



Round 1 vs. Round 2



Nicholas: Megaron, should I apply Round-1 (R1) or Round-2 (R2)?



Megaron: This is one of the most frequently asked questions by applicants...



Nicholas: And that makes total sense. After all, the overall process is arduous, and this is a major point in defining your timetable.



Megaron: But, first of all, let's examine the different types of admissions decisions: the "rolling basis" considers the applications as they are submitted, and the answer comes right after your completed package is analyzed; "rounds" involve all applications sent to specific deadlines, usually three, but there can be as many as five (examples: 4 rounds, [Berkeley Haas/LBS](#); 5 rounds: [IMD](#)).



Nicholas: Never heard of rolling basis system. Which MBA programs use this methodology?



Megaron: Columbia offers the [rolling system](#), while almost all American Programs use the round admission decision type.



Nicholas: Ok.



Megaron: The main point to consider in answering this question is "**you should ALWAYS send your best application**". Sometimes applicants set up a game plan in which applying R1 is an important point. But don't forget the quality of your application. This question is especially important when applicants try, at any expense, to submit their package in R1, in order to get a better chance, since "there are more available spots".



Nicholas: I heard from a friend that if he could come back in time he would not have written his first application to their first option.



Megaron: That is definitely a huge mistake - everyone who has a chance to put aside an essay and read it one week later, will notice that besides the mistakes that will highlight under his nose, he can get much more depth and width of his material.



Nicholas: The second package is most probably a better one.



Megaron: Your first application will provide you with a lot of insights for your second and third applications.



Nicholas: So the big idea is...



Megaron: Our advice is an obvious one: "apply as soon as you can submit your best application." See the table below:

Advantages of applying R1
Time Planning: you can receive your HBS/Stanford/Wharton answer, for example, in December and decide to apply to other schools in January.
Loan and scholarship: Receiving the offer, or hopefully offers, in January will give you plenty of time to apply for loan and scholarship.
Organize yourself: what about knowing at the beginning of the year what you are going to do and where?
Dorms: you can compete, in advance, for the best options in rooming.
Strategic Planning: if you come from a full-packaged pool (Investment bankers and Management consultants), plan to apply R1. Since most of your competitors have a very similar profile, it is probably wise to apply R1.
Visa: it is not a major issue for most Brazilians, but it can occasionally raise problems. By applying in R1, you will have more time to solve such bureaucracy.



Nicholas: Any advantage of applying R-2?



Megaron: In very specific circumstances we advise students to postpone applications to R2 whenever we notice they can add breadth or diversity to their applications.



Nicholas: What about round 3, the last one?



Megaron: There are very few spots available, and most of them will be filled out with applicants with "diversity profile". Maybe a few outstanding candidates. Not yet convinced. Read **Benefits of Starting Early.pdf**.



Nicholas: Any final tip?



Megaron: Yeah. Most students in their first year MBA say that they wish they had known more about what to expect and had been better prepared. Check several "lessons learned" on "What would you have done differently?"

<p>"The more time devoted to essays, the better they'll get (certainly the second essay will be better than the first). Therefore, the sooner you start, the better for you (...) Face the application as a project that requires planning and discipline. Above all, take the time to learn a little more about yourself and how to sell your story." Stanford MBA Student</p>
<p>"I'd try to get to the applications earlier. I'd start thinking about the questions that schools ask (in essays) as soon as possible, to have more time to mature my responses." MIT Sloan MBA Student</p>
<p>"First, I would have allocated more time for preparation of applications. Because of personal circumstances, I just started to prepare the applications in July (when the ideal would have been to start in March of that year). Second, I would have researched more thoroughly the differences between the schools for which I applied. Maybe I would also have gone to visit each of the universities before applying. When one reads the websites of schools, all seem to offer the same MBA, but - in reality - each program has its culture and its particular bias." MIT Sloan MBA Student</p>
<p>"A tip would be to have your material in the 1st application deadline. I believe this was a positive factor in my admission to Kellogg." Kellogg MBA Student</p>
<p>"You will be the first to agree with me, I should have done this whole process in the first half of the year. I would also recommend applying to Stanford in the first deadline, as I was told, 80% of positions are already filled by the end of the first." Wharton (Lauder) MBA Student</p>
<p>"Get the essays ready in June / July (as I wasn't doing very well in the preparation of GMAT, I took the test only at the end of August and only after that I started the application). The beginning of the essays and deadlines were really close (I missed, for example, the first deadline for Harvard and almost missed the first for MIT)." MIT Sloan MBA Student</p>
<p>"I would have applied to more schools in the first deadline." Chicago Booth MBA Student</p>

Keep Running

