

## ESM Deferral, Waitlist, and Appeal Letter Examples

### Deferral

*A deferral occurs when a student applies for admission early (either Early Decision, Restrictive Early Action, or Early Action) and the university decides not to make an ultimate determination on that student's application. Instead, the student is moved to the Regular Decision round. A deferral usually takes place in December, giving the student 2-3 months to contact the university and provide an update to their application.*

#### **Example Deferral Letter:**

Dear Admissions Officer (use name)

I hope this holiday season finds you well! I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to be considered again with the regular decision applicant pool. I am elated at the prospect of being on the Big Red's campus again, and I am still fully committed to Cornell as my first-choice school.

Though it's only been a few weeks since my ED was submitted, it's been quite an eventful stretch at the Cate campus. Most pressingly, we were evacuated because of the Thomas Fire two weeks before winter break. Events like this really put things into perspective. As an environmentalist, I find the issues surrounding the fire especially troubling. It is easy to imagine this town donned with its typically abundant flora and fauna, but the ash covered avocado trees are symbolic of our current global crisis. Santa Barbara County, where I live and attend school, has historically adopted the climate of a chaparral desert, however the severity of the drought and dryness preceding the fire indicate something greater at work: the consequences of climate change.

It will be my task upon returning to Cate (hopefully!) to use my leadership roles in my school community and clubs to address issues surrounding the birth and aftermath of the fire. What better time to ask ourselves, what can Cate do to help our community? I've been working with my classmates to petition against the leaving of the Paris Accord and the reduction of national monuments such as Bears Ears as a way to develop greater awareness in my community. Though I am fortunate to have my family safe and by my side, my displacement is a glaring reminder of all that remains to be solved.

I am using this time to get caught up in some supplemental reading recommended to me by Dr. Robert Young. He recommended a plethora of books about urban design and environmentalism, a good portion of which are written by women (which is appreciated given the lack of female

representation in the urban planning field historically!). I've been keeping up-to-date on Cornell's initiatives for inspiration, and I was captivated by Professor MacMartin's testimony before congress in November. It is when people like Professor MacMartin propose tangible solutions for the current climate change conundrum that I am most motivated to continue on my path towards finding my own solutions. I can only dream that those who inspire me might one day be my colleagues.

Over the course of the next few months, I plan to work hard to excel academically and strengthen my candidacy for Cornell admission. I aim to work particularly hard in my more challenging classes, namely Calculus and Chinese, so that I can hone my skill-set in each subject matter in preparation for my rigorous coursework at the university level.

Wishing you all the best for a safe and happy holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,  
Student Name

### **Waitlist**

*Students are added to the waitlist when a college determines that they are a qualified candidate but not in the school's initial group of accepted applicants. The waitlist is actually more of a "pool"; when a college decides to accept a student off the waitlist, it isn't based on a predetermined list, but rather on the traits that the school feels is still missing from the class that has enrolled thus far. Schools typically don't start pulling students from the waitlist until after the May 1st enrollment deadline, giving students plenty of time to update the colleges on their maintained interest in attending.*

#### **Example Waitlist Letter #1:**

Dear Admissions Officer (use name),

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to join BU's waitlist for the class of 2024. I'm writing to reiterate my continued interest in Boston University as my top choice. If offered a spot, I will enthusiastically and unquestionably enroll.

The application process has challenged me in ways I never anticipated. I expected concentrated research efforts to narrow down my list of schools. I expected long hours of writing and rewriting my responses to essay questions to convey to each school who I am and what I hope to do. What I did not expect was how applying for college would challenge me to ask questions of

myself I'd never had to answer before. I learned as much about myself as I did about any one particular school. Even after receiving my decision from BU, I continued my self-discovery. As I continue to learn more, my path continually comes back to the BU community.

When I visited BU, the spirit of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) resonated with me: it's a community that champions quirkiness and diversity, celebrating one's nerdiness, and challenging oneself to take a creative—and sometimes more arduous—path toward answering the difficult questions. Talking to English professors Martin and Smith in particular showed me the truly connective nature of a CAS education and the ways I would be able to forge connections across my varied areas of interest. BU's English and International Relations Departments each offer unique opportunities to pursue excellence in my potential fields, and the range of coursework offered would enable me to gain a multifaceted understanding of our world and its connections. Taking courses like "Global Feminism: Race and Gender in International Relations," for example, alongside "CAS EN 371: African American and Asian American Women Writers," would curate a rich synergy of voice, literature, and policy. Ultimately, I know BU would offer me the best opportunity to develop my passions and hone my skills.

This year, I worked hard to maintain an upward trend in my grades to maximize my education and its opportunities. Outside of the classroom, I established a Women's Aid Club to provide help to women in war torn countries across the globe. It's my hope to continue this work beyond the walls of my high school, and I look forward to doing so by contributing to BU's service initiatives, like FYSOP and the Feminist Collective.

As I begin my last semester at ESM high school, I am excited for the future and already nostalgic. My years here have been transformative, challenging, and filled with a community of people who've helped me uncover my interests--as well as the courage to pursue them.

I'd like to do so at BU. Perhaps it's already obvious that BU is my top choice because I applied early. However, a lot can happen in two months, and I want to reaffirm my abiding interest in the university and my humble belief that I would make an absolutely awesome Terrier.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Student Name

## **Example Waitlist Letter #2**

Dear Admissions Officer (use name),

In December, I applied to UChicago and was added to the waitlist. UChicago has been my top school since I toured the campus during winter break and stayed overnight with a student. I am writing to inform you that I am still just as dedicated and attached to attending UChicago because it will allow me to pursue my passions through the international studies program. My commitment to UChicago has not waned, and I would be more than willing to visit UChicago's campus to do a face-to-face interview to assuage any doubts about my commitment. If accepted, I will unequivocally attend.

The International Studies program will allow me to explore my passions in politics, economics, and international issues. I can delve into the world of major power conflicts and become enchanted by classes like Magic in the Market. I would also love to become proficient in another language like Mandarin or Portuguese and study about developing markets in China and Brazil as part of my area and civilization track. I've always loved traveling and since this program mandates that students study abroad, the opportunity to live and learn overseas would greatly enhance my undergraduate experience and enlighten me about other cultures. I strongly believe that UChicago epitomizes what I search for in a college and would provide me with the opportunities to discover my passion and eventually pursue a career in international business.

Outside of the classroom, I'm eager to become involved in campus life. I would like to continue my passions for journalism, public speaking and global Issues by writing for the Chicago Maroon and enrolling in the Model United Nations. During high school, I led my charity Causa Globalis and raised money to support underprivileged children's education through book drives and fundraisers. I will continue to give back to the Chicago community through several of these altruistic volunteer clubs because I value philanthropy and making a difference in people's lives. I strongly believe that UChicago is the right fit for me because the university shares my international focus and offers outstanding study abroad opportunities that would further expand my horizons.

Thank you for your time and dedication to giving my application a review, and if you need any additional information, please contact me. I also do not require financial assistance and would gladly deposit a check for tuition as soon as possible. I hope that I will be able to attend UChicago in the upcoming fall and hope to hear from your office soon.

Sincerely,  
Student Name

### **Appeal**

*An appeal is a student response to an ultimate rejection from a school. Most universities provide a process of appeal to students who feel that the admissions office was missing crucial information about a candidate's application, and it is important that students follow all guidelines provided by specific schools. Appeals generally have a less than 1% success rate, but they are still worth completing as a "last-ditch" effort in some extraordinary circumstances.*

#### **Template Appeal Letter:**

Dear Admissions Officer (Use Name),

1. This is where you explain why you're writing this letter. The school is your dream, and even though you know there are many qualified applicants, you're here to further explain who you are and why you're a perfect candidate for this school's community.
2. You can add a bit about why the school is your dream. Is it a long-term family history? Do they have a particular program you've always wanted to pursue? Do you have a particularly rich memory that celebrates the school's spirit or ethos in some way? Do you have sweatshirts that you've been wearing since you were four? You can include it here--**concisely!**
3. Here's where you talk about what you've been doing since you applied. What have you been working on extracurricularly? Anything you're particularly proud of or passionate about? How have your interests grown and developed? What about your coursework? Mention that you've worked hard academically and if you've discovered any subject areas that are particularly important your future pursuits. How does the school offer you opportunities to further these interests and pursuits? Be specific!
4. Conclude with humility. Recognize that you know you're one of many hardworking people applying and that you know you've worked your hardest to achieve your goals. You can also explain how you plan to end up at that school (transferring, gap year, etc.) and that you hope you have the opportunity to join the community for x,y, and z reasons.

#### **Example Appeal Letter:**

There are many paths to the fulfillment of a dream. I am writing this letter because it has long been a dream of mine to attend the University of Notre Dame. Having worked tirelessly for the last four years, it is not in my nature to give up on a lifelong dream without exhausting all possibilities and exploring all paths to its fulfillment. To this end, I am writing to appeal your decision and tell you more about myself, what I have to offer, and why I'm sure I belong at Notre Dame despite the numerous other excellent and qualified applicants.

Throughout my high school career, the goal of attending Notre Dame was a constant, powerful motivation. Knowing my love of Notre Dame, my parents would bring me hot cocoa in a *fighting irish* mug when I was staying up late studying to keep me motivated. I will never forget the first football game I attended at Notre Dame, where I witnessed generations of devoted alumni and the true spirit of the Notre Dame family. I can also vividly remember the feeling of belonging that I felt walking on Notre Dame's campus when it finally came time to visit prospective colleges. I felt so close to the fulfillment of my longtime dream.

My spring semester has been an evolution of my passions and aspirations. Every day I work with Sam, a 15 year old with down syndrome, who I have supported over the last 6 years, witnessing him finally flourishing in his life. After two years of working with my uncle to collect books for children through UCLA hospital, I have started a new program to collect books through the Cedars Sinai children's hospital. I have also volunteered to work in the infant ward at Cedars, allowing me to develop new skills and fulfill my passion for walking with babies and children.

On a very different note, I have been working at a hedge fund in order to familiarize myself more deeply with the business world and make sure I have the practical skills and knowledge to support my personal and professional aspirations. As with my other educational and professional interests, I have found that Notre Dame offers ideal opportunities for me to continue the learning and service work that I'm doing. Notre Dame's central location and its rich tradition of service work and community involvement would allow me to effectively pursue my work with disadvantaged children and other vulnerable populations.

I have never assumed that I deserved anything that I was not willing to work my utmost to achieve. I'm writing this letter because I know I belong at Notre Dame and have a lot to offer the school and community. I am also writing because I am determined to fulfill what has become an ever-growing dream, one that I've worked hard and will continue to work hard to achieve. While I have explored multiple options, including a transfer plan, and know that I will find my path to Notre Dame one way or another--because I do not give up on my dreams--I'm appealing to you for the opportunity to attend Notre Dame during my freshman year so I can experience the fullest participation in the Fighting Irish family and educational journey at the University of Notre Dame.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for listening to a dream that cannot be fully expressed in the limitations of a formal college application.

Sincerely,  
Student Name