

HEC Paris MBA – Interview selection sample questions

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

- If I could only choose one candidate, why should I choose you over the rest?
- Compare your outside activities to your work activities?
- Tell me about a time when you exhibited your most powerful strength or asset.
- What attributes do you have which will help you build our MBA brand name?
- What skills do you bring to the table that makes you stand apart?
- How would you compare your skills and experiences to those you think the typical applicant should have?

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Which of your past projects were the most successful?
- Which contributions that you made in your undergraduate years are most important to you?
- If you were to contribute to your own community, what would you do and why?
- Which of your community projects or services were most successful?
- What is your proudest accomplishment?
- What is your greatest accomplishment?

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- What have you strived to do with your life and how is this related to what you want to do?
- What makes you tick?
- If you were not pursuing an MBA, what would you be doing?
- Can you tell me about a life-changing experience?
- Who do you admire the most and why?
- What event in your life motivated you?

MBA DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- Compare the selection process for your undergraduate university to your MBA.
- What initially prompted you to pursue an MBA?
- Would having an MBA have been an advantage to you in the past?
- What similarities and differences do you see between your interests and hobbies and doing an MBA?
- Was there a specific time or situation that was instrumental in your decision to pursue an MBA.
- What are the factors that led you to pursue an MBA degree?
- If you did not have the option of earning your MBA, what career path would you take or what other degree would you seek?

MBA EXPECTATIONS

- What do you expect from an MBA?
- Why do you think this is the right time to pursue an MBA?
- What makes you a good MBA candidate?

HEC Paris MBA DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- How would your life be different if you were admitted to the HEC MBA Program?
- What makes the HEC MBA program attractive to you?
- What are the top three reasons why you applied to our program?
- If you were accepted to all the b-schools that you have applied to, what would be the determining factors in narrowing down your choice to one or two?
- Compared to the other programs to which you have applied, what attracted you to the HEC MBA Program?
- Which programs are you considering?
 - a. Why is _____ one of them?
 - b. What is it about _____ that attracts you?
 - c. Tell me in more detail how you will be making a decision.
- If you are accepted at every school where you applied, how will you decide which program to choose?

PREPAREDNESS AND RESOURCEFULNESS

- How did you undertake your first job search upon graduation from university?
- What do you know about HEC MBA and how did you conduct the search to find us?
- Describe the process you went through to select the b-schools to which you are applying.

SPECIFIC SELF-ASSESSMENT

- Compare yourself to the HEC MBA criteria for admission.
- Compare your current experience to the experience you will likely have in our MBA program.
- How would you compare yourself to the current HEC MBA population?

EXPECTATIONS

- What do you think your experience would be like here, compared to another school?
- What three aspects of our program will help you achieve your career goals?

PROFESSIONAL GOALS, MOTIVATION AND PROJECT WORK

- What is your “desirable” salary?
- Compare your current position with what you want to be after the MBA.
- What are your plans after completing your MBA?
- Tell me what motivates you and why?
- What are your 10-year career goals?
 - a. What in particular attracts you to these career objectives?
 - b. How will you get there?
 - c. What skills do you need?
 - d. What are the risks?
- How does your career path reflect your passions?
- How do you envision life after the more senior stages of your career?
- How have your past career experiences led you?

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- How do you make a positive impact at work?
- What accomplishments did you learn so much from that you want to do them again?
- What motivates you to achieve your goals?
- If your supervisors and fellow associates were to evaluate your performance, what would they say?

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

- Define good constructive criticism and how it is best delivered.
- What things are you performing best at in your current job and what things are you struggling with?
- Tell me about a difficult task that you managed. What did you do?
- What was your biggest failure? Why do you consider it a failure? What would you do differently today?
- How would your supervisor describe your work ethic?

LEADERSHIP

- Tell me a time when you have motivated your staff in the workplace.
- What is your most desirable trait as an employee?
- What would you do if you were in a leadership role within a group and you were in danger of missing a deadline?
- Tell me about a leadership experience when you were at last job.
- Do you meet people by introducing yourself or waiting to be introduced?
- What was the biggest challenge you have ever faced?
 - a. What aspects made this the most challenging?
 - b. What skills did you use to meet the challenge?
 - c. Were you satisfied with the outcome?
- Compare your leadership style in your last job to your current job.
- If you could pick one quality that characterizes a good leader, which would you choose:
 - a. vision
 - b. management skills
 - c. ability to delegate
 - d. emotional intelligence

TEAMWORK

- 1. When you participate in a project, either work related or academically related, are you proud of your performance?
- 2. If a colleague were to be upset with you, how would you handle the situation?

- 3. Compare your current work environment to what you expect to find following graduation with an MBA.