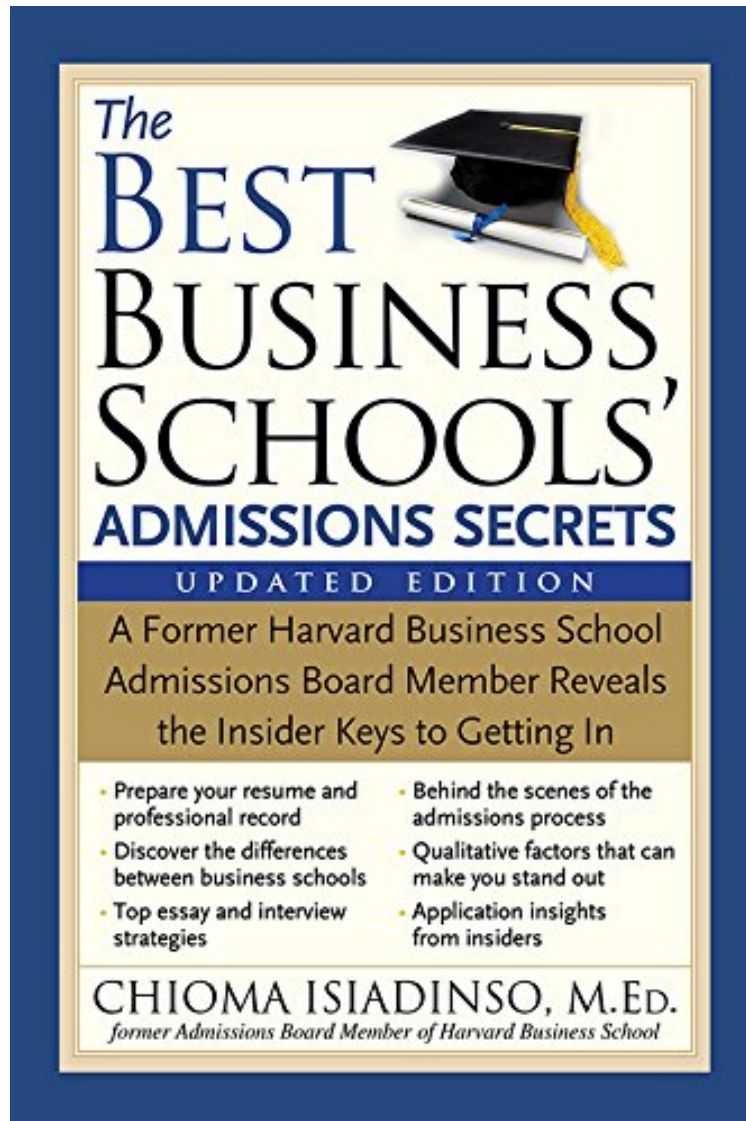


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The Best Business Schools' Admissions Secrets: A Former Harvard Business School Admissions Board Member Reveals the Insider Keys to Getting In

Chioma Isiadinso

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Chioma Isiadinso : The Best Business Schools' Admissions Secrets: A Former Harvard Business School Admissions Board Member Reveals the Insider Keys to Getting In before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Best Business Schools' Admissions Secrets: A Former Harvard Business School Admissions Board Member Reveals the Insider Keys to Getting In:

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Read two years before applying to MBA programs

By Jaewoo Kim
 This is a very sound book focused on the admissions to the top 8 MBA programs. The only regret I have with this book is that I wish I had read it earlier. The author provides deep insights into how each applicant is evaluated. MBA admissions to the top business schools is not all about GMAT and GPA. In order to be admitted to the top 5 business schools in particular, one needs to show tremendous leadership and other WOW factors. One needs to foster good relationships with potential MBA recommenders. And don't forget the arduous preparation for GMAT. Unfortunately, one can't just build a MBA WOW factor in few months. It may take years to build extracurricular credentials and leadership experience that an MBA program would find compelling and credible (it is too late to join the Peace Corp 3 months before the application). This would be an ideal book to read for those who just finished their undergraduate program and would like to attend an MBA program in a few years. It will provide quite helpful tips on how to prepare for the grueling and challenging MBA admissions process in a top school. DO NOT think high GMAT and GPA will guarantee you admission into a top MBA program (although they will surely help). To summarize the book, one needs to build a compelling personal brand and allow other parts of the application, interview, and recommendation confirm that brand. DO NOT write boring and trite essays that will put admission officers to sleep. Make your essays interesting and compelling with a touch of humor. The book also outlines a list of things an MBA applicant should never do in the essays, interviews, and recommendations. Other suggestions from the book: 1) Valid reasons why you would want an MBA (money and intellectual challenge should not be emphasized). 2) Choosing between Fulltime, parttime, executive, and accelerated MBA programs. (They are NOT the same). 3) Writing proper and effective Essays (Writing boring essays that do not foster strong personal brand is a sin). 4) Choosing and prepping the recommenders. 5) International student challenges (visa, obtaining financial aid, language barrier etc). 6) Financial Aid 7) How to handle interviews, open houses, and information sessions. Note, you WILL be evaluated in all 3, so be nice and professional to everyone. My main disappointment with the book is that the author provides deep insights into only top 8 MBA programs. Clearly, most of the suggestions are focused on the admissions to top 8 programs. The school I am targeting, which is a top 12 MBA program, was not dealt in any level of depth.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is the perfect guide for your MBA application

By Yann Metz
 This book is the perfect guide for your MBA application. I have used it as my "to go tool" and it has helped me understand what steps I need to take in order to be accepted into top MBA programs. Since I am not a consultant or banker, I really liked the tips for all types of candidates (consultants vs entrepreneurs vs artists) and the discussion about the challenges that they each face. Even if you are just considering applying to an MBA, this book will help you make up your mind. You will get the big picture of why/how to apply!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Book deserves six stars...

By Bulldog
 The signal to noise ratio in this book is superb. The author's argument is that candidates who have the best odds of admission are those individuals who have a strong and clear sense of who they are, what matters most to them, and where they are heading in the future. This sounds simple, until you start trying to compress this into cohesive 250-500 word essays for an audience that typically has fewer than 20 people reading thousands of apps. The author breaks apart how to define and refine your story so that it is very compelling to any person in a position of authority to dictate your outcome (you'll find the methods spill over into many aspects of your professional and personal life). With that long preamble...

Chapter 1. Why do you want an MBA? Motivations, value proposition.
Chapter 2. Keys to separating yourself. Perspective from the admissions committee.
Chapter 3. 20+ core questions. Answer these thoroughly and your life will be so much easier during the process. The key is a great short summary of you/your brand. I cannot overstate the importance of the 3-5 themes you will develop here; you will revert to these throughout the entire process.
Chapter 4. What you should be doing pre-app. Nuts and bolts of what happens from the admissions perspective.
Chapter 5. Evaluation metrics of top schools. Methods to address leadership or lack of it.
Chapter 6. Soars, pgii, six c's, top questions admit committee asks, and great examples and analysis of essays. The book pays for itself 50x over just for this chapter.
Chapter 7. Resume. This not a job resume and it will be the platform for most of your interviews. Good tips.
Chapter 8. 50 fundamental interview questions. Amazing. Use a camera and record your answers. Really effective.
Chapter 9. Recommenders. Most who will write on your behalf do not write recommendations for a living. This chapter breaks down the process for you and your recommender so that what he or she is writing really complements your application. My recommenders found this incredibly helpful.
Chapter 10. Avoiding generic stereotypes.
Chapters 11-14. More goodies.

The book contains numerous examples from real applicants. Chioma breaks apart why they are good so you are not left feeling helpless. Note that each part of the process builds on itself and reverts back to a very strong core message developed in chapter 3. The downside to the book: you may not have access to great live criticism. For this you need a set of friends who are really good at editing/eliminating fluff and/or you might opt to hire Expertus. This book is a gem. I'm glad it's in print and beyond thrilled with what I derived from the book and the interaction I had with Expertus.

The top secrets to getting into the best MBA programs, from a leading industry expert

Top MBA programs reject more than 80 percent of their applicants, but author Chioma Isiadinso's admissions consulting firm has successfully guided 90 percent of her students into the best business schools around the world. As a former Admissions Board Member,

Isiadinso offers insider tips and strategies to help applicants get into the school of their choice by building and promoting their personal brand. This revised and updated edition now offers: the do's and don'ts of social media networking sample admissions essays that worked an international perspective for global admissions appeal

About the Author Chioma Isiadinso was an Assistant Director of Admissions and a Member of the Admissions Board at Harvard Business School. Prior to working at Harvard, she was Director of Admissions at Carnegie Mellon University School of Public Policy and Management. She lives in New York.