

# New Student Guide

To help you navigate your first steps, we've compiled a guide to ensure you are well-prepared for your journey at Columbia.



## Financial Aid Review

- Review Your Financial Aid Package (if eligible): Log in to [Net Partner](#) to view your financial aid details and plan for any remaining costs. Need help? Watch this quick [NetPartner tutorial](#).
- Explore [Federal Aid Resources](#), don't forget to utilize our [Financial Education Tools](#) and [Financial Education Library](#).
- Have questions? Email us at [sipa\\_finaid@sipa.columbia.edu](mailto:sipa_finaid@sipa.columbia.edu) or schedule a virtual or in-person [appointment](#) with us.



## Review Billing Resources

- Review Tuition & fees: Check the [University's tuition & fees](#) and [billing schedules](#) to ensure you pay on time and avoid late fees.
- Payment options: Set up [Direct Deposit](#), enroll in a [Monthly Payment Plan](#), or explore [Wire Transfers](#).
- Billing Questions: Contact the Student Service Center at [ssc@columbia.edu](mailto:ssc@columbia.edu), call (212) 854-4400, or visit 210 Kent Hall for assistance.



## External Scholarship Resources

- Explore additional resources: Visit our [SIPA funding page](#), [External funding options](#), and our [Scholarship database](#).
- Create a [free iGrad account](#). iGrad is a financial wellness platform available to all Columbia students, providing budgeting resources and a robust scholarship search engine.



## Housing Resources

- Get Started: [Complete Renter Education](#), [apply for housing](#), and explore [On-Campus](#) or [Off-Campus](#) Housing options.
- Have Questions? Contact [housing@columbia.edu](mailto:housing@columbia.edu) or call (212) 854-2946 (Mon-Fri, 9:00 AM - 5:00PM).
- SIPA Support: Connect with SIPA's [housing liaison](#) for additional guidance or assistance.



## Health Insurance & Immunization Compliance

- Enroll in [Columbia's student health insurance plan](#) (required for international students) or [request a waiver](#) if you have alternate coverage.
- Submit [proof of immunization](#) as required by Columbia Health.
- For assistance, email [health@columbia.edu](mailto:health@columbia.edu) or call (212) 854-2284.



## Banking & Budgeting Setup

- [Open a U.S. bank account](#) for easy financial transactions.
- Create a semester budget to plan for tuition, living expenses, and travel needs. Use [iGrad Budgeting Tools](#) for guidance.



## International Student Resources

- [Apply for your student visa](#) verify your [I-20](#) or [DS-2019](#) details.
- Learn about [On-Campus Job Opportunities for F-1 & J-1 Students](#).
- [Contact ISSO](#) for any questions or support.



## Academic Essentials

- Explore SIPA's [degree programs](#), [academic calendar](#), and [course registration](#) process to stay on track and plan your studies effectively.
- Review your [course syllabi](#) to budget for textbooks and other materials. Consider [renting](#) or purchasing used books to save money.



## Professional Development Preparation

- Update your [resume](#) and LinkedIn profile. Research [Career advancement center's offerings](#) and schedule early advising appointments to get ahead.



## Transportation and Access

- Obtain your [Columbia ID](#) and get to know the campus layout.
- Purchase a MetroCard or learn about [public transportation options in NYC](#).



## Networking & Social Groups

- [Join student organizations](#), especially those related to your field of study.
- Connect with classmates through SIPA group chats, forums, and social media.



## Part-time employment Resources

- Explore [SIPA Federal Work Study & Internship opportunities](#)
- Discover job openings at Columbia through the [Columbia Employment website](#)
- If you're in a two-year SIPA program, you can apply for [assistantship positions](#) in your second year.