Columbia Business School
MBA

Admissions
Columbia Business School
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IMMERSE YOURSELF IN BUSINESS

Columbia Business School is the only MBA program that offers you wide-ranging thought leadership combined with unparalleled real-time immersion in global business. Learn from professors whose ideas are transforming industry and shaping public discourse. Interact with dynamic real-world companies and leaders in and out of the classroom. An MBA from Columbia gives you the knowledge and tools to make a powerful impact on business and the world.
The most successful leaders have a perspective that reaches across disciplines, across geographic borders, and across time, seeing what has come before and anticipating what will be needed in the future. At Columbia, we challenge you to connect ideas beyond traditional boundaries by immersing yourself in real-world business challenges. You will develop the skills and broad perspective required to lead the businesses of tomorrow.

Glenn Hubbard
Dean and Russell L. Carson Professor of Finance and Economics

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Learn from the Best Minds in Business

With an emphasis on seeing the bigger picture and connecting the dots across different functional areas, our innovative curriculum and renowned faculty challenge you to solve complex business problems and prepare you to find opportunity in any environment.

Learn from professors whose work has a deep and direct impact on business. Columbia’s passionate teachers and leading scholars, who are also sought-after consultants, give you an insider’s view into their industry and the tools you’ll need to apply those lessons in your chosen field. Through our 25 centers, programs, and institutes, you are exposed to the latest big ideas across critical business areas. When you have the opportunity to see groundbreaking theory play out in practice, you develop both a deeper understanding of business forces and the decision-making skills to shape those forces.
Hands-On Learning, Big-Picture Thinking

Your coursework will be rigorous and relevant, and will encourage practical application. Our core curriculum, responsive to business’s evolving needs, provides essential building blocks for any career. With hundreds of electives across 14 areas of study, you can focus on your own passions and challenge yourself to make new discoveries. Master Classes and other hands-on offerings connect you directly with corporate and government clients to make business decisions in real time. Further enrich your learning through courses at Columbia’s other renowned graduate schools.

Collaborative learning is an integral part of the Columbia MBA experience. Your class is divided into clusters and small learning teams, each carefully designed to reflect diverse backgrounds and work experiences. Working closely with your peers on group assignments and leading projects, you develop close bonds, learn by doing, and address problems from multiple perspectives, teaching yourself to recognize opportunities others miss.

INTEGRATED LEARNING
Our integrated case focuses on a specific challenge faced by a major company. Studying the problem in several core courses, students examine key decisions made by different functions within the company. Mirroring the way real-world, real-time business decisions are made, the integrated case challenges you to use incomplete information from different functional areas to craft successful solutions to complex business problems.

FLEXIBLE ELECTIVES
Break from the normal class schedule and take a block week class, enroll in an Executive MBA course, or arrange an independent study.

CHOOSE FROM OVER 200 ELECTIVES OFFERED IN 14 AREAS OF STUDY
• Accounting
• Decision, Risk, and Operations
• Entrepreneurship
• Finance and Economics
• Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Management
• Leadership and Ethics
• Management
• Marketing
• Media
• Private Equity
• Real Estate
• Retail and Luxury Goods
• Social Enterprise
• Value Investing

THE J-TERM
January entry allows qualified students to skip the summer internship and earn their degree in just 16 months.
REAL-TIME, REAL-WORLD BUSINESS

The Power of Access

Columbia positions you in Manhattan, the heart of New York City, and at the nexus of global business. Our location combined with our premier role in business and business education mean that you have unparalleled access to practitioners and industry leaders.

In addition to offering their own expertise, your professors frequently invite legendary executives to discuss key business trends in class. You also benefit from dynamic practitioners teaching as adjunct professors and top business leaders who join Columbia’s community as Executives in Residence. These luminaries teach classes, help students network, give one-on-one advice, and often stay in touch with students beyond graduation.
Columbia Is New York

With so many business leaders based in or traveling to New York, we draw an extraordinary concentration of icons, innovators, and rising stars to campus for speaker series and guest lectures. Student-led conferences bring industry experts to campus, tap the knowledge and resources of our research centers, and give you the chance to serve in leadership positions and participate in the latest debates in a range of industries. Gain insight into the daily workings of business through field trips that include the New York Stock Exchange downtown, Berkshire Hathaway in Omaha, our popular Silicon Valley trek, and many international opportunities.

In addition, Columbia Business School alumni are generous with their time and expertise to help our students with internships, job strategies, and individualized career advice. Our more than 40,000 alumni are pivotal players in nearly every top industry in the city and around the world.

The Columbia curriculum is very much intertwined with New York and New York business. For example, my Operations class this week has a tour to the Steinway piano factory in Queens. There’s a tour to the Brooklyn Brewery. What I love about the curriculum is that it’s not just theoretical—it’s extremely practical.

—Nyambura Gichohi ’14
Nairobi, Kenya
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, GLOBAL IMPACT

Whatever industry you choose, your Columbia MBA will equip you with the skills, insights, and cross-cultural exposure to succeed in the global marketplace. We attract professors and students from around the world who share their knowledge and perspectives in and out of class. The Chazen Institute draws on the expertise of renowned faculty members and business executives to help shape the thinking and discourse on major global business issues. You can travel with a Chazen Study Tour to get firsthand exposure to the businesses and cultures of other countries or sign up for a Global Immersion class to build your international experience. Through Pangea Advisors, our International Development Club’s pro bono consulting group, you can change the world one entrepreneur at a time, from helping at-risk women start companies in the West Bank to strengthening microfinance programs in Nepal. Our admissions officers travel all over the world, hosting information sessions for international students, and our alumni can be found in more than 130 countries. Our reach is as global as our curriculum.

I just went on a Chazen Study Tour to Spain. The highlight was visiting Inditex, the company that owns the clothing line Zara, which we did a case study on in our core strategy course. The COO gave us a tour of their operating facilities—it’s one thing when you read about a company’s operations in the classroom, but it’s another when you witness the implementation of it firsthand. And you can see how true that lesson you took away from that class really is.

Shehzad Khan ’14
Bedminster, NJ

15 INTERNATIONAL CHAZEN TRAVEL PROGRAMS EACH YEAR

- Brazil
- China
- Cuba
- India
- Israel
- Japan
- Mexico
- Poland
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Tunisia
- UAE

Locations change year to year.
Community is woven into every aspect of the CBS experience and is the primary reason I chose Columbia. It was apparent at my first information session, which was organized by Cluster Q, the LGBT group on campus. It was clear that the group was entirely student-led, was highly visible, and had the support of the entire CBS community. That’s a perfect example of the culture students here are immersed in from day one: open, inclusive, and supportive.

Dyanna Salcedo ’14
New York, NY

THE COLUMBIA CULTURE

Diverse, Supportive Community

The warm, lively, supportive energy of Columbia’s community is infectious. Our students exchange stimulating business ideas in class or over coffee. They plan conferences, explore the city with one another, or launch a start-up together. From the opening days of Orientation, our diverse and talented students create a close community that both values collaboration and promotes the individual. At Columbia you’ll find ample opportunity and support to follow your own passion.

Our students are as varied and vibrant as today’s global business environment. They come from nearly 100 nations with backgrounds in virtually every business sector. You benefit from the experiences and insights of your classmates, and, working closely together in clusters and learning teams, you forge lifelong personal and professional relationships. Connect with seasoned professionals in the Executive MBA Program, too, as well as students in other prestigious graduate programs across the University.
Through a vast array of clubs, entrepreneurial opportunities, and student-led events and projects, you advance your leadership experience, develop hands-on management skills, expand your network—and have a whole lot of fun. Delve deeply into your own interests or explore new ones through a wide range of student-run professional, industry-themed, and social networks. Connect with others who have a passion for social enterprise, green business, real estate, or microbrewing. Give back to the community through our popular Small Business Consulting Program, tutoring children in Harlem, or coaching welfare-to-work recipients on interviewing skills. You’ll find the best of both worlds here: the expertise, connections, and opportunities of a large, diverse city and student community crosscut into many smaller communities for you to celebrate and share your culture, knowledge, and background.
The alumni network has made a meaningful contribution to me throughout my career, first in finance, then running a nonprofit, and now working in hospitality. There are Columbia alumni all over the world, in every industry, and they’re often eager to help each other out. The skills become very transferable. That foundation was really laid at Columbia.

Jeff Flug ’88
New York, NY
President, Union Square Hospitality Group

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A Columbia MBA Never Stops Working for You

The personal and professional network you build here will endure—and expand—over time. When you come to Columbia, you join a welcoming global network of more than 40,000 people who have walked these halls before you and are now some of the most exciting and innovative talents in the business, government, and nonprofit sectors. The passion our alumni have for Columbia is reflected in the time and access they give to current students through mentoring, lectures, internships, and more.

Take advantage of our lifelong resources to refresh or advance your skills as you tackle evolving professional challenges throughout your career. Audit a class, attend a guest lecture, participate in a conference, or connect with the active Columbia alumni network in New York City, across the country, or around the globe.
Columbia’s Career Advantage

We provide you the tools, connections, and support to develop into a leader right for the times—over a lifetime. Our dedicated Career Management Center carefully prepares you to shape your ideal career, from your first job after graduation to your long-term success, wherever your passion leads you. Across the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, the CMC connects you with industry insiders through on-campus and alumni events, helps you refine your skills through workshops, mock interviews, one-on-one career coaching, and second-year student advisors, and offers you a wealth of up-to-the-minute online resources and research in your desired industry. With their remarkable business acumen and innovative approaches to problem solving, our MBAs are actively sought by corporate recruiters, who represent hundreds of employers each year.

96% of the 2012 class received a job offer within 3 months of graduation.

“After a summer internship in banking, I decided midway through the MBA program to look in a new career direction. The Career Management Center guided me throughout the process—from the listing I found on the School’s job board up to negotiating a starting package. The advisors at the CMC really bend over backwards to help students here.”

Diana Yen ’13
Dallas, TX
Associate, Corporate Development, AT&T
The best way to get to know whether Columbia is right for you is to visit us. You can sit in on a class, chat with a student, or explore the campus. If you can’t make it to New York, check out our admissions blog for insight into the MBA Program from current students and admissions officers: gsb.columbia.edu/mba/voices.

We only accept applications online, and we review applications on a rolling basis, so it’s always beneficial to start the process early.

Visit gsb.columbia.edu/mba/admissions for information about:

- Online application
- Application criteria, including transcripts, essays, recommendations, and standardized tests
- Application deadlines
- Schedule of upcoming admissions events
- Visiting campus
- Program tuition, fees, and financial aid
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