



## Tuck Dartmouth Live Chat Transcript - Aug 8, 2017

Stephanie Butler, Assistant Director of Admissions at Tuck



- **Tuck Class of 2020 (Full Time MBA) Discussion:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-tuck-dartmouth-applicants-2018-intake-class-of-241987.html>
- **Tuck Decision Tracker:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/tuck-194/app-tracker.html>
- **Tuck Reviews:** [https://gmatclub.com/reviews/business\\_school/tuck-10](https://gmatclub.com/reviews/business_school/tuck-10)

**Moderator:** Welcome Everyone! It's great to have you all in this live chat with Tuck Admission's Director. We are joined by Stephanie Butler, Assistant Director of Admissions at Tuck

Today Stephanie will answer your questions regarding applications, essays, interviews, and life at Tuck. Topic of today's chat is "Tips for Developing a Successful Application Strategy". I would request Stephanie to describe what key traits they find in successful applicants?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** Hi everyone! Thank you for attending the chat today--welcome! As Manbir mentioned, I'm Assistant Director of Admissions at Tuck. I evaluate applications, sit on the admissions committee, travel to recruit, and also work with our Tuck Student Ambassador program. Looking forward to your questions!

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** Key traits in successful applicants...first, it's important to remember that there is no "right" applicant profile. Everyone stands out for different reasons, and the evaluation process is truly holistic. We aim to craft a diverse class, across many different measures.

That said, successful applicants do share some traits after all! Successful applicants have taken the time to get to know themselves, their MBA motivations, and the programs they're targeting. Then, they present their story in a consistent and authentic way (authenticity is huge!). They also demonstrate an ability to lead as well as collaborate; have good interpersonal skills that will allow them to contribute; and embody Tuck's mission to develop wise leaders through the traits of empathy, confident humility, and good judgement.

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** Our MBA application is comprised of several data points--undergrad experience, test scores, work experience, community involvement, essays, letters of recommendation, interview. None more important than another. What really stands out about Tuck's application process is our interview policy, which shows out commitment to getting to know as many people as possible.

We encourage everyone to visit Tuck in Hanover, NH which during the active admissions season includes an official with an admissions rep. This is the only way to guarantee yourself this opportunity! It's also beneficial for you to get to know us as well. If you can't visit and initiate your own interview, it's possible we'll invite you to interview in person or via Skype after reviewing your application.

**Ak7597:** Hi stephanie, How can I make my essays stand out amongst others?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** The best way to do this is to do a ton of reflecting before writing them. Really know yourself, why you want an MBA (goals), what exactly the MBA can offer to help get you there, and the kind of program that will help you be your best self. Your story will then feel more complete, genuine, and compelling. Also, read our insider's guide to the essays on Tuck 360! Lots of good tips there :)

**mbablahblah:** Hi Stephanie! I think we're all interested in understanding how the admissions process may change with the new director... ie, more focus on GMAT, diversity, industry etc and how that should (should not) influence our thoughts on the process. Thanks!

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** Good question! First, we're incredibly excited that Luke has joined the team! He's still fairly new to Tuck and respectful of our current processes. He's learning all he can about Tuck and what we do, and will only slowly begin to put his stamp on it. We're looking forward to his fresh and expert perspective, but nothing drastic will be changing in the near future.

**SKas07:** Thanks Stephanie. What makes Tuck different from other schools? A lot of schools look for applicants with similar traits so if a potential student is able to demonstrate those traits successfully, why should he/she choose Tuck over others?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** Tuck offers a personal, connected, and transformative experience. It is not the place you should go if you're looking simply for a credential. Because of Tuck's smaller scale and location in Hanover there's a significant level of customization, individual attention, and access (to classmates, profs, staff, visiting execs, recruiters, ALUMNI). This immersive community means people really get involved, push themselves, give back, develop relationships. I'd be willing to bet that most Tuckies asked about what makes Tuck special will say the people!!

I should also mention that just because Tuck is in New Hampshire, it does NOT mean that you're isolated. There are several opportunities to learn and grow across the US and globally. (Look into TuckGO!)

**armineeh:** 1.Can you please advise what means applicant can contribute? 2.How to show traits of empathy, confident humility, and good judgement in the essay

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** You can demonstrate those traits in many different ways (and you don't need to explicitly mention those words--remember, authenticity is more valuable to us than regurgitating stuff we've told you.

**Wunmi:** Are there opportunities to take language courses as electives?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** When it comes to an elective course outside of Tuck, it's possible (with professor permission, etc.) though not always possible. Tuck's schedule is slightly different from Dartmouth's undergrad population. Plus, most people find that there are so many electives to take within Tuck that there's just no time. That said you can learn language in other ways too! Your international classmates are a great place to start :)

**guitarcop:** Can you mention some of the post-MBA opportunities for people coming from Energy background?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** We have an AWESOME center that focuses on energy. The Revers Center for Energy (like all our industry focused centers and initiatives) provides a pathway of learning and application. There are SEVERAL co-curricular opportunities through Revers, and they also create an effective off-

campus network to those already in the industry. Revers is led by April Salas, who is a huge resource. There's a post on Tuck 360 today that talks a little bit about Centers & Initiatives.

**manishgmat1:** hello Stephanie does entrepreneurial own start up in non conventional segments have bad impact on admission and does age matter ??

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** It's up to every applicant, whether they come from a "traditional" or "non-traditional" background to make the case for their work experience. More than your company, industry, or job title, we want to know the nature of your work, how challenging it is, how you have contributed, whether you've progressed, what you've learned, etc. It's no different for an entrepreneur, though it might require a more thorough description your company and where it's going.

Oh! No, age does not matter. It's the quality of your work experience, not the quantity. If you believe the MBA is the best next step for you, and now is the right time, make that case.

**piyushkabra:** (1) Do you count a full time internship experience in between full time work experiences as a positive for the applicant, if it was a relevant and impactful experience with regards to what I want to do in future. (2) If we are working in a family concern, for recommendations can we ask a business partner/Co-Founder/Another partner. I feel he/she might be able to give a better overview than a client, who would know my work only with regards to his/her assignments. (3) What kind of documents/transcripts do you check for certifications like CPA. Will a document proving that I have that certification do ?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** (1) Internships, particularly relevant ones, are absolutely a positive! (Though as I mentioned earlier they do not count as full-time work experience.) (2) Yes, anyone who is not related to you, and can speak in detail about your work experience and contributions. (3) Yes, that's fine. There's a question in the app that asks about additional certifications. Please note it there.

**bobthebuilder14:** Hello Stephanie. A few questions particular to the Indian Male Engineer pool: (1) Is it true that Indian/Chinese male applicants are expected to have 30-40 points above the average GMAT score? (2) Is there any difference in the R1 and R2 chances for in terms of admission and scholarships? (3) Is there any particular area that is closely looked at in the Tuck application? GPA, GMAT score, essays, work experience etc.?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** (1) No. We hold all demographics to the same high standard. 2) It's always best to apply when your application is at its strongest, but if you can get there for Round 1 (or Early Action at Tuck) then do it. Naturally there are fewer "seats" in the class and fewer scholarship dollars available as the season goes on. We don't admit quotas each round so are likely a little more generous earlier. 3) We look at it all and find everything important. Nothing is assigned a weight.

**rohit9999:** Hi Stephanie, Tuck has a specific Center for Private Equity/VC. Do a lot of Industry Leaders (Finance) visit the campus as visiting professors / in some way act as mentors for students at the Center?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** Yes, Tuck brings in many visiting executives across a variety of industries, often through relationships with our Centers. Some centers have formal mentorship programs and others will connect you informally. There is also an opportunity to sign-up to attend small group lunches and dinners with visiting executives (a HUGE advantage to having them in Hanover!).

**VeteranMom:** Just from an outsider's view, Stephanie, I'd probably agree. There's a special formula that Tuck is using and the number of loyal and dedicated alumni says it all.

**saagarvarma01:** I am an Indian applicant looking to break into the Silicon Valley post MBA working on for an entrepreneurial venture. I visited the Entrepreneurship Club on the website and noted a lot of dated updates rather than recent ones. Is it among the more active clubs on campus? Is the entrepreneurship vertical a focused concentration for the school overall?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** There are a lot of exciting things happening in the eship and PE space here at Tuck. I would spend some significant time looking at the Center for Private Equity and Entrepreneurship. Daniella, the executive director for the eship side of the center, came back to Tuck after a career in entrepreneurship. In addition to courses, there are visiting entrepreneurs, seminars, pitch workshops, case competitions, and incubator opportunities. The First Year Project is another way to dig into entrepreneurship. Finally, the center also collaborates often with DEN, the Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network. While not in Silicon Valley, the personal attention and hands on opportunities you'll have at Tuck make a great place to pursue eship. Not to mention the incredible strength of the alumni network, an invaluable resource.

**aalekhoza:** I had a quick question - Talking of work-experience, does a startup experience count as a valid work-ex when applying to b-schools in general, for example I have 3 years of work experience with my startup which I co-founded in 2014, which actually is a college campus company, I had taken care of operations and customer relationship management to be specific - I co-founded it when I was in my 2nd year of graduation, so will that really count as a professional work-ex because I was still in my college days? And not to forget, the company is not an incorporate entity, though I can provide official proofs that it is real, it existed and we made profits.

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** While we love seeing that initiative and drive, we do look at work experience as full-time, post-college. There's no magic number, but I'd suggest having at least 2 or 3 years under your belt.

**dave13:** You say you travel to recruit. where do you travel ? would you be interested to travel to Georgia :)

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** Tuck will definitely be in Atlanta this summer/fall! Check out our events page.

**lahsiv22:** Can someone apply directly for a PhD program?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** Tuck does not offer a PhD. In fact, the only degree program we have is the full-time, two year MBA. Dartmouth has PhD opportunities (and you can combine that with a Tuck MBA), but I would not be a good resource for those!

**mridulm1812:** By when should we expect the application and interview scheduling to be live?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** SOON! Thanks all for your patience. Since we want as many visitors as possible to have the opportunity to sit in on an actual class, our visit schedule is dependent on the class schedule...which sometimes takes longer than we'd like to straighten out :)

**Kunal135:** How much important is the pre-MBA work experience of the students is for the employers at the time of recruitment? What kind of work experience do the schools and employers generally looks for?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** It depends on which industry you're targeting, but often it's not coming in with a certain set of specific skills (you'll learn those at bschool!), but rather those softer skills and that fact that you have contributed to your company.

**dsmall:** For Winter Carnival, are students who are able to ski invited/encouraged to attend?

**mbsingh:** dsmall, I presume Winter Carnival is open to all admitted students.

**dsmall:** mbsingh, I know Tuck invites other students from other universities(MBA programs) as well, does this still hold true?

**mbsingh:** Yes close to 14 other Business schools participate in Winter carnival.

**Tom\_Lopez:** I am adjusting my application (after 10 years in the Army) for the program application. What exactly is the difference between the work resume and the MBA resume?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** An MBA resume doesn't need to be any different than the one you would send to an employer. As a veteran, don't over do it with jargon, acronyms, and terminology that we aren't familiar with (and therefore won't sell you as well).

**gorrak:** I realize Tuck has a very diverse student body in many ways, but what would you say are the qualities that everyone shares? How do you pick a Tuckie out of the crowd?

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** I'd say Tuckies are people who jump in, give back, work well with a diverse group of people, are genuine, nice, and humble.

**Angshuman1985:** Hi Stephanie, I understand GMAT score is not the only criteria to select an applicant for the interview but still what is the average/ minimum GMAT score would a candidate need for your school selection committee to move further?

**Moderator:** See the Tuck stats here... Avg GMAT score is 717 <https://gmatclub.com/forum/tuck-194/stats.html>

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** A great way to benchmark yourself is by referring to the class profile; <http://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/admissions/class-profile>. The class of 2018 had an average score of 717 and an 80% range of 680-750.

**Nikkb:** What all LOR is acceptable? If someone is in business and work with factory staff who is not very comfortable in english.. can language translated LOR's will be acceptable ?? Thanks

**Moderator:** Nikkb, To best of my knowledge it cannot come from your peers or people who report to you. Business colleagues who are not immediate family members are better suited to write you LOR's. And yes language translate LOR's with original letters are accepted.

Nikkb: In small family business you generally don't have business partners. So i thought might be my factory managers can help me with LOR.

**Moderator:** Nikkb, Anyone who works under you will not be able to give unbiased LOR. I would suggest talking to suppliers, companies you do business with.

**Kunal135:** Thanks Stephanie for your reply and thank-you GMAT club for organising this chat.

**Moderator:** Thanks everyone for participating in this chat today. Thank you very much, Stephanie, for spending time with us and answering applicants' questions.

Join Tuck discussion board to meet fellow applicants, exchange ideas/information, discuss application strategies, and share interview/admission updates <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-tuck-dartmouth-applicants-2018-intake-class-of-241987.html>

**StephanieTuckAdCom:** It was a pleasure to be here today! Good luck as the application process continues and I look forward to connecting again!

**Tuck Chat Session/Webinar Calendar** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-tuck-dartmouth-applicants-2018-intake-class-of-241987-20.html#p1864456>