Columbia University

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Nowhere but here
This is a place unlike any other. A major research university on a historic campus in the City of New York. Where a renowned curriculum is fueled by an incredibly diverse community. It’s a place for the dreamers. For the changemakers. For the risk-takers. For those who seek to connect deeply and collaborate fully with others who are yearning to learn what’s next and what’s new.
Those who pioneer.
Those who break through.
Those who delight in discovery and the joy of asking, “Why?”
It’s where a groundbreaking Core Curriculum provides an unparalleled foundation for inquiry. Where a belief in Engineering for Humanity guides scientific advances that improve our collective vision. Where the Columbia College Journey connects individuals to society, scholarship to leadership and ideas to action. Forever questing. Forever questioning. Forever curious.
Just like you
This is a place for the curious, and one thing is for certain: wondering and wandering go hand in hand. From your Core seminar to the Senior Design Expo. From volunteering at a youth literacy program to conducting research at Columbia University Irving Medical Center to studying abroad in Berlin. From the George Washington Bridge to Washington Heights to Washington, DC. A Columbia education is a foundation for learning, achieving and becoming that can take you to amazing places. How far will you go? Whose lives will you touch? We can’t wait to find out.
I had the unbelievable chance to meet and conduct research with Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz. Through his research mentorship, he taught me how to be a scientist. Through his outspokenness on inequity, he taught me how to stand up for what's right.

ELIF M.
Constanța, Romania

I am working in London this summer as a securities analyst at Goldman Sachs. Columbia has taught me quantitative skills and equipped me with a global outlook and appreciation for traveling the world as a means to educate myself and enrich my soul.

SOPHIE B.
Montreal, Canada

Engineering is foundational—but engineering thinking alone is not sufficient. Columbia helped me connect my analytic skills to a broader set of cultural, aesthetic and ethical understandings. Effectively tying those together is one of the characteristics that sets Columbia engineers apart.

SHAWN EDWARDS (SEAS’90)
Chief Technology Officer,
Bloomberg

In Professor Eugene Wu’s Computer Science Lab, I’m researching how to automatically visualize changing animated or interactive data. I’m running user studies, submitting papers to conferences and doing work that will contribute to the academic community.

JAKE F.
New York, NY

In the space of two weeks, I was able to hear Angela Davis speak about prison reform and Mayor Michael Nutter discuss his years of public service. I’ve been able to connect with so many incredible people because of Columbia.

MARTIN H.
Hockessin, DE

Explore Columbia Blue
@columbiaadmissions
#ColumbiaBlue
Nowhere but here
In the City of New York

does your classroom extend up and down Broadway and around the world.
In the City of New York
"When you pull into the subway station at 116th and Broadway, the sign says Columbia, the walls are light blue, and you get off and think, 'This stop is mine.'

LIZ V.
Scarsdale, NY
English and Art History

A HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS

Your corner of the world’s greatest city.

Between Broadway and Amsterdam, from 114th to 120th Streets, Columbia students find a place in which to find themselves. Nestled in the neighborhood of Morningside Heights, bordered by three parks, they discover an intimate campus that they can truly call home—both during their time here and long after they leave.

From brownstones and traditional residence halls to special living communities for students who share common interests, Columbia undergraduates make the most of the largest residential campus in Manhattan. Guaranteed housing for all four years provides ample time and opportunity to pursue passions, forge friendships and coalesce into a community that immediately feels like family—and to build a sense of belonging in the streets just beyond our gates.

Full of green spaces, coffee shops, eclectic restaurants and great hangouts, Morningside Heights is a character-rich and culturally diverse environment with a friendly face on every corner—where in no time at all, "I’m here" gives way to "I’m home." It’s a place where Columbia students become part of something larger, and where the rest of the world is only a short subway ride away.
In the City of New York

Living as a student in New York has given me a greater sense of independence. I've grown not only as a student and a critical thinker, but as an adult, as well.

NKIMA S.
Conyers, GA
Neuroscience and Behavior
Columbia has been a place of deep intellectual curiosity and wide-ranging academic inquiry since 1754. Across departments, schools, centers and institutes, Columbians at every level are driven by an abiding passion for discovery and work in the service of improving human understanding and the advancement of our global society.
In the City of New York

As students of Columbia, we have a unique opportunity to work with world-class professors and professionals alongside intelligent peers, all of whom challenge us every day. And we can use everything we learn and gain to make the world a better place for all.

ETHAN R.
Naperville, IL
Civil Engineering and Computer Science

From the law school of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the business school of Warren Buffett to the School of Journalism where the Pulitzer Prize was born, Columbia's graduate institutions are home to a wide range of academic opportunities — many of which are designated specifically for Columbia undergraduates.

Whether through the Core Curriculum that has informed our community’s discourse for a century or in exciting endeavors like the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, the Columbia Startup Lab or the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, Columbians are called to grapple with timeless questions. They form personal and meaningful relationships with ideas and ideals. Above all, they strive to know — not only for the sake of knowing, but also in an attempt to cast a light on our collective pathway forward.

“I couldn’t have received the Rhodes without the opportunities I had at Columbia to pursue a truly interdisciplinary education.”

ANISH G.
Rhodes Scholar
Mumbai, India
Comparative Literature and Society
NEW YORK CULTURE AND OPPORTUNITIES

An entire universe inside 315 city blocks.

New York is a city that defies description. A place where languages, cultures and ideas combine to create something wholly unique. It’s Wall Street and Silicon Alley. It’s The Met and MoMA. The Brooklyn Bridge and Washington Square Park. SoHo, the Village, TriBeCa, Midtown, Harlem, Chinatown and Little Italy. It’s the 1, the 7, the A and the Q. By ferry. By taxi. By bike share. By cross-town bus. It’s high finance and high fashion. World-class hospitals, world-shaping technology and world-changing ideas. It’s literary, culinary, contemporary and classic. It’s big, bold Broadway stages and a cup of coffee sipped while tucked away in some quiet corner with a book and a friend.

As a Columbia student, you can make the most of New York City’s incredible resources. A city that was itself a technological marvel is now a technology megahub that’s redefining industries and reimagining the future—a living lab where your classroom learning becomes real-world reality. Where you can find your focus, or focus on giving back through a wide range of civic engagement and service-learning opportunities, in Morningside Heights and throughout the five boroughs.

“Canvassing for a campaign in the Bronx, I learned about cultural competency and understanding the ways different cultures express themselves. This is a very important skill—we need to recognize that our diversity is our strength.”

MARK T.
Edinburg, TX
Operations Research

800 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Most of all, it’s a city of discovery, where virtually every subway stop is alive with more museums, theaters, galleries, restaurants, cafés, clubs and performance venues than you could ask for—and offers you the chance to glimpse into a new world and gain a new perspective on yourself.
In the City of New York

“Being surrounded by people both so similar to and so different from myself has only enriched my understanding of myself and the role that I hope to play in the world.”

BUNMI F.
Powder Springs, GA
Biomedical Engineering and Hispanic Studies

1,200+
MILES OF BIKE LANES
ACROSS NEW YORK CITY

10,000
STREET FOOD VENDORS
AND MORE THAN 25,000
RESTAURANTS TO SUIT EVERY APPETITE
In an increasingly interconnected world, cross-cultural understanding and global engagement are more critical than ever. With nearly a dozen global centers, Columbia’s reach is extended to every corner of the world, bringing our undergraduates countless opportunities to experience an exhilarating array of locations and unfamiliar ways of life.

From the Columbia Global Collaboratory that offers a forum for learning about global issues from international experts to one of the most active Engineers Without Borders chapters in the nation — and more than 130 study abroad programs spanning six continents and 40 countries — Columbia undergraduates travel pathways that lead from our campus to everywhere else. Along the way, they’ll join field-leading, trail-blazing faculty and the broader Columbia community in research and classwork that advances the principles of mutual respect, greater understanding and common humanity.
A truly global campus.

With one of the largest international populations of any university in the world, Columbia is truly a global campus — and a reflection of the city it calls home, Columbia students explore diverse international works through a series of Global Core courses, and develop important cultural, historical and geographical perspectives by engaging in on-campus programs and events.

Each fall, when prestigious leaders from around the world travel to New York City for United Nations Week, the renowned World Leaders Forum brings them to Columbia for lively debates, intellectual discourse and exploration of important global challenges. Past speakers include António Guterres, Sanna Marin and Paul Kagame.

The Obama Foundation Scholars Program, with support from Columbia World Projects, brings together young and promising leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to finding solutions to challenges in their communities, regions and countries.

Living and learning in one of the world’s premier international cities, and taking advantage of the many opportunities provided through the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement, Columbia College and Columbia Engineering students become part of a rich tapestry of profoundly global experiences.
SOME OF OUR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

From the Broadway stage to the political stage; biotech startups to the Baseball Hall of Fame; Nobel Prize ceremonies, big city newsrooms and the halls of academia—a Columbia education empowers graduates to pursue great things and have a world-changing impact. Where will Columbia Blue take you?

Ruth Bader Ginsburg
United States Supreme Court Justice
LAW ’59
Law

Ursula Burns
Former Xerox CEO and CEO of VEON
SEAS ’02
Mechanical Engineering

Michael J. Massimino
Professor of engineering and former NASA astronaut
SEAS ’84
Industrial Engineering

Kate McKinnon
Actor and comedian known for her work on Saturday Night Live
CC ’06
Theater

Kai-Fu Lee
Founder and CEO of Innovation Works and founding president of Google China
CC ’83
Computer Science

Judy Joo
Celebrity chef
SEAS ’97
Industrial Engineering and Operations Research

Barack Obama
44th President of the United States
CC ’83
Political Science and International Relations

Antonia Pantoja
Founder of ASPIRA and Presidential Freedom Medal recipient
SW ’54
Social Work

Richard Axel
Nobel Prize–winning molecular biologist
CC ’67
Literature

Jenji Kohan
Award-winning television writer and producer
CC ’91
English Language and Literature

Columbia University
Kaitlyn B.

MAJOR
Applied Math and Computer Science

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT NYC
On any given day, I can go off campus and see a show, head to a food market, or check out a new neighborhood.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES
Society of Women Engineers, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Engineering Recruitment Committee

FAVORITE COLUMBIA TRADITION
Columbia Dining events are always incredibly fun. In the Battle of the Dining Halls, chefs at each of the five dining halls create a recipe inspired by a NYC borough. This year, Chef Robert Irvine was the celebrity judge!

MEMORABLE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE
In my University Writing course, we focused on questions around the societal effects of data collection and emerging technologies. This first-year course gave me the human context that is now so important to consider when I am learning about technological advancements in my upper-level computer science courses.

REFLECTIONS
I am constantly surprised by how collaborative and supportive my peers are. When I’m struggling to understand a concept or a problem, friends are more than happy to explain it to me, and I do the same for them as well. It’s nice to know my peers are rooting for my success!

HOMETOWN
Tuxedo, NY
Gustavo A.

MAJOR
Economics and History

FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS
St. Paul’s Chapel is where the Catholic Ministry would gather to celebrate Mass and host community dinners within its beautiful architecture. The majestic organ, intricate Guastavino tile-work, and Gothic style have always made St. Paul’s Chapel a memorable experience.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT NYC
I take the subway anywhere in the city when I have spare time. When you leave Columbia’s campus, there is still a lot to learn from the city itself.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

MEMORABLE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE
I found myself wanting a more philosophical approach to balance the emphasis on mathematics and statistics in my economics coursework. I discovered a specialization within the history department pertaining to economic history, which has enabled me to experience the subject as both a philosophical discipline and a social science.

REFLECTIONS
Columbia’s Core Curriculum showed me the ‘scaffolding’ on which much of our modern civilization rests. I have learned to respect and cherish how profound, enriching, and old our history of ideas is.

HOMETOWN
Laredo, TX

Get more of the insider’s view
youtube.com/columbiaadmissions
Nowhere but here
A renowned liberal arts college within a world-class research university in the great city of New York, Columbia College is home to a vibrant community of undergraduates, an endless array of engaging ideas and a sweeping sense of possibility. It’s a place of big-picture questions, high hopes and ideals, and chances to imagine—and be part of—something greater.
COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Where a lifelong journey of inquiry and impact begins.

From its unparalleled Core Curriculum, exceptional research facilities and extensive global programming to its small class sizes and intimate learning environments, the educational experience of Columbia College is marked by countless opportunities for personal and intellectual growth. Guided by renowned faculty who are dedicated to the craft of teaching and mentorship, students explore new horizons of knowledge, understanding and impact.
Our students select from more than 100 majors and minors—including a range of interdisciplinary options and joint programs, as well as hundreds of academic and research opportunities through the University’s affiliated graduate schools, centers and institutes. They acquire a broad base of knowledge, achieve mastery of their chosen discipline and complete a thesis or significant research project.

Engaging closely with a community of peers and faculty mentors inside and outside the classroom, students make the most of integrated academic, pre-professional, career and residential advising. Through the Odyssey Mentoring Program, they connect with the greater Columbia community, establishing a sounding board of alumni counselors for advice and networking. Through the Core Curriculum, they encounter challenging ideas that encourage them to be not only critical thinkers who are ready to question and debate, but also active citizens who are engaged in their communities.

Through it all, Columbia College students discover what they’re capable of achieving. Mindful, inquisitive and driven to better themselves and the world around them, they embrace a mindset of reflection and continual growth. They pursue their passions with vigor, purpose and an eye toward a better future.

I came to Columbia because I fell in love with the way that a traditional liberal arts education mixed with the contemporary and STEM fields.

TRISTAN D.
Craig, AK
Architecture and French

50,000+
COLUMBIA COLLEGE ALUMNI NETWORK

Learn more about Columbia college.columbia.edu

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TRISTAN D.
Craig, AK
Architecture and French

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Learn more about Columbia college.columbia.edu
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German Literature and Cultural History
Hellenic Studies
Hispanic Studies
History
Human Rights
Information Science
Italian
Jazz Studies
Jewish Studies
Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Linguistics
Mathematics
Mathematics–Statistics
Medical Humanities
Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Middle East, South Asian and African Studies
Music
Neuroscience and Behavior
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science
Political Science–Statistics
Portuguese Studies
Psychology
Public Health
Regional Studies
Religion
Russian Language, Literature and Culture
Slavic Language and Culture
Slavic Studies
Sociology
Statistics
Sustainable Development
Urban Studies
Urban Teaching
Visual Arts
Women’s and Gender Studies
Yiddish

List accurate as of March 2023
THE CORE CURRICULUM

For 100 years, the Core Curriculum has been the defining element of a Columbia education. It’s a communal learning experience that cultivates community-wide discourse and deliberate contemplation around classic works, contemporary issues and humanity’s most enduring questions.

“In the Prado Museum in Spain, I saw a painting we had discussed in Art Hum: Goya’s Third of May. I remembered the history of the painting from class, but was also reminded of how battles are represented in The Iliad from Lit Hum. The Core keeps you thinking.”

SONYA X.
Dallas, TX and Shanghai, China
Economics and East Asian Studies
Academically expansive and personally transformative, the Core transcends disciplines, introducing cornerstone ideas and theories from across literature, philosophy, history, science and the arts. In most Core classes, students engage with primary works that contain some of the most significant thoughts, images and sounds by thinkers and artists from Homer to Toni Morrison, from Plato to Patricia Williams, from Puccini to Andy Warhol, from the authors of Gregorian Chants to Kaija Saariaho. By exploring together what these works mean to them as individuals, students grapple with what it means to be human, in all of its joys and challenges.

Taught from a common syllabus in small, discussion-style seminars, the Core cultivates an intentional consciousness and willingness to explore new ideas, values and beliefs. It’s a learning environment where students are challenged to engage meaningfully with friends and classmates who hold different opinions. They form an intimate intellectual community that spans disciplines and interests and fosters deep, enduring friendships. Together, they learn to adapt and respond to new information and revelations that can—and often do—alter and expand their worldview.

Through these encounters, students develop intellectual tools and habits of mind they’ll use long after they leave college, solving multidimensional problems and finding profound answers to questions that may at times seem unanswerable. They’ll carry these lessons with them into the world, where they will join a greater conversation that binds Columbia’s present students to its past and future generations. It’s a timeless dialogue and an approach to thinking and living that seeks to elevate society for all, and is more vital now than ever before.
MY COLUMBIA COLLEGE JOURNEY

Reflecting is critical to learning.

At the heart of the Columbia experience is a conscious and considered process of becoming — not just scholars, intellectuals and professionals, but also individuals. We believe elements of personal character transcend disciplines and occupations. As an institution, we seek to cultivate in our students a holistic and multifaceted sense of self that will serve them well in all endeavors, both as members of their community and as citizens of the world.

My Columbia College Journey is a tool for inquiry and self-reflection. It consists of 13 competencies students can use to better understand their academic, social and intellectual experience in the context of their own growth as an individual. Neither requirements nor restrictions, these competencies serve as landmarks that can help you find your way on the path to becoming who you’re meant to be.
In the City of New York

THE CORE COMPETENCIES OF MY COLUMBIA COLLEGE JOURNEY

Creativity and Innovation
Identify interests that support your creativity and enhance your ability to think flexibly. Imagine original knowledge, solutions, creations and works.

Wellness and Resilience
Balance the spheres of your life. Acknowledge success, learn from failure and form sustainable strategies for preserving physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Quantitative Literacy
See the whole equation. Become fluent in the interpretation and analysis of data. Find solutions through a multiplicity of pathways.

Global Awareness
Construct a working view of the world. Immerse yourself in the unfamiliar, and build connections across continents and cultures.

Knowledge
Strive for understanding. Build a broad foundation, advance the proficiency of your interests, and aspire to mastery of many disciplines.

Written Communication
Harness the written word. Explore forms, media and rhetoric. Find your voice, and train it to tell your story.

Critical Thinking
Understand how you analyze information and ideas. Think critically about the world. Apply lenses across subjects and disciplines.

Teamwork and Collaboration
Consider what is gained through collective commitment toward a shared goal. Develop strategies for fostering engagement and taking initiative in pursuit of discovery.

Civic and Individual Responsibility
Understand your values, and imagine the impact of your words and actions. Seek experiences that reflect those values; act in concert with your community.

Research
Pursue new knowledge. Engage effectively and resourcefully with existing theory; indulge in healthy criticism of your own approach; discover opportunities in the unknown.

Oral Communication
Speak deliberately—with precision, passion and clarity. Trust your ability to articulate complex ideas and perspectives. Above all, express yourself.

Information and Technological Literacy
Evaluate your relationship to technology and society’s vast informational landscape. Know your tools, manage them carefully and deploy them masterfully.

Community Engagement and Inclusion
Practice stewardship within your community. Be inclusive. Recognize and celebrate differences in values and identity. Broaden your perspectives and your horizons.

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Written Communication
Harness the written word. Explore forms, media and rhetoric. Find your voice, and train it to tell your story.

Critical Thinking
Understand how you analyze information and ideas. Think critically about the world. Apply lenses across subjects and disciplines.
Laura J.

**MAJOR**
History and Dance

**WHAT I LOVE ABOUT NYC**
I love watching dance performances at the Joyce Theater in Chelsea, going on food treks in Flushing, and exploring Brooklyn during springtime for the cherry blossoms and cafes.

**CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**
CU Generation Hip-Hop Dance Team, Columbia Daily Spectator, Columbia Journal of History, Undergraduate Recruitment Committee

**FAVORITE COLUMBIA TRADITION**
I love going to the Hungarian Pastry Shop early in the morning to have a cup of Viennese coffee with a warmed-up croissant. There’s no wifi, so I’ll write in my journal or read a book for class. Sometimes I bump into professors reading the morning newspaper and am able to strike up a conversation.

**MEMORABLE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**
Siobhan Burke’s course Dance Criticism has been a highlight of my Columbia experience. Professor Burke, a professional dance critic writing for the New York Times, gave us the opportunity to watch and write about live dance performances in the city. It opened my eyes to new opportunities in life.

**REFLECTIONS**
I learned at Columbia that college is not just four years. It is an enriching experience that will form a version of me, a forever learner, that I can carry with me for the rest of my life.

**HOMETOWN**
Shanghai, China
In the City of New York

Kaimana M.

**Major**
Psychology

**Favorite Spot on Campus**
I love studying at the top floor of the International Affairs Building and taking in the city skyline. The view reminds me of the hard work that got me where I am and the limitless opportunities at my doorstep.

**clubs and activities**
Mālama Hawai‘i Club, Charles Drew Pre-Med Society, Indigehouse, Take Columbia Home Ambassador

**Favorite Columbia Tradition**
My favorite Columbia custom is sitting on the Lawns on a warm, sunny spring day—strumming my Ukulele, playing volleyball with my friends, or just simply observing other people entranced in complex conversations or intense spike ball games.

**Memorable Academic Experience**
Frontiers of Science is one of the most interesting and academically rewarding classes I have taken at Columbia. It was amazing to learn about different emerging fields of scientific research. I learned about relativity from Professor Brian Greene!

**Reflections**
Spontaneous conversations and interactions at Columbia make my day. Whether discussing quantum computing or the meaning of life, I learned that unanimously right answers are hard to come by. It’s so valuable to have multiple perspectives in conversation with each other.

**Hometown**
Kauai, HI
Within the looking glass

Investigating structure dynamics in supercooled liquids, David Reichman, Centennial Professor of Chemistry, works to de-mystify “the deepest and most interesting unsolved problem in solid state theory” — the question of how and why glass forms into a solid.

Reach for the stars

Students and faculty in our Department of Astronomy bring an appreciation for the celestial to the masses through public lectures, guided stargazing nights, sci-fi film screenings and even a bit of sidewalk astronomy in the heart of the city.

Conservation’s cultural complexities

Anthropology professor Paige West’s work with indigenous peoples in Papua New Guinea examines how conservation efforts designed to protect natural ecosystems can negatively impact traditions and culture.
Examining why financial markets melt down

One of Foreign Policy magazine’s leading global thinkers, professor Adam Tooze’s recent research and writing looks at the global financial crises of the last decade through the lenses of economics, business, history and politics.

Inter-media

A fellow at Columbia’s Institute for Ideas and Imagination, professor Debashree Mukherjee investigates the material relations between cinema’s bodies, machines, aesthetics and environments as they intersect with practices of modernity and freedom in late colonial India.

Playwright with a purpose

A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, professor Lynn Nottage has earned critical acclaim as a playwright whose powerful, intimate work unapologetically confronts race, class, inequality and poverty.
Nowhere but here
do pioneering thinkers work across disciplines united by a vision of Engineering for Humanity.
Since 1864, Columbia Engineering students and faculty have made remarkable contributions to technological and social progress as we have pushed the frontiers of knowledge and discovery to meet the needs of our global society. Today, Columbia engineers are a force for the future, working to create a more sustainable, healthy, connected, secure and creative humanity.
Through an undergraduate course of study that features an engineering foundation with a liberal arts core and leverages the extensive resources of a major research university, Columbia Engineering students become leaders and innovators, prepared to confront complex issues with groundbreaking solutions to the grand challenges of our time.
Centered in the cultural and financial hub of a city that has emerged as a world-renowned center for high-tech research and development, we offer students a unique educational opportunity. Developing a powerful engineering foundation from within 17 areas of study, undergraduates form close working relationships with a diverse faculty that represents the brightest minds in engineering and applied science from across the country and around the world.

Our students and faculty push research frontiers, engage in interdisciplinary collaborations, and blaze new and distinctive pathways toward tangible, real-world impact that will shape the course of the 21st century.

Columbia engineers pursue a deep liberal arts foundation side by side with their Columbia College peers through the Core Curriculum. Their education is further enriched by over 20 liberal arts minors as well as 15 engineering minors.

Both in and out of the classroom, Columbia Engineering is a hands-on environment with an emphasis on engaged learning, discovery and innovation. It’s a rich creative landscape where free thinkers flourish, bold ideas thrive and possibilities become realities.

> From leading a world-class solar fuels research project to performing with the Columbia University Orchestra at Lincoln Center, the wealth of possibilities available at Columbia Engineering played a pivotal role in setting my career vision.”

AMAR B.
Marshall Scholar
Hong Kong
Chemical Engineering

Learn more about Columbia engineering.columbia.edu
COLUMBIA ENGINEERING AREAS OF STUDY

Analytics
Applied Mathematics
Applied Physics
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Earth and Environmental Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Engineering Management Systems
Engineering Mechanics
Financial Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Operations Research

ENGINEERING MINORS

Applied Mathematics
Applied Physics
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Science
Earth and Environmental Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Engineering Mechanics
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Industrial Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Operations Research
Sustainable Engineering
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List accurate as of March 2023
From New York’s first subway and FM radio to DNA sequencing platforms, sophisticated climate modeling and advanced bioreactors, Columbia Engineering innovations have revolutionized industries and advanced society.
In the City of New York

I came to Columbia so I could be an engineer who also was aware of social institutions and histories that shaped the world today. This enhances my knowledge of the world, and makes me a more ethical engineer who can...truly make the world a better place for all.

ARYN D.
Hurst, TX
Computer Science, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Sociology

Today, Columbia Engineering continues to bring our engineering impact to the service of humanity, and we are dedicated to the pursuit of engineering that fosters a more sustainable, healthy, secure, connected and creative world.

Sustainable
Preserving our planet while advancing the quality of life for people around the globe is one of the most urgent challenges facing society. New and interdisciplinary ways of thinking are required to accelerate essential breakthroughs, from mitigating and reversing climate change to providing water and energy for a rapidly expanding population.

Healthy
The global life expectancy of our species has doubled since 1900. As health and wellness practices become more personalized, precise, interactive and holistic for both individual patients and entire populations, technical advances will be critical to optimize care and ensure medical resources for underserved communities.

Secure
From economies to power grids, complex systems underpin our global society. To enhance production and function, and to manage the inherent risks, we must better understand, model, design, predict, control and optimize the dynamics and behavior of such systems — both natural and human engineered.

Connected
Technology is enabling an exponential increase in connectivity, as well as an explosion of data into all spheres of life. Harnessing that potential to improve the human experience requires progress in many areas — including new algorithms for data security and verification and new methods to ensure transparency, ethics and equity.

Creative
Engineering is an essentially creative field, marked by an emphasis on immersion and exploration. What’s more, the tools and techniques we discover propel creativity and ingenuity in other fields. As we develop makerspaces and promote connections across backgrounds and disciplines, we create an environment where innovation flourishes.
The Columbia Engineering experience combines the technical acumen students acquire through Columbia’s Engineering Commons with the broad humanist and liberal arts exposure of the renowned Columbia Core Curriculum.

The result is an active, roll-up-your-sleeves culture of imagining, creating and solving. It’s made possible by a diverse, energetic and intellectually curious student body focused on a better future — and enabled by ready access to world-class facilities, ample resources and field-leading faculty.

GAINING EXPERIENCE

Where engineers learn to solve and to lead.

columbia.edu/research
In the City of New York

Broad exposure. Diverse experience.

The Art of Engineering
This foundational and inspirational class guides the transition from high school student to successful collegiate engineer. Students gain practical research experience with the Common Project. Think creatively and collaboratively at Friday group lectures. Engage in half-semester research in the department of their choosing.

The Columbia MakerSpace
Columbia’s 3,000 sq. ft. MakerSpace offers a wide variety of tools—from 3D printers to laser cutters and CNC tools for digital fabrication—for projects, hobbies, building prototypes or tinkering with a new idea.

Columbia Design Challenges
Columbia Design Challenges encourage students from across the University to devise interdisciplinary solutions to urgent societal needs. From fighting Ebola and building sustainable workspaces in India to increasing access to clean water in Rio de Janeiro and generating innovative technology for New York City’s participation in the 2020 Census, our students work on real problems to help find real solutions.

Senior Design Expo
The annual Senior Design Expo showcases the collaborative projects of seniors with their peers, applying their knowledge to solve an engineering challenge while researching, designing and producing an original prototype.

Research that matters.

Nanotechnology Initiative
An interdisciplinary community within Columbia University dedicated to supporting and developing research efforts in nanoscience and technology, as well as quantum science and technology.

Artificial Intelligence
Working closely across disciplines with resources like Columbia’s Data Science Institute, faculty are shepherding a new wave of AI technologies. These advances have the potential to permeate and transform every field—from medicine and finance to materials discovery, social interactions and free speech.

Regenerative Medicine
Multidisciplinary research brings together bioengineers, clinicians and systems biology scientists to create innovative procedures and therapies that can help the human body heal itself, whether that means recovering from heart attacks, improving brain function or fighting cancer with bacteria.

Electrochemical Energy Center
Charting an urgent pathway toward a clean energy future with a world-class research team spanning multiple departments. Electro-chemical reactions are the driving force behind next-generation batteries, future fuel, carbon capture and conversion, and the decarbonization of manufacturing industries.

Columbia Engineering students are more than engineers—they’re visionaries with the power to discover solutions, advance progress and find answers to the world’s greatest challenges.

The Columbia engineers who pioneered inventions like X-ray technology and the mass-production of antibiotics worked at the very cutting edge of technology in their lifetime. Today, we’re doing the same.
Emhyr S.

MAJOR
Chemical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering

FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS
I always cross Law Bridge (also known as Revson Plaza) when I’m leaving and returning to my residence hall, and I like taking a break to admire the view or doing some work when the weather is nice. It maintains Columbia’s campus environment while feeling close to the city.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES
Tour Guide, Triathlon Club, ChemE Car Club, Bach Society, Navy ROTC

FAVORITE COLUMBIA TRADITION
Bacchanal is a spring showcase of music. Campus is never more alive, with massive throngs of students watching student performers and famous artists on the same stage. I love the social energy and the opportunity to see notable musicians for free.

MEMORABLE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE
The Makerspace has been the ultimate creative outlet for me throughout my time at Columbia. Through the plethora of free tools and materials available—from laser cutters and waterjets to sewing and embroidery machines—I developed a passion for hands-on engineering and a better understanding of how goods are manufactured.

REFLECTIONS
There is ALWAYS something happening! Whether it be a pop-up merch giveaway on campus, a trip to a fully-booked Columbia-only Coney Island (rides and all), or a free Broadway show, there are constantly opportunities to build community with my peers and engage with the limitless activities happening in New York City. Being able to study for exams, toss a frisbee on-campus, and bike to Times Square all in one afternoon can only happen at Columbia.

HOMETOWN
Olympia, WA

Get more of the insider’s view
youtube.com/columbiaadmissions
Rachel A.

**Major**
Biomedical Engineering

**Favorite Spot on Campus**
On the steps in front of Low—it’s a really cool place to just chill and be outside.

**What I Love About NYC**
The proximity of everything. Great food around you at all times.

**Clubs and Activities**
I’ve been on the varsity women’s soccer team, and I wouldn’t trade anything for that experience.

**Favorite Columbia Tradition**
There’s this dance group called Raw Elementz at Columbia. It’s not an exaggeration to say some of my favorite memories are their performances on the steps of Lerner.

**Reflections**
I love the vibe of the athletic community here. We’re super supportive of each other. You see them for hours on end every day, so even in the short time you’ve been together, you feel like you’ve known them forever. That’s definitely been a highlight.

**Hometown**
Silver Springs, Maryland
SPOTLIGHTS

Research and discoveries in engineering and applied science

Climate change and response

Professor of earth and environmental engineering Pierre Gentine is accelerating a more effective climate response with investigations into the global water cycle that increase our ability to make predictions about the future of droughts, flooding and extreme weather.

Labor of love

Applying her expert knowledge of structures to the human body, associate professor of mechanical engineering Kristin Myers is developing instruments that prevent pre-term birth — sparing families deep emotional and financial costs, and making this leading cause of infant mortality a thing of the past.

Pro-biotic

For years, science focused on killing bacteria. Now researchers like associate professor of biomedical engineering Tal Danino are reframing this complex, invisible world and genetically programming bacteria to diagnose disease and even heal the human body.
Computing at the speed of light

Professors Keren Bergman and Michal Lipson of Electrical Engineering together with professor Alex Gaeta of Applied Physics are working to replace electrons with photons from the nanoscale to the microscale for networks that will connect us faster without taxing energy resources.

Inside the intricacies of thought

A pioneer in algorithms, Christos Papadimitriou, professor of computer science, is turning his focus to the mystery of the human brain to understand the sources of cognition, intelligence, language and stories.

Building blocks for a better world

Enhancing materials like concrete to better protect the environment, associate professor of civil engineering and engineering mechanics Shiho Kawashima’s innovations in the field of rheology create stronger, longer-lasting infrastructure—staving off disasters like gas leaks and oil spills.
Nowhere but here
can 6,700 classmates, 500 clubs and one residential campus in New York City help you discover who you truly are.
COLUMBIA STUDENT LIFE

Finding community and lifelong friends.

Columbia College and Columbia Engineering form a community of bright, curious individuals living and learning together in a truly one-of-a-kind city. Our students come together from every background and every corner of the world to engage and explore, to seek new adventures and perspectives, to build connections and lifelong friendships, and to pursue a better world.

This community draws inspiration from a city and a neighborhood always in motion and a campus alive with opportunity. Students tap into energy and ideas inspired by more than 500 student clubs and organizations — everything from intramural athletics and philosophy journals to investment clubs and culinary societies. They find people who share their passions and beliefs, and discover in themselves a new sense of purpose and identity.

“I have found friendship and support from my fellow Native students within Native American Council. Regardless of your identity, there is a community for you on campus.”

ABIGAIL H.
Norman, OK
Anthropology

60+
SOCIAL JUSTICE, SERVICE AND STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES, CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS
In the City of New York

50+
MUSIC- AND
PERFORMANCE-
BASED GROUPS

500+
CLUBS AND
ORGANIZATIONS

“You can be whoever you want to be at Columbia, and there will always be social and institutional resources to get you there!”

SABRINA JADE S.
Fremont, CA
Data Science
"I can meet people from across the world in my classes, dorms, and clubs. I have learned a lot about different cultures and have become much more open-minded."

IRENE B.
Zhoushan, China
Computer Science and Economics

First-year residence halls are hubs of activity and community

Carman Hall
Furnald Hall
Hartley Hall
John Jay Hall
Wallach Hall

#1 College for Food, as ranked by The Daily Meal
In the City of New York

55,000
HOURS VOLUNTEERED
BY STUDENTS THROUGH
COMMUNITY IMPACT
PROGRAMS EACH YEAR

Every dorm has a floor lounge,
complete with a TV and
lounge chairs, open 24 hours.
It’s the go-to spot for my friends,
and we have floor bonding
activities every week so it’s easy
to meet people.

ANTHONY A.
San Diego, CA
Computer Science

12+ ON-CAMPUS DINING
HALLS AND CAFÉS

Blue Java Café
Café East
Ferris Booth Commons
John Jay Dining Hall
JJ’s Place
Café Nana
Faculty House
Chef Mike’s Sub Shop

140+
ON-CAMPUS
RESIDENT
ADVISERS
It was only after I came to Columbia and met students from all over the world that I began to understand what it means to live in such a cosmopolitan community.

ALAN B.
Tijuana, Mexico
English
In the City of New York

“I love Columbia sporting events. I’m a part of the WKCR sports department, so we travel to games to broadcast...seeing the fans that show up in support of the Lions is always a ton of fun.”

BRIAN O.
Norfolk, MA
Mathematics–Statistics and Sociology
“Fifty years from now, this is the kind of thing we’ll remember: sitting in the hallway with a bunch of friends, talking about books until two in the morning.”

Tom S.
Benicia, CA
History

35+ RELIGIOUS/ SPIRITUAL CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS
In the City of New York

@GoColumbiaLions

In a place miles and miles away from home, it’s surprisingly easy to find your second home.

MIKHA D.
Manila, Philippines
Biomedical Engineering
COLUMBIA TRADITIONS

1. Every October, thousands of Columbia alumni from every corner of the world return to Morningside Heights to celebrate Homecoming—a weekend full of fall festivities that culminates in a football game between the Lions and an Ivy League rival.

2. In early December, students and alumni gather on College Walk for this dazzling and moving celebration of tradition, holiday spirit and the Columbia community.

3. Columbia’s oldest performing arts tradition, the Varsity Show has entertained students and faculty alike since 1894, with sold-out performances that satirize life at Columbia.

4. Legend holds that the first member of the incoming class to find the owl hidden on the statue of Alma Mater in Low Plaza will become the class valedictorian.

5. Every spring, Columbia’s Hindu Students Organization hosts Holi, the Festival of Colors, where students of all faiths celebrate the end of winter.

6. Students come together for an extravagant one-night-only performance art festival in Columbia’s steel-and-glass student center, Lerner Hall, where dance, music and comedy groups showcase their talents on the building’s crisscrossing ramps.

7. An annual event where Indigenous Peoples and their friends unite to celebrate and honor their identities through dance, song and socialization.

8. At the first snowfall of each year, the students converge on Low Plaza for a friendly, free-for-all snowball fight under the watchful eye of Alma Mater.

9. Sponsored by the Chinese Students Club each fall, Night Market features food, art and performances that run the gamut from lion dance to a cappella, sketch comedy,
Residence Hall Leadership Send Off  

Held each fall on the South Lawn, the RHLO Send Off brings together undergraduates from Columbia College, Columbia Engineering and Barnard College for games, refreshments and even some inflatables.

Surf, Turf, & Earth  

As the school year winds down, Columbia’s top-ranked Dining Services pulls out all the stops for Surf, Turf & Earth, featuring lobster tails, steak and literally boatloads of shrimp. Students are advised to come hungry!

Bacchanal  

In April, the Bacchanal Spring Concert is a chance to enjoy music festival vibes with friends from across the undergraduate community. Recent headliners include AlunaGeorge, Ty Dolla $ign and Columbia alums Vampire Weekend.

Primal Scream  

The night before Finals Week, students step away from their studies to gather at midnight on the South Lawns to scream out their stresses in a festive, supportive crowd.

King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe  

For 20+ years, the King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe has given free, outdoor performances all around Columbia’s Morningside Heights campus.

World Leaders Forum  

This event series hosts world leaders from countries and international organizations to engage in discussions and Q&As related to the major issues of our time. Over 300 dignitaries from over 85 countries have visited since 2003.
Having a broad representation of perspectives—in our residence halls, our labs and classrooms, and across our campus—is critical to our culture. The more voices we hear, the more we learn and the better we understand. So, we seek out intellectually curious minds from all walks of life and socioeconomic backgrounds across the country and around the world, who will contribute to, and profit from, the Core Curriculum and the total Columbia experience.
Providing Access and Affordability

What matters most to us is your ability to thrive at Columbia, not your ability to pay for it. We are committed to making Columbia’s opportunities accessible for all our students. If cost is a concern for your family, we encourage you to apply for financial aid.

$200+ Million in Aid
Columbia typically awards over $200 million in scholarships and grants. In fact, we offer some of the most generous financial aid of any college in the United States, and students are often surprised by how much they receive. In many instances, Columbia is actually more affordable than public colleges and universities.

Need-Blind Admissions
We are need-blind for US citizens, eligible non-citizens and undocumented students, which means you are considered for admission without regard for your ability to pay for your education. Foreign citizens applying for aid are reviewed in a more need-aware process, but many of our foreign citizens receive significant financial aid.

100% of Need Covered
Columbia covers 100 percent of your demonstrated need for all four years that you are here. And tuition is free for students coming from families with annual incomes of less than $150,000.

$0 Parent Contribution
If your family’s annual income is less than $66,000, your parents are not expected to contribute to the cost of attendance. Almost 50 percent of first-year financial aid recipients have a parent contribution under $5,000.

No Loans
Financial aid packages consist of work study, as well as grants, which are need-based scholarships that do not have to be paid back. There are no loans included in your financial aid package, and you can graduate debt-free.

Gateway to Opportunity
We have a range of programs in place to help you enjoy your time at Columbia and make the most of the opportunities you’ll find here—among them research funding, financial support for studying abroad and the chance to win tickets for cultural events through our beloved Urban NY lottery.
Columbia University

Where will Columbia Blue take you? We can’t wait to find out.

Our website provides extensive information about Columbia College and Columbia Engineering admissions processes, including the criteria we use to select students, recommended secondary school preparation and details on our testing policy.

CAMPUS VISITS
Information sessions, student panels and Q&A sessions are a chance to ask our admissions team about all things Columbia: academics, residential life, extracurricular activities, advising, admissions requirements, financial aid, New York City and more. We also offer student-led campus tours that provide a guide’s personal anecdotes and experiences as a member of the undergraduate community. Programs and tours are offered in-person and virtually.

Go to undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/visit to see a full list of our offerings and to register. Events aren’t offered during University holidays, so please visit the website before making travel arrangements.

APPLYING TO COLUMBIA COLLEGE OR COLUMBIA ENGINEERING
You are invited to apply to Columbia College or Columbia Engineering, but we ask that you only apply to one. Apply by using either the Common Application or the Coalition Application powered by Scoir. To allow our Committee on Admissions to get to know you better, we also ask applicants to complete a series of Columbia-specific questions. Columbia is test-optional. Our complete application requirements are online: undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/apply.

IMPORTANT DATES
Admissions application due
Early Decision — November 1
Regular Decision — January 1

Financial aid application due
Early Decision — November 15
Regular Decision — February 15

Decisions released
Early Decision — Mid-December
Regular Decision — By April 1

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY
Columbia University is committed to providing a learning environment free from unlawful discrimination and harassment and to fostering a nurturing and vibrant community founded upon the fundamental dignity and worth of all of its members. Columbia University does not discriminate against any person in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other University-administered programs or permit the harassment of any student or applicant on the basis of race, color, sex, gender (including gender identity and expression), pregnancy, religion, creed, marital status, partnership status, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, military status or any other legally protected status.

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or simply stay in touch

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