



Columbia University

Website: <http://www.columbia.edu/>

Columbia University is a coeducational Ivy League school located in New York City, New York. Columbia was founded in 1754 as King's College by royal charter of King George II of Great Britain. It later changed its name to Columbia College and then Columbia University.

Columbia's campus is in the heart of the city with the main part of the campus occupying 32 acres in picturesque Morningside Heights. The university has three undergraduate institutions: Columbia College, the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the School of General Studies. The university also has 13 graduate and professional schools and a school of continuing education. Although all of its schools enjoy excellent reputations, the university's business school, law school, and medicine school are ranked among the top in the country.

In addition to the campus in Morningside Heights, the university has a medical center in Washington Heights, the athletic facilities at Baker Field in Manhattan, and other campuses around New York City. The university also has global centers in Mumbai, Beijing, Amman, and Paris. The university continues to seek ways to expand its campus.

Columbia guarantees housing for undergraduates for all four years of their program. Options include residence halls and apartment style housing. The university is also home to a diverse range of publications and a number of sororities and fraternities. The oldest student organization on campus is the Philolexian Society, a literary and debate club, which was founded in 1802. Columbia has 500 registered student organizations, so there are many opportunities for students to get involved and pursue their interests. Columbia University has 29 varsity sports teams that compete in the NCAA Division I Ivy League conference. Some of the sports the university excels at include swimming, archery, cross country, and fencing. One unique tradition at Columbia is that all students must pass a swimming test in order to graduate.

Like other Ivy League universities, Columbia is a very selective school accepting only 9% of applicants. A little more than half of undergraduates receive financial aid. Columbia is also a very diverse university as 42% of its students are minorities. The university has approximately 5,364 undergraduates and 15,242 graduate students. Women make up about 48% of the student body. Over half the students at Columbia receive financial aid of some sort, and the university has one of the most comprehensive financial aid programs at any American university.

Columbia University is noted for many achievements. More Nobel Prize laureates are associated with Columbia than with any other university in the world. Between alumni and affiliates of the university, there are 95 Nobel Prize winners. Alumni include five U.S. Presidents as well as 15 foreign heads of state and nine Justices of the Supreme Court. The school also administers both the Pulitzer Prize every year. Technology and innovation are also evident at Columbia where the first atom was split. The university was also where the first FM radio and laser were created. Columbia is credited with almost 200 new inventions in the health field every year.