

Columbia University



Visiting Students

Whether you're seeking to take a deep dive into an area of interest or incorporate a cross-disciplinary perspective into your studies, the Visiting Students program offers students enrolled in a degree program at another institution the specialized <https://sps.columbia.edu/>, world-class instruction that you would expect in the Ivy League. Visiting students are enrolled alongside matriculated Columbia degree students, and earn credits that may be used towards graduation at your home institution.

As a student in the Visiting Student Program you will work with an advisor to create a customized schedule to reflect your individual academic and career goals from a selection of the 3,000+ University undergraduate and graduate courses available to you. If you are looking for a more structured curriculum you may apply to one of our structured programs open to visiting students. All visiting students have access to Columbia resources, including the libraries, writing center, academic advisors, fitness center, and student services. [Learn more here.](#)

Visiting students may enroll during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Students interested in studying in the summer may do so for either six or 12 weeks and should [visit our summer website for program options.](#)

Undergraduate Visiting Student Program

Columbia University provides excellent options for strengthening an application and developing skills, as well as receiving graduate school application advising and support. As a Visiting Student, you will learn from respected faculty instructing an extensive range of courses only available at Columbia and gain an experience that demonstrates your potential as a scholar.

Students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at another university and in good academic standing may apply to the Undergraduate Visiting Students Program.

Features

- Learn from respected, world-class faculty instructing courses in both foundational and cutting-edge topics.

- Gain cross-disciplinary perspectives to enrich your core area of study and benefit from a well-rounded set of skills and knowledge.
- Study alongside Columbia undergraduate and graduate students, gain access to exclusive Columbia resources, and take advantage of living in New York City.

Options

The Visiting Student experience is highly customizable to suit your individual goals.

- Pursue the following Certification of Professional Achievement programs:
 - [Critical Issues in International Relations](#)
 - [Human Rights Studies](#)
 - [United Nations Studies](#)
- Enroll in the Undergraduate Visiting Student Program, which allows you to create your own schedule of courses aligned with your academic interests and professional goals. Course plan advising is provided to admitted students on an individual basis, ensuring that you pursue a rigorous program of study appropriate to your academic, professional, and personal goals.

Credits Transfer

Visiting students should consult their home institution regarding the transfer of credits.

Undergraduate courses are typically not credited toward a graduate degree either at Columbia or elsewhere. Graduate courses may result in advanced standing upon entering graduate school, though the degree-granting school is the sole authority for determining applicability of Columbia credit toward a degree.

Length of Study

Admission as an Undergraduate Visiting Student is permitted for a maximum of two terms plus the Summer sessions. Continuation into the second term is contingent on successful completion of the first.

University Courses

Details on Course Seats and Required Preparation

Course information is found in the [Columbia University Directory of Classes](#).

Admittance into the Visiting Student program does not guarantee any student a seat in a course. Certain courses such as seminars are not normally open to visiting students unless express permission is granted in advance by the instructor, department or program. Permission to register for courses in other divisions of the University depends on the course, the school that offers it, and the student's academic status within the School of Professional Studies.

Some schools allow cross-registration; others do not. [Specific cross-registration information for each school can be found here](#).

Please check with individual instructors about specific prerequisite course requirements. Admitted students may register for courses only if any course for which they are prepared—i.e., any noted prerequisites must be fulfilled.

A number of classes are offered after 5:00 PM, for those students who work during the day.

In over-enrolled courses, Columbia degree candidates often have priority over non-degree students.

Click on a subject area below to view a list of fall and spring semester courses.

[Information about summer sessions courses is found here](#).

Graduate Visiting Student Program

Features

- Learn from respected, world-class faculty instructing courses in both foundational and cutting-edge topics.
- Gain cross-disciplinary perspectives to enrich your core area of study and benefit from a well-rounded set of skills and knowledge.
- Study alongside Columbia undergraduate and graduate students, gain access to exclusive Columbia resources, and take advantage of living in New York City.

Options

The Visiting Student experience is highly customizable to suit your individual goals.

- Pursue any Certification of Professional Achievement. You can find the [full list of Certificates and Certifications here](#) where you can find program descriptions and admissions details.
- Enroll in the Graduate Visiting Student Program, which allows you to create your own schedule of courses aligned with your academic interests and professional goals. Course plan advising is provided to admitted students on an individual basis, ensuring that you pursue a rigorous program of study appropriate to your academic, professional, and personal goals.

Credit Transfer

Visiting students should consult their home institution regarding the transfer of credits.

Undergraduate courses are typically not credited toward a graduate degree either at Columbia or elsewhere. Graduate courses may result in advanced standing upon entering graduate school, though the degree-granting school is the sole authority for determining applicability of Columbia credit toward a degree.

Graduate Visiting Student Program Length of Study

Admission as a Graduate Visiting Student is permitted for a maximum of two terms plus the Summer sessions. Continuation into the second term is contingent on successful completion of the first.

During the Fall (September–December) and Spring (January–May) terms, visiting students may choose from more than 3,000 academic courses in more than 100 subject areas. One semester runs about 14 weeks. Students on an F-1 visa are required to take at least 12 credits (about 4 courses).

There are two summer sessions between May and August; each session runs for 6 weeks. Students may attend one or both sessions. During the summer, Columbia offers more than 250 courses in more than 50 subject areas. Students on an F-1 visa are required to take 6 credits (about 2 courses) per 6-week session.

Tuition & Fees

For Undergraduate and Graduate Visiting Students

Summer Session tuition is listed by student category on the [Summer Sessions](#) website.

The number of points a course is worth is listed next to the course title on the course listings or in the course details in the [Directory of Classes](#). Many of our courses are worth 3 points each, although the precise point total varies.

Tuition and fees may be subject to change and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Fees

This listing is intended to summarize possible charges that could be incurred against a student's account. Certain charges depend upon specific circumstances, as noted. Fees that are not billed to the student account, such as course fees or placement test fees, may be required but are not listed here.

Individual Courses: Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023

Points (Credits)	Tuition
Tuition per Credit	\$2,274.00

Tuition Calculation Example – Individual Courses

Student enrolled in 12 points (typically equivalent to 4 courses):

$\$2,274.00 \text{ per points} \times 12 \text{ points} = \$27,288.00$

Application Fee

\$80.00 non-refundable application fee (U.S. currency). Fee payment must accompany the online application.

SPS Student Activity Fee

The Student Activity fee is assessed to all degree and non-degree students as approved by the Board of Trustees to support in-person and online student-facing services and events including but not limited to: Orientation, Graduation, Academic Support, Career Services, Student Engagement Platforms and SPS student organizations. All events can be found on SPS Engage at columbiasps.campuslabs.com/engage.

- **Fall 2022 & Spring 2023:** \$325
- **Summer 2022:** \$325

University Services and Support Fee, Morningside Campus (formerly Facilities Fee)

All students registered on the Morningside Campus shall be charged a University Services and Support Fee, calculated based on the student's registration. Full-time students are those registered for 12 or more points in the term. Part-time students are those registered for fewer than 12 points (credits) in the term. This fee is not assessed to American Language Program students or School of Professional Studies Summer Program for High School students. This fee combines the Recreational Facilities Fee and Lerner Fee (for both of these, applies to Spring Term only for Academic Year 20-21), Information Technology Fee (all students charged, including part-time), and the Cross-Cutting Multi-School Activities Fee. This fee is subject to Board of Trustee approval and may change.

University Services and Support Fee

Time Commitment	Fee
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- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Full-time students | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall 2022 & Spring 2023: \$554• Summer 2022: \$482 |
| Part-time students | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall 2022 & Spring 2023: \$419• Summer 2022: \$350 |

Technology Fee

The Student Activity fee is assessed to all degree and non-degree students as approved by the Board of Trustees, to support in-person and online student-facing services and events including but not limited to: Orientation, Graduation, Academic Support, Career Services, Student Engagement Platforms, and is used to fund SPS student organizations. All events can be found on [SPS Engage](#).

\$35.00 per term

Document Fee

The document fee entitles students to e-transcripts, enrollment and degree certifications, and the mailing of the original diploma. The fee is assessed once during the student's tenure, normally at the point of first matriculation, with students who previously attended Columbia not being billed.

\$105.00 one-time fee for all new students

Withdrawal Fee

\$75.00 per term required of any student who drops all courses for which he or she has registered

Late Registration Fees

Late Registration Fees

Period	Fee
During late registration period	\$50.00
After late registration period	\$100.00

Health and Related Services Fee

Required of all students. Includes services provided on campus as well as integrated off-campus services. See health.columbia.edu for details. Students who pay the Health Service Fee in Spring are not required to pay the Health Service Fee in Summer. The Summer Trimester Fee applies to new Summer Trimester students only.

Health and Related Services Fee

Term	Fee
Fall 2022 & Spring 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-Time (12 credits or more): \$654• Half-Time (6-11.99 credits): \$327• Part-Time (1-5.99 credits): \$218
Summer 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-Time (12 credits or more): \$450• Half-Time (6-11.99 credits): \$225• Part-Time (1-5.99 credits): \$135

International Services Charge

NOTE: International Services Fee — This fee is mandatory for all international students.

\$135.00 per term required of all international students

Tuition & Finance

We realize that financing continuing and professional studies is a major investment in a student's future. Many SPS students utilize different combinations of personal savings, scholarships, loans, outside grants, sponsors, or employer tuition benefits to cover the cost of attendance. The Office of Student Affairs, in conjunction with the Office of Student Financial Planning, help each student understand and meet the financial needs of their program.

Billing, Payments, and Student Accounts

Student account statements are distributed electronically. All billing notifications are sent directly to students at their Columbia University email address; no other address is used. Consequently, students are required to activate their Columbia email accounts immediately after confirmation of registration.

For all information on billings, visit the Student Financial Services website:

sfs.columbia.edu

sfs.columbia.edu/billing-basics

Payment Procedures

Students may opt for one of several payment methods. For available options, please visit sfs.columbia.edu/ways-to-pay

IMPORTANT:

All payments made by check MUST include the student's first and last name **AND** CU Student ID Number or UNI. Without this information, the University is unable to credit the proper account.

For any other information about payments, including e-billing information, contact the [Student Service Center](#)

Student Service Center

205 Kent Hall
1140 Amsterdam Avenue, Mail Code 9202
New York, NY 10027
212-854-4400
ssc@columbia.edu
ssc.columbia.edu

Student Financial Planning for Professional Studies

202 Kent Hall
1140 Amsterdam Avenue, Mail Code 9202 New York, NY 10027
212-854-7040
sfp@columbia.edu
<https://sfs.columbia.edu/sfp-sps>

Contact

General Information and Admissions Questions

212-854-9666

Summer Study Questions: summersessions@columbia.edu
Academic Year Study Questions: info@sps.columbia.edu

Advising

If you are a current student or an admitted student starting next term, contact a member of our [SPS Student Advising](#) Team for information and guidance.

Application Document Submission and Application Processing Questions

212-854-9666

apply@sps.columbia.edu

Mailing Address and Campus Location

Office of Enrollment Management

School of Professional Studies

203 Lewisohn Hall

2970 Broadway, Mail Code 4119

New York, NY 10027-6902

[Campus Map](#)

[Directions](#)

212-854-9666

Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Withdrawal & Tuition Refund

Students who drop every course for which they are registered in any given term are withdrawing from the University.

Students who plan to withdraw from the University should carefully read all of the information below concerning financial considerations, the withdrawal procedure, and tuition refunds.

[American Language Program students must refer to the withdrawal and tuition refund details on the ALP site.](#)

Financial Considerations

Withdrawal Fee

All students who drop their entire academic program will be charged a \$75.00 withdrawal fee, regardless of when the withdrawal takes place.

Tuition Refunds

Tuition for courses dropped during the Change of Program period is refunded in full. After the last day of the Change of Program period, the University retains a percentage of the remaining tuition (as indicated in the withdrawal schedules below) for each week, or part of a week, that the student remains registered. Bear in mind that after the last day of the Change of Program period, refunds are granted only when students withdraw by dropping all of their courses. See the [Calendar](#) for the Change of Program periods for each term.

Any adjustment of the tuition that the student has paid or still owes is reckoned from the date on which the Office of Student Affairs, 203 Lewisohn, receives the student's written notification (see How to Withdraw, below). **Failure to attend classes or notification submitted only to instructors does not constitute formal withdrawal** (see UW, Unofficial Withdrawal, under [Grades](#)).

Fee Refunds

Fees such as the student activities fee, University facilities fee, course fees, and late fees are not refundable if the withdrawal takes place after the Change of Program period. If the withdrawal takes place before or during the Change of Program period, these fees are refunded in full. The one-time document fee, application fee, and the Columbia Health Fee are not refundable.

Student Health Insurance

Students who withdraw from the University (except for approved Medical Leaves of Absence), or are dismissed from the University, are ineligible to remain on the Student Health Insurance Plan. Refer to the [Eligibility page on the Insurance Office's website](#) for specific details and contact the Insurance Office with questions.

Federal Financial Aid Recipients

Students who receive federal financial aid are advised to contact the [Office of Student Financial Planning](#) with questions regarding financial aid eligibility and how a withdrawal may impact their aid.

International Students

Students who have F1 or J1 visa status must maintain their status, which

includes full-time enrollment in their program of study. Refer to the [International Students & Scholars Office \(ISSO\) website](#) for specific details and contact ISSO with questions.

Military & Veteran Benefits

Students who receive military & veteran tuition benefits are advised to contact the [Office of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) with questions regarding how a withdrawal may affect eligibility for benefits.

Special Note for GSAS Students Taking Summer Term Courses

Students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences who are recipients of Columbia University fellowships are advised that if they drop any Summer Term course or withdraw from a session, fellowship funds covering the tuition for that course or courses will be canceled, and the student will be responsible for payment of tuition charges incurred, as indicated in the schedules below.

How to Withdraw

A student in good academic standing who is not subject to disciplinary action may be permitted to withdraw at any time during the term up until the last day of classes (see [Calendar](#)), by doing the following:

1. Consult with the appropriate dean of students or class dean. A student on academic probation who does not consult with his or her dean of students or class dean before withdrawing may be subject to expulsion.
2. Fill out a [Notice of Withdrawal](#) form.
3. Receive confirmation email from sps-studentwithdrawals@columbia.edu.

Students under 18 years of age must submit written consent from a parent or guardian to the Office of Student Affairs with the Notice of Withdrawal form.

Students who intend to withdraw permanently from a specific program must submit written notice of their intentions along with the Notice of Withdrawal.

Withdrawal Statement on Transcript

A withdrawal statement is added to the academic transcript for each term a student withdraws from the University.

Applying for a Tuition Refund

If the withdrawing student is entitled to a refund, the refund will be issued automatically for all School of Professional Studies programs except

American Language Program and Auditors/Lifelong Learners. For those who will receive an automatic refund and do not have direct deposit set up, the student may log into [Student Services Online \(SSOL\)](#) to see where the refund check will be mailed.

Students in the ALP or Auditing programs should log into SSOL to request a refund after the withdrawal has been processed. There must be an actual credit balance (not an anticipated credit) on the account in order for a refund to be processed. The option to request a refund will not appear if there is not an actual credit on the account. Each refund application is analyzed to determine eligibility.

Refunds sent through direct deposit will usually arrive in 3–5 business days. If you do not have a U.S. bank account or you prefer to receive a paper check, your refund will be mailed in 7–10 business days to the local address listed in your student profile in SSOL.

Fall Full-Term Sessions

Withdrawals processed	Will be refunded
by week 1 & week 2	100%
by week 3	90%
by week 4	80%
by week 5	70%
by week 6	60%
by week 7	50%
by week 8	40%

Fall Partial-term Sessions

Withdrawals processed	Will be refunded
by week 1	100%
by week 2	60%
by week 3	50%
by week 4	30%
after 4th week	0%

Spring Full-Term Sessions

Withdrawals processed	Will be refunded
by week 1 & week 2	100%
by week 3	90%
by week 4	80%
by week 5	70%
by week 6	60%
by week 7	50%
by week 8	40%
by week 9	0%

Spring Partial-term Sessions

Withdrawals processed	Will be refunded
by week 1	100%
by week 2	60%
by week 3	50%
by week 4	30%
after 4th week	0%

Summer Sessions

Please view the Summer Sessions refund schedule by visiting the Columbia Summer [website](#).

Financial Resources

We want to make sure that the cost of your continuing education and professional studies do not stand in the way of your goals.

Most students at the School of Professional Studies use a combination of savings, scholarships, loans, outside grants, sponsors, or employer tuition benefits to cover the cost of attendance. However you choose to finance your education, consider it an investment in your future, and know that we, in

conjunction with the Office of Student Financial Planning, are here to help and advise you along the way.

Please [contact us](#) with any questions.

Outside Funding Sources

We strongly encourage you to research and apply for scholarship funds from outside sources to help supplement the cost of your education, including those that may be available from philanthropic, fraternal, or nonprofit organizations, or corporations. While not intended to be comprehensive, the list below will give you an idea of the types of funding opportunities available.

We encourage you to research potential scholarship opportunities early in your decision-making process to apply at the School of Professional Studies. Scholarship applications are often taken a year before the date they're awarded.

Expand All

Free Databases

Subscription-Based Databases

Other Resources

Federal Loans

To be considered for federal loans, you must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. and plan to enroll on at least a half-time basis (a minimum of 6 credits each term) in program-related coursework. This coursework must span the entire length of the semester. Other requirements apply for loan eligibility. If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you may apply for private/alternate educational loans or find outside funding sources.

Federal Direct Stafford Loan

Private Loan Programs

All School of Professional Studies students may arrange a private loan to help cover their educational expenses. For information on alternative education

loans, please visit [Student Financial Services' Graduate Private Loans webpage](#).

U.S. Military Veterans

The School of Professional Studies participates in [the Yellow Ribbon Program](#), an initiative authorized by the Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (the Post-9/11 GI Bill®*) in which educational institutions provide eligible student veterans with a tuition waiver or grant matched by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This program supplements the base educational benefits provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill®.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as state and local government, offers additional educational assistance programs for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents.

The Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP)

Contact Us

Student Financial Planning

202 Kent

212-854-7040

sfp@columbia.edu

Walk-In Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

External websites listed on this page are provided as possible resources. The School of Professional Studies is not responsible for content on external websites and does not endorse products or services. Please note that while the University has suggested lenders, students have the right to borrow from any lender they choose.

*GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Admitted Students

Congratulations and welcome to Columbia University's School of Professional Studies (SPS)! We look forward to the contribution you will make in the classroom, to your faculty and cohort, to the SPS community, to your profession, and beyond.

This section contains important next steps so please read it carefully to ensure that you are completing the steps needed to prepare for your first day of class and an overall strong start to your studies at Columbia.

If you have any questions, please contact your [admissions counselor](#).