gedmay99: Welcome to the Kellogg School of Management Fireside Chat, sponsored by MBA Diversity.ORG. Thank you for joining us this evening.

gedmay99: Tonight, we have the pleasure of meeting representatives from the Kellogg School of Management. At this time, I am going to invite Ms. Jevelyn Bonner-Reed, Associate Director at the Kellogg School of Management, to introduce herself and the student panel.

jbonnerreed: I am Jevelyn Bonner-Reed, Associate Director at the Kellogg School. I am joined by several students who will introduce themselves at this time.

darrenschluter: Hello my name is Darren Schluter. I am a first year from Chicago majoring in Accounting and Finance and looking to go into Investment Banking after Kellogg. I am ready to answer any and all questions!

lwilliams2007: Hi everyone. My name is Lizette. I am a 1st year and am originally from New York City. As an undergraduate, I attended Columbia. Previously, I have 4 years of consulting experience. I am now pursuing a career in brand management or social enterprise.

iruggles: Hello my name is Ivonne and before Kellogg, I was an IT energy consultant. Currently I am a first year looking to do my internship in general management and finance related field.

Andrik: Hi everyone, my name is Andrik Cardenas. I was raised in Los Angeles, California. Later, I came to Northwestern to get my BS in engineering. I'm a current Kellogg MMM student in my first year.

cvjohnso: Hello My name is Chereese Johnson. I am a first year and I am originally from the Chicago area. I am interested in consulting.

Lauren523: Hi I'm Lauren Patrick. I'm a first year student at Kellogg, from Brooklyn, NY. Happy to answer any questions.

jbonnerreed: Ok, shall we get started with questions?

gedmay99: Thank you panel. We are glad that you chose to share your time with us this evening.

gedmay99: My name is Gerard (gedmay99) and I will be moderating the chat tonight.

gedmay99: Before we begin, I would like to make sure everyone is aware they can maximize the chat room by clicking the square in the upper right corner of the chat window.

gedmay99: I will start off our chat session tonight with the first question.

gedmay99: From an admission's perspective, what are some of the most common mistakes applicants make in applying for admittance into Kellogg?

jbonnerreed: The most common mistake is to not be themselves. Candidates often try to guess what we are looking for in the application rather than tell their story. Also, people often leave the wrong school in their essays. Please proofread your essays.

gedmay99: Thank you.

darrenschluter: Please ask any and all questions.
cleograd: Hi, my name is Cleopatra James. When do accepted students usually arrive for the Fall Session?

cvjohnso: Typically, students arrive for fall session in early September. This year we started orientation on September 6. If you choose to participate in Kwest, you will start Kellogg a week earlier.

gedmay99: Do you look at prospectives who take the GMAT multiple times differently from those who take it once?

jbonnerreed: No, we accept the highest score on the GMAT and we do not look down on people who take it multiple times. However, if you do not perform well, we wonder why they did not try it again?

gedmay99: I have a question from benwill...is it acceptable to fax a copy of your GMAT scores to the admissions office as part of the application?

jbonnerreed: We will accept the fax but we must have an official score from GMAT, thus you must list us as a school to send the score to.

nadiaj: Hello, I’m Nadia Johnson, a prospective student. What is Kwest?

cvjohnso: Kwest is an introduction to the Kellogg experience. It is a week long trip to various destinations in the world. In this opportunity, you will meet around 20 of your classmates and do various bonding activities.

Andrik: Next year, I'm leading a KWEST trip to the British Virgin Islands.

cvjohnso: Kwest stands for Kellogg Worldwide Experience and Services Trips and it is led by second year students. This year, I will be leading a dive trip to the Galapagos Islands.

iruggles: I am also leading a KWEST trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

nadiaj: Is this what KAOS was renamed?

cvjohnso: Yes, they renamed it.

cleograd: Roughly how many people attend per trip? And what's roughly the cost?

cvjohnso: For each Kwest trip there is around a maximum of 20 1st year students with around 5 second year leaders. Each trip can cost no more than approx. $1600.

darrenschluter: If I have my wishes I'll be leading a trip to Rio De Janeiro and Bahia.

jbonnerreed: Beautiful.

talk_to_me: All this talk of trips makes me want to take a vacation. You guys are torturing me.

cleograd: So there are multiple destinations to choose from in the Kwest program?

cvjohnso: Yes, there are multiple trips that you can choose from.

Andrik: There are many trips and during Day At Kellogg (DAK), there will be a fair where students get an introduction to the trips. If you don't go to DAK, don't worry, there is an online application to say which trip you want to go to (It's not mandatory).
Andrik: Day At Kellogg will take place twice, once in Feb and once in March. It's your chance to visit the campus and get a first hand view of what it's like to be here. We HIGHLY recommend that you attend.

nadaj: If there is a DAK in March, does that mean that most if not all admissions decisions come out before then for 2nd round candidates?

jbonnerreed: Nadia, most decisions will come out before the March DAK. The only decisions not released yet are the 3rd round decisions.

nadaj: Jevelyn, how much does the interview really weigh into the admissions process?

jbonnerreed: Nadia - it is important, just like every other part of the application. It is really just another opportunity to share your unique story.

talk_to_me: Is there any opportunity to get feedback on the interview?

jbonnerreed: No, we do not give feedback on interviews. However, we do give overall application feedback in the summer.

tysonc: Hello, I'm Tyson Clark. For those students that are rejected, is it possible to solicit feedback from the admissions office, so that you can submit a better re-application the following year?

jbonnerreed: Yes, as stated above, you can ask for feedback and we will provide it in the summer. We do not look down on re-applicants and they are treated the same as a new applicant the next year.

nbfletcher: I have a question for the current students. What made you choose Kellogg?

lwilliams2007: For me, Kellogg was a perfect fit. The people and the culture are very cohesive and friendly. Teamwork is something that is part of everyday life at the school. I really love that about the school.

iruggles: I choose Kellogg for the students, culture and felt that the school was the best fit for me.

Andrik: I picked Kellogg because the personality of the school most closely matched the place where I wanted to be - inclusive, fun, challenging, diverse and full of opportunity. Wow that sounds to contrived, but it's true. It's hard to get the feel for it until you visit or you talk to several students.

Lauren523: Kellogg was my first choice for several reasons. First, was the integrated curriculum (the core). Whereas some schools don't require a core, Kellogg’s curriculum provides a solid foundation in all of the disciplines (accounting, finance, marketing, etc.)

darrenschluter: I came to Kellogg because of the STRONG academics in unison with the team atmosphere.

cvjohnso: I chose Kellogg specifically because I enjoyed the people and felt that the academics would be challenging.

iruggles: The school has great professors that make learning fun and I truly enjoy the classroom experience.
jnaoum: Hi, this is John Naoum. Are there any leadership opportunities (i.e. officer positions) at the clubs that first year students can take advantage of? Can you please provide an example of such opportunities?

lwilliams2007: There are plenty of leadership opportunities for first-year students! Both cvjohnso and I are leading a GIM trip to South Africa. I am also leading the National Net Impact Conference for 2006 and am in the Board Fellows Program.

darrenschluter: Hi jnaoum, one such example of leadership is leading the Wall Street Trek for the Investment Banking club that we just came back from, definitely a good experience and sets you up for a leadership role in your 2nd year.

cvjohnso: Lauren523 and I are both co-chairs for the annual Black Management Association Conference. I also assisted with Logistics for the Kellogg Preview Weekend.

iruggles: I am in several clubs that provide leadership opportunities. For example I am in the energy club, general management club, Women’s Business Association and they all provide leadership opportunities.

jnaoum: I am extremely interested in taking advantage of these leadership opportunities (if admitted). Will the GIM trip take place?

Andrik: One of the gems of the school are all the conferences that take place throughout the year. For the conferences that occur winter and spring quarter, first year students are highly encouraged to take leadership positions.

Lauren523: There are many leadership opportunities that first years can be involved in. For example, I am also co-chair in planning the Women’s Business Association Conference.

gedmay99: How do most students finance their studies? Do you have special fellowships for minorities? If so, how do you apply for them? Is it a part of the general application process?

jbonnerreed: Most students have merit/need based grants and loans. There are minority scholarships within Kellogg that do not require some an additional application. Plus there are external scholarships that require applications. If admitted, Kellogg sends out extensive internal and external scholarship information to their students.

talk_to_me: How limited are scholarships for R3 applicants?

jbonnerreed: Very limited. Many deadlines for external scholarships have passed. Internally, we still have some grants available.

lwilliams2007: Our GIM trip is March 13 - 26. I am currently the Logistics Leader and am working to plan the itinerary.

jnaoum: So, can anyone plan a GIM trip? If admitted, I would start in the Fall of 2006. Therefore, I will not be able to make it to the current GIM in March. Thanks, Darren!

iruggles: Yes I truly enjoy the MORS class with Victoria Medvec- she is very knowledgeable and provided a great active classroom experience.

talk_to_me: What is MORS?

Andrik: MORS stands for Management and Organizations. It is one of the departments and the first class you take.
Lauren523: MORS is a class that is taken by first-years during the preterm. It stands for Management in Organizations.

jnaoum: How is GIM different from Quest (KAOS)?

Iwilliams2007: GIM is actually a quarter long class during the winter quarter of your first year. You are immersed in classes about business within a particular country and then you travel there for 2 weeks and meet with various business leaders and experience cultural activities.

darrenschluter: GIM is a class that you can take during your winter quarter. While KAOS (a.k.a. KWEST) is a trip that you take for leisure before class begins.

jnaoum: Got it. Thanks.

benwill: Are students who are not taking the International Business Major permitted to participate in the GIM trips?

Iwilliams2007: Yes - you do not have to be an International Business Major to go on a GIM trip. You are immersed in classes about business within a particular country and then you travel there for 2 weeks and meet with various business leaders and experience cultural activities.

CHOYOS: Hi - Any suggestions on how you should convey "Why Kellogg?" without sounding like everyone else? I think many of us if we visited felt the collaborative culture and great people at the school. There are also so many options to take on leadership position

darrenschluter: CHOYOS you have to be able to use your life experiences and resume to explain why Kellogg in your own words. Everyone knows that Kellogg is a great place for culture.

Lauren523: Think about why Kellogg is the best fit for you in terms of your long-term goals. Your answer should be unique to you - don't focus on what other people can/will say.

darrenschluter: CHOYOS however you have to be able to explain why you would excel at this place while using your resume and life experiences to explain. I hope that helps, let me know.

CHOYOS: Yes, it does thanks. It is sometimes hard to stay away from listing all of the activities you want to participate in when you are excited about them. So hopefully I'll see you guys on a KWEST trip in the summer!

darrenschluter: CHOYOS Sounds good to me!

benwill: Can you participate in a GIM trip at any time or specifically in your first or second year?

darrenschluter: Iwilliams2007 and cvjohnson are leading a GIM trip to South Africa, I signed up to go and I'm very excited about it

Iwilliams2007: Since GIM is a class - it is only offered during the winter quarter.

Iwilliams2007: Most students tend to go during their first year - though some do go during their second year.

jnaoum: Exciting! Is anyone here going to attend the Diversity info session on Jan 13?

jbonnerreed: What diversity info session on Jan 13?

jnaoum: Winter Quarter Diversity Information Session Friday, January 13, 2006 6:00 PM Room 150 - 340 East Superior Street, Chicago

jbonnerreed: The January 13 session is for the part-time program.
nbfletcher: What is the criterion for an Austin Fellow?

lwilliams2007: I'm not an Austin, but I did get the Maurice L. Rothschild Scholarship (minority scholarship) and the NSHMBA scholarship. I had to write an essay and get a recommendation letter for the NSHMBA scholarship. My Kellogg application was used for the Maurice L. Rothschild Scholarship.

jbonnerreed: I would like to take the Austin question offline. None of the students online have the fellowship but they have been awarded other scholarships.

nbfletcher: I will contact you offline. Thanks you Ms. Bonner-Reed.

tysonc: Mrs. Bonner-Reed, with respect to the JD-MBA application, how does the Law School's admission board weigh in on the decision to admit? Also, are they looking for or focusing on anything different than the MBA's admission board?

jbonnerreed: The Law school reviews the application before making a final decision and their input is 50% of the decision. From a focus perspective. We do look more closely at equal interest and law AND business for the JD-MBA program.

gedmay99: Do you strive to maintain a certain balance between the numbers of admitted students in the academic departments. If so, what department typically has the lower enrollment.

Andrik: There is no enrollment in the departments.

jnaoum: Can someone explain how the "bidding" to register for classes works?

darrenschluter: Bidding is definitely art, your first quarter your classes are chosen for you and you can choose to place out of some of them, no bidding involved. During the winter quarter, you bid for your classes in the future, we all have a certain amount of points which we can use to bid on classes, you bid more points on classes you want to take.

Lauren523: Please note, for bidding is not really an issue for the first quarter, as your classes will all be pre-assigned.

darrenschluter: As a 2nd year you definitely have more points and more opportunities to take all classes that you want, while in 1st year you definitely have to make good decisions

Lauren523: However for the second quarter, students are given 2,000 points to bid on class. It is a fair and competitive bidding process. Furthermore, the Black Management and Hispanic Business Associations are available to help students to navigate the system.

jnaoum: So, what if you don't get in to the classes that you are really interested in? Can that delay your graduation?

darrenschluter: Not necessarily, while no one will ever take ALL of the classes that you would want it would never delay your graduation. As a 2nd year the schedule is up to you, during your first year you are getting your prerequisites out of the way.

raybarrios: Hello. Also, to tack onto jnaoum's question, do you need to bid for GIM?

jnaoum: Good question raybarrios.
cvjohnso: You definitely have to bid for GIM. The difficulty in bidding for GIM trips depends on how popular the trip is.

bfletcher: I have a question for both admission officers and current students. What are you most proud of about Kellogg?

iruggles: I am most proud of the fellow students, their accomplishments, alumni mutual respect and willingness to help fellow Kellogg.

lwilliams2007: I think the thing I am most proud of about Kellogg is the academic reputation of the school. Whenever I attend conferences or events in other parts of the country, it is always known and widely respected. I am also very impressed with the strength of the Alumni network.

ejbonnerreed: The support I get to do diversity initiatives and how it has resulted in an increase in underrepresented minority students and women.

Lauren523: I'm also very proud of the caliber of the students, students who are talented but also socially aware.

gedmay99: Do you have any mentoring resources available to assist prospectives with getting through the admissions process?

iruggles: We HBSA and BMA do have buddy system, typically done in the Kellogg minority preview weekend. The buddy system helps people learn about the Kellogg culture answer any questions or point you in the right direction and as a Kellogg student I share my experience.

iruggles: As a buddy, I expect to help prospectives and answer their questions.

jnaoum: Thanks, Lauren. That's good to know. The Hispanic Business Association is definitely one of the student clubs that I will join and seek a leadership role.

Lauren523: The Kellogg buddy system pairs up prospective students with current students. we don't review essays per se, but we are available to answer any questions that prospectives may have about the school.

nbfletcher: What is the expectation of the Buddy in the Buddy System?

Lauren523: There aren't expectations of the Buddy in the buddy system. This is really just a resource for buddies to learn more about Kellogg.

Gustavo: Hi everyone, my name is Carlos Valdivia, I am applying to the MMM program. The buddy system was great because I had the opportunity to meet other students and know the school better through my buddy.

talk_to_me: When is the Kellogg minority preview weekend?

jnaoum: When is the Kellogg minority preview weekend? Is it only for admitted students?

ejbonnerreed: The weekend is held in November.

ejbonnerreed: No, the minority preview weekend is open to all and it is before people know if they are admitted.
jbonnerreed: Another opportunity to learn about Kellogg is the student run conferences. Students can you chat about your conference involvement.

Lauren523: Please note that all prospectives are invited to all of the Conferences that take place during the year at Kellogg. For example the Women’s Conference is on 1/25/06 and the Black Management Conference is on 4/8/06. All are welcome.

raybarrios: I saw Kellogg will be hosting the Net Impact Conference next year. Is anyone here involved in that? If so, what has that experience been like?

lwilliams2007: I am on the leadership team for the Net Impact Conference. We are super excited that Kellogg was selected to host for next year - we are expecting over 1000 participants and it will be the largest conference held at Kellogg in its history.

lwilliams2007: There will be several leadership opportunities for first year students to get involved in planning the conference.

raybarrios: Even first years that arrive in fall 2006?

lwilliams2007: YES! Definitely. The conference is the last weekend of October and we will be in the full swing of planning when first years arrive.

raybarrios: It sounds like an awesome experience.

gedmay99: Can you talk a little about the Career Management Center? What industry do most graduates enter after graduation?

Andrik: Most people go into consulting, but there are plenty of people who also go into marketing, banking, non-for profit, private equity, etc.

Andrik: The CMC is available for one on one appointments throughout the year to help people get a better feel for what they should concentrate on and how to approach their job search.

darrenschluter: ALL CMC also works with students to arrange treks in certain industries they are interested in.

cvjohnso: The CMC also organizes workshops that focus on interviewing skills, resumes, and etc. They also provide an abundant amount of resources to help students prepare for the recruiting process.

darrenschluter: ALL I just came back from the Wall Street Trek in New York and it was a great time to talk with the firms and make sure they know about me come interview time.

nadiaj: For the current students: What has been the most unexpected experience for you so far at Kellogg? (i.e. the amount of work, managing the job search so early on, not sleeping, etc.)

darrenschluter: Wednesday is deemed your off day at Kellogg, by far it is the busiest day when you take into account review sessions, meetings, tutorials and conferences.

lwilliams2007: I think the most unexpected experience was definitely the amount of work and the rigor of the program. It has been both challenging and an amazing learning experience. But not a vacation by any means!

darrenschluter: It is definitely a pretty heavy day.
gedmay99: When you do you recommend that someone become involved with the CMC? Is it during the first year? Summer before second?

Andrik: Students should get in contact with the CMC toward the middle/end of the first quarter of the first year. That's when internship opportunities start to materialize. The CMC will be proactive to get your involvement at this time so you are prepared.

Hansbaq: jbonnerreed: I am an International student who just recently got a green card. Will it be compared to domestic applicants?

jbonnerreed: Everyone is compared to the whole pool and not just their ethnicity or origin. We want to make sure we have a balanced class in terms of career interest and life experience, too.

Gustavo: Hi Andrik, what do you like the best about the MMM program?

Andrik: Hi Carlos, I like the MMM program because I know that everyone of my classmates will work their toosh off to get the job done. All my groups this quarter have been great and we have worked tons of hours together.

nbfletcher: I have heard that an alumni recommendation from a Kellogg alumni helps. If the Kellogg alumnus has not worked with you, how do you convey the support? (i.e. supplemental letter, phone call to admissions)?

jbonnerreed: It does not help to have a Kellogg alum do your recommendation. It is important the person know you and can speak to your professional abilities.

raybarrios: Is there any flexibility on who writes the recommendations? I know you're looking for professional references, but you don't want to see community references for Career Progress Surveys?

jbonnerreed: Community references are fine. We do not want an academic reference.

talk_to_me: Current students - any advice on essays? I found myself a couple (only a couple) times trying to conform to what I think the adcom wants to hear?

Lauren523: Definitely don't fall into the trap of telling the Admissions office what you think the want to hear. You have a unique personal story that only you can tell - that's what the Admissions office wants to hear.

darrenschluter: Talk to Me: definitely let a lot of people look at your essays and at some point you just have to let it go because it could change a million times, take it from me, mine definitely changed a few times.

darrenschluter: Keep these good questions coming.

carla_franklin: Should I have separate entries for each job that I've held at my current employer (on the employment section of the application)?

jbonnerreed: Yes, you can have separate entries, only if it is a significant change in your responsibilities.

talk_to_me: That's a good question on the separate entries for current employer. I am now in my 3rd position and only put 2 positions in the Part 1 form that I submitted. My thought process was the adcom was familiar with my line of work. I am now wondering...
jbonnerreed: Remember we have your resume which should give us an indication of your job changes and you have your essays and the interview to express this change, too.

jnaoum: How many people review a candidate’s application?

jbonnerreed: 3 or 4 people review each application. At least one student and 2 staff members.

jnaoum: Do they review the whole application or is each section allocated to each reviewer?

jbonnerreed: Each reviewer reads the whole application.

darrenschluter: Anybody have questions on anything academic about Kellogg?

tysonc: Darren, on the subject of academics, what is the breakdown in percentage of classes as far Case Study based, text book based, experiential learning, etc.

Andrik: The classes range from 80/20 case and 80/20 lecture. The experiential learning comes into play with certain classes that devote time outside of the classroom to do group projects with outside groups. There are many of these, but not most.

ada: If a candidate has already submitted her application, is there any opportunity for giving the adcom supplemental information later?

jbonnerreed: Yes, you can send us supplemental info. Please use your own best judgment.

Hansbaq: I believe the only supplemental I need to send are transcripts. Now, I did a summer session (as part of undergrad) at LSE. Do I need to provide a grade for that summer session?

jbonnerreed: Yes, please provide a transcript for all classes.

Hansbaq: Do you have a quota for minority students? Is there a difference between someone who is US citizen (minority) or someone who just recently migrated and just became a permanent resident? How about those two compared to international students?

jbonnerreed: We do not have a quota for any group. We treat US Citizens and Permanent Residents the same. International students are also treated the same but they do not qualify for some government grants and loans. We do have scholarships and loans for international students.

Gustavo: How closely is the McCormick School involved in the MMM admissions process?

darrenschluter: TYSONC ANDRIK will take that one for me

Andrik: The MMM admissions process is governed by Kellogg, they ensure that an applicant will have the ability to perform well in the program. The program is integrated with both schools.

nbfletcher: In question D of the application "In your professional experience, what do you consider to be the area of greatest growth?" is this question regarding a improved weakness or is this a leadership development question?

jbonnerreed: It is up you to decide how to answer the question.

ada: Darren, approximately what percentage of your class declared finance concentrations?

darrenschluter: We haven't formally declared as of yet but if it follows the normal trend line finance would probably be the majority, given that most Kellogg graduates leave with at least two or three majors.
darrenschluter: I'll be Finance, Accounting and International Business.

Lauren523: Also, It is common for Kellogg students to have 2-3 majors - finance is one of the more popular ones.

Hansbaq: I meant do I need to provide transcripts for that summer session?

steffanie: Are finance classes typically case-based?

cvjohnso: From my experience finance courses are a mixture of case, lecture, and problem sets. As you progress in the finance major, this could change.

steffanie: Thanks, in which direction are the advanced finance classed geared towards?

cvjohnso: I cannot exactly speak on the more advanced courses. But, I know that at least one of the advanced courses is heavily case based. It just depends on the professor.

ada: That is a good question. I am curious because finance concentrations in many schools are very skewed to investment management classes.

ada: Do most finance majors go towards investment management or investment banking?

darrenschluter: Not necessarily, they're definitely not limited to those two professions, you would have to include Corporate Finance functions as well.

darrenschluter: There are three clubs I would suggest, the Finance Club, Investment Banking Club, and Investment Mgmt Club for more suggestions.

carla_franklin: I've started a web development company on the side. I charge a fee per website. How should I categorize my company on the application, as an activity or a separate job (employment)?

jbonnerreed: Carla - it sounds like a separate job.

carla_franklin: Thanks.

cleograd: Does Kellogg have a study abroad program? If so, what's the selection process?

jbonnerreed: Yes, we have a study abroad program with 20 different schools in 16 countries. The selection process is a short essay and an interview if there is more interest than slots available for a school. It is not that competitive of process.

jbonnerreed: We have multiple slots at schools.

ada: How long does the study abroad program last?

darrenschluter: The study abroad program lasts for one quarter, I am definitely applying to study away in the winter next year in London

jbonnerreed: I highly recommend the study abroad program. I went to LBS when I was in school and it was a wonderful experience.

darrenschluter:: I understand, here at Kellogg your options are more wide open than that although you definitely have the option to take those types of classes.
tysonc: For off campus interviews, how are an interviewer’s comments about a candidate fed back to the admissions office (i.e. via phone conversation with the interviewer, or standard form, etc)

jbonnerreed: We have a form they send in. We also call people if we need clarification.

ada: Is anyone in the One-year program?

jbonnerreed: Not on this chat. I can connect you to a One-year if you would like.

ada: Thank you. That would be great.

nbfletcher: Current students, what personal characteristics of classmates have you learned the most from?

iruggles: I learn the most from students previous work experience and stories.

Andrik: I have learned the most from people's work ethic. I thought I worked hard before, but the level has definitely been raised since I started here.

cvjohnso: Students at Kellogg are willing to help each other. It is these opportunities that allow you to learn the most from people.

Lauren523: I have learned a lot from classmates in group settings. At Kellogg most of the first-year classes require extensive group work, and in my experience my groups have been extremely diverse. Usually there are 4-6 people from all different industries. For the most part, my classmates are very willing to share information about their experiences and do more than their fair share of the work.

Hansbaq: What kinds of scholarship and/or loans are offered for minority? Are they merit based?

jbonnerreed: Scholarships and loans - we have many, Kellogg and external scholarships and loans. For scholarships they are mostly merit based.

ada: Current students, How much group work do you have by 2nd year?

ada: Are the groups permanent? Do you carry forward your team from 1st to 2nd year?

iruggles: The groups are not permanent they are different for each class.

iruggles: For the first year there is a lot of group work and second year just continues the group work.

stefanie: Does Kellogg form the groups, or do students choose their own?

Andrik: This changes by class. The professor decides how s/he will run the class. This quarter, about half my classes are pre-determined, and the other half is self-selected groups.

iruggles: In the first quarter the groups are mainly assigned but not in all classes and later the groups are not assigned, as often.

iruggles: However, you have the ability to have the same person in several groups.

Lauren523: Also, during your second year, you will usually be able to select your own groups.

nbfletcher: Does permanent geographic area matter in the admission process?

jbonnerreed: We like diversity in geography

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tysonc: On the subject of geography, where do you consider a person to be from? Where they grew up, went to college, or currently work?

jbonnerreed: We use your current location when we report data domestically. If you are an international student, we use your country of citizenship. By the way 100% of our students have at least 2 years of work experience.

AmanuelKiros: Current students - for those of you who have worked some years between graduate and undergraduate, how much of an adjustment was the class experience (individual

jbonnerreed: Hi. We look forward to seeing you next year 8)

AmanuelKiros: Hi, thanks.

Lauren523: I had worked for five years prior to Kellogg, so I found school life to be quite an adjustment - the non-stop pace of the academics and social scene, etc.

darrenschluter: It's definitely a wake up experience in terms of getting used to the college routine and remembering how you studied effectively and what will work and not work at this level.

nbfletcher: Why does business school use average salary as a part of their class profile. Is a higher salary than average a point to bring into your application as a differentiator?

jbonnerreed: It is just data we collect. We do not use it in evaluating candidates.

ada: Current students, about how many memberships in academic and social clubs are healthy for your academics?

darrenschluter: Ada as many as you can handle it differs for each person, what seems to work for most people is three clubs, one for social, one for professional, one for academic.

darrenschluter: Ada For myself I am strong in 4 clubs with weak ties to 3 more. By weak ties I mean I have joined their list server and am kept abreast of their major events.

Lauren523: And as for me, I have strong ties 3 clubs and weaker ties with 2.

ada: Do the academic clubs maintain strong ties with the alumni or is that primarily left to the CMC?

Lauren523: The clubs try to maintain very strong ties with alumni.

iruggles: The clubs do maintain contact with alumni and you will see them often during recruiting and club info sessions.

ada: Do clubs actively go out (through the alumni) to help members with placements?

Andrik: Clubs provide a resource that you can use to pursue your job interests. Part of that is finding alumni and bringing them to campus to speak about their experiences. But, the personal contacts you need should be done by you.

nbfletcher: Kellogg offers many majors. How many major is a realistic number to manage during the 2 year program?

cvjohnso: I think that the average is 3 majors. This is a safe number of majors.
cvjohnso: Many of the classes overlap and count for multiple majors. This makes triple majoring a smooth option.

cleograd: Do you elect class presidents?

Lauren523: We do elect class officers. For example, each section elects a Social Rep, an Academic Rep, a Community Rep, a Global Rep, and so. Also, all of the clubs elect their own officers as well (co-chairs in finance, marketing, etc). So as you can see, there are many many opportunities for leadership, whether in the student clubs/organizations or in class

ada: Which clubs would you suggest for finance concentrations?

darrenschluter: There are three I would suggest Finance Club, Investment Banking Capital Markets Club and Investment Management Club.

darrenschluter: I am a member of the Finance and IB club myself.

nbfbletcher: What majors would you suggest for a future CMO who has started a Real Estate investment company?

Andrik: If you plan to be a chief marketing officer, marketing is a sure bet. Anything beyond that is up to your personal interests to determine what you want to pursue. It really is an individual process.

nadiap62: Do recruiters usually inquire about your major(s)?

Andrik: Recruiters usually ask as part of the application for the job posting, but, unless you are in a specific industry (finance, marketing, etc.) it doesn't play a significant role.

iruggles: I have been asked about my major in the past by a recruiter to make sure I had the right knowledge and interest for the position.

jhenrye: I recently graduated from undergraduate in May and plan on applying for business school in the next couple of years. Other than gaining quality work experiences and studying for the GMAT, what other things do you recommend to adequately prepare for admission?

jbonnerreed: I encourage you to stay active in the community and pursue your personal interests. I also encourage you to take our GMAT earlier rather than later because people generally do better the closer they are to undergrad. The score is good for 5 years.

ada: Are there classes for learning how to operate non-profits?

cvjohnso: There is a Social Enterprise major for people interested in non-profits. Within this major, you can take courses such as Board Governance. This major adequately prepares you for operating non-profits.

gedmay99: Current Students - What do you think the most difficult part of the application process was?

darrenschluter: The most difficult part of the application process for me was getting my story down pat so that I could recite it verbatim and how my story best situated me for enrollment at Kellogg. Gedmay99: I feel that this was 70% of the battle for me.
Lauren523: For me, the most difficult of the application process was finding the time to write really good essays. As you know, your essays will require hours and hours of revision so it is imperative that you give yourself enough time to think and revise your essay.

ada: How much weight does the professional recommendation carry in the application process?

jbonnerreed: The recommendation is an important part of the application. In the Kellogg application, everything is weighed equally so it is equal to your essays, GMAT, etc.

darrenschluter: On a lighter note no one has asked about TG?!

cleograd: I attended a TG! It was nice to see the students take a break and have fun... although the attendance was lower due to upcoming finals :(

darrenschluter: Glad to hear it, for everyone else TG is a Friday event where we celebrate the end of the week with a party in our building from 5-7, some themes include sumo wrestling and 70's theme, definitely a can't miss!

carla_franklin: I did not "waive right to review my recommendations" at a later date. Will this be viewed as a negative? All of my recommendations have been submitted

jbonnerreed: No.

jbonnerreed: OK...so it won't seem like I don't trust my recommenders (because I do... 8 )?

carla_franklin: It is ok. We understand.

carla_franklin: Thanks Jevelyn!

benwill: How do students decide what the TG theme is?

cvjohnso: Different clubs host the TG every Friday. It is up to the club to decide the theme for the week.

cleograd: Sorry.... are any of the currents students online married or have JVs? How are family members welcomed into the Kellogg family?

Andrik: I am married. Families are definitely welcome here. There is an organization called Joint Ventures that makes sure that significant others feel welcome. It is very active and well received. JVs are invited to many events including TGs. JVs can audit classes at Northwestern, go on GIM trips, KWEST trips, formals. It's common to see kids around the Jacobs center.

ada: What countries are included in the study abroad program?

jbonnerreed: I don't know them all off the top of my head but they include South Africa, England, France, Australia, Thailand, Spain, etc.

ada: How do you notify applicants? Email? embark?

jbonnerreed: We email notifications that your status has changed and people check their status to see their decision.

jbonnerreed: It is critical that you remove all spam blocking capability our you will miss important messages from schools.

Andrik: Is everyone getting all their questions answered?
darrenschluter: Any questions about Chicago and Evanston in general?

AmanuelKiros: Actually... how far is downtown from Evanston?

Andrik: Downtown Chicago is 12 miles from downtown Evanston.

darrenschluter: 30 minutes no traffic.

Andrik: You can see the Chicago skyline from campus, it's very nice, especially on clear nights.

darrenschluter: 20 minutes if you're riding in my car!

AmanuelKiros: Is there public transportation?

Lauren523: Yes, there is the metro and the subway. Sorry, I meant the "EL" train

cvjohnso: The CTA stop is a couple of blocks from campus. There is also the Northwestern shuttle that can take you from the Chicago campus to the Evanston campus.

jbonnerreed: Ok. Happy Holidays to everyone. We can end the chat at this time. Thanks for coming out.

jbonnerreed: If you want to connect to any of the students from tonight, feel free to send me an email: j-bonner-reed@kellogg.northwestern.edu.

gedmay99: On behalf of the Kellogg School of Management and MBA Diversity.ORG, I want to thank the panel and our guests for spending time with us this evening to candidly discuss their perspectives. This session has certainly been informative.

darrenschluter: Goodbye all

gedmay99: If you have any questions, please visit: http://kellogg.northwestern.edu/indexnfl.htm

mbadmin: Happy Holidays. Thank you Kellogg, as always, for supporting MBADiversity.

ada: Thanks everyone, have a good evening!

gedmay99: Thank you and good night.