

Putting the Finishing Touches on Your Round 1 Application

Text Chat | 9/24/2019

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
What does the Tuck admissions office look for from essay prompt #2 - "Tell us who you are". Do you expect to hear who we are from personal aspect or professional aspect or mixture of both?	There is no one correct approach to essay #2. You can choose to tell us a personal or professional story or one that blends the two. I would encourage you to use your authentic voice!
In the employment history section of the application, it asks for my last four employers - I've worked for the same employer/company since graduating undergrad (I've held several roles at the company), and listing 4 unique employers/companies would mean going back to my part time jobs in high school and college. Should I include those employers or only list my one full-time employer?	It is not necessary to list four if you have worked for the same company since graduation. The extra space is there as an option if applicants need it.
How important is the relative weighting between undergraduate activities and post-undergraduate activities in the application?	Thanks for your question. When we review your application we are looking holistically at your involvement and activities, there is not a specific weight assigned to undergraduate versus post-undergrad activities. We want to know how you were involved in your undergraduate community but also the passions and activities you have pursued in your post-graduate life adding this to the context of employment and the other data points in your application.
Will everyone reviewing our application see the entire application, i.e. does anything need to stand alone?	Admissions committee members reviewing your application will see the entire application. The one group that will only see a portion are the interviewers, who only get your resume.
Should the resume be in any particular format?	We don't have a preferred format but do recommend that applicants keep their resume to one page.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>What would be your word of advice for a reapplicant?</p>	<p>Take some time to reflect on your prior application and think about the areas where you could improve, then in your reapplicant essay tell us what you have identified and how you have strengthened those areas since the prior app.</p>
<p>In the ‘Other Education’ section where we’re meant to list any study abroad experiences we’ve had, would it be appropriate to provide a description of the experience (if there’s room), or are you simply looking for a list?</p>	<p>Just a list is fine!</p>
<p>Can you provide some tips for the Essay 2 (Tell us who you are)? why do you expect in this essay?</p>	<p>I realize that this is a very open ended question and that's the point! We would like you to put some good thought and reflection into your approach. Check out our Exec Director Luke's recent blog post about this essay: https://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/mba/blog/tuck-admissions-insights-application-essays</p>
<p>I love that your college offers the chance for all applicants to come and interview. However, as someone located on the West Coast I am trying to weigh how much importance you put on coming out to campus. Is this pre-interview something that you actively look for in applicants?</p>	<p>To clarify, this is not a pre-interview, it is your actual interview that we will use in our evaluation. You will not be invited for an additional interview if you initiate one yourself. We recognize that not all applicants are able to make the trip to Hanover to interview, so you can apply without interviewing and we will invite you to interview if we want to learn more about your candidacy. The value in the applicant initiated interview is that you guarantee yourself an interview rather than waiting to see if you are invited.</p>
<p>Given the short answers for the goals need to be concise in order to fit the word limit. Do we need to mention the specific companies we aim to recruit for or focus more on the rationale for the goals and how your experience links to them?</p>	<p>Specific companies are helpful for us to see but I'd say that your rationale and linking your experience will be more important.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>I am not using my current employer as a reference. The application instructs that I should discuss this in the optional essay. Is it sufficient to write a couple sentences explaining this or should the essay be more substantial?</p>	<p>Yes, a sentence or two is fine. No need for a "real" essay there.</p>
<p>If my previous direct supervisor is unable to submit the recommendation because of work load, is it possible that the leader of another department, with whom I had the chance to work in many projects, upload the recommendation?</p>	<p>We understand that there may be cases where your direct supervisor is not able to submit a letter of recommendation. If you find yourself in that situation, identify a recommender that you have worked closely with and knows you well who will be able to speak to those four admissions criteria: smart, accomplished, aware, nice. Someone who has worked with you in a supervisory experience can provide us with helpful perspective and a broader lens. If your current direct supervisor is unable to write an LOR for you, we encourage you to share with us in the Additional Information section of the application why that is the case</p>
<p>Regarding the Why MBA and Why Tuck prompt. There are many things that I want to say that would take me over the word limit. What is your advice about how to best leverage the given word count?</p>	<p>You'll need to boil down/prioritize the most important elements of Why MBA and Why Tuck. That's part of why we've given a tight limit; it forces our applicants to really think this through and give us the most salient details. We also know this is tight word count so understand that constraint.</p>
<p>If we are applying through the Consortium, is it okay if our "Why are you pursuing an MBA and why Tuck?" essay focuses on Tuck and does not explain why we want an MBA? The Consortium core essay already covers the "Why MBA?"</p>	<p>As long as you are covering the why MBA portion of the question in your Consortium core essay, it is not necessary to repeat the information in the Tuck specific essay.</p>
<p>Since the application form already asks for 50 word responses on Short-Term Goals and Long-Term Goals, does it make sense if I skip mentioning those in Essay#1 to save space and instead focus on my reasoning behind those goals for "why MBA?" and the rest of course for "why Tuck"?</p>	<p>Yes, the focus of your essay should be on the why MBA and why Tuck. It is not necessary to repeat your goals if you feel you have fully covered it in the short answers.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>I have only known my current supervisor for 3 months or so, is it okay if I take two letters of recommendations from my previous company? One from a previous supervisor and another from an internal client?</p>	<p>Yes, that would be fine. Please just write a sentence or two in the Optional Essay section about why you made that decision not to ask your current supervisor.</p>
<p>In regards to employment history, there is a column for the size of employer. What does the size mean in this context? Revenue, asset, number of employees or anything else?</p>	<p>Number of employees is fine. Revenue is also a good benchmark.</p>
<p>My previous employer got acquired so there isn't a great paper trail for me to track down some of the information you had asked (e.g., my bonus). Is it alright to provide an estimate for my prior bonus since I can't get the exact numbers from my old employer? Followup, but I recieved a promotion to a new title in March of this year, but have not been paid the bonus associated with that title (I'll be paid in march of next year), should I enter N.A. for the bonus or should I enter an estimated number and disclose that its my estimate?</p>	<p>If you don't have the exact number on the bonus you already received, a close estimate is fine. If you have not yet received the bonus, then you should not put anything for the answer.</p>
<p>Is there a number you would like to see the activities section limited to?</p>	<p>There is no specified number we would like to see in this section - we encourage you to share any involvement that you think is relevant.</p>
<p>On the employment section, it seems like we're meant to include all positions held at one company in one post. So, if I've worked at two companies since graduating, I'm assuming I should just have two entries in the employment section. Do I have that right?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>Should we only include full-time employment or should we also include any internship experience that fell within the last four years?</p>	<p>We are more focused on your full time postgrad employment but you should feel encouraged to share any employment data that you think is relevant whether it be internships or otherwise. Note there is no four year cutoff on reporting employment history, please share any relevant professional experience with the Admissions committee</p>
<p>If our major isn't listed verbatim in the Education section, would you prefer we choose the option closest to our major or choose other?</p>	<p>Use your best judgment. Hard to answer for you without knowing your options, but don't stress about it being exact if it is pretty close.</p>
<p>Do you prefer that the employment history has a breakdown of each position held at each employer (one entry per position for current and past employers) or is it alright to simply make one entry per employer?</p>	<p>One entry per employer is just fine. We tried to pare down that section from last year so that we could get a sense of trajectory within company versus switching companies/firms</p>
<p>In the first Essay, how do you want us to share our reasons for 'Why Tuck?' Do you want to see specific classes listed or conversations with alumni described?</p>	<p>Here's great insight into the essays and what we are trying to get at in those prompts: https://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/mba/blog/tuck-admissions-insights-application-essays</p>
<p>Question regarding the letter(s) of recommendation -- my mentor/boss of 6yrs just left the company a month ago. Is it still ok to seek a letter from him?</p>	<p>Yes, absolutely.</p>
<p>I went to community college before I transferred to a four year university from which I graduated. Would the admission committee consider my GPA at community college before I transferred, or only my four-year institution GPA will count (where I attended junior and senior years)?</p>	<p>We will consider all of your grades from both institutions as we evaluate your candidacy. We will report your GPA from the final degree granting institution when we report GPAs for our class average.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>What's the cultural fit Tuck values?</p>	<p>Tuck is a very distinctive community that is close knit and trust based. If you are looking for an MBA program that is immersive and an "all in" experience, then Tuck is the place. Our four admissions criteria also illuminate our values quite nicely. https://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/admissions/criteria</p>
<p>With regards to the descriptions in the activities section: Do you have a preference between bullets vs. full sentences?</p>	<p>No Preference</p>
<p>I'm using the optional essay to explain a job gap and resulting recent job switch. Should I also explain that I'm not using my current manager as a recommender because I only started this job 3 months ago?</p>	<p>If you are not asking your current supervisor to be a recommender we do encourage you to share your reasoning in the optional essay. Note this does not need to be a lengthy optional essay (or even necessarily in paragraph format), use this space to quickly highlight these details that provide context to what we are seeing in the rest of your application</p>
<p>In the event that an applicant improves their GMAT/GRE score after the R1 deadline what is the preferred way to communicate that with the admissions committee? Will an updated score be considered if an applicant is waitlisted?</p>	<p>You may email your new score to tuck.admissions@tuck.dartmouth.edu. While we do not guarantee consideration of scores sent after the application deadline, we may be able to consider them if review of your application is still in progress. Note that we cannot confirm, once review has started, whether or not we have reviewed a specific application, so the applicant cannot know whether late scores will be considered or not. Similarly this applies to those on the waitlist who are being considered for admission to Tuck in an upcoming round.</p>
<p>On the Other Educational Information page of the app, should we list study abroad exchanges that are already listed on our transcript (i.e. we received credit from our regular undergrad institution)? Or should we only list study abroads we completed at other universities not listed on our transcript?</p>	<p>If it is on your transcript and shows that it was a study abroad, it is not necessary to list it separately.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
What information is important to capture in the short term/long term goals section?	Tell us your short term and long term goals as they relate to your MBA course of study and your professional career.
Regarding the third essay prompt - are you looking for a personal or professional example of when you have helped someone else succeed?	Either one is fine. There's no prescribed formula.
Regarding "Have you had an admissions interview?". If I scheduled my interview after the application deadline, should I answer "Yes" or "No" for this question?	If you mark no, it will then prompt you and ask if you have one scheduled for the future and you can answer yes there.
I have a couple of colleagues that I previously worked with who are Tuck alums. What is the process to submit an alumni recommendation?	They are welcome to send an email to Tuck Admissions is they are not already writing one of the letters of recommendation submitted as part of the application
How do i include transcripts from additional courses that i have taken (online) in the overall application?	You do not need to include the transcript for additional classes, just list the information about the class in the space provided asking for course title, dates, grade, etc.
In the employment section should we include part-time positions if they were within the last 4 jobs held or only full-time?	The idea with that section is to illustrate your professional history in a concise way that complements your resume. So if you feel that the part time jobs were an important part of your professional journey, then include them. But if they are work study jobs, or something that is less important to your intellectual development, it is likely less important to include. Most importantly, we want to see if you were working consistently; if you had a part time job but no full time employment, let us know.
When will the Letter of recommendation mails be sent to our referees after we fill out the application?	The link should go out to your recommender within a day of your submitting their name as a recommender. If they have not received it, please reach out to Admissions or have them check their spam filter

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>On the Activities page, we list activities in order of their importance to us. What do you suggest as the limit to the number of activities or the word count of each description of our participation?</p>	<p>Use your judgement in determining which activities are relevant or important to you - there is no ideal number that we are looking for here. We encourage you to share relevant details but be succinct in your descriptions</p>
<p>If my major is listed in the Undergraduate Degree section, but I also had a concentration that is stated in my transcript, should I try to include that also in this section?</p>	<p>No, it's ok if it's simply on your transcript.</p>
<p>My resume already highlights the professional awards I have received during my tenure. Do I need to re-state them in this section of the application?</p>	<p>I would list them concisely on the awards section as well.</p>
<p>For the essay prompt where we have to describe how we helped someone else succeed, is it appropriate to talk about a family member? Would that be considered a "biased" choice for essay purposes, since it is generally thought that family relations may involve a degree of partiality?</p>	<p>No, it's OK to talk about a family member if that feels like an important story to tell.</p>
<p>Do letters of recommendations carry over if you decide to apply for a later round?</p>	<p>Thanks for your question. Your letters of recommendation will be reviewed at whatever point you decide to apply within the current cycle. No need to resubmit if you move your application to a later round</p>
<p>Should we include any professional summer internships we did in College or should we only mention post-graduate jobs in the employment section?</p>	<p>While we will focus on your post-grad positions, if you have space and the internships are important to you, then you can include them.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>Securing a job in the US for international students is hard these days. What are the resources that students that plan to work in the US have, to obtain an offer?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, much of this is out of the control of the school and is dependent on the US government granting visas and employers who are willing to sponsor international employees. The advantages Tuck has in navigating this landscape include the fact that many of the companies that recruit our students are willing to sponsor and our Career Services team is very knowledgeable about those firms. Additionally, graduates who may have an unsuccessful result in the H1B visa lottery after graduation and need to find an alternative position will have the resources from Career Services and our very engaged alumni network to help with the next position.</p>
<p>I have taken the GMAT and the GRE. While the GRE is consistent w the GMAT average, I wanted to check if I should submit the GMAT scores too?</p>	<p>Submit both sets of scores. It's good for us to see both your scores and the dates that you took the two tests. We look at the individual subtests as well as the aggregate score.</p>
<p>Through my professional experience I've had the opportunity to work with members of the Tuck community (not just former students, but a member of the faculty as well). Would this be something to highlight in the optional essay that would lead you to be in touch with members of the Tuck community who have worked with me, or should I specifically request that they email the tuck.admissions address?</p>	<p>If your engagement with Tuck community members has informed your perspective on the school you can certainly feel free to share this as part of your essay responses if relevant but no need to call it out in the optional essay. If you think these community members have valuable context to add to your application they are welcome to send an email to Tuck Admissions.</p>
<p>Is there any merit in using the optional essay to describe non-traditional majors and the possible impact on your GPA? In my case, I'm an architect and, as such, grading isn't truly indicative of abilities to handle similar work and are completely subjective depending on the viewer/grader</p>	<p>That's a great place to address this sort of issue. Don't feel the need to craft a full essay in this section but you can write a few sentences/one paragraph here to cover this topic.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>I have a few alums who I've worked with. I wanted to check if the recommendations from the alums in addition to my recommenders have to be in a similar format to those of my LORs?</p>	<p>Letters from alums that are not your official letter of reference do not need to be in the same format. An informal email is fine.</p>
<p>Prior to my current job, I worked in a firm for 4 months. I chose to quit from the firm due to an ethical dilemma. Could you please let me know what is the best and direct way to explain my situation and the action?</p>	<p>The Optional Essay section is a good place for something like this. You don't need to craft a full formal essay but please do share the pertinent information to fully illustrate why you decided to leave. This will be important information for the committee to consider.</p>
<p>I live in Detroit and would love to visit campus in addition to interviewing during my visit to Tuck. Should I wait for openings to interview after the R2 deadline or can I visit this Fall before submitting my application?</p>	<p>Visit and interview whenever is convenient for you! If you come earlier in the fall but plan to apply Round 2, we will hold onto your interview until the rest of your application is complete. Do be mindful of the applicant initiated interview deadlines posted on our website: https://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/admissions/important-dates</p>
<p>In "Application specifics" section how should I mention that I want to opt for committee initiated interview?</p>	<p>Space is provided to answer why you have not interviewed/scheduled an interview on campus. You may explain your reasons there.</p>
<p>Does Tuck accept a 3-year undergraduate degree from India? Besides a 3-year B.Com degree from India I have qualifications from The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and from The Institute of Companies Secretaries of India. So, will these qualifications be good enough to make up for the 4th year of the undergraduate degree?</p>	<p>Yes, you need to have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. That is usually but not always 4 years. The other qualifications help illuminate your skill sets and training.</p>
<p>In sense of stories and achievements, how old do you think would be too old?</p>	<p>There aren't any hard and fast rules for AdComm evaluations so if a story or achievement feels relevant or important in your journey, include it.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>1) What level of specificity are you looking for in the short and long term goals short responses?</p> <p>2) Can you share some more information about your expectations for a strong essay in response to this question: "Share an example of how you helped someone else succeed."</p>	<p>1) Some level of specificity is needed, but only to the degree that you know it. If you have very precise goals, tell us about them. If you don't know precisely what you want to do, that is okay too.</p> <p>2) Luke's blog provides a really good overview of what we are looking for with this essay, https://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/mba/blog/tuck-admissions-insights-application-essays</p>
<p>I have highlighted certain experiences both in a personal and professional setting in my essays. Do my recommenders need to share similar experiences that are highlighted in my essays or could they be different? I brainstormed with my supervisor to discuss my experience over the last 4 years or working with him and shared some points/tips after speaking with Tuck students/alums. What would be your advice?</p>	<p>Your recommenders do not need to share the same examples or experiences that you highlight in your essays but they are welcome to. We hope that their answers will illuminate those criteria of smart, aware, accomplished, and nice in whatever ways they see those manifest in your work and experiences. They might speak to the same example that you do but bring a new take or additional context and this is perfectly appropriate but they might also share new examples that speak to these qualities. I would encourage them to think about how their words are reinforcing the qualities and underlying behaviors that the rest of your application highlights rather than how it reinforces a specific instance</p>
<p>How would you suggest preparing for the applicant initiated interview? Do you have any specific tips you can share on what you look for?</p>	<p>The STAR framework for behavioral answers is very helpful; do a google search and you'll find some good resources there. You can also find lots and lots of MBA interview questions online; choose a bunch of those that feel relevant to your experience and then practice telling those stories in a concise, insightful way.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>I'm planning to visit the campus around November. Who should I contact to prepare activities during my visit? Is there any specific date you would recommend any prospective student to come or to avoid?</p>	<p>Have you already set up a visit via our website? https://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/admissions/visit-interview</p> <p>You'll see the way to contact us at the bottom of that page if you need to schedule something separately/differently.</p>
<p>Do you have any preference to the format of essays? For example, should we try to stick to a traditional intro-body-conclusion format, or is it OK if we use a more narrative approach to tell our story?</p>	<p>If your essay is well organized, the format is up to you! It doesn't need to be a formal one as you've outlined. Just make it clear, concise, and well told.</p>
<p>Regarding applicants coming out of the military, do you recommend translating previous duty positions to the civilian equivalent? For example, operations sergeant becomes operations manager</p>	<p>Please describe them as they occurred rather than trying to translate them into something else</p>
<p>Right after graduation, I founded an education consulting firm and held the office from 2008 to 2010. During this period I additionally worked in full time jobs in Customer Service and Technical Support. Given that I have over 11 years of work experience and quite a lot to share in the one-page resume from my main stream work experience, is it okay to leave these work experience not listed in the resume?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Is it possible to have feedback after the applicant initiated interview so one can know what additional areas to stress upon in written application?</p>	<p>We are not able to provide feedback on your applicant initiated interview</p>
<p>How does a student convey in his application that his goals are aligned to the objectives of the Tuck MBA program? What specific traits would you suggest a student should highlight in his application that demonstrate that his previous education and training are in line with the objectives of the Tuck MBA program?</p>	<p>I can't really answer that for you - you will need to use your own judgment and spend some time really thinking through how your personal experiences align with the Tuck mission and delivery.</p>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
<p>The 300 word limit seems a little less to mention how I would like to contribute at Tuck? Do you advise that we use the optional essay for that?</p>	<p>The word limit here is somewhat intentionally small - we want you to think really critically about your potential contributions and highlight the most important thing to you here. The optional essay is really intended for providing clarification or context as to other points in your application (job gap, lack of LOR from direct supervisor, etc.)</p>
<p>Is it possible to have a pre-assesment of profile?</p>	<p>Nope.</p>
<p>Is it required to submit official transcript with the application?</p>	<p>After you've been admitted, if you're admitted, you'll need to submit an official transcript</p>