COLUMBIA SIPA GRADUATE DEGREES

SIPA’s degree programs have rigorous but flexible curricula designed to prepare you for professional success at public, private, and nonprofit organizations in varied fields.

Master of International Affairs (MIA)
**Full-Time, 21 Months**
The MIA, which includes selected STEM-designated pathways, prepares students to become experts who will be able to address the major challenges of international politics and economics.

Master of Public Administration in Development Practice (MPA-DP)
**Full-Time, 21 Months**
The MPA-DP, a STEM-designated degree program, trains current and aspiring development practitioners to design, implement, and manage results-oriented, integrated approaches to sustainable development.

Master of Public Administration (MPA)
**Full-Time, 21 Months**
The MPA, which includes selected STEM-designated pathways, emphasizes a comparative approach to domestic politics and institutions and prepares students to manage and lead organizations around the world.

Master of Public Administration in Economic Policy Management (MPA-EPM)
**Full-Time, 12 Months**
The MPA-EPM, a STEM-designated degree program, provides policymakers and professionals with the skills to design and implement economic policy in market economies, with a strong emphasis on the economic problems of developing countries.

Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy (MPA-ESP)
**Full-Time, 12 Months**
The MPA-ESP, a STEM-designated degree program, trains public managers and policymakers to apply innovative, systems-based thinking to environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainability.

Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA)
**Part-Time, 2-3 Years**
The EMPA helps mid-career professionals accelerate their careers in public, nonprofit, and private sectors with part-time study.

PhD in Sustainable Development
**Full-Time, 5 Years**
A set of rigorous core requirements in the social and natural sciences provides a deep understanding of the most challenging problems of future human welfare, and enables students to undertake serious research and policy assessments with the goal of sustainable development.

Columbia SIPA was ranked as the No. 1 International Global Policy School by U.S. News & World Report in its 2022 Best Graduate Schools rankings.
MIA/MPA/MPA-DP PROGRAMS

SIPA CORE (12.5–15 credits)

- Microeconomics or Microeconomic Analysis for International and Public Affairs
- Macroeconomics or Macroeconomic Analysis for International and Public Affairs
- Quantitative Analysis for International and Public Affairs
- Career Development Workshop
- Internship
- Capstone Workshop

MIA CORE (10 credits)

- Conceptual Foundations of International Politics
- Interstate Relations (choice of ~65 international courses)
- Management or Financial Management for Public, Private, or Nonprofit (choice of 12 courses)
- Foreign Language Proficiency

MPA CORE (10 credits)

- Politics of Policymaking (comparative domestic policy)
- Management for Public, Private, or Nonprofit (choice of 8 courses)
- Financial Management (choice of 4 courses)

MPA-DP CORE (15 credits)

- Global Food Systems (completed during the first year)
- Development Practice Labs (completed during the first year)
- Management (any semester)
- Social Sector (any semester)
- Sustainable Development Practice
- Summer Field Placement

MIA and MPA students must also fulfill the requirements of one concentration and one specialisation.

CONCENTRATIONS

- Economic and Political Development
- Energy and Environment†
- Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy

SPECIALIZATIONS

- Data Analytics and Quantitative Analysis†
- Gender and Public Policy
- International Conflict Resolution
- International Organization and United Nations Studies
- Management

GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK

- FGV-EAESP in São Paolo
- Hertie School of Governance in Berlin
- Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- Sciences Po in Paris
- University of Tokyo

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

- Columbia Business School
- Columbia Law School
- Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Columbia School of Journalism
- Columbia School of Social Work
- Mailman School of Public Health

STEM Designation

* Combined curriculum of the International Finance and Economic Policy concentration and the Data Analytics and Quantitative Analysis specialization (MIA and MPA degree programs)
† STEM designation: combined curriculum of the Energy and Environment concentration and the Data Analytics and Quantitative Analysis specialization (MIA and MPA degree programs)
COLUMBIA SIPA AT A GLANCE

FALL 2021 STUDENT PROFILE

- United States: 49%
- International: 51%

79 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

NATIVE LANGUAGES SPOKEN: 50+

FACULTY

- Full-time Faculty: 75
- Adjunct Faculty: 330
- Full-time Research Scholars: 25
- Part-time Research Scholars: 91
- Visiting and Special Faculty: 12

EMPLOYMENT

POST-GRADUATION EMPLOYMENT

- Private Sector: 40%
- Nonprofit Sector: 29%
- Public Sector: 28%
- Further Study: 2%

90% of 2020 SIPA graduates were employed, or in graduate school, within six months of graduation

EXAMPLE EMPLOYERS BY SECTOR

NONPROFIT SECTOR
- Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-Pal)
- Brookings Institution
- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Energy Futures Initiative
- International Peace Institute
- International Rescue Committee
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- United Federation of Teachers

PRIVATE SECTOR
- Bain & Company
- Credit Suisse
- EY
- Facebook
- General Electric
- Global Health Strategies
- Goldman Sachs
- Google
- McKinsey & Company
- Moody’s

PUBLIC SECTOR
- Bank of China
- International Finance Corporation
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United States Department of Defense and Department of State
- World Bank
SIPA graduates are a part of a robust international alumni, including the University’s 380,000+ alumni network, with access to global events and clubs, a thriving career network, and nine Columbia Global Centers around the world.
ADMISSIONS

WHAT DOES SIPA LOOK FOR IN AN APPLICANT?

Relevant professional experience
Most successful applicants have had at least three years of work or internship experience relevant to their intended course of study.

Proven academic ability
While no particular undergraduate major is required, strong GPA, test scores, academic references, and extracurriculars will bolster your application.

Quantitative coursework
The core curriculum includes economics, statistics, and financial management, and we look for evidence of ability to undertake quantitative coursework at the graduate level.

Passion for public policy and international affairs
SIPA seeks candidates who are passionate about making a difference and helping shape global policy and international affairs to solve global challenges.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

All materials must be submitted in English through the online application portal at apply.sipa.columbia.edu/apply.

Essay Questions
GRE/GMAT Test Scores (Optional)
GRE school code: 2161
GMAT school code: QF8-64-56 for MIA or QF8-64-99 for all MPA programs

TOEFL/IELTS (international students only)
Required if your native language is not English or if your undergraduate degree was not taught in English.

Optional Fellowship Essays

APPLICATION DEADLINES

MIA, MPA, MPA-DP
SPRING (MIA/MPA only) October 15 Final Application Deadline
FALL December 20 Fellowship Consideration Deadline
February 5 Final Application Deadline

MPA-EPM
SUMMER February 15 Final Application Deadline

MPA-ESP
SUMMER February 15 Final Application Deadline

EMPA
SPRING December 15 Final Application Deadline
FALL July 1 Final Application Deadline

For all other deadlines, including early action and fellowship deadlines, visit sipa.columbia.edu/admissions.

QUESTIONS?
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