Karan Gupta finds out what it takes to be part of the NYU Stern School of Business, during a chat with Paula Steisel Goldfarb, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid.

MentorSpeak

“Students should think about whether or not they fit with the school. Taking that first step to apply is key to determining whether a particular MBA course is right for you.”

What is the first thing that you look for in an MBA applicant? There are several components of our MBA application process and academic excellence is key. Another important component that we look at is career history and goals, and we look very closely at a student’s professional background and where they want to go in the future. The third area that we review is personal characteristics. We want to learn more about students and not just what’s written on the resumes and transcripts.

A lot of qualified applicants from India apply, so does that increase competition for Indian applicants? On what criteria do you choose applicants? We have a very holistic process, so we look at every applicant individually based on the merits of their application. We look at the academics, career history, interpersonal characteristics, and all these things come together to give a picture of what this student is going to contribute. There is no quota system.

Have the number of applications gone down, post recent world events? We have seen a tremendous and continued interest, and part of it is because of NYC. Students realise the kind of opportunities they have once they graduate from a New York business school. We have been fortunate to see students who have a high level of interest in our programme.

Do you have any minimum GMAT scores for admission? We study every applicant individually and have no cut off or minimum scores.

Do you have scholarships, assistantships or fellowships? Everybody is considered for scholarships, and first priority is given to students who apply for our first application deadline. We have teaching assistantships that provide students with tuition remission. It’s really a great way for students to fund their education and get work experience as they partner with the faculty members, administrative departments and so on. We also have a special programme - the Stern Consulting Corps - where students can work for 10 hours per week with a small business or consulting firms in NYC.

Would you consider applicants with no work experience? We look at applicants regardless of whether or not they have work experience, and every applicant gets a full review. We look at the whole application, work experience, what they want to do, where they want to go, and also at the academics and personal characteristics. As for placements, we partner with different companies in NYC and around the world.

Do you have any specific suggestions for students who are applying for admissions? Our application is individually designed. One of our essay questions asks you to describe yourself creatively. This really tells the student what kind of school we are and the strong community that we have.

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Best Practices

Whenever a company seeks to improve itself in keeping with that particular industry’s ‘best practices,’ it simply means that the firm will take measures to model itself to follow the patterns set by market leaders in all categories including marketing, administration, HR policies, et al. I short: Learning and benefiting from others’ experience.

- Manisha Dhingra

Readers’ Corner

IN the past weeks, we have received numerous articles, reviews and recommendations from readers across the city for our fortnightly column Readers’ Corner. Today, we shine the spotlight on science student Aaishwari Chouhan. If you too, want to see your name published in the Ed Times, send your entries and contributions to readers.corner@indiatimes.com