



Greetings from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University. Thank you for signing up to receive information from the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

The email newsletters we send are meant to provide you with information about the opportunities available to SIPA students and details related to the process of applying for admission and financial aid. An archive of the emails sent can be found by visiting the following site:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/admissions/newsletter.html

Application for Spring 2009 and Fall 2009 Now Available

We are happy to report that we have completed our annual update to the admission application site and it is now possible to start and submit an application for the spring 2009 and fall 2009 cycles. The deadline for spring 2009 admission is October 1st, 2008. The deadline for fall 2009 admission is January 5th, 2009.

In order for your application to be processed in the most expedient manner possible we recommend submitting your application and fee as soon as possible. As soon as the application form and fee are submitted we initiate the process of tracking documents submitted to our office. You can then track the progress of your file on the application site.

The personal statement and CV/résumé need to be submitted via the application site by the appropriate program deadline, however this can be done after submitting your application form and paying the application fee.

To create your application account please use the following link:

<https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=COL-spa>

GRE Policy Change

We have a very important announcement related to our application requirements. In the past SIPA has always strongly recommended, but not required, the submission of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) with an admission application to our two-year MIA and MPA programs. **Starting with the fall 2009 application cycle please note that GRE scores will be a required part of the admission application for the two-year MIA and MPA full-time degree programs. SIPA does not require a GRE subject test - just the general exam.**

Those who plan on applying for the fall of 2009 should start gathering information on the GRE exam now. The exam is administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and you can find more information on their web site:

<http://www.ets.org>

The GRE code for SIPA is 2161 – there is no department code. We do not average GRE test scores; we take the highest scores achieved. Thus for some applicants it may be advantageous to take the test more than one time.

In very rare cases the Admissions Committee may waive the requirement to submit the GRE. Waivers are generally granted only to those who can prove that taking the GRE would prove to be a tremendous hardship. If you have any questions regarding our GRE policy please contact our office by sending an email to sipa_admission@columbia.edu.

News and Notes

Jeff Sachs Interview on DESIGN21

SIPA faculty member Jeff Sachs is well known for his involvement in issues related to poverty alleviation and global warming. DESIGN21 interviewed Professor Sachs and posed questions concerning collaboration across disciplines, countries, and borders. Sachs opened the interviewing by saying:

The most exciting development in recent years is that the world has gotten behind a shared set of goals. Several global commitments are pre-eminent: the commitment to fight extreme poverty contained in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the commitment to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions as part of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; the commitment to combat desertification in the world's dry land regions, in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification; and the commitment to preserve biodiversity in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

For the full interview click on the following link:

<http://www.design21sdn.com/feature/930>

FDNY SIPA Student Workshop

A core part of the degree programs at SIPA is professional development. Through internships and workshops SIPA students are able to integrate classroom theory with real world events and policy development.

As part of the spring 2008 workshops at SIPA a team of seven MPA students worked with the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) on the agency's goal to create a performance management system. The following is a quote from SIPA student Mark Danon, who served as a firefighter prior to joining SIPA:

"Most fire departments in the USA do not collect measures of performance. It was important for the workshop team to give the FDNY a few measures to take to the Mayor's Office."

For a full interview about the workshop click on the following link:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/announcements/sipanews3.html

Publishing News – Dorian Warren

SIPA Assistant Professor Dorian Warren has edited a new volume titled *Race and American Political Development*, along with co-editors Joe Lowndes and Julie Novkov. This volume, the first to collect essays on the role of race in American political history and development, resituates race in American politics as an issue for sustained and broadened critical scholarly research and action. Race has been present at every critical moment in political development in the United States, shaping political institutions, discourse, public policy and its denizens' political identities.

To purchase or learn about the book [click here](#).

For information on Dorian Warren [click here](#).

Financial Aid

Graduate school can be expensive and although SIPA does award a significant amount of funding (close to six million dollars in scholarship funding for the coming 2008-2009 academic year) we highly encourage applicants to look for external fellowships and scholarships. This past spring we created a new web based scholarship database. Many different organizations, philanthropists and foundations wish to support those pursuing a graduate education and we do our best to provide such information to prospective applicants.

A searchable, RSS enabled database can be found on the following site:

<http://digital.lamp.columbia.edu/sipa/fellowships/>

We encourage you to start searching for scholarships and fellowships as soon as possible. The cost of education can be quite high and the earlier you start the search process the greater the possibility that you will obtain funding that does not require repayment upon graduation.

Fall 2008 Admission Travel

Representatives of SIPA travel each year to meet with prospective students through events such as college visits and graduate school fairs. The details of the fall travel schedule are still being finalized but will be published soon on our web site. Another email will be sent when the schedule is set. The schedule will be available on the following site:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/admissions/recruiting_schedule.html

Office Information

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have questions. In addition, if you plan to visit New York City you are welcome to visit campus and attend an information session. We do request that you contact us at least one week prior to your arrival so we can make the proper arrangements. Thank you again and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

The Staff of the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

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