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
Designed for students looking to facilitate and lead international cooperation, the MIA equips students to understand international political and legal institutions, and develop the skills of conflict resolution, diplomacy, and inter-cultural competency necessary to achieve change on the worldwide stage.

Application deadlines:
October 15 (Spring); February 5 (Fall)

Master of Public Administration (MPA)
Full-Time, 21 Months
Developed for students looking to lead the policymaking process, the MPA provides a data-rich analytical education, equipping students to understand policy challenges and to develop, implement, and evaluate policy solutions. The MPA is STEM-designated so that students in all policy domains will be eligible to apply for OPT extensions where relevant.

Application deadlines:
October 15 (Spring); February 5 (Fall)

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.

Application deadline: February 5

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.

Application deadline: February 5

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.

Application deadline: February 15

MPA In Global Leadership (MPA-GL)
Full-Time, 10 Months
The MPA-GL is a 10-month, full-time program for mid-career professionals who seek the skills to keep growing in their careers, enhance their leadership capacity, and create greater impact.

Application deadline: February 15

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.

Application deadlines:
November 15 (Spring); June 1 (Fall)

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.

Application deadline:
December 16

For more information about fellowship consideration, early action deadlines, and programs, scan the QR code.

Admissions

Application documents

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

Essay Questions

Video Essay

Professional Resume/CV

Quantitative and Language Resume

Letters of Recommendation (2)

Academic Transcripts

Application Fee: $95 USD (non-refundable)

GRE/GMAT Test Scores (Strongly recommended)

GRE school code: 2161
(no department code)

GMAT school code: QF8-64-56 for MIA or QF8-64-99 for all MPA programs

TOEFL/IELTS (If Applicable)

Required if your native language is not English or if your undergraduate degree was not taught in English.

Optional Fellowship Essays

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.