



## Tuck Dartmouth Live Chat Transcript - June 19, 2018

Patricia Harrison, Senior Associate Director of Admissions



### Tips for Your Best Possible Application

- **Tuck Class of 2020 (Full Time MBA) Discussion:** <https://gmatclub.com/forum/calling-all-tuck-dartmouth-applicants-2019-intake-class-of-267850.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 Patricia Harrison, Tuck Senior Associate Director of Admissions.

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** As a bit of introduction, I am Senior Associate Director of Admissions at Tuck. In my role, I oversee our evaluation process and women's recruiting. I have been on the Tuck Admissions Committee since 2003.

Since the topic of today's chat is tips for your best possible application, I will share with you what I think is one of the most important pieces of advice I can give you, and that is to take the time for introspection before you launch into the applications. Think about what you want from your career, your life, why the MBA, why now? Reflect on your past experiences, what you have learned from them, and how they connect to your future goals.

This level of introspection really pays off in that you will have a better sense of your personal story, why you want to pursue your given path, what you feel you will bring to a program, what you want out of a program, etc. It will help you identify the right schools for you and makes writing all of those essays so much easier. We think that the ability to reflect is so important that self-awareness is one of the four criteria we use to evaluate applicants for admission to Tuck.

We just released our new admissions criteria last week, so I encourage you to read more about them at <http://www.tuck.dartmouth.edu/admission...n-criteria>

My second piece of advice is similar to the first. Once you know yourself, do your research into the schools and really get to know them. Get past the rankings and visit schools, attend info sessions and fairs, read their websites and blogs, talk to their students and alums. Really get to know their cultures and what they are looking for in applicants. It may be more work on the front-end, but it will help you narrow down your list of schools to the ones that are really right for you, and it will help you tailor your applications for each school.

So with that, I would love to take your questions...

**KS15:** Hello Patricia-is 9 years of experience good to apply?.Is there any upper cutoff? My post MBA goal is Consulting. Also, how are applicants from small family businesses looked at?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** There is no minimum or maximum number of years of experience required. On average our students have 5 years of experience at matriculation, but many have more and many have less. We are much more interested in the quality of your experience and the impact you have had during that time. Applicants from small family businesses can bring a really interesting perspective. No matter what your employment background is, you will want to think about how your experiences will add value to the classroom.

**Arro44:** Dear Patricia, how much value does Tuck place on extracurricular activities of applicants? Is it possible to be admitted based on a strong professional background, good grades and GMAT alone, given one is able to express ones visions well in the essays?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** Extracurricular activities are one of MANY things that we are looking at. We do not place a specific weight or value on any particular part of the application. It is a holistic evaluation and different applicants will shine for different reasons, and strengths in one area(s) may balance out other areas where you may not be quite as strong. That goes for any of the things that we are looking at.

**DigitsnLetters:** Hi Patricia, thank you hosting this session. My query is: for those who can't visit the schools, what is the best way to know a school's culture? If it is talking to current students, then what is the best way to approach them?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** If you can't visit, I encourage you to look for events that we might be hosting near you. We travel extensively, so we may be where you are soon. The blogs are a great way to learn about lots of different student and alum experiences. You can also reach out to students to connect with them. Tuck has student ambassadors representing various countries and regions, so that is a great place to start. <http://clubs.tuck.dartmouth.edu/ambassador/> Ambassador emails are listed on the website. Or you might reach out to the student co-chairs of a club that you are particularly interested in.

**Nokia1200:** Hi Pat, I know that Tuck plans to open online application in early July, but just wonder if the school will release the essay questions before that or we will only find out through online application system?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** We are planning to release our essay questions in the next day or two - stay tuned!

**AvalonQQ:** As a reapplicant, if my goals have changed in the past year for whatever reason, is it looked at with skepticism? Especially, if my goals last year were fairly different and not well thought out?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** We won't look at the change in goals with skepticism as long as you explain your rationale behind the new goals. The reapplicant essay is a great place to do this.

**Satya91:** Most of my recommenders are non english speakers as i worked with greeks, chinese, brazilians etc. So could u please suggest on translation part? My superiors who are comfortable with english language are on ship and will return after 6months

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** If your recommenders do not speak English, then they should write the letter in their native language and arrange to have it officially translated.

**Manishk30:** Hi Pat, I did my engineering in Bioinformatics but I have a work experience of 5 years into Information Technology industry. I wanted to go back into my core field of Bioinformatics/ Biotechnology/ Pharmacy. So it possible now? Will B-Schools consider me?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** Most of our students are career switchers, so your move from IT into bioinformatics in and of itself is not a problem. Like everyone, you want to be able to explain why you are interested in making the change.

**PawanYadav2006:** Dear Patricia, Have you had students from Military background from countries other than US? How do you look at an applicant from Military background with low GPA but good GMAT score(730 and above)?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** Yes we have had students with a military background from other countries and we view them no differently than any other applicant. We seek a class that is diverse in terms of prior work experience, and each background can add to that. It is up the applicant to explain the impact that they have had in their professional experience and how they add value to the class.

**Unbroken:** Hi Pat, Thanks for spending your time with us. I would like to know your view regarding the Older candidates (35yrs of age) in getting into Full time MBA program?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** We do not consider age as we evaluate applicants, nor do we have a maximum number of years of work experience an applicant can have.

**Arro44:** Thank you so much for your answer. Did international applicants to your school experience greater difficulties in obtaining a student visa after a successfull admission this year compared to the past years?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** So far I have not heard of any incoming student not able to secure their visa, but they are all going through the visa process right now, so it isn't finished yet. Fingers crossed for all!

**Jpshow:** Hi my question is in regards to low gpa. What are some of the aspects that you look at that could possibly compliment this. Would it be a good idea to provide written explanation with the application?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** We are looking for evidence of an applicant's intellectual aptitude in a number of places: the GPA, test scores, additional coursework, work experience. If there was a particular factor impacting academic performance, then you may use the optional essay to explain.

**CanteenBottle:** Hi Pat, I cannot get a recommendation letter from my current supervisor because I come from an industry in which MBA is not required and oftentimes discouraged (legal industry). I understand I need to write an optional essay to explain this. How detailed should this essay be? Can you shed some light on this? Thanks.

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** It doesn't have to be a very detailed explanation. Just a sentence or two should do it.

**WHT0:** Hi Patricia. Thank you for meeting with us today. What does a strong application essay include? How do candidates successfully convey your school's mission and tenets?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** That is going to be different for everyone. A strong essay will answer the question asked (don't laugh, you would be surprised by how many do not), be honest and authentic, reflect on what you have learned from the experience. Don't try to force the mission. I can't tell you how to do that because it really needs to come from you and how the mission impacts you personally and your goals.

**KB04:** Can a recommendation come from a person who is associated with extra-curricular activities? I mean, does the LOR has to be from your work supervisors?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** Yes you may use a recommender from your outside activities. What is important is that the person knows you well and can address the particular questions that we ask.

**Sandman13:** Has the current political climate in the US affected placements? (work-visa not easily available, etc.)

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** The H1B visa process can be challenging for international students. So far I have not seen a significant change, but that is certainly something that our Career Development office is monitoring closely.

**Ojlwens:** Hi Patricia, I am a career-changing applicant. I am coming from an exciting professional background but do not have a traditional business background. I am struggling to explain my motivation for seeking an MBA while acknowledging my past professional experiences. Any tips?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** I can't really answer that for you without knowing your background, motivations, etc. My advice is speak from the heart. Tell your story to lots of people you know and ask them if it makes sense.

**Sandman13:** Does Tuck prefer work experience with Governments? Is that considered a plus?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** We do not have a preference for one type of work experience over another. As I said earlier, we are looking to create a class with lots of different employment backgrounds. You will want to highlight what you have accomplished, the impact you have had and how your experiences will contribute at Tuck.

**Arro44:** In case an application is not successful, does one get feedback with regards to why it has failed (creating a learn effect for a potential second try)?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** If you plan to reapply, you are welcome to request feedback and we will offer ways you might strengthen your application in the future.

**ShefMalik:** Hi...in my interactions with students across a couple of top B -schools..the feedback that I've got is that it's pretty hard to get a job right now post MBA...how would u address this concern?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** A significant percentage of our students who just graduated already have jobs and 100% of our first years have a summer internship. While you will certainly have to put in work to find a job, our placement statistics are strong.

**PravasT:** Hello, how can we stand out if the employment industry is the most common one? (Indian IT Male). Do the extracurricular activities and other out of work experience have an impact on the profile?

**PatriciaTuckAdmissions:** Remember, you are so much more than your job title. Highlight your accomplishments and impact you have had within the industry, highlight your involvement outside of work, highlight your passions and interests, how you interact with others, your reflection, etc.. Go to our Admissions criteria and see all of the different parts that we are evaluating.

Thank you everyone! It has been a pleasure chatting with you. We hope to see you on the road or on campus sometime this summer or fall!

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