think so, considering the price of the air ticket.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions):
	booboo, you can email me for that information

booboo	booboo: I officially enrolled and payed the \$1,000 deposit. Do I have to send any additional papers regarding my acceptance of the admission offer?
booboo	booboo: Thank you, Scott!
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Booboo: You don't need to send an additional papers.
booboo	booboo: Thanks, Jingwen!
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott and Paari- I would only like to know whether I may join Smeal on 11 Aug or not?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): booboo once you have completed the enrollment form and paid the \$1,000 you are enrolled.
970029577	970029577:
	I am wondering if there are very few internship positions for us in the college town. Do we have to go very far from the college to find internship positions?
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Could an international student help us on how they proceeded with their visa applications and air-ticket booking... any blogs available to help us??
booboo	booboo: Good to hear this, Scott! :)
abhishek	abhishek: For Mr Scott ans Paari-
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Hi 970029577: Yes, there will be some internship positions, such as PNC.
abhishek	abhishek: Satet Coillage is not on world map- we got to come to New York or Newark and the go there- the flight schedule is tight from India
booboo	booboo: Is there any organized transportation from big airports (NYC, DC) around arrival dates that Penn State offers?
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Team, no intentions to rush you but I think my question got missed. Let me put that down again..Can I carry my own laptop? If yes, will Smeal format my laptop to load a Smeal specific image?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Jimmy: I am an international student. I think as long as you finished your visa application in US Embassy in your country, you can start to book the ticket during the period you're waiting for them to mail it back to you.
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: Thanks Mehul for pointing out .Even I would prefer to carry my own laptop
amna.shahid.malik	amna.shahid.malik:

	Jingwen, approximately how long does it take for the I-20 to be issued once all required documents are submitted?
	??
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: how early would you advise us to do that? considering it's April mid... could someone help us with some time-frames for completing each step to ensure that we are on the safe side.
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	Many of our students do arrive at other locations and then use other modes of transportation to arrive at University Park.
970029577	970029577:
	Thanks Jingwen. Could you name some other places where we can find internship positions ?
booboo	booboo: Will the class calendar be available before August 7th?
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Abhishek -- I received your message via email yesterday so let's continue this conversation off-line from the chat.?? I will be in touch concerning your inquiry about arrival at Penn State.
abhishek	abhishek: Robin -thanks
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Mehulpathak, you can definitely carry your own laptop. ??In fact, we don't offer any specific Smeal laptops, and we don't have our own software image that we need to load onto your machine, so there's no need to worry about us reformatting / reinstalling your operating system. ??From time to time classes will require you to install course-specific software such as Minitab, SPSS, Decision Tools, and so on, but you can purchase that at our on-campus computer store for a significant discount. ??As long as your computer can run Windows Vista or 7, you should be just fine.
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): For others, on average 30% of our incoming class comes from an international location and have had few issues or problems in securing flights that allow them ample time to arrive for orientation.?? Key is planning to arrive early.
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Thanks Ron.

ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Most of our software is Mac - compatible as well, but not all of it is. ??If you have a Macintosh laptop, you'll want to have windows installed either via Boot Camp, Parallels, or VMWare.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Hi Amna, the answer will be it depends :) Because there is a seperate department on campus taking care of the I-20 and international students visa issue, and as you all know, it is the hottest season for students recruiting, they have huge work load. But, there is one thing for sure, now is still early enough for you to wait for a couple of days.
970029577	970029577: I am sorry to ask you again
	about the places we can buy cheap food and things for our lives.
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	When is the GA role decided and communicated to the candidate. Just to clarify the question, during the financial assistance results, candidate will come to know that he/she has received GA. When will s/he come to know what role s/he gonna play?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions):
	970029577, WalMart is relativly nearby, 5 minutes by car. They have everything you could need. There also a few markets and shops just off campus as well.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Jimmy: I suggest you to book your ticket as soon as you receive/ apply your visa.
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott- I am afraid my question remains unanswered- can I come and start my program orientation on 11 Aug 10?
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): We are planning orientation over the next few weeks and anticipate that we will have more complete details posted to the admitted student site.??
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: Well , adding to the GA part.?? What are the opportunities in 2nd year for GA
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Thank you, Jingwen
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Abhishek - Robim will speak with you offline via email about this issue. Expect to hear from her sometime tomorrow.
970029577	970029577: thank you , Scott
booboo	booboo: Will the class calendar be available before August 7th?

ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services): Hi Mehulpathak - GA assignments will be made over the summer and will be communicated once decided.
ga	ga(Ron Second Year): Vaibhav, there are about 5-7 GA opportunities that will open up in your second year. ??It can be challenging to get a GA in your second year because a lot of people will want one, but it is doable - I got one in my second year.
Vitalina	Vitalina: I have a question about Christmas break. Do we actually have it? :) If yes, how long? i was wondering if i can plan a visit home
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: You just asked what was on my mind, Vitalina.
970029577	970029577: where can i find an apartment at a affordable??price that is near the campus ?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi Booboo, please check the following link, it is the calendar for last year, is this what you are referring to?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Vitalina, Yes you do and it typically is about 1 month long. Mid December to Mid January.
vaibhavamehrotra	vaibhavamehrotra: Guess I will have to work hard and take some tips from you.... Thanks Ron :)
amna.shahid.malik	amna.shahid.malik:
	Thanks Jingwen
	??
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Here comes the link for Calendar: <a href="http://mbastudents.smeal.psu.edu/academic-resources/0910acal2.pdf">http://mbastudents.smeal.psu.edu/academic-resources/0910acal2.pdf</a>
booboo	booboo: Scott, about the Christmas break, are there any required activities during this period, or we can schedule a visit back home, as Vitalina said?
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	When are we suppose to pay the fees? I mean the program Fees, Global Immersion one etc? I did not specifically ask about tution, because I have a GA, but would be nice if you can elaborate on tution payment plan as well.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Hi Guys, here is the link for HOUSING INFORMATION : <a href="http://mbastudents.smeal.psu.edu/admitted-students/housing-information">http://mbastudents.smeal.psu.edu/admitted-students/housing-information</a>

booboo	booboo: Thank you, Jingwen! Will this year's calendar look similar?
ga	ga(Robin MBA Student Services):
	You will be billed for the program fees - orientation fees at the beginning of the fall semester; Global Immersion at the beginning of the spring semester.?? Once you know of your GA assignment that area will work with you to process your paperwork and subsequently you will be able to indicate to the Bursar that you have received an assistantship.?? This process will not take place until July.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: I had a query regarding the Financial Guarantee declaration... Is it fine if we show that amount in the account of an immediate family member or do we need to have that money in our bank accounts itself??
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Booboo That break is your time. You can do with anything you would like including a visit home
booboo	booboo: Thanks, Scott!
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Jimmy an Immediate Family member will be sufficient.
booboo	booboo: Besides the \$1,700 fee for Global Immersion Week, what are the other approximate expenses?
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): hi Booboo: I would say travel fees including tickets or car rental fees,?? extra living fees if you stay in your destination for another several days.
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	An extension to Jimmy's question.. do we need last 6 month's bank statement, or a letter from bank on its letter head stating the total amount of fund available as on today??is fine? ofcourse that date (today) is in the proximity and not an old one.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Do we need to make a similar provision during the 2nd year as well? (Financial Guarantee declaration)
970029577	970029577:
	Is the bus system in the college town convenient for us to reach many places around?
booboo	booboo: Jingwen, and about what value do all these expenses add up?

ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): 970029577: Yes there are a lot of routes covering both campus and uptown areas. Check this Catabus website, and I believe you will get all bus information you need: <a href="http://www.catabus.com/">http://www.catabus.com/</a>
booboo	booboo: If it's not too personal (if yes, I apologize), what were your expenses and where did you go?
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Mehul, Please email me that question so I can reach out and confirm, but I believe one statement if enough.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Plus: There is a very cool website tells you the exact time of the current location of each bus: <a href="http://realtime.catabus.com/InfoPoint/">http://realtime.catabus.com/InfoPoint/</a>
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: Sure Scott, Thanks.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Jimmy you do not need to make provisions to show for your second year.
970029577	970029577: Thkss alot Jingwen. I will surely check them:)
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Booboo: Since we have different destinations, my budget may not be the standard one. I went to New Delhi, India for my global immersion. And since I stayed there for my spring break, I spent another \$1500 on both air tickets and travel there.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Could someone give me the link where I can find details about how the tuition fees must be made? could we break it in installments or is it a single payment per year?
amna.shahid.malik	amna.shahid.malik: Jingwen - How was the experience?
booboo	booboo: Ok! Thank you very much!
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions):
	Ok we are getting ready to wrap it up here as it is approaching 2:30pm we will answer these last several questions.
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Amna: I think it was fantastic. As future business leaders, it is always interesting and necessary to learn more about the global business dynamic in that specific country.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Jimmy, Email me that as well and I will attempt to find a link showing that information for you.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Scott, could you please include me as well in the communication with Mehul regarding how the financial statement should be prepared by the bank?
Vitalina	Vitalina: i think i asked all i wanted. would be great to hear back from you Scott :)
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:

	Since you all have processed your visas, one question, do we use the same statements/documents for visa and I-20, or visa processing will require me to take a fresh statement from bank. Considering that your I-20 and Visa happens in a maximum time gap of 2-2.5 months
abhishek	abhishek: Mr Scott, Thanks a ton- the chat has been very useful for me
booboo	booboo: Scott, please add me too on your corespondence with JimmyVM and Mehul (if this is no problem)
Vitalina	Vitalina: yes, thanks for all your efforts, great chat! and see everyone in august!
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Great to chat with you all guys!
booboo	booboo: regarding financial documentation
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Are we winding up? :)
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: Scott, please add me too to the same conversation
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year): Look forward to seeing you in Autumn!
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: jimmy please send me details abt accomodation
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions):
	Each of please email me and ask to be included in the answer and I will update all of you.
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: to me as well Jimmy if you dont have a problem (mehul.vjti@gmail.com)
Michael Shi	Michael Shi: I must be leaving, i'm too sleepy now. Thks for answering our questions.
Scott	Scott(Scott MBA Admissions): Thanks again and we will talk to you again and we hope to see all of you in the Fall!
Vitalina	Vitalina: bye everyone!
ga	ga(Jingwen First Year):
	Hi Guys, we are going to close this chat in 2 minutes.
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: vaibhvmehrotra05@gmail.com
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Vaibhav, please share your email address
booboo	booboo: Thank you all for your time and helpful answers!
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: ok
vaibhvmehrotra	vaibhvmehrotra: thnks so much for the session

ga	ga(Jingwen First 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.
booboo	booboo: I cannot wait for August!
mehulpathak	mehulpathak:
	Many thanks for your time friends.
JimmyVM	JimmyVM: Me neither. Look forward to meeting all of you soon. :)
abhishek	abhishek: Bye
mehulpathak	mehulpathak: Hope to meet you all soon.
booboo	booboo: Have a great day!