

BY ABHINAV GATTANI ('98 COMP SCI)

GETTING INTO TOP MBA SCHOOLS: B2B AT WORK

A great new initiative to put BITSians into the world's top MBA schools begins.

As they say, all good ideas come with a glass of beer, so did the thought of such a group for BITSians. I'd like to thank Krishna (Tuck '06), Shobhit (Michigan '06) and Manish (Michigan '06) for this initiative. The greatest benefit of this group is to leverage the BITS connection for maximum benefit during the application process to business schools around the world.

It starts with the bits2bschool yahoo group. The aim of this online community is to keep an excellent roster of advice for BITSians applying to top schools. Succeed in the academic, professional and social sectors by working with mentors and peers who help and guide you.



EXCELLENT ADVICE ONLINE

Here are excerpts from advice for BITSians applying to top US schools

“As long as you have the requisite breadth of leadership experiences, you will get in. Focus on developing yourself through leadership experiences.”

“Too many BITSians self-select themselves out of running at top schools which makes no sense. Have the courage and self-confidence to aim high.”



“It is always best to get recommendations from your current supervisor. Some schools require you to write a note or explain in the optional essay as to why you did not get a recommendation from your current supervisor. Almost everyone applying to business school has this problem. However, it is a hurdle you have to cross.”

“In my case, I asked my manager for his recommendation. I told him that I was telling him one year in advance about my plans. If I were admitted, I would let him know 6 months before I left giving him time to find a replacement. This worked well. He appreciated the advance notice and everything worked well.”

“The choice of country (for doing an MBA) is very subjective. Here are a few factors you might want to consider. “In terms of quality of education, there are several good schools in all parts of the world, so where u want to work is one factor which determines which region you want to choose. Because local schools have an advantage over foreign schools for a variety of reasons. To simplify things, doing an MBA from US or any foreign country would not give you an edge over IIM grads if you are looking for a job in India. So if you want to stay and work in India, IIM would be the best bet because of fees and other things. Likewise, if you want to work abroad, try to do MBA from the best school in that country. I think Harvard, Wharton, Stanford

are probably exceptions. They have exceptional brand recognition globally.”

DON'T MAKE OUR MISTAKES

You will find many gems in the databases, advice from BITSians who went to top schools. Here are a small cross-section of many that you will find online. Some excerpts follow:

“Terrible essays - Essays did not connect my past to my future.”

“Did not visit schools”

“Poor preparation for interview”

CONNECT TO B-SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

We are canvassing the entire BITS community to volunteer as business school champions for their MBA programs, both full-time and executive programs. To date, we have signed up the following full-time MBA champions. If you would like to be the champion for your program, please sign-up on the bits2bschool@yahoo.com website. Alternatively, email abhinav_fall2005@yahoo.com

- GSB- Chicago: Venkatesh Rangarajan
- Johnson-Cornell: Anupendra Sharma
- Kellogg-Northwestern: Ishmeet Singh
- Ross-Michigan: Shobhit Rana
- Simon-Rochester: Rajat Padhi
- Tepper-Carnegie Mellon: Nikhil Kolar
- Tuck-Dartmouth: Krishna Hegde
- Wharton- UPenn: Mukul Chawla

JOIN US

To be a part of this initiative, email abhinav_fall2005@yahoo.com, or better, sign up by searching for bits2bschool on

www.yahogroups.com. ♦