



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 Information

Each summer we review our on-line admission application and make technical upgrades to the system we use to process applications. While it is possible to start an on-line application now, you will not find an option to apply for fall 2009. At this time only spring 2009 is enabled. The deadline for spring consideration is October 1st.

We will complete the application upgrade process in early August and we will send a message to all of those who have signed up to receive our email updates. Due to the fact that slight changes may be made to the system, we recommend that you wait until after we complete the upgrade process to fill out an application for fall 2009.

In the meantime, it is possible to view all admission requirements on our web site. If you visit the following link you will find a checklist of the requirements and you can begin the process of accumulating and composing the necessary materials:

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

Graduate School Reception – Washington, D.C. June 17th

SIPA will join three other schools for an evening reception in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, June 17th at 5:30 P.M. Admissions representatives, alumni, and current students will be available for questions. The other schools are:

- Georgetown University – Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
- Johns Hopkins University – Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies
- Tufts University – Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

The program will begin at 5:30 P.M. and will be held at:

The Nitze Building
1740 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, DC 20036

You must RSVP to attend this event. You can register by visiting the following site:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/admissions/recruiting/

John H. Coatsworth Named Dean of SIPA

After a 13-month international search, John H. Coatsworth has been appointed as dean of the School of International and Public Affairs.

Coatsworth joined the Columbia faculty from Harvard in 2006. He is the author or editor of seven books on the history of economic development and international relations of Latin America. From 1994 to 2006, he served as the founding Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard—now the largest center of its kind in the world. He also chaired the Harvard faculty Committee on Human Rights, as well as the Committee on Education Abroad, which overhauled Harvard's undergraduate international study program.

From 1969 to 1992, John taught at the University of Chicago, where he chaired the History Department and founded the university's Center for Latin American Studies. A past president of the American Historical Association, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Board of Directors of the Tinker Foundation and the Washington Office on Latin America, and president-elect of the Latin American Studies Association. In 2005, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Financial Aid

We are happy to announce the recent publication of a new web based scholarship database. Many different organizations, philanthropists, foundations, etc. 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 to the search process, the greater the possibility that you will obtain funding that does not require repayment upon graduation.

GRE Policy Change

For those who wish to apply to SIPA in the future, we have a very important announcement. In the past SIPA has always strongly recommended, but not required, the submission of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) with an admission application. **Starting with the fall 2009 application cycle please note that GRE scores will be a required part of the admission application for the MIA and MPA two-year full-time degree programs.**

Those who plan on applying for fall 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:

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. We do not require a subject test, only the general test is required.

Faculty, Students, and Alumni Speak Out

A great way to get insight into what SIPA has to offer is to hear from those who have experienced SIPA first hand. The Office of Admissions interviews those affiliated with SIPA on a consistent basis. You can find text and video interviews with faculty, students, and alumni on the following site:

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

In addition, many events at SIPA are recorded and made available via our web site. You can find

an archive of such events by visiting the following site:

http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/multimedia/index.html

SIPA Graduation

On May 19th SIPA awarded degrees to 721 students representing six academic programs. Steve Fainaru (MIA 1994), 2008 Pulitzer Prize winner and reporter for the Washington Post, addressed the graduates during the ceremony.

Steve, who concentrated in Latin America and International Media and Communications at SIPA, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in the category of International Reporting for his writing on the role of private armies in the Iraq War. According to the Washington Post, Fainaru "took personal risks to expose a hidden side of the Iraq war" in his reporting. His articles, which exposed how private armies fired indiscriminately at insurgents and civilians and functioned without regulation or oversight, contributed to the development of legislation and Congressional oversight.

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. If you are planning a visit to New York City and wish to visit us, please use the following link:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/admissions/amb-student.html

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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