

The St. Gallen MBA, interview guidelines

The formal interview is essential to the St.Gallen Admissions process as it offers tremendous insight and personal understanding of how applicants will fit into the rigorous MBA structure. To help you preparing for the interview we suggest you keep the following questions in mind:

Who is interviewing?

In St. Gallen we have 2 interview rounds for full-time candidates. The first interview will be conducted by a member of the admissions team, whereas the second interview will be taken over by an alumnus. First, you may want to start by reviewing your own application. The Admissions team member conducting your interview will have carefully reviewed all of your submitted materials, however, by knowing your own application you will have the ability to emphasize those areas of your background you wish to highlight.

Part-time candidates have 1 interview which will be conducted by a member of the admissions team.

What does an interview invitation mean?

Our interviews are by invitation only and are conducted by the admissions team and by alumni.

Candidates invited to an interview have been reviewed by the Committee on Admissions and are considered competitive for admission.

We expect to interview between 200 and 300 candidates this year. We extend interview invitations on a case-by-case basis after thorough reviews of your application. We invite candidates to interview within a week after submission of the application. We strive to have all interviews completed within 2 weeks after the specific application deadline.

Approximate interview schedule:

Round 1	mid November till mid December	each interview will last roughly 30 minutes. The alumni interview will take place once your formal interview has been conducted
Round 2	mid January till mid February	
Round 3	mid March till mid April	
Round 4	mid May till mid June	

What can you expect during an interview?

The interview will focus on previous experiences, both on a working and personal level. In St. Gallen we will ask you questions around behaviors, skills, and attitudes that we believe are key to good citizenship and important to leadership post-MBA.

The interviews are intended to be conversational. We ask you to reflect on your personal and professional experiences, what you've learned about yourself, and how best to lead people

and manage situations. The interview is both evaluative and informative: it is not only an opportunity for us to learn more about you, but also for you to learn more about the St. Gallen MBA. Think of a few interesting questions to ask at the end of the interview.

How much value do we put on the interview in the admissions process?

For the first interview by the admissions team:

In St. Gallen the interview is an important part of the admissions process. The admissions committee only admits a small group of max. 50 outstanding candidates every year. Your written application, including the essays and letters of reference, remains a critical part of the evaluation process. The interview is a key source of supplemental information. The interviews are conducted either in person or through Skype video, which enables us to talk to each candidate "face to face". How do you present yourself? How well structured and understandable are the answers you give? Are you able to show us why you are a candidate we should admit? The feedback of the admissions interview will play a significant role in the final decision of the admissions committee.

For the second interview by the alumni:

The only information about you that your alumni interviewer will have is your resume, which we will send directly to him/her.

We will not provide your interviewer with your application, nor will we use your application to identify specific areas for your interviewer to probe. We give alumni interviewers structure and specific topics to address for all applicants, but we also trust these individuals to exercise good judgment in pursuing topics that may be important for you, specifically.

Finally, remember that the interview is a great way for you to find out more about St. Gallen. We have chosen an additional alumni interview because they have lived the St. Gallen culture and understand the opportunities and personal development you will go through once you have become a member of the community. If you have specific concerns, raise them. If you don't understand some aspect of the MBA Programme, ask the alumni, he/she will be happy to answer your questions.

The admissions team and the alumni interviewers look forward to meeting you in person!