CONTENTS

INSIDE THIS GUIDE...

01 Welcome to Manhattanville!

02 The Systems of CBS

03 CBS Traditions & Orgs

04 Orientation: What to Expect

05 First Semester: Core Classes

06 CBS Hardware

07 Learning Teams & Cluster Boards

08 Sustainability

09 DEI

10 Recruiting 101

11 Appendix 1: Affinity Clubs

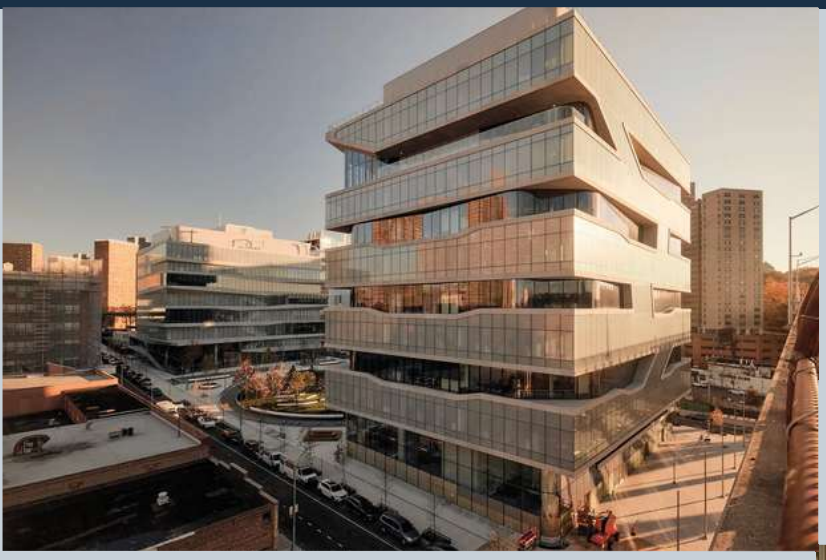
12 Appendix 2: Prof. Clubs

13 Appendix 3: Additional Clubs

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document.

Welcome to Manhattanville!

Written by Monica Bolanos, ExBo VP of Marketing



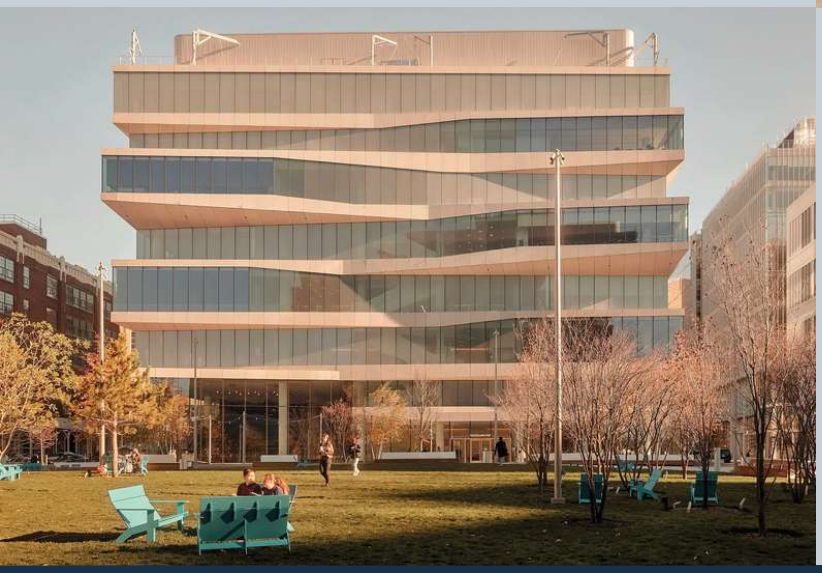
In Spring 2022, Columbia Business School moved into its new state-of-the-art campus! Manhattanville Campus consists of two buildings – Henry R. Kravis Hall and David Geffen Hall – facing each other across a green quad. The campus is also home to the Lenfest Center for the Arts, the Forum, and the Jerome L. Greene Science Center.

Click here for more information about campus

What you need to know:

Kravis – Building closer to Hudson

- The odd floors of Kravis are for faculty
- 1st Floor Steps – Overlooks quad between Kravis and Geffen
- 2nd floor – Kravis Cafe – the largest on-campus food selection
- 4th floor – Student floor – find your classmates in the screening room, game room, lounge, or studying in the quiet room
- The hunt for microwaves:
  - Kravis Cafe (2)
  - 4th Floor Game Room (1)
  - Basement beside Lockers (1)



What you need to know:

Geffen– Building closer to Broadway (the street)

- 1st floor – Joe's Cafe – open to the public
- 1st floor – Cooperman Commons– the biggest lecture hall
- 2nd floor – I-Lab and group study space
- 3rd floor – Horton Lounge
- The hunt for microwaves:
  - First Floor (1)
  - 3rd Floor (1)
  - 6 Floor (2)

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document.

Welcome to Manhattanville [cont.]

Written by Sarwath Hafiz Mumu, ExBo VP of Marketing

The Link - Tunnel between the two buildings which hosts student lockers and the "gym"

Pro-tip: Near Campus Workout 'Hot Spots':

- ClassPass
- Crunch Gym
- Dodge Gym (Columbia University Gym)
- Equinox
- Method Collective
- Health & Wellness Club for discounted classes with your peers

Near Campus Dining 'Hot Spots':

- Dear Mama [Great Coffee]
- Manhattanville Market
- Pisticci
- Red Olive Deli
- Columbia Deli and Cafe
- Jin Ramen
- Dumpling house
- Dino BBQ

Near Campus Bar 'Hot Spots':

- 123BSB
- Amity Hall
- Arts & Crafts Beer Parlor
- Baylander
- Skinny's
- The Craftsman
- The Expat

Pro-tip:
Be sure to check the #scavengers Slack channel! Students post about free food leftover from events that are up for grabs on campus!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document.

THE SYSTEMS OF CBS

Written by Feroz Mohammed, ExBo VP of Alumni

CBS has a running joke that anytime you want to do anything, you have to log into at least 5 systems. It can feel overwhelming the first few weeks. Hopefully, this brief overview can help you keep track:

Example Name: Jane Doe
Example Graduation Year: 2026

UNI: initials and a string of 4 numbers

- Ex: JD1234

Emails:

- Lionmail: uni@columbia.edu
  - JD1234@columbia.edu
  - Lionmail is used to access your student Google Drive. You will be unable to access certain google docs/sheets/etc. unless signed into Google using your lionmail details
- Lifetime email: First initial last name graduation year@gsb.columbia.edu
  - JDoe26@gsb.columbia.edu
  - This is the email you should use when applying for internships and when reaching out to alumni
- UNI email: Uni@gsb.columbia.edu
  - JD1234@gsb.columbia.edu
  - ***Pro-Tip:*** *TBH no idea why this email exists but it does. This is only used for signing into your Outlook (Lifetime email) account. Don't worry about it, Uni and lifetime emails go to the same place.*

Duo: Students are required to use multi-factor identification to access any CBS system. Make sure to download the DUO application and enable push notifications

VMock (Coin):

- This is the main system for all things Career Management Center (CMC) related. You will use COIN to monitor on-campus recruiting job postings, update your resume, book time with CMC fellows, and more. Additional information about Coin can be found under the recruiting 101 section

Casebook (the CBS Ipad):

- Casebook refers to the locked CBS ipad you will receive during orientation. Your casebook will be used to read case studies and take notes during class

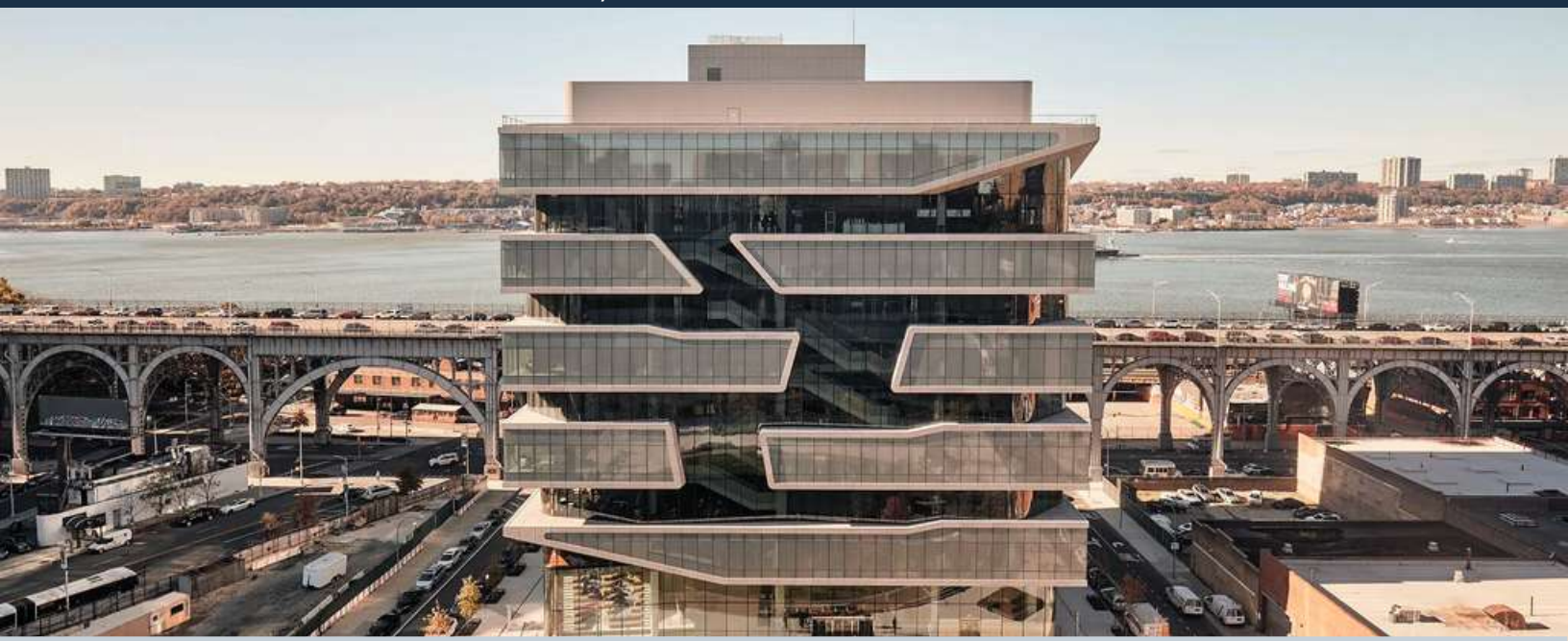
PawPrint:

- System you will use to print on campus. Click here to learn how to set up your account
- ***Pro-Tip:*** *Set up your pawprint account and test printing well ahead of your LEAD exam*

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

THE SYSTEMS OF CBS [Cont.]

Written by Feroz Mohammed, ExBo VP of Alumni



Canvas (Courseworks):

- Canvas (also referred to as Courseworks) is the portal to access class information. Each of your enrolled courses will have a dedicated page where you will be able to view the syllabus, class files (slides, assignments, syllabus, optional readings, etc.), and where you will complete assignments and exams

SSOL/Vergil

- SSOL/Vergil is used for registration, financial services, and academic records
  - **Registration:** Enroll in classes, add/drop classes, and make a registration appointment
  - **Financial Services:** View award information, loan history, pay tuition, view account details, and more
  - **Academic Records:** Transcript request and view degree status

Campus Groups

- Campus Groups is the platform that will connect you to all student organizations and corresponding events at CBS, Campus groups can be used to:
  - View and RSVP to events for your class, cluster, clubs, and ExBo
  - Reserve study rooms

Slack

- Most clubs, organizations, and even some classes will have a Slack channel. Slack is the primary unofficial communication channel to notify students of events, updates, and more
  - ***Pro-tip:*** *It can become difficult to keep up with all of them, so we recommend only having notifications for the couple of professional clubs for which you need updates in real-time, and then devoting a time each day to check all other channels you're in.*

Starfish:

- Starfish is used for 3 purposes:
  - Scheduling appointments with your academic advisor
  - Scheduling appointments with a peer tutor
  - Finding contact information for club, career, and academic advisors

Please note this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document.

CBS Traditions & Orgs

Written by Garren Keane-Robbins, ExBo VP of Student Organizations

Clusters: When you check in for orientation, you will receive your cluster assignment. Your cluster will be the group of 70ish students that you take your first semester classes with. Clusters are a core part of CBS and you will spend your first semester getting to know your cluster intimately through CBS Matters (below), trips, small group events, and cluster events

Cluster impact on your CBS time will depend on how much effort you put into spending time with your cluster. If you exempt out of a lot of core classes, make sure to try to attend cluster events and CBS matters to stay tight-knit with your clustermates.

- ***Connor Pro-tip:*** *My cluster, G'25, the Grizzlies, has a Whatsapp group for our cluster. We also have a Google sheet for small group dinner reservations, small group events, and large group event sign ups. This was a great way to mix groups together and get to know each other*

CBS Matters: CBS Matters is a long-standing tradition that provides the platform for students to share their story. The program aims to create a sense of connection and understanding among students by allowing them to express their individual perspectives and backgrounds. CBS Matters is organized by each cluster but you can invite your friends from other clusters to attend yours!

Cluster Cup: Every spring, Clusters go head-to-head to compete for the ultimate prize- glory (and also a bar tab). Events include trivia, scavenger hunts, soccer tournaments, a beer mile, and more!

Cluster Auction: As part of the Tamer Center's Social Impact Week, each cluster will hold a cluster auction. Students will volunteer skills, events, or items to their fellow clustermates

- ***Veronica ('24 Co-President) Pro-tip:*** *This was one of my favorite events! My cluster served dinner and dessert and auctioned off personality items such as borrowing a classmates dog for a hinge photoshoot or Danny Devito swag being sent to the house of your choice*

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL SURVIVAL GUIDE

FALL 2024

CBS Traditions & Orgs [Cont.]

Written by Garren Keane-Robbins, ExBo VP of Student Organizations

Grade Non-Disclosure: Columbia Business School students voted to implement a student norm of grade non-disclosure. This community norm states that students will not disclose grades, GPAs, or transcripts to employers until a student accepts a full-time, post-graduation position with an employer. However, students may still disclose receipt of academic honors (e.g., Dean's List) and membership in honor societies. This allows students to explore course offerings without being worried about grades. The agreement is voted on by the student body every year and typically passes with 95% support.

Follies: Once a semester, join your class in watching sketches and dances parodying life at CBS. Watch a skit from past semesters here & read more about Follies here

Fall & Spring Galas: Every semester, CBS ExBo hosts a gala. Dress in black-tie with your fellow classmates and experience a night in NYC with open bar, photo booths, live bands, DJs, and more! ExBo goes all out for galas and we look forward to you joining the party!

Student Orgs.: There are over 80 student-led clubs at CBS. Club Day will be early in the fall semester so that you have a chance to speak to 2nd year students about their club experiences. Following club day, there will be an open enrollment period for you to join any and all CBS clubs!

- ***Pro-tip:*** *Some industries (read: banking) have very demanding fall recruitment schedules. There is also an open enrollment period for clubs in the spring.*

Types of clubs: (click here for more details)

- Affinity Clubs
- Community Service Clubs
- International Clubs
- Professional Clubs
- Social and Athletic Clubs

As first years, you will have the opportunity to apply to be an Assistant Vice President (AVP) for different clubs. This is a great way to build experience and meet fellow 2nd years.

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Welcome Class of 2026!

The Class of 2025 warmly welcomes you to the Manhattanville Campus! We are excited to have you join our ambitious and forward-thinking community at CBS. Our new campus offers endless opportunities for innovation and growth, surrounded by the dynamic energy of New York City that will set the stage for your success. Your journey here promises to be filled with opportunities for learning, growth, and creating lasting memories and relationships. We look forward to seeing the unique contributions you'll make and the new traditions you'll create as your class embarks on this exciting journey with us.

Business school is a time of immense change and reflection. You have spent the past year (and probably longer) studying for the GMAT/GRE, writing and rewriting your application essays, prepping stories for interviews until you were repeating them in your sleep, and finally made the momentous decision to attend CBS full-time. Take a moment to pat yourself on the back in appreciation of how far you've come... keep patting... keeeeeep patting.... that's enough. back to the intro.

You now walk the (metaphorical) halls that Warren Buffet, Sallie Krawcheck, and James Gorman did. CBS has a rich history of shaping world-changing leaders; you are now a part of our tradition, but a successful path is not forged alone. You must value the thoughts and opinions of your classmates. Stretch yourself to develop meaningful relationships with peers that have different backgrounds from you. Judgement and cliquey behavior will not be rewarded here; the more you include, the more you will find yourself included. Appreciate the chance to make friends for life with people from all over the world; not many others will ever have such an opportunity. Find your tribe, then expand upon it.

We are the Co-Presidents of the Executive Board (ExBo) here at CBS. Along with our 16 Vice Presidents, we represent the voice of the student body to the CBS administration. Our primary goal is to cultivate a community that transcends the classroom by organizing campus events, facilitating interactions across different clusters and academic years, strengthening ties with the broader Harlem community, and ensuring that our campus is as financially accessible as it is socially inclusive.

Welcome to CBS,
Connor Rohan & Carlos Alejandrino, *2024-2025 Executive Board Presidents*

Orientation: What to Expect Your First Week

Written by Raphael Alejandrino, ExBo VP Marketing

Introduction: A Note on Transitions

This transition is a lot. We know – we've been there. You may or may not be in a new city, a new country, or even a new continent. You're transitioning out of work and back into school. You're meeting all new people, and trying new things. No level of communication or transparency could fully prepare you for all of the changes you're navigating, and we understand that it will be overwhelming at times, but we want you to know that you're not alone.

Orientation is designed to transition you into the program as seamlessly as possible. It isn't a perfect system, but it's designed with your experience in mind. Your Peer Advisors (PAs) have volunteered their time this summer to be your support system, your listening ear, your first friends on campus. We're all here because we really want to set you up for success, and we're so excited to watch you grow and thrive in your time at CBS.

The Big Picture

Orientation will be your first week on campus. For Fall 2024 starts, it's scheduled on Monday, August 19th through Friday, August 23rd. When you check in for Orientation, you will find out which Cluster you've been assigned. There are 10 Clusters, named A-J, with approximately 70-75 people per Cluster. At a high level, you can expect a mix of Cluster-specific meetings, led by your PAs, and large-group sessions designed for a broader audience – your entire class. Towards the end of the week, your schedule will begin mixing in a few of your core classes (which we'll get into detail about later), so that you can dip your toe into the Academic workload and get used to our class structures over time instead of all at once.

This week (the first few weeks, for that matter) will be a lot. Don't get stressed, this is just the beginning. Focus on getting to know your Cluster and your PAs, and the rest will follow!

Dress Code

Dressing appropriately in an MBA program is about balancing comfort with professionalism. Your attire should help make a positive impression and allow you to handle professional opportunities that will come your way as a business school student. When in doubt, it's always better to err on the side of being slightly overdressed than underdressed.

During the first week of orientation, expect to dress business casual and choose appropriate footwear to handle full days of walking. Throughout the school year, you'll notice CBS' dress code range from t-shirts and shorts to officewear, so choose a style that suits your personality while leaving a positive impression.

First Semester: Core Classes

Written by Kensley Hickman, Peer Advisory Chair '24

Core Class Scheduling

During your first semester of classes at CBS, your schedule will be determined for you. It is based on your cluster assignment, so you will have every core class with your cluster (note: there are some exceptions to note here, which we'll get to later).

CBS offers 4 types of classes, which are typically worth either 1.5 or 3 credit hours each:
Block Week (Half-Block or Full-Block): These classes will be condensed into a 3-day or 1-week timeline, to be taken the week before the regular semester starts. Think all-day, every-day. Block week is a great way to knock out credits for the semester, which can be especially helpful if you'd like to free up more time later on for an in-semester internship.
Full Term: These classes last the entire semester; a full 12 weeks.
A-Term: Classes taken during the first 6 weeks of the semester.
B-Term: Classes taken during the final 6 weeks of the semester.

The core is a composite of all 4 class types, so by the end of the first semester, you'll have a good idea of which class structure(s) you like and/or dislike. Here's an overview of your first semester's core class setup:

Block Week	**Full Term**	
Lead: People, Teams, and Organizations	Financial Accounting	
	A-Term	B-Term
	Foundations of Valuation	Corporate Finance
	Managerial Statistics	Business Analytics
	Strategy Formulation	Marketing
	Managerial Economics	Global Economic Environment

Notice that B-Term classes largely build off of the concepts established in their A-Term counterparts. For more information on the focus area for each core class, please visit https://academics.business.columbia.edu/mba/academics/core-curriculum.

There is one additional core class, Operations Management, which you'll take in the A-Term of your second semester at CBS. You will again be assigned a course section and class time based on your cluster.

CBS Hardware

Written by Kensley Hickman, Peer Advisory Chair

The Hardware

During Orientation, you'll get lots of stuff handed to you. Here's what you need to know:

- **Casebook:** Many CBS classes, especially in the Core, are case-based. While the school used to print these out in a massive physical casebook for every student every year, they have since transitioned to a virtual casebook – a.k.a., an iPad. You'll receive this iPad, plus an Apple Pencil, and get it set up during Orientation. The iPad is locked and can only access school-related resources (e.g., Canvas, course materials, PollEverywhere, note-taking tools, etc.). You cannot use it to access your email, social media, or any other restricted sites. Some professors will have rules about only using your casebook in class, rather than a personal laptop or other device. Plan to bring it every day and find a way that works for you in terms of taking notes on it and studying with it. If you need help with your iPad, or any other CBS-adjacent technology, visit the IT office in Geffen Hall, Room 460. You will be able to keep your iPad after graduation, at which point it will be unlocked for full, unrestricted use.

- **Name Plate:** You will receive a plastic, personalized name plate which fits into the groove at the front of all the desks in Manhattanville Campus classrooms. Plan to bring this to class every day as well, since professors use this to learn your name, verify attendance, and give credit for participation. If you need to change the name listed, please visit https://groups.gsb.columbia.edu/login_only?redirect=%2fstore%3fstore_id%3d1

- **Name Tag:** Along with your name plate, you'll also be given a smaller, magnetic name tag. This is perfect for wearing to on-campus events or recruiting information sessions. Similarly, you can visit https://students.business.columbia.edu/records-registration/name-changes if you need to update the name listed on your name tag.

- **Student ID:** Your student ID will be your ticket into the building, so plan to always have it with you. Should you forget to bring your ID to campus one day, you can speak with the front desk at either building to confirm your enrollment and grant one-time building access. If you lose your ID, you will need to pay $20 to have a replacement made at the Manhattanville Office of Public Safety across the street from campus at 3270 Broadway.

Learning Teams & Cluster Boards

Written by Kensley Hickman, Peer Advisory Chair

Learning Teams

During Orientation, you will find yourself assigned to a Learning Team. Your Learning Team is a smaller subset of your overall cluster – usually 4-6 people. This group will serve as your project team for all core classes. In designing Learning Teams, CBS tries to pair people together who have different backgrounds, experiences, interests, and career trajectories. You'll have the chance, in this context, to take on different roles, to hear different perspectives, and to collaborate with people you may not have interacted much with otherwise!

One of your first tasks as a group will involve creating a Learning Team Charter. You'll decide things like how often you should meet, what kind of learning environments you want to create, the methods you want to use for tackling assignments, how you want to allocate responsibility amongst yourselves, etc. It's a great opportunity to set the stage for a successful first semester.

Cluster Board Elections

After the overwhelm that is your first few weeks of class, when you finally feel like you're getting your feet under you, your PAs will help you transition the reins over to a handful of Cluster-elected Board members. Each Cluster will need to fill the following positions:

- Cluster Chair (1)
- Academic Rep (1)
- Career Rep (1)
- Global Citizenship Rep (1)
- Chief of Staff (1)
- DEI Rep (1)
- Community (2) - Internal (1) / External (1)
- Social Rep (2)

Click here more information on the roles and responsibilities of the Cluster Board. You will receive further details about the election process as the time comes.

Sustainability at CBS

Written by Nicholas Bilcheck, ExBo VP of Sustainability

ExBo's Sustainability North Star:

"Transform Columbia Business School into the premier MBA program in sustainability, seamlessly integrating into careers, campus practices, & academic offerings"

Courses taught by award-winning faculty:

- Business and Climate Change
- Climate Finance
- Climate Tech
- Climate Policy
- Climate Justice, Real Estate and Vulnerability
- Measuring and Managing Climate Risk
- Challenges in Measurement & Disclosure of Environmental, Social, and Governance Data
- Project Finance: Principles and Application to Emerging Markets
- ESG Equity Investing
- Impact Investing

Experiential learning opportunities offered by the Tamer Institute for Social Enterprise and Climate Change:

- Three Cairns Climate Fellowship (a few examples of partners from previous years below)
  - BlackRock
  - Cyan Capital Partners
  - Elevation Ventures
  - Inherent Group
  - ROOM
  - Safi Organics
  - SFJ Ventures
- Pangea Advisors
- Social entrepreneurship
- Volunteer opportunities

"Business research, in particular, will be pivotal to taking the progress we make in understanding climate change and using that to develop solutions that can be implemented at a global scale. How do we finance them? What business models are we going to use? How do we price climate risk? How does asset pricing get affected by this future? Everything we do here at Columbia Business School and at the University will adapt and change as we grapple with these challenges."

– Dean Maglaras

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

DEI at CBS

Written by Rajeev Annapragada, ExBo VP of DEI

Everyone at CBS is asked to share the following values statement:

As members of the CBS community, we strive to develop an inclusive and intellectual community that values and respects our unique and shared perspectives and experiences. Building off this commitment, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Office partners with students, faculty, staff and alumni to support the larger CBS vision of developing innovative ideas and inspiring leaders that transform the world.

A sampling of DEI efforts:

Once a semester, each student must attend at least one **Phillips Pathway for Inclusive Leadership (PPIL)** event and submit a reflection. PPIL events are centered on 5 Essential Inclusive Leadership Skills:

- Understanding Identity and Perspective Taking
- Mitigating Bias and Prejudice
- Managing Intercultural Dialogue
- Addressing Systemic Inequity
- Creating an Inclusive Environment

The DEI Office partners with the Arthur J. Samberg Institute for Teaching Excellence and Columbia CaseWorks to develop cases and training to enhance curriculum and classroom diversity and inclusion.

Read more about diversity, equity, and inclusion at CBS here

Check out a few of our student affinity & international clubs:

- Africa Business Club
- *Black Business Student Association*
- *Brazil Club*
- *Cluster Q*
- *Christian Business Fellowship*
- *Japanese Business Association*
- *Jewish Business Students Association*
- *Latin American Business Association*

***CBS has over 20 affinity & international clubs; this is only to highlight a select few** (Full Club List)*

"As scholars of business, we know that research shows that diversity and plurality of backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge promotes innovation and improves outcomes. Our commitment, at its core, is to create an environment where everyone feels welcome and respected."
-Dean Maglaras

Recruiting 101

Written by Gracy Sarkissian, Ass. Dean, & Clinton DeMerritt, ExBo VP of Careers

Hear directly from Professional Club Leaders:

- Aerospace & Defense Tech
- Cannabis Industry
- CBS Innovation & Design
- Entrepreneurship through Acquisition
- General Management
- Healthcare Industry Association
- Hospitality and Travel Association
- Investment Banking
- Management Consulting
- Marketing Association
- Media
- Private Equity
- Retail & Luxury Goods Industry
- Social Enterprise
- Sports Business
- Sustainability
- Tech
- Venture Capital

CBS has over 30 professional clubs; this is only to highlight a select few

Overview of CMC Resources:
There is no way around it: recruiting can be daunting. But the good news is that it can be a lot of fun and a great way to expand your network and bond with your classmates, as long as you go in with the right mindset. Even better news is that the CMC has so many resources to help you along the way.

CMC Advisors: CBS has 9 advisors whose primary job is to help you reach your professional goals. You can schedule time with any and all of them to talk through potential career options, recruiting paths, timing, prioritization of efforts, and how to best position yourself in the process. CMC is a valuable resource in helping solve any tricky timing/logistical situations with interviews, giving resume advice, helping you develop your personal brand, and more.

Coaches: 40+ CBS alumni working across a range of sectors provide real-time industry knowledge and marketplace perspectives to help you refine your job search process.

CMC Fellows: CMC Fellows are second year students who have been through it all when it comes to recruiting. They are a great resource to utilize as they were in your shoes last year! Second year students are in the know with recruiting nuances and company preferences. The CMC Fellows are a great resource, but are particularly helpful in the first month of school when you're just figuring it all out.

Executives-in-Residence: 20+ current or former C-suite executives across various industries who have a unique perspective that they're eager to share with you. Executives-in-Residence acts as a sounding board to help shape your career vision. Not many business schools have this resource, so you should definitely take advantage of it.

Recruiting and Networking Events: Throughout the year, CMC hosts hundreds of events in partnership with employers excited to engage with CBS students. From formal company presentations to industry mixers, panel discussions, and coffee chats, take advantage of these opportunities to meet with companies, learn about career paths, and build your network.

A few stats:

- Class of 2023 Job Offers and Acceptances
  - 92% received a job offer within six months of graduation
  - Median Base Salary $175,000
  - 59% of offers were school-facilitated
  - 46% Non-US citizens

Learn more about CMC resources on COIN

Pro-tip: *You will be added to a dedicated slack channel run by CMC and ExBo,for first year recruiting updates. Make sure to turn on notifications for it!*

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

APPENDIX 1: AFFINITY & INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

Africa Business Club

Written by Adekanla (Dekky) Dedeke, Co-President of the Africa Business Club

Class of 2026,

Welcome to CBS!

What is the Africa Business Club?
The Africa Business Club strives to build a supportive environment that welcomes anyone who holds a connection, affinity, or a keen desire to learn about Africa, its rich cultures, and its swiftly advancing industries, fostering a space for exploration and enhanced learning.

What do we organize?
1. Social Events: We host various sponsored events, inter-club events, and inter-school events. Here are a few highlights from last year:

a. ABC Thanksgiving celebration
b. ABC annual retreat
c. ABC and SIPA Pan African Network mixer

2. Networking and Educational Opportunities: Throughout the year, we organize an assortment of networking and educational events for students interested in establishing connections with ABC Alumni or expanding their knowledge about Africa. For example:

a. The Chazen Global Spotlight Series: Cameroon
b. ABC alumni brunch
c. Landing and nailing an in-semester internship (collab with BBSA and CWIB)

3. Columbia Africa Conference: The Columbia Africa Conference stands as a source of inspiration, cultivating a profound recognition of Africa's diversity and vitality. It unites influential figures, esteemed academics, entrepreneurs, and dedicated individuals who collectively envision contributing to the advancement and progress of Africa. This event is held annually and draws 450+ guests to Manhattanville. A few noteworthy speakers from last year include:

a. Fred Swaniker - Founder of African Leadership Academy
b. Tunji Balogun - CEO & Chairman at Def Jam Records
c. Vera Songwe - Former Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations

Can anyone join?
The Africa Business club welcomes all!

Black Business Student Association

Written by Gabrielle Darko, Co-President of the Black Business Student Association

Dear Class of 2026,

We are thrilled to say congratulations to you and extend a heartfelt welcome to the Black Business Student Association at Columbia Business School! As you begin this exciting new season in your professional and academic development, we look forward to seeing you build your story at Columbia Business School!

Who We Are

The Black Business Students Association (BBSA) promotes the well-being of Black-identifying students and allies and provides resources to promote their academic success, personal development and professional advancement. BBSA is dedicated to spotlighting and elevating the Black experience at Columbia Business School and to meaningfully impacting the student body and the local community. We represent students from a wide range of professional and cultural backgrounds, and look forward to having you become a member!

What We Do

Throughout the academic year, the BBSA hosts an exciting mix of professional, social, and academic programming to support the development and engagement of students at Columbia Business School. In partnership with our corporate sponsors and alumni from a wide range of industries, we host career readiness programming to give people an inside look into life at their dream firms, and also empower our members to drive their career search to success.

We host social, cultural, and service events geared towards bringing people of all backgrounds together, and to develop stronger bonds across current students, alumni, and the greater Columbia & Harlem community. We strive to serve as a community in which our members can build upon their #CBSWhy, increase their readiness for life after business school, and positively leave an impact at Columbia Business School and beyond.

This all culminates with our annual Elevate Conference, the longest running student-led professional conference at Columbia Business School, which features dynamic business leaders, change agents, and esteemed alumni across several keynotes, panels, and workshops. The Elevate Conference features speaker/workshop topics such as Tech, Media, Finance, Entrepreneurship, Luxury Goods/Fashion, Venture Capital, and more! We look forward to seeing you there March 29th & 30th, 2025!

We strive to serve as a community in which our members can build upon their #CBSWhy, increase their readiness for life after business school, and positively leave an impact at Columbia Business School and beyond. We would love for you to join us in this effort to lift as we climb! **Welcome to BBSA! We look forward to having you join us on campus!**

Best regards,
Gabrielle Darko and Harry Johnson, Jr.
Co-Presidents of the Black Business Student Association

Brazil Club

Written by Karen Paiva & Sofia Mesquita, Co-Presidents of Brazil Club

Welcome to Brazil Club, a piece of Brazil at CBS!

Dear Class of 2026,

Our warmest welcome! We couldn't be more excited to have you join our community! We at Brazil Club aim to be a piece of Brazil at Columbia Business School, and you should be proud to be in a school with a dedicated club to our country! Our club is organized to complete our two-sided mission of building a community that appreciates the Brazilian culture and of enriching our member's professional lives.

Over the next term you can expect from us:

- **Buddy program-** Interested incoming students will be paired with a Brazil Club member to facilitate the transition into Business School. Take advantage of this opportunity to ask anything from how to open a US bank account to what are the career resources available to help you reach your dream career.
- **Brazil Club / Brazilian House Outings -** To maintain a tight-knit community we bring our friends together for different activities, e.g., picnic, watching a soccer game or try some Brazilian food. The events are open for Brazil Club members and significant others (SOs). Members of the wider CBS community are invited to get to know your fellow Brazilians and our culture a little bit better.
- **Retreta -** When you just need a weekend getaway to speak some Portuguese and mingle while listening to Sertanejo or Forró and eating Churrasco, but you do it in a Castle with your Brazilian friends
- **Restaurant Visits-** New York is privileged to be home to several restaurants with authentic Brazilian cuisine. Join us for Feijoada, Pao de Queijo and Caipirinhas
- **Brazil Climate Summit –** We are living in a decisive decade for climate action and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The Brazil Climate Summit aims to bring together business leaders, entrepreneurs, academia, experts, policy-makers, NGOs and Multilateral Organizations to discuss Brazil's opportunities and responsibilities in a world where environmental and social impacts are the pillars of a new capitalism.
- **MBA Brasil –** MBA Brasil is a conference with the mission to bring together Brazilian students from top business schools to discuss the business scenario in Brazil, and this year we are hosting the conference at CBS!

Karen Paiva and Sofia Mesquita
Co-Presidents of Brazil Club

Cluster Q

Written by Daniel Lo and Jenna Feltes, Cluster Q Co-Presidents

Hello Class of 2026!

A warm and enthusiastic welcome to Cluster Q, Columbia Business School's LGBTQ+ and Allies professional and social association! As you embark on your MBA journey, we're here to enhance your experience and provide a vibrant and inclusive space for you to thrive.

Cluster Q is a tight-knit community dedicated to empowering LGBTQ+ individuals and allies throughout their time at CBS and beyond. Our mission is to foster a supportive environment that nurtures LGBTQ+ leaders and ensures a lasting, engaged network after graduation.

At Cluster Q, we stand proudly at the intersection of your personal and professional development. From Ally Week, where we celebrate and educate our allies, to our Fall and Spring Retreats, offering opportunities for enhanced community and connection, our events embody the spirit of community and empowerment. ROMBA, our flagship recruiting conference, presents a platform for you to excel professionally, while MB-Queer and Pride Week emphasize the vibrant LGBTQ+ community at CBS. And let's not forget the casual and joyful Kikis in the Courtyard – a chance to unwind and enjoy good company.

We're excited to offer a warm welcome to LGBTQ+ community members and allies, and we invite you to join our dynamic and diverse family. Together, we'll champion inclusivity, inspire leadership, and build a legacy of positive change.

Welcome to Cluster Q, where you're not just joining a club, but a community that uplifts and celebrates every unique individual within it. We can't wait to meet you in person and welcome you to this special community!

See you soon!
Daniel Lo and Jenna Feltes
Cluster Q Co-Presidents
P.S. We have a Cluster Q groupchat if you would like to join please email clusterq@gsb.columbia.edu

Christian Business Fellowship

Written by John Coffin – President of the Christian Business Fellowship

Class of 2026,

Welcome to CBS!

What is the Christian Business Fellowship?
Our goal is to establish and advance our love for Jesus Christ and his love for us. Ultimately, we welcome God's people of every ethnicity and culture on and we hope to foster an environment on growing in love for Jesus Christ, spending time in God's word, and ensuring we are fulfilling our purpose here on earth. Example questions/topics: What does it mean to be a believer in business? What does it mean to be a Christian? How can we share the love of Jesus in our business settings

What do we organize?

1. **Community**: casual setting where members can come have conversations and meet fellow believers at CBS
2. **Bible Studies**: a place to learn more about the Lord with each other through His word
3. **Conferences/Retreats**: We encourage members to attend events like the 'Believers in Business' conference, where distinguished speakers come to speak about a variety of topics

Can anyone join?
Yes! We invite everyone to join our community and discussions. We believe in Jesus Christ as the only true God, the almighty Creator of all things, existing eternally in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit full of love and glory.

As a final note – for anyone looking for a church in New York City, we have CBF members who regularly attend many different churches in New York City (ex. Renaissance Church, Church of the City, Redeemer Presbyterian, First Baptist, etc.)! Please reach out to me (jcoffin25@gsb.columbia.edu) if you would like to get plugged into to local church with fellow CBF members as you move into the city!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document.

Columbia Women in Business (CWiB)

Written by Ainsley Fahey Coen & Keertana Krishnan, Co-Presidents of CWiB

Dear CBS Class of 2026,

Congratulations! We are thrilled to have you join our vibrant community and extend a warm welcome to Columbia Women in Business. As you embark on this exciting new journey, we're here to provide a thoughtful and inclusive community for you to "find your people."

Who We Are

CWiB is dedicated to supporting all women, non-binary individuals, and allies at CBS to be inclusive leaders and achieve their personal and professional goals by increasing belonging on campus, championing intersectionality & allyship, and amplifying CWiB's professional impact.

What We Do

Through a variety of community events, workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, we aim to provide a platform for learning, sharing experiences, and building meaningful connections.

Things to Look Forward This Semester

- Welcome social
- Retreats
- Mentorship program
- Pod dinners and community building events
- Professional development workshops
- Personal development panel discussions

Whether you are interested in mentorship, professional development, or connecting with like-minded individuals, CWiB offers something for everyone. We encourage you to get involved and make the most of your time here.

We look forward to meeting you and supporting you in your endeavors. Here's to an inspiring and fulfilling year at CBS!

Best,
Ainsley & Keertana
Co-Presidents of CWiB

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Eastern European Community

Written by Dasha Shevchuk, president of EEC

Dear Class of 2026,

We are very happy to welcome you to Columbia Business School and to the Eastern European Community (EEC)!

Who we are?

Established in 2024, the **Eastern European Community** (EEC) aims to introduce our CBS family to the rich culture and diverse traditions of the Eastern European region. Our mission is to create a sense of community and to connect students who have ties to Eastern Europe or who are genuinely interested in exploring and learning more about our region.

What we do?
We promote Eastern European culture by organizing unique and engaging social events such as dinners, wine tastings, cultural activities, and speaker sessions. For example, some of our past events include a traditional Georgian dinner and a relaxing spa day at a Russian banya.

Can anyone join?
Everyone is welcome at the Eastern European Community!

We are wishing you all the best on your CBS journey and we are always happy to help!

Your Eastern European Community Board,
Dasha, Nini, Veronika, and Mariam

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document.

Japan Business Association

Written by Hiroaki Yamazaki & Michiyo Kinoshita, Co-Presidents of the Japan Business Association

Dear Class of 2026,

Welcome to CBS!

What is the Japan Business Association?
Our goals are to nurture lifelong friendships among CBS students who share interests in Japan, and to promote Japanese business and culture within the CBS community. We organize various events highlighting Japan's unique cultural and trendsetting offerings, collaborate with other clubs to promote cultural exchange, and continue managing the Japan Trek.

What do we organize?

1. Social events: host a series of social events, including Japan Trek, to create a tight-knit but open and inclusive community while experiencing Japanese culture
2. Speaker events: bring speakers to come to speak about Japan-related business to share unique Japanese ideas and visions
3. Career: introduce exclusive recruiting opportunities in Japan

Can anyone join?
Everyone is welcome at the Japan Business Association! Our club membership fee is free! Columbia Business School is one of the schools with the largest number of Japanese students. And there are many Japanese businesses in New York. We offer you a Japan-related experience that you cannot get anywhere else!!!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document.

Jewish Business Students Association

Written by Debby Greenstein and Josie Toubin, Co-Presidents of JBSA

Dear Class of 2026,

We are thrilled to welcome you to Columbia Business School and to the Jewish Business Student Association! Whether you're Jewish, Jew-ish, or just looking to attend some of CBS's greatest parties, we're here to make your experience more memorable.

Throughout the year, we organize social, cultural, and religious events. Some activities you can look forward to this year are:

- High Holiday Meals
- Bar-Mitzvah
- Masquerade
- Holocaust Speaker
- Shabbat Dinner Pods
- Bagel Brunch
- And more!

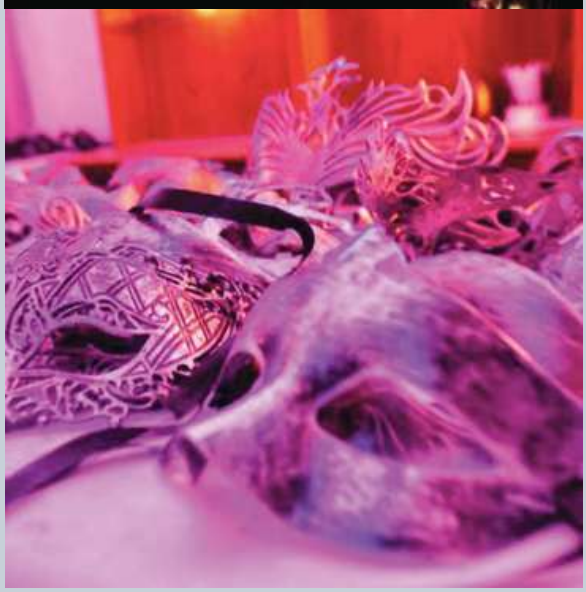
We are also here to help you navigate the Jewish experience on a university campus. We are your resource for all things Jewish at CBS.

Everyone is welcome to join JBSA - both Jews and non-Jews alike!

Welcome to JBSA! We look forward to an exciting academic year together!

All the best,

Debby and Josie



Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Latin American Business Association

Written by Antonio Calderon and Sebastian Hochbaum, co-presidents of LABA

Hola Familia! Welcome to the Latin American Business Association – *from New York to Latam, from Latam to the world.*

Dear Class of 2026,

We are thrilled to extend our congratulations and warmest welcome to Columbia Business School! From the **Latin American Business Association (LABA)**, we are beyond excited to have all of you joining our unique family. As you embark into this new exciting and ground-breaking chapter in your professional, academic and personal life, we look forward to helping you build your meaningful story at Columbia Business School!

Who We Are.
LABA has coined a remarkable legacy at CBS since its foundation, becoming the largest club across business school. At LABA we aim to build a strong and diverse community of individuals, comprised by Latinxs, Hispanics and people from all over the world, curious and passionate about our Latin American culture and committed in leveraging their privileged position and talent to drive impact into our region during their MBA journey and beyond through the LABA platform.

What We Do.
At LABA, we embrace the challenge of uniting our entire community throughout the year and make it a priority to become a meaningful part of all our members' MBA journey. We will work together to educate, connect and empower our members to make LABA a platform that bridges professionally, socially and culturally Latin America to the World and beyond.

How We Do It.
We have already been working hard in lining up an incredible 2024-2025 schedule filled with the most notable social events alongside incredibly insightful professional opportunities with leaders across the Latin American region.

Social Journey:

- We will continue to elevate what have historically been the most acclaimed and fun parties across our business school. Make sure your reggaeton playlist is updated and you are ready to dance all night long!
- Collaborations with other clubs such as the Brazil clubs to bring you immersive and unique cultural experiences!
- Iconic 'LABAsados' prepared by tenured asadores emerging from Argentina, to Chile, to Colombia and beyond.

Continued on the following page

Latin American Business Association

Written by Antonio Calderon and Sebastian Hochbaum, co-presidents of LABA

Professional Journey:

- On and off-campus events with top-tier speakers tapping across different industries, including our traditional annual Latin American Conference held every February
- Networking events with Alumni and peers from other universities
- Promote our job board to help our members throughout their recruiting process for notable positions in both the US and Latin America
- All members are encouraged to seek involvement and leadership positions in the club to make the best out of their experience

Welcome to LABA!

Best regards,
Antonio Calderon and Sebastian Hochbaum
Co-Presidents of the Latin American Business Association

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

APPENDIX 2: PROFESSIONAL CLUBS

Recruiting for Aerospace & Defense Tech

Written by Edward Tillinghast, Aerospace & Defense Tech Club President

Brief Summary: Aerospace & Defense + Tech Club provides students a forum to discuss the intersection of science, technology, public policy, and business through the lens of the Aerospace & Defense sector. Our team's interest range from commercial aviation to defense tech and this is supported by events and programming including speakers, conference visits, and career focused events to help students enter the sector.

We have strong representation across a variety of industries, including Investment Banking (Industrials/A&D coverage), investing roles (PE/VC), as well as Tech and Consulting. This year we are rolling out several keystone partnership and events with major organizations and businesses across the industry. Whether you are interested in potentially specializing in an A&D or A&D technology role professionally, or are just interested in learning more about the intersection of Foreign Policy and Business, we would love to have you join.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Read… and listen! We love sources like War on the Rocks, Defense One, and Lawfare and podcasts like Solarpunk, Defense One Radio, and Net Assessment
- Prepare your resume
- Reach out to our board or to others you know in the industry for a quick coffee chat

Timeline of Recruiting: Recruiting is typically ad-hoc/just-in time. We also have members who interned and/or have past work experience across industries (tech, PE/VC, IB and Consulting). ADT can be used as a standalone professional club for those purely interested in ADT roles, or as a professional interest club for those recruiting into IB/PE/VC/Consulting with a specific interest in A&D or ADT verticals. We are in the early stages of finalizing an on-campus career fair event aimed at bringing major ADT companies to campus to meet with students.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Jon Hicks is our CMC advisor

Key Things to Know:

- ADT is open to anyone regardless of their previous experience in the industry
- ADT is open to civilians and veterans
- We collaborate regularly with SIPA, the Engineering School and many local industry partners to make sure we are providing our members with a wide array of experiences to help inform career decisions.

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Veteran's Club
- Tech Club
- VC Club
- Investment Banking Club

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for the AgriBusiness Industry

Written by Jeffrey Landau, President of AgriBusiness Club

Brief Summary: The AgriBusiness Club (formerly the Cannabis Business Association) aims to educate and connect the agribusiness industry to CBS students. Through guest speakers, panel discussions, treks to NYC/NJ farms, and networking events CBS students can expect to build a foundational idea of what it takes to work within in the agriculture industry.

Agriculture is a vast industry with multiple categories and verticals. If any of the following categories excite you, join the club!

- Ag Biotechnology
- Ag Marketplaces & Fintech
- Cannabis
- Controlled Environment Agriculture
- Farm Robotics, Mechanization, & Equipment
- Farm Management Software
- Innovation Food
- Novel Farm Systems (Indoor farms, insect farms, and aquaculture)
- Regenerative Agriculture

Students interested in agriculture, food, venture capital, and consulting will all benefit professionally from exposure to this growing industry.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Nicole Buckley – Assistant Director of Student Life & Engagement | Office of Student Affairs
- Michael De Lucia – Executive Director, International and MS Career Management | Career Management Center

Key Things to Know: The agriculture industry is a vast and dynamic sector that encompasses all activities involved in the production, processing, and distribution of agricultural products. In 2023, agrifoodtech startups raised $15.6 billion globally (AgFunder). Startups and companies in the industry deal with a wide range of challenges including climate change, supply chain complexities, technological advancements, consumer trends, global market dynamics and many more. If solving these types of problems is of interest to you, reach out to us!

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- GreenBiz Club
- Gourmet Club
- Wine Club

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Artificial Intelligence

Written by Jia Tu, CBS Artificial Intelligence Club Co-President

Brief Summary: The purpose of the CBC Artificial Intelligence Club is to serve CBS students, faculty members, and the broad Columbia community as the bridge between frontier science development in AI and its applications and influence on industry and the public sector. AI Club provides students with a platform for dialogue on AI industry trends and science development, for connection with the AI communities at Columbia, in NY, and beyond, and for sharing resources about recruiting, entrepreneurship, and investing.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Industry learning! AI is an evolving industry and is quickly becoming a general technology, just like the internet. Understanding the fundamentals is crucial. Here is a peak of the resources we recommend at CBS AI Club; join us in the fall for more:
  - Courses: Cohere LLM University
  - Books: Chip War by Chris Miller, The Coming Wave by Mustafa Suleyman, Life 3.0 by Max Tegmark
  - Podcasts: NVIDIA Series by Acquired, Hard Fork by NYT
  - Readers/mailing list: Ben's Bites, Not A Bot, Tanya's SubStack, Stratechery
- Python basics: Python is the go-to language for AI applications and is an introductory programming language. We think the best way to learn is to work on an independent AI project. Put $5 into AWS bedrock, Anthropic, or OpenAI and try out their APIs in Python to get a taste of this technology
- Prepare for recruiting. The job market mostly leans toward science hires. For strategy and business roles, it is important to network early and demonstrate industry interest:
  - Big tech: Companies often use bulk resume drops- having an AI-related background (either in industry or academic) can help recruiters pick you out and pitch you for AI roles. You can start preparing your resume to include AI-related experiences in the summer by completing summer internships, doing individual projects, and joining the CBS AI club.
  - Start-ups: recruiting is mostly ad-hoc and just-in-time. Building your network early and start reaching out in the summer.

Timeline of Recruiting: Recruiting for big tech starts in late fall and early spring for big tech. Start-up recruiting is typically ad-hoc/just-in-time.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Sunita Lokuge and Irene Papajohn are our CMC advisors
- Kathleen Rithisorn and Julie Berger from Digital Future Initiative

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- AI Club
- Tech Club
- CEO

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for CBS Innovation and Design

Written by Yi Ju, CBS Innovation and Design Co-President

Brief Summary: Columbia Innovation & Design is a professional organization at Columbia Business School with the goal of building and supporting a community of business leaders focused on the power of creative problem solving and idea generation. Our mission is to: 1) Promote innovative thinking on our campus. 2) Develop forums (through speakers, workshops, etc. on campus) for club members to learn about innovation happening in various industries. 3) Educate club members on the various career opportunities available to them where they can leverage their MBA education in an innovative and creative way. We aim to bring a diverse set of students together to lean from one another, and expose students to various companies and leaders across the innovation landscape. We look to educate, inspire, and help our fellow students above all.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Prioritize what you want to get out of your business school experience (e.g., expanding network, club experiences (social or professional), taking courses on specific industries, in-semester internships, entrepreneurship labs, etc.)
  - Business school provides many opportunities and it can be overwhelming at first, so understanding your priorities will steer you in the right direction
- Read through the list of clubs on campus and reach out to members of those you have an interest in
  - Everyone is willing to talk, share their perspective on the given club/CBS in general, and help new students get acclimated
  - 2nd years can help structure your recruitment plan, as well as point you in the direction of additional resources

Timeline of Recruiting:

- Technology recruiting is usually ad-hoc, with some companies (e.g. Google) simply having bulk resume drops earlier in the year that can lead to interviews through April
- For smaller innovation/design firms (e.g. Frog Design), there may not be a formal, structured recruiting cycle
  - Landing an internship/job at these firms may require direct outreach / networking with alumni currently at the company, or with the recruiting teams themselves
- Leverage the behavioral and casing prep provided by the Technology club
- For design-focused individuals, ensure that you have your portfolio of work documented/at the ready as some internships have requested this with their application

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Mike De Lucia, Sunita Sayana Lokuge [CMC]
- Chris LaSala [Product Management] [Digital Product Management Lab]

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Tech Club
- AI Club
- Fintech & Blockchain Club

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Energy & Infrastructure

Written by Niklas Voege and Hassan Riaz, 2024-2025 Co-Presidents of Energy & Infrastructure Club

Brief Summary: The purpose of the Energy & Infrastructure Club is to foster an active energy community at CBS and to provide our members with opportunities to enhance their industry knowledge, connect with professionals, and provide access to career opportunities within the energy & infrastructure sector.

Typical career pathways for MBA graduates in the energy sector:

- Energy and infrastructure finance (i.e., IB, PE, VC, Project Finance)
- Management consulting and corporate strategy in the energy sector (incl. mgmt. development programs)
- Entrepreneurship (e.g., residential solar, electric vehicles, green hydrogen)
- Energy commodity trading (e.g., oil, gas, electricity)
- Energy policy and non-profits

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Reflect on your focus areas. Given the variety of career avenues, a clear focus facilitates the recruiting process. But don't worry if you don't know yet, there will be many options to refine your interest at CBS!
- Stay up to date with the latest developments in the energy industry. Follow sector coverage in the news and tune in to podcasts such as Columbia Energy Exchange, Energy Gang or Interchange: Recharged.
- Reach out to our board. Our board is always open for questions or coffee chats and happy to discuss any ideas and questions you have before you arrive on campus.

Timeline of recruiting:

- Traditional (finance, consulting, general mgmt., etc.): Fall term
- Non-traditional (start-ups, project finance, etc.): Spring term
- We recommend meeting with CMC advisors / fellows once you arrive on campus to clarify deadlines

Key CMC Contacts: Laurie Boockvar and Ryan Barlow

Recommended Clubs to Join: Energy & Infrastructure Club and clubs associated with your functional interest (Finance = IB Club / PE Club / VC club, Green Business Club; Consulting = Management Consulting Club; Entrepreneurship = Columbia Entrepreneurs Organization, Trading = Quantitative Markets and Trading Club; Non-profits = Social Enterprise Club; Sustainability = Green Business Club)

Lessons Learned from co-presidents and board:

- Familiarize yourself with energy 101s (e.g., what is a kWh) and key policies (e.g., IRA) for interviews
- Consider cross registering at SIPA courses to enhance your knowledge and technical skills (e.g., Energy Policy, Electricity Markets, Project Finance Modeling)
- Find 2nd years to ask any questions you have about recruiting processes (esp. for non-traditional routes)
- Stay on top off key deadlines (some start as early as September)
- Connect with peers who share your passion and build a dedicated network in your area of interest
- Join the Climate Practioners at CBS LinkedIn Group and proactively network with recent alumni
- Make use of the Project Finance Wall Street Prep course that all students have access to

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition (Search Funds)

Written by Austin Fruchter and Rohit Datta, 2024-2025 Co-Presidents

Brief Summary: CETA is a student-run club at CBS centered around searching for, acquiring, investing in, and operating small businesses. We provide education, resources, and a community around ETA to current students and alumni. Many of the opportunities available in search funds are offered to CETA before the CMC, so the club serves as the primary career development group for search funds.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's: Research the ETA space by reviewing the CBS ETA Club Knowledge Guide, viewing posts on SearchFunder, reading relevant books such as the *HBR Guide to Buying a Small Business* and *Buy Then Build* by Walker Diebel, and networking with current searchers/operators, search fund investors, and relevant service providers. Email info@cbseta.com if you'd like to connect with a current club member.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts: We share the same CMC advisor as the Private Equity club, Jon Hicks and Laurie Boockvar. Faculty contacts include Clayton Sachs, Tom Jackson, and Carlos Gila.

Key Things to Know: Several internship opportunities from investors and search CEOs come up throughout the year. To explore the space further, we recommend that you consider completing an internship (in-semester or during the summer) and attend club events to meet with investors and searchers who come to campus. Because of the inherent nature of ETA, there is no formalized recruiting timeline, but internship opportunities have been getting earlier every year. Also, consider taking the ETA class offered in the B-Terms of the Fall and Spring semesters. Once you join CETA, you'll receive access to the educational wiki, which allows you to receive a crash course on the basics of search funds, as well as databases of people in the search fund space that you can use to guide your coffee chats.

Job Opportunities:
Pay attention to CETA's job board to find open internship opportunities as they are posted.

Opportunities exist with both active search funds/operating companies and the investing side in search funds.

Search fund internships are usually in one of 3 phases: searching, diligence, and operating. We recommend that you perform internships across as many of these phases as possible (but especially in areas that you haven't had prior career experience) to confirm your career interest in ETA.

Investing internships are with search fund investors and you work to evaluate deals the investor is considering. This role is very similar to what you would do at a lower middle market private equity (PE) fund. Many of your skills will remain the same and can serve as important work experience if you are looking to apply to a PE role.

Formal summer internships: While the ETA space is mostly fragmented, there are several investment funds that host a formal internship program. These internship programs are run by firms such as Pacific Lake, Relay

Investments, and Anacapa Partners. Many of the programs have you spend part of your summer at an operating company in their portfolio and 1-2 weeks in an investing role at the search fund investor. As CETA finds new opportunities, they will be posted to the club's job board.

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition Club
- Private Equity Club
- Columbia Entrepreneurs Organization

Lessons Learned from Austin and Rohit:

- Start building investor relationships early, so that investors know you before you officially launch your search fund (assuming you intend to raise a traditional search fund).
- Utilize all of the resources available at your disposal at CBS so that you do not have to scramble to raise a fund near the end of your second year.
- The best ways to accomplish this are by (1) attending ETA club meetings and events, (2) taking an ETA class, and (3) networking with Columbia Business School alumni

Recruiting for Fintech and Blockchain

Written by Jenna Laezza and Pablo Sumaria, 2024-2025 Co-Presidents

Brief Summary: Columbia Fintech and Blockchain Club aims to build a strong community of fintech and blockchain industry leaders at the very center of business in New York City through impactful events. We connect the top talent of Columbia Business School with fintech industry professionals and leaders through networking events, speaker series, and company visits. We empower our club members with the necessary knowledge, skills, and network to become the future leaders in the space.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Read up on industry trends
- Consider which companies are of interest
- Set up an intro meeting with a CMC Advisor
- Update your resume
- Never too early to start networking!
- Familiarize yourself with CBS resources

Timeline of Recruiting: Recruiting begins in the fall and continues throughout the year. We recommend meeting with CMC Advisors and Fellows once you arrive on campus to understand which companies recruit when. Fintech and blockchain recruiting is generally in line with technology recruiting.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- CMC: Sunita Lokuge
- Faculty: Stephen Zeldes, Omid Malekan

Key Things to Know:

- Columbia Fintech and Blockchain is open to all, whether you are recruiting for fintech / blockchain opportunities, or just want to learn more and be part of the community!
- Networking in the space is key to forming connections and exploring opportunities that are most of interest to you

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Tech Club
- VC Club
- General Management
- AI Club
- Alleycon
- Gaming & Esports Club
- CBS Innovation and Design

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for General Management

Written by Peggy Guo & Michell Chen , General Management Association (GMA) Club co-presidents

Brief Summary: GMA's mission is to expose and prepare club members for recruiting and career success in general management and corporate leadership roles. Throughout the year, we provide:

- Resources and guidance from CMC, alumni, and club members
- Recruiting (internship and full-time) opportunities in different industries
- Mentorship programming, resume and cover letter workshops, and interview/case prep
- Lunch & Learns with executives, Alumni and industry panels, and more!

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Explore the Career Management Canvas page
- Research companies or industries of interest

Timeline of Recruiting: General Management recruiting does not have a strict timeline. Recruiting and networking begins in September and the entire cycle can end as late as May. Stay up to date on the recruiting timelines of individual companies with the help of GMA.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts: Laurie Boockvar & Mark Horney

Key Things to Know: General Management is as broad as the market. Roles may vary from C-level positions in start-ups to rotational programs in S&P 500 companies and everything in between. It is not limited to single functions either as the roles might cover corporate finance, HR, marketing and trainee programs.

Recommended Clubs to Join: GMA serves as an amazing complement to industry specific clubs.

Lessons Learned from Jen Zimmerman, GMA Co-President (2024): Recruiting can be a stressful time but staying organized and focused on what I came to CBS for helped me stay on track and avoid unnecessary stress or distractions. I was also able to enjoy the process more when I wasn't comparing my journey to anyone else's.

Lessons Learned from Patricio Pino, GMA VP of Professional Development (2024): If I had to give advice for the recruiting stage, it would be to start early, stay calm, and not overwhelm yourself with the amount of information, opinions, and perspectives around you. Stay focused on your next step – small progress is better than nothing. Slow and steady wins the race.

Lessons Learned from Peggy Guo, GMA Co-President (2025): It is really important to have a parallel path in your job searching process, which gives you additional opportunities that you might not expect. General management is a very popular parallel path because of the broad overlap with industries/roles.

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Healthcare

Written by Jamie Cohen & Philip Saba, Healthcare Industry Association (HCIA) Co-Presidents

Brief Summary: The Healthcare Industry Association (HCIA) of Columbia University fosters community for CBS students who are passionate about healthcare. The club hosts an annual conference (save the date: February 7, 2025!) where students from peer business schools and graduate programs, industry leaders, and other alumni congregate for fascinating conversations and keynote speeches on the latest advances in healthcare. HCIA provides students with tools, knowledge, and contacts across diverse sectors in the industry, including pharma / biotech, digital health, payers/ providers and investing. Notably, HCIA is the student-led part of the CBS healthcare community, and the Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Management (HPM) Program is the faculty-led part (e.g., they set the healthcare curriculum). We partner with HPM to offer a robust calendar of events.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Spend time thinking through what you're interested in exploring and what you want to recruit for--having a loose plan will make your fall easier!
- Update your resume and LinkedIn
- Enjoy your summer!

Timeline of Recruiting:

- Pharma industry events (on-campus recruitment and coffee chats) begin in the fall. First-round interviews are within the first two weeks of January. Second/final round interviews are complete by mid-February.
- Consulting and banking events are in the fall; see specific clubs for more details.
- Digital health is enterprise, generally spring-time.
- PE/VC are also enterprise; we work closely with the PE and VC clubs to set up networking opportunities for students.

For digital health, healthcare PE/ VC and other enterprise opportunities, keep an eye on the HCIA job board!

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- CMC: Sunita Lokuge and Ali Hasanaj
- HPM faculty director: Professor Carrie Chan
- HPM faculty director emeritus: Professor Cliff Cramer

Key Things to Know:

Community
Education
Connection
Networking
Leadership Opportunities

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Healthcare Industry Association (HCIA)
- Industry-specific (e.g., if you're interested in healthcare banking, join IB club)

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Social Enterprise

Written by Francesca Bruna Pipino & Tadesh Inagaki, Presidents of Social Enterprise Club

Brief Summary: The Social Enterprise Club is the center of all things impact-focused at the business school. Working closely with the Tamer Institute for Social Enterprise and Climate Change, we provide opportunities for students to engage in social entrepreneurship, impact investing, nonprofit, and other impact-related programming. With the CMC and Tamer Institute, the club also supports students seeking internships and job opportunities in across the social and environmental impact spectrum.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's: Explore opportunities for building impact into your career, figure out an area or industry niche, reach out to students or CBS alumni to network, and participate in Tamer Institute programming.

Timeline of Recruiting: Most recruiting opportunities are in the spring, with some fellowship applications earlier. Applications for Tamer Institute and social impact-focused programming happen throughout the year, including the ReAP program in the spring.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Michael De Lucia (CMC)
- Ivy Hastengate (Tamer Institute)
- Sandra Navalli (Tamer Institute)
- Bruce Usher (Tamer Institute)

Key Things to Know: Several clubs under the Social Enterprise Club umbrella serve different impact areas and verticals. CBS also offers a range of classes focused on social impact ranging from climate to impact investing to experiential courses.

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Social Enterprise Club
- Leo Impact Fund (ex-Microlumbia)
- Pangea Advisors
- Non Profit Board Leadership Program

Depending on Recruiting Interests:

- Green Business Club
- Columbia Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) Club

Lessons Learned From Francesca and Tadesh: Embrace Social Enterprise

Whether as a passion or a career, social enterprise is a vital resource on our campus. Seize the unique opportunities offered by the Social Enterprise Club and the Tamer Institute. Explore programs like the ReEntry Acceleration Program, the Bridging the American Divide class, and the Capital for Good conference. Take advantage of the Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship, the Tamer Fund for Social Ventures, Pangea, Leo Impact Fund, and the Non-Profit Board Leadership Program. The world of social enterprise is vast and exciting — let's explore it together!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Hospitality and Travel Association

Written by Athena Zou & Christian Virgil, Co-presidents, Hospitality and Travel Association

Brief Summary: The HTA is Columbia Business School's premier destination for all students interested in learning more about the hospitality industry, whether pursuing professional paths or simply wanting to enjoy the most of what New York's scene has to offer. We aim to bring together students with interests in food and beverage, real estate, travel technology, nightlife and related fields and make an effort to ensure that our club members are enhancing their knowledge through hands-on experiences. The club seeks to provide networking opportunities, alumni resources and educational discussions to explore career paths in the industry. Some events include informational site tours of a range of New York's best hospitality venues as well as networking events and speaker series.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Schedule an introductory meeting with a CMC advisor
- Brainstorm which general areas / industries you want to dedicate time to, considering both your social interests and experiences and your career goals
- Research companies, students and alumni that are in your desired industry or function

Timeline of Recruiting: November through May (varies based on the direction of hospitality you want to go in but never hurts to reach out to contacts early)

Key Things to Know: Have confidence to reach out to people that you might not know and ask questions. This is a rare period in your career where you have freedom to explore anything you want and you have a great excuse to do so. The only person who is really going to restrict what you are capable of doing is you.

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Gourmet Club
- Wine Society
- Real Estate Association

Lesson Learned From Athena: Persistence is key – if someone doesn't reach out to you don't be afraid to send a couple of reminders if you really are interested in connecting.

Lessons Learned From Christian: Learn when roles are typically listed by your target companies and if it's later in the spring don't get discouraged. Be patient and give yourself the chance to take the role that you really want rather than committing to something you're less excited about early on.

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Investment Banking

Written by Cheryl Chan & Graham Murphy, Investment Banking Club Co-Presidents

Brief Summary: The Investment Banking Club is one of the most successful career-focused organizations at Columbia Business School, and is the premier Investment Banking student organization among MBA programs globally. In recent years, the IBC has sent ~80-100+ students annually to summer internships and full-time jobs at dozens of leading investment banks in New York City and around the world.

For first years interested in a career in investment banking, the IBC, in conjunction with the Career Management Center, runs an extremely thorough process to prepare first year students for on-campus recruiting (OCR) interviews, which will occur in January of 2025.

Plenty of additional information will be shared with students in their first few weeks on campus in order to give them additional insight into what the investment banking recruiting process and job are like, but typically those students that arrive to campus with conviction about their recruiting goals (i.e., they have decided by mid-September that they want to recruit for IB summer internships), are able to find success in the summer internship recruiting process.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Prepare your resume (see CMC resources you have been given access to)
- Spend some time reading the news - WSJ, Bloomberg, FT, Money Stuff, etc.
- If you come from a non-finance background, consider browsing through resources provided by CMC like Wall Street Prep to start familiarizing yourself with things like financial statements (although this is by no means a requirement)
- Have a long and hard think about if Investment Banking is actually a career path you are interested in
- Rest. The recruiting process will take up a significant portion of your time over the fall semester.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Anjna Motwani is the CMC Advisor

Faculty with IB experience:

- Donna Hitscherich
- Brian Lancaster
- CBS Faculty Search can provide info on additional professors with industry experience

Advice continued on the following 2 pages

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Investment Banking

Written by Cheryl Chan & Graham Murphy, Investment Banking Club Co-Presidents

Timeline of Recruiting: Typically, full-time on-campus investment banking recruiting (OCR) begins in fall, with the exception of pre-MBA diversity recruiting (which occurs prior to students arriving on campus), certain non-NYC roles (International and West Coast offices), and certain banks that do not participate in on-campus recruiting and thus sometimes operate on different timelines.

Post-OCR Recruiting: on-going from January through later in the Spring semester

Key Things to Know:

If you have *any* interest in IB full-time roles, you have to jump in early!

- The IB recruiting process can feel like a runaway train. The way that banks run their recruiting processes means if you don't attend events early in the process (firmwide presentations, coffee chats), there is little to no chance you'll remain in that banks process as they start to whittle down their list to invite candidates to dinners and for interviews slots
- Similarly, banks most typically fill their full-time classes with returning summer interns, or those that interned at other investment banks. It is challenging to not intern in investment banking and land a full-time IB role (the best possible alternatives would be anything deal / investing / buy-side related, like PE / hedge fund roles, equity research, consulting due diligence groups, etc.)
- **Bottom line**: if you have any interest in IB for your summer internship or as a full-time job, join the IBC and start the recruiting process to test the waters - there is no punishment for deciding not to continue recruiting for IB, but there is almost no way in should you decide too late that it interests you!

Investment banking recruiting is a lot of work!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Investment Banking

Written by Cheryl Chan & Graham Murphy, Investment Banking Club Co-Presidents

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Investment Banking Club
- Restructuring & Distressed Investing Group
- Anything social or affinity-based that you are passionate about (Wine Society, Rugby, Soccer, CWiB, BBSA), as during the recruiting process full-time bankers actually really do want to hear about the fun things you're doing at b-school
- Anything career-related that you are interested in (e.g., if you want to be a FIG banker, Fintech & Blockchain club, if you want to work in Retail/Consumer banking, Retail & Luxury Goods club), which can help demonstrate your interest in certain industries or groups when recruiting for banking

Lessons Learned From Cheryl & Graham:

IB recruitment is an intensive process and requires considerable time commitment

- Firmwides, company events, coffee chats, and interview prep will consume a significant amount of your time
- Recruitment kicks off in mid September; starting the process late is not really an option
- Pace yourselves and balance your time: this is a marathon, not a sprint

Treat recruitment as an opportunity to learn and push yourself outside your comfort zone

- Every interaction with bankers should help you learn more about the career path and the bank
- Constantly evaluate your fit and interest at each bank so you can prioritize accordingly
- Expand your network and meet CBS alumni

The IBC is here to help you handle the hurdles that arise during the recruitment process

- Ask for help when needed; leverage the IBC, CMC, and training resources as much as possible
- Treat recruitment as a collaborative process with your peers: look for ways to help each other and be professional and courteous

Tips to Set You Up for Recruitment Success

- It is a good idea to have 2-3 business formal outfits before recruitment kicks off
- Update your resume now so that you don't have to rush at the start of the semester
- Read the WSJ / NYT / FT daily to have a grasp of market and industry trends
- Pay close attention in accounting and corporate finance: lead these assignments for your learning team
- Leverage the resources CBS provides incoming students (Wall Street Prep, CMC Welcome Advising, CMC Fellows, Executives in Residence)

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Management Consulting

Written by Alyson Williams & Akshat Goel, Co-Presidents

Brief Summary: The MCA's mission to prepare CBS students for a career in consulting -- which entails both unpacking what consulting as a profession entails, and tips on navigating the internship and full-time recruiting process.

The club objectives include the following:

- Demystify and providing mentorship through the recruiting process, including extensive case and fit interview preparation
- Connecting students to premier consulting firms, keeping them up-to-date on firm-sponsored recruiting events
- Building students' network of CBS grads and second year students working in consulting

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Stay on top of key business news ahead of recruiting season (e.g., New York Times, Economist, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times)
- Conduct secondary research on the consulting industry to see if it's a good fit for you
- Speak to currents students or people in your network that have worked in consulting to gather a candid view of the work including the highs and the lows
- Join the pre-MBA consulting webinars to learn more about the industry and recruiting

Timeline of Full-time Recruiting:

- Fall

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Joni Coughlin: CMC liaison to MCA
- Elana Sable: CMC liaison to consulting firms

Key Things to Know:

Our belief is that if you follow the recommended preparation & networking advice, you will be well positioned to successfully recruit for a consulting internship. Here are some of the ways the MCA will support and ensure you are ready for interviews:

- Workshops: Recruiting and coffee chat best practices, resume and application review, in-depth interview prep, prep resources, and many more
- Case and Fit Prep: Access to expansive recruiting resources, including 1 on 1 interview prep with 2Ys
- Mentorship: Each member can have a small 2Y-led mentorship group providing personalized guidance
- Social Events: De-stress and build camaraderie with 1Ys recruiting alongside you and 2Ys who were in your shoes last year
- Firm Correspondence: All company events are organized through the MCA and CMC

Advice continued on the following page

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Management Consulting

Written by Alyson Williams & Akshat Goel, Co-Presidents

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Management Consulting Association
- Small Business Consulting Program

Lessons Learned From Students:

- While volume of coffee chats is important in order to understand the dynamics of each firm, developing a handful of deep relationships at each firm of interest will be more impactful
- Leverage the 2nd years that have just completed internships to get candid advice on recruiting
- Don't start case prep until the MCA recommended date; there is potential harm in self-taught casing due to bad habits that are hard to unteach
- Keep up with the news to ensure you can confidently discuss current events & world news that pertain to business (e.g., interest rates, inflation, supply chain struggles) during networking events and coffee chats
- Cast a wide net! There are dozens of firms that do the same strategy work and offer interesting projects outside of McKinsey, BCG, and Bain!
- Sharing is caring! Help your classmates throughout the recruitment process at networking events, during casing, etc. Recruiters like CBS students that can work on teams, and this is reflected in the way you conduct yourself during the recruiting process
- The process is long and intense! Don't neglect key relationships with your friends & family; make sure to maintain healthy habits, especially in the brunt of recruitment. Find ways to incorporate self-care and balance.

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Media

Written by Nayana Bijli and Taylor Benard, Co-Presidents of the Media Management Association

Brief Summary: The Media Management Association is an inclusive, supportive environment for students passionate about building a career within Media and Technology, along with those who have an affinity for the entertainment industry. The club hosts various career, industry, and social events throughout the year, including an annual West Coast Trek to Los Angeles in the Winter and an East Coast Conference in New York City in the Spring in association with NYU Stern. MMA provides students with the resources, knowledge and contacts to prime students to successfully learn, engage, and recruit within the media, technology, and entertainment industries.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Fix your resume.
- Have a list of the top companies you hope to connect with on campus.
- Identify a list of alumni and professionals in the media, technology, and entertainment industries. Start reaching out to them for casual chats!
- Read up on industry trends and basic information.
- Be true to yourself and own your career ambitions.
- Be open to moving outside of your comfort zone.

1) Make a plan and
2) Start your research.

More details:

- Make a plan: start to think about what interests you in media and entertainment – TV, film, music, etc. Do some LinkedIn searching to find MBA roles at companies you're interested in. A good goal entering school is to be able to say, "I'm interested in __ part(s) of the M&E industry for xyz reasons and some potential roles/problems I'd like to work in/on are xyz". The last part is optional, but generally it is a good idea to have an understanding of what is out there so you can tailor your prep efforts more in the fall.
- Research: start regularly reading key trades (THR, Deadline, Variety). Understand what the current key issues/hot topics are, learn acronyms and concepts (e.g., if you're interested in tv/film, you should probably know what SVOD/AVOD/TVOD mean), and generally be aware of what's happening in the industry.

Advice continued on the following page

Recruiting for Media

Written by Nayana Bijli and Taylor Benard, Co-Presidents of the Media Management Association

Timeline of recruiting:

- September/October: continue research from pre-MBA, ramping up a bit. Start to form opinions on key topics (e.g., how might a studio think about using AI? What are the advantages/disadvantages of a weekly release vs all at once release strategy for a new show?); identify a few companies you think you might be interested in applying to; find some alums you would be interested in talking to.
- October/November: start LinkedIn reach outs, making sure you're purposeful about them (i.e., don't just ask someone to talk to talk; have a reason for reaching out to them, such as interest in their role/company); begin interview prep; continue finding companies you're interested in.
- December: prep for career treks if attending; otherwise continue interview prep. Make Google alerts for companies you're interested in and set up pre-defined LinkedIn searches for internships; Maybe touch base with some of the contacts you made from LinkedIn reach outs to see if they have any insight into potential internships.
- January-April: Key recruiting time. Don't rely on job postings on COIN – look for roles outside of just Columbia. Reach back out to contacts you established in the fall and keep people updated on your interview progress (both your peers/M&E club and your LinkedIn network)
- April/May-on: if you haven't found anything yet, start thinking about expanding your search beyond M&E; reach out to career center/club for help if needed

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Mike De Lucia, CMC
- Ochi Nwokoro, CMC
- Jennifer Merchant

Key Things to Know:

- Networking
- Industry trends, across different subsectors within Media
- Case Prep (Certain Media Companies ask Case Related Questions)

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Tech Club
- Management Consulting Association
- Marketing Club

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Marketing

Written by Melissa Maza and Courtney Dodge, Marketing Association (MAC) Co-Presidents

Brief Summary: The Marketing Association of Columbia University is a warm community where students with a passion and interest in marketing can join together. The club hosts events throughout the year such as industry panels, case competitions, interview workshops, office visits, and more. MAC provides students the tools, knowledge, and contacts across many industries including finance, consumer goods, retail, tech, brand management, and others.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Enjoy time with friends and family
- Update your resume
- Have a list of the top companies you hope to connect with on campus
- Be true to yourself and own your career ambitions
- Be open to moving outside of your comfort zone

Timeline of Recruiting: Recruiting begins in the Fall and continues throughout the year. We recommend meeting with CMC Advisors and Fellows as soon as you arrive on campus to get a sense of which companies recruit when.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Irene Papajohn

Key Things to Know:

- Community
- Education
- Connection
- Networking
- Leadership Opportunities

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Marketing Association
- Retail & Luxury Goods Club
- General Management Association

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Private Equity Club

Written by Anthony Neyer and Grace Trammell, PE Club Co-Presidents

Brief Summary: The Private Equity Club is one of the largest clubs at CBS and offers members many opportunities to further their interest, skills, and network in the private equity world.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- If you have substantial background in Core classes, try to exempt 1-3 courses to open up your schedule. In particular, it is important to understand Accounting and Valuations/Corporate Finance, however if you have experience in these fields (i.e. prior PE experience, Investment Banking, etc.), it will not benefit you to re-take classes in topics you already know. Plan your schedule around recruiting: i.e. if you are recruiting for Investment Banking or Consulting, it is ok to not replace all exempted classes with electives. If you are planning to recruit for industries that are more concentrated in the Spring semester, you likely want to fill your schedule in the Fall so you can free up more time in the spring.
- Talk to as many people as you can about your career plans, particularly if you are still exploring. Rising second years will be most helpful, however, tap into personal networks/mentors as well. These path-finding discussions will continue to occur in the fall (CMC Advisors, EIRs, CMC Fellows), but it is also helpful to front-load this pre-MBA.
- If you're considering targeting PE, spend a significant amount of time researching the industry. Read the CMC material, talk to friends in PE, visit firm websites, read PE news, listen to podcasts, etc., with the goal of rooting out if the PE day-to-day is truly right for you. It is very common for students to see private equity as a shiny career path, but they haven't done the research and had the deeper level conversations necessary to fully commit to the path. Some things you should understand include:
    - Do I have a good chance of actually landing a role in Private Equity based on my previous work experience? If not, how can I boost my resume to get there (either directly out of school or going through investment banking and eventually landing there)
    - Do I actually understand the day-to-day of the job? What is Private Equity and why do I want to pursue this path post-CBS?
    - What part of Private Equity interests me the most and why? (i.e. Megafund v. Middle Market v. Growth; Generalist v. industry specific; investing roles v. value creation v. investor relations, etc.)
    - Do I understand the recruiting process for PE? Is this something I am willing to do and a risk I am willing to take?

Timeline of Recruiting:

- Megafunds (KKR, Blackstone, Apollo, etc.): October to January
- Other funds (Mid-Market, Lower MM, etc.): January to May

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Laurie Boockvar, Jon Hicks - CMC
- Greta Larson - PE Program
- Michael Ewens, Donna Hitscherich - PE courses/curriculum

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Private Equity

Written by Anthony Neyer and Grace Trammell, PE Club Co-Presidents

Key Things to Know:

PE Club members typically fall into 3 buckets:

1. Committed to recruiting for PE internships
2. Pursuing PE adjacent work (e.g. diligence consulting, value creation, sponsors investment banking, etc.)
3. Generally interested in PE, potentially as a second or third career move after business school

For those exploring PE, we recommend landing in one of these buckets as quickly as you can. PE careers are attainable, however it requires months of focus, networking, and preparation to be positioned well when the time comes to recruit.

We also recommend taking advantage of the Club and School's offerings in the first semester. We highly recommend enrolling in the PE Club's modeling and case study training program that will occur through the first semester. We also encourage you to plan in advance and participate in the KKR case competition (this will be especially helpful if you do not have prior PE/IB experience).

CBS has a Private Equity Program for second years that you can apply to at the end of your first year. The PE Program aims to help qualified students navigate the process of finding a post-MBA role in private equity, and it includes alumni mentorship, preferred access to PE courses, guest speakers, education (e.g. modeling tests, interview prep), and a community of students with similar goals.

Recommended Clubs to Join:

This depends on what you believe will be your "parallel path" in recruiting. There are not really any clubs that offer relevant PE benefits, however if you are also interested in other industries or want to invest in a particular sector, it could be beneficial to join those clubs as well.

Parallel Path Club Examples: (this is not an exhaustive list)

- VC club
- IBC
- MCA
- Restructuring & Distressed
- Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition (Search Fund)

Industry Sector Club Examples: (this is not an exhaustive list)

- Tech Club
- Retail & Luxury Goods
- Healthcare

Recruiting for Private Equity

Written by Anthony Neyer and Grace Trammell, PE Club Co-Presidents

Lessons Learned From Anthony & Grace:
It is important to be realistic about your background, work experience, and risk tolerance when considering to recruit for Private Equity. It is a competitive field and just-in-time process (i.e. we both have 5+ years of banking and/or PE experience and found our internships around April for a June start date).

That said, if you have a relevant background, are willing to put in the work, and accept the risks around the process, it is likely achievable to land a PE internship. It is less structured than other processes (such as IB or Consulting), and it is important not to get discouraged and keep networking and applying for roles.

Utilize Club resources, our broader CBS network, your personal network, undergrad network, etc. Many of the megafunds come to campus or post on COIN, but check LinkedIn and other sources for opportunities as well. For middle market and smaller firms, start lightly networking first semester and heavily networking second semester. The Club will be the best place to get additional advice and thoughts on the recruiting process!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Retail & Luxury Goods

Written by Dahye de Givenchy, Co-President RLG '25 & Natalie Friel, Co-President RLG '25

Brief Summary: Since 1998, the Retail & Luxury Goods Club at Columbia Business School has been educating retail and luxury leaders via world-renowned faculty and partnerships with leading companies and brands. Club membership is open to all MBA students at Columbia Business School. Our members have diverse backgrounds and experiences both within retail and adjacent industries. Our goal as a club is to foster student engagement with the retail, consumer, and luxury goods industry through events that connect students with other like-minded students, alumni, and industry professionals. We work with companies to increase their brand awareness, facilitate networking opportunities, and enable access to MBA talent.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Keep up to date on industry knowledge by reading WWD, BOF, and Consumer Reports
- Set up a meeting with your CMC advisor to talk about timeline
- Start to think about what functions within retail, consumer, & luxury you are interested in - strategy, marketing, customer experience, planning, merchandising, etc.

Timeline of Recruiting: If you are recruiting for traditional in-industry roles, retail & luxury company recruiting is majority just-in-time. Internship Application deadlines typically start around the new year and continue throughout the fall semester. Retail adjacent opportunities such as consumer centric consulting, finance, tech, and strategy roles begin recruitment in the Fall with interviews in January. Utilize RLG in tandem with IBC and MCA as resources for official recruiting timelines.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Joni Coughlin

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Retail & Luxury Goods Club
- Depending on recruiting interests:
  - Investment Banking Club, Management Consulting Association, Tech Club, Beauty Club, Sports Business

Lessons Learned From Dahye: Even though recruiting for a role in retail & luxury is 'just-in-time', start networking right at the beginning of first semester. Strategize the firms and brands of interest and reach out to CBS alum who work there or have contacts. Keep those connections warm so that when internship or full-time roles open up in the Spring, you have a contact to reach out to for tips and application support.

Lessons Learned From Natalie: Coming from an in-industry background, I was curious to explore the various roles I could hold post-MBA to become a driving force for change in the retail and consumer industry. Working with RLG in tandem with other clubs helped me secure an internship that will further build on my strong retail foundation. Don't be afraid to be very intentional in your recruiting efforts and pursue a job in an industry you are passionate about.

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Sports Business

Written by Holly Kellner & Andrew Dickerman, Co-Presidents SB

Brief Summary: The Sports Business Association looks to bring together students with a passion for sports and provide opportunities to those interested in pursuing sports as a career path.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- It is never too early to begin networking, the sports landscape is relatively small and competitive. Most summer opportunities will arise through personal relationships rather than formal applications.
- Browse LinkedIn for CBS alumni in the industry and start making those connections.
- Practice your personal pitch—research various industry functions (e.g. Finance, Marketing, Strategy) to figure out where you might be able to help an organization.

Timeline of Recruiting:

- Enterprise-Driven Process: Sports recruiting is largely driven by individual companies with limited formal processes or on-campus opportunities. Unlike other more formal MBA paths, most internship and full-time role recruiting will occur just in time or in an unstructured way at the end of the semester.
- Internship Applications: Major professional leagues run formal internship programs, filling most positions between January and March. Applications may close 1-2 months prior and often earlier than deadlines - so if you see something you like, get an application in early! Also, reach out to hiring managers or connections in the industry when you apply, as many applications ask if you know someone.

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts: Mike De Lucia, Jon Hicks, Hollis O'Rorke and Jonathan Knee

Recommended Clubs to Join: Sports Business Association and Media Management Association

Lessons Learned From Holly:

Be prepared for a unique recruiting journey; if you're focused solely on sports, you need to be resourceful and patient. Don't hesitate to network with second years and alumni (and even strangers on LinkedIn), as they can often can be more helpful than the CMC, and you'll be surprised how much people want to help out eager MBA students! I also found it helpful to track coffee chats to have contacts to reference when applying to jobs. Lastly, be ready to roll up your sleeves and jump at opportunities, even if tasks seem below MBA-level work - you never know who you'll meet or impress. Having worked my entire career in the industry and aiming to return, I always remind myself to "hustle and smile"— and it will pay dividends!

Lessons Learned From Andrew:

There are many professional paths in the sports world—don't be intimidated by the options! Most folks are passionate about sports but often ask how to "break into" the industry. The answer is—network! You might not know about exciting opportunities unless you speak with someone at a given firm, so get your name out there. We're in an exciting time in the Sports/Media landscape, with big tech and finance firms paying more attention to this sector, opening recruiting opportunities at both traditional and non-traditional employers from CBS. There are increasing professional sports-related opportunities (leagues, teams, finance, media, marketing, etc.), and CBS is well positioned to be the premier feeder for these roles!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Sustainability

Written by Abby Trusler & Drew DiPrinzio, Co-Presidents of the Green Business Club

Brief Summary: The Green Business Club is a community focused on all things sustainability at CBS. We aim to be a place where students can meet others passionate about the cross section between sustainable development and business, receive guidance around recruiting for green business paths, and become involved in green-focused social and educational events.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's: Green business covers a broad range of career paths. If you are interested in recruiting in this space, our recommendation would be to come to CBS with an idea of the function (consulting, banking, startups, venture capital, etc.) and the general sustainability topic (renewable energy, food & agriculture, mobility, circular economy, etc.) that interest you. This will help you focus your search more effectively. If you do not know already, do not worry! The club will guide members through a series of career education and networking sessions that allow students to discover the areas within sustainability of highest interest to them.

Timeline of Recruiting:

- Traditional (consulting, finance, general mgmt., etc.): Fall term
- Non-traditional (start-ups, venture capital, etc): Spring term

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- CMC: Laurie Boockvar
- Tamer Center: Ivy Hasengate

Key Things to Know:

- Reference our GBC -2024 Year in Review posted on our LinkedIn page for an overview of our programming last year!

Recommended Clubs to Consider Joining:

- Green Business Club (GBC)
- Clubs associated with your industry interest (Renewable Energy = Energy & Infrastructure Club, Sustainable Retail = Retail & Luxury Goods Club, Climate Tech = Tech Club, etc.)
- Social Enterprise Club
- Pangea
- Microlumbia
- Three Cairns Fellowship (not an official club but definitely consider applying!)

Lessons Learned From Co-Presidents:

- Leverage the knowledge and experience of your second-years - they have been through this process and will certainly have useful insights.
- Find out what resources people are looking at and reading so you can stay informed - things like the CTVC newsletter, NY Climate Tech newsletter, different job boards, etc.
- If you're unsure about which industry to pursue, start reading weekly newsletters or listening to podcasts that cover a wide range of climate topics. Pay attention to the topics that captivate you and keep you engaged—this can help you identify your areas of interest and narrow your focus.
- Even if you're not recruiting for banking/consulting roles, there are some early deadlines that you should stay on top of - applications for Three Cairns Fellowship are due in early October, applications for some summer internship / fellowship roles can be due as early as November.
- Find peers who are interested / passionate about the same green business topics as you - the journey is always more enjoyable with friends and mutual support.
- Branding yourself is incredibly important, especially if you're in a more traditional industry: being known as "the sustainability person" is how you get referred to jobs or projects in this space.
- Consider cross registering in SUMA or climate school courses to enhance your knowledge and technical skills.

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Restructuring Banking & Credit/Distressed Roles

Written by Keshav Prasad & Tristan Dresbach, Co-Presidents of the Restructuring & Distressed Investing Group

Who We Are:

- A club for anyone! You're welcome regardless of how little or how much you know about the world of debt.
- We are a group of students with interests all over the map, from the legal-only side of Chapter 11 to distressed funds and large private credit shops.
- Presidents and board have all worked FT or interned in the restructuring, private credit, distressed fund, etc... space.
- Re-iterating that you do NOT need prior experience in finance to join our club.

General:

- Prior experience in finance/credit is NOT needed for restructuring. For credit roles, it definitely helps, but is not a must.
- First years will have an opportunity to join the board as AVPs.
- Feel free to reach out to us before Club Day if you have any questions.

Timeline of Recruiting:

- Restructuring: identical to IB, late Sept. - early Jan.
- Credit roles: identical to IM; late Sept. - early Feb. for on-campus recruiting; Dec. - May for enterprise recruiting

Key Things to Know:

- Restructuring:
  - Only independent advisors (non-bulge bracket) recruit RX candidates, meaning there will be 8-10ish banks running processes
  - RX can be recruited for in parallel to coverage at almost every firm
  - RX is materially different from other product/coverage groups
  - We think RX is cooler and more interesting than other IB
- Credit roles:
  - Several large asset managers recruit for public credit roles; a handful of private equity firms recruit for private credit roles
  - While some hedge funds post roles to VMock, most hedge fund roles will require enterprise recruiting
  - A lot of the preparation for public credit investing interviews involves coming up with equity or credit pitches

How we plan on helping 1st years:

- Prep sessions on general and technical materials
- Mock interviews for coffee chats, first rounds, superdays, case studies and pitches
- Forwarding key transaction news, legal updates, study materials, etc..
- Office hours for any and all questions
- Speaker events to learn more about different verticals

Recommended Resources:

Restructuring:

- restructuringinterviews.com
- petition 11
- Wall Street Prep Red Book - restructuring section
- BIWS Guides - restructuring section

Credit Roles:

- The Credit Investor's Handbook (Michael Gatto)
- CSIMA.info/IIC; CSIMA.info/incoming-students

Recruiting for Tech

Written by Julie Yoon & Mahima Sharma, Co-Presidents of the Tech Club

Brief Summary: https://www.cbstechclub.org/
The Columbia Business School Technology Club aims to equip the next generation of MBA students with the skillset and network needed for a successful career in tech.

Our goal is to bring structure to the tech recruiting process by 1) enabling students to unpack what it means to work in 'tech' and learn about its different flavors, 2) providing the educational resources needed to navigate the internship and full-time recruiting process, and 3) connecting alumni, faculty, and current students with each other in order to build a cohesive tech community.

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:
Get to know the technology industry as best you can before school starts! Below are some suggested blogs, podcasts, and reading to get things going:

- **Blogs:**
  - Stratechery — newsletter on business, strategy, and impact of technology
  - TechCrunch — the latest on startups
  - Lenny's Newsletter — Popular newsletter focused on the PM role and product more generally
- **Podcasts**
  - Exponent (Stratechery)
  - Decoder (The Verge)
  - Land of the Giants (Vox)
  - Kara Swisher (NYT) — Sway (since ended), On with Kara Swisher, etc.
- **Other:**
  - LinkedIn Product Management Learning Series
  - Ars Technica — trends in the tech industry, new product launches, latest AI/ML news, etc.

Timeline of Recruiting:

1. Fall: Aug-term students recruit for summer internships in tech.
2. J-termers may begin searching in-semester internships for fall while practicing with 2Ys and peers. Practice casing and mock behavioral interviews with peers. Continue resume drops and networking.

Advice continued on the following 2 pages

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Tech

Written by Julie Yoon & Mahima Sharma, Co-Presidents of the Tech Club

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- Irene Papajohn, CMC Advisor – ip2416@gsb.columbia.edu
- Sunita Lokuge – sl5504@gsb.columbia.edu
- Chris LaSala, professor
- Dan Wang, professor
- David Guetta, professor
- Paul Canetti, professor
- Any of the CMC Coaches (and Fellows) on COIN are fantastic!

Key Things to Know:

The Tech Club will support your tech recruiting journey with a variety of resources:

- Tech Job Board (internship and full-time job postings)
- Interview question bank
- Mentorship pods
- 2Y mock casing appointments
- Interview workshops (behavioral, product casing, strategy casing)
- Industry professional speaker panels
- Alumni networking dinners
- Alumni speaker panels
- Alumni happy hours
- Tech Club happy hours
- 1Y + 2Y Dinner pods
- Company visits
- Semester kick-off socials
- ...and more!

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Tech Club
- AI + ML Club
- Columbia Innovation and Design Club
- E-Sports & Gaming Club
- FinTech Club
- VC Club
- Alleycon

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Tech

Written by Julie Yoon & Mahima Sharma, Co-Presidents of the Tech Club

Lessons Learned From Julie:

- Focus on what you can control! Network as much as possible, drop your resume to a wide variety of companies, and most importantly, interview prep as early as possible. You want to be fully prepared when that interview invite comes.
- Start to refine your resume as soon as you get on campus — it's a really busy and chaotic time, but the earlier you start working with the CMC Fellows, Tech Club mentors, and your peers to hone your application, the better.
- Apply broadly, even to tech roles at non-tech companies, and remember to cater your resume to the specific role/industry you are applying to. There are a ton of great opportunities out there at companies in financial services, retail, consumer goods, etc. that don't get as much attention.
- Find people in your network who are working at the companies/roles that you are interested in and reach out to talk about their career journey and what a day in their life looks like, this is a great way to start to envision yourself in that career path in the short and long-run.
- Consider accomplishing one career pivot at a time, especially if you are new to the job function and the tech industry. For example, if you are targeting product management at a tech company but worked in consulting before business school, you might consider taking a strategy summer internship at a tech company to get your foot into the industry first. Then, for full-time, you can make the second pivot from strategy into product management.

Lessons Learned From Mahima:

- Start early! Some companies have their resume drops starting as early as August. Do your research and start drafting a list of applications with deadlines.
- Apply early, apply often. It makes a difference if you drop your resume sooner before it overwhelms the system and the recruiters.
- In-semester internships can be a good avenue to gain experience and discover whether certain roles or company types are a good fit. These can potentially serve as backup options for the summer if needed. Winter/Spring semester can be an ideal time for these, as you're out of the Core.
- If early-stage companies are of interest, those often require networking and connection-finding at a level beyond large companies. Many of these companies will not have considered summer internships until approached about it, but may be open to the possibility if your skills and interests align.
- For those interested in technical PM roles, it is valuable to gain light experience in the basics of programming, and other technologies common at these firms and in these roles. Whether learned through Python for MBAs, Intro to Databases for Business Analytics, Tech Club resources or many online sites, Python, SQL or other technical knowledge can be useful during interviews and during the internship.
- If you are applying for your first job in the US, make sure you bring in any parallel tech related experience. Employers will be confident in hiring you, if you already know the job.
- Watch product/strategy mock videos on Exponent, no harm in starting early. Case each other :)

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Trading and Markets

Written by QMT (Quantitative Markets and Trading Club) Board

Brief Summary: The mission of the QMT (Quantitative Markets and Trading Club) is to support all students who are interested in exploring or pursuing a career related to financial markets and trading (both technical and non-technical roles).

The club aims to support students in exploring Front Office and Back Office + Operational roles related to Trading/Markets including Sales & Trading, Quantitative Trading/Research, Risk Management, Portfolio Management, Sales/Client - Facing Roles, Compliance/Operations, Financial Consulting, Data Science, and Product. The type of companies we cover include (but are not limited to) Big Banks, Asset Managers, Trading Firms (HFT + Quant-Savvy Hedge Funds), and Exchanges (both TradFi and Crypto) across all product groups such as Equities, Fixed Income, FX, Commodities, Derivatives, and Crypto.

Key Pre-Program To-Do's:

- Keep up to date with markets, particularly in sectors/assets classes you are interested in
  - Financial Times, WSJ, Economist
  - Twitter is a great source of live information too!
- Research the industry. Some guiding questions:
  - What are the key current trends? How are firms trying to capitalize on these trends?
  - How would you categorize the different firms involved in the space? What piece are you most interested in learning about? Where do you see your best fit?
- For technical/quantitative roles - brush up on programming (mainly Python) and statistics!

Timeline:

Recruiting for larger and more stablished programs such as big banks, large hedge funds, and established trading firms are typically split into two waves. The first wave (typically large established hedge funds and certain banks) begins in September and will run through New Years. The second wave (typically large asset managers and certain banks, MBA/MS target programs) begin November and continue into February. Realistically, recruiting for the industry happens year-round. Keep in mind that some of the best roles in the space involve smaller firms/teams, and due to the nature of the industry, hiring needs could also change rapidly. We encourage doing research into current trends in the industry, eg what asset classes/sectors are "hot" currently as it is tougher to recruit into a "cold" sector/asset class.

QMT Resources:

- Resume Book - Sent out to Partner Companies and Headhunters
- Job Board (Internship + Full Time)
- Interview Questions Bank
- Workshops (Technical and Non-Technical)
- Industry/Professional Panels and Speakers
- Networking Events + Happy Hours + Socials
- ...and more!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Trading and Markets

Written by QMT (Quantitative Markets and Trading Club) Board

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- Quantitative Markets & Trading (QMT)
- CISMA
- Fintech Club
- AI Club
- Investment Banking Club

Contacts

CMC Contacts: Vyju Manian and Ryan Barlow
Professor Harry Mamaysky - Hedge Funds/Quant Funds
Professor Michael Johannes - Financial Markets
Professor Achilles Venetoulias - Hedge Funds, ex-Trader/PM
Professor Austin Campbell - Crypto Markets
Professor Omid Malekan - Crypto Markets and Funds
Melina Denebeim - Senior Director MSFE
QMT Board Contacts: Will Meng, Shyaan Hasnain, Charles Xiong, Joey Zhang

Final Thoughts/Notes:

Take full advantage of the resources available at CBS. Even if you are interested in a more technical-focused role, it is important to network and learn as much about the industry as possible. Leverage the network that is available to you at CBS and reach out for help when you need. You will get rejected many times throughout the process and that is ok. We are here to support you.

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Recruiting for Venture Capital

Written by Aakriti Chowdhary and Stephan Mac Morse, Co-president, VC Club

Brief Summary: VC recruiting is considered "just-in-time" recruiting, which means firms will be looking for interns two to three months before they would like them to start

Key Pre-MBA To-Do's:

- Set up an intro meeting with a CMC advisor
- Update your resume
- Start to think about what areas of VC interest you the most - are you interested in early or late-stage investing? Are you interested in a specific industry?
- Once you have access, familiarize yourself with Pitchbook, CBInsights, and other VC resources
- Learn more about the Columbia Venture Fellows program and identify if it's the right fit for you

Timeline of Recruiting:

- **There is no clear timeline for VC recruiting like there is for consulting or banking, however, there are still plenty of opportunities for you to prepare**
- **During first semester -** engage as much as possible with 2nd year students who are interested in VC - learn about the firms they have worked at, their interests, and how they successfully navigated VC recruiting.
- **During winter break - select an investment thesis topic and start to develop your thesis; lean on VC club resources to help you navigate how to develop a thoughtful thesis; identify list of startups that match your thesis; start building a list of firms of interest where your thesis is applicable.**
- **Early spring -** start reaching out to your target list of VC firms to learn more about their funds and socialize your thesis. This is a great time to think about an in-semester internship with a VC firm or a startup in your thesis area
- **Late Spring -** Take a deep breath and start seriously recruiting; reach out to the connections you have made this year and focus on what you bring to the table for this fund - they want interns who will make an immediate impact; Talk to everyone you can and apply for any open roles that are of interest to you

Key CMC/Faculty Contacts:

- **CMC -** Irene Papajohn
- **Faculty -** Angela Lee, Bruce Usher

Key Things to Know:

- Recruiting for VC can be nerve wracking, especially during the winter when it feels like the majority of your classmates are getting internships right and left. Trust the process, prepare yourself and lean on your classmates during this time!

Recommended Clubs to Join:

- VC Club
- Any clubs that are associated with your area of interest (RLG, Tech Club, AI, Healthcare etc.)
- Consider applying for Columbia Venture Fellows

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

APPENDIX 3: ADDITIONAL CLUBS

Clubs and Student Organizations

To see a description of all of CBS's clubs and student organizations, please see the below link:
https://students.business.columbia.edu/office-of-student-affairs/student-life-and-engagement/student-clubs

Affinity Clubs

- Adam Smith Society
- Asian Business Association
- Black Business Student Association
- CBS Partners & Families
- Christian Business Fellowship
- Cluster Q
- Columbia Women in Business
- Hispanic Business Association
- Jewish Business Student Association
- Muslims in Business
- Veterans Club
- West Coast Society

Athletic Clubs

- CBS Football Club (Soccer)
- CBS Running & Triathlon Club
- Columbia Basketball Club
- Golf Club
- Outdoors Club
- Rugby Football Club
- Snow Sports Club
- Squash Club
- Tennis Club
- Volleyball Club

Community Service

- CBS Community Impact Club
- Young Scholars Mentorship Society

Student Leadership

- Student Government
- Student Leadership and Ethics Board

International

- Africa Business Club
- Brazil Club
- Chile Club
- Dutch Club
- European Society
- Greater China Society
- Israel Business Association
- Japan Business Association
- Korean Business Association
- Latin American Business Association
- Middle East & North Africa Club
- Eastern European Community
- South Asia Business Association
- Southeast Asian Business Association
- Spanish Club
- French Connection Club
- The Italian Club

Social Clubs

- Arts Society
- CBS Spirits Club
- Follies
- Gourmet Club
- Health & Wellness Club
- Microbrew Society
- Public Speaking Association
- SNKR Club
- Wine Society

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Clubs and Student Organizations

To see a description of all of CBS's clubs and student organizations, please see the below link:
https://students.business.columbia.edu/office-of-student-affairs/student-life-and-engagement/student-clubs

Professional Clubs

- Aerospace & Defense Technology Club
- AgriBusiness Club
- Alleycon Conference
- Artificial Intelligence Club
- Automotive & Transportation Club
- CBS Innovation & Design
- Columbia Beauty Club
- Columbia Entrepreneurs Organization
- Columbia Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition
- Columbia FinTech and Blockchain
- Columbia Innovation & Design
- Columbia Student Investment Management Association
- Energy & Infrastructure Club
- Family Business Club
- Gaming & Esports Club
- General Management Association
- Green Business Club
- Health Care Industry Association
- Hospitality & Travel Association
- Investment Banking Club
- Management Consulting Association
- Marketing Association of Columbia
- Media Management Association
- Private Equity Club
- Quantitative Markets and Trading Club
- Real Estate Association
- Restructuring & Distressed Investing Group

Professional Clubs (cont'd)

- Retail & Luxury Goods Club
- Small Business Consulting Program
- Social Enterprise Club
- Sports Business Association
- Technology Club
- Venture Capital Club

Alleycon Conference

Written by Alexis Chestnov, Co-President of Alleycon

Dear Class of 2026,

Welcome to Columbia Business School Class of '26! We are excited to have you with us.

What is Alleycon?
At Alleycon is New York City's premier technology, start-up, and venture capital conference, hosted by Columbia Business School. Since its inauguration, this annual event welcomes Columbia students, alumni, and the professional community for a day of speaker sessions with industry leaders as they cover the latest and greatest in their fields. Recent keynote speakers have included Andrew Yang (Co-chair, Forward Party), Nihal Mehta (Co-Founder, Eniac Ventures and 5x founder and investor), and Ilir Sela (Founder and CEO, Slice), just to name a few.

At Alleycon, we strive to bring our attendees to the forefront of innovation – all within a dynamic, insightful, and engaging environment!

Who Should Attend Alleycon?
While Alleycon's focus is on technology, start-up, and venture capital, you don't have to be interested in these fields explicitly to gain something out of Alleycon. Within these overarching buckets, Alleycon offers viewpoints across many different industries – from healthcare to proptech and more. We encourage any and all interested to come and see what Alleycon is all about!

How To Get Involved:
There are two ways to get involved with Alleycon! If you are just interested in attending the conference, you can simply purchase a ticket (stay tuned for when tickets go on sale – we do sell out!).

Or, if you are interested in helping plan the conference, you can apply to be on the board. The executive board is staffed with second-year students, who are selected at the end of their first year. First-year students can apply in the fall for AVP positions to support respective Alleycon teams. For whichever level of interest, we look forward to seeing you there!

Please note, this survival guide has been written by students for students.
This is not an official CBS document

Follies

Written by Jacob Steinfield & Esha Sondhi, Co-Presidents

Wussup y'all! The OG business school Follies is so pleased to offer our congratulations and to welcome you to Columbia Business School! We are so psyched to have you join our community. The MBA experience can be intense, so Follies is here to bring levity and fun to its members, hopefully you!

Follies offers an amazing opportunity to let your creative expression rip on the backdrop of your MBA. By joining Follies, you have the opportunity to write jokes, act in skits, sing songs, direct and edit videos and live theater, show off your instrumental skills and dance moves, and so much more.

We offer a fun and collaborative space aligned with the following values:

- Effort > Talent: 0 TALENT REQUIRED. And even effort - you get out of Follies what you put in, be as involved as you want!
- Respect, Inclusivity, and Support: we invite and respect the vulnerability required to joke, sing, and dance in front of your classmates, you feel?
- Fun: If making fun of yourself and the highly memable MBA experience (because it really is absurd) sounds like a good time to you, join us!

There are three "arms" to Follies, any and all of which you can participate in by joining:

- Follies: produces content lampooning any and all MBA/business related themes (videos and live skits)
- Juranimal: CBS's very own cover band!!
- Follies Dance: choreographs dances, videos, and performs at the Follies Live Show

The Follies way involves creativity, passion, and teamwork, eventually culminating in a rowdy and hilarious live show at the end of the semester attended by our classmates, friends, and families. Below is a very brief description of what our semester looks like. Juranimal and Follies Dance-specific events are organized independently and do not conflict with the below.

- Weekly Monday meeting at 9:15 PM: develop hilarious content, rehearse for live show
- 2 song recording weekends and 2 filming weekends to bring your jokes to life
- Folloween, Karaoke Social, and other cast party events!
- Live Show Day + After Party (the most fun night of the semester)

Like all clubs Follies has a board, and we would love to have your class join our board as AVPs of: Direction, Events, Finance, Marketing, Live Show, Closet/Ops/Head Green Person.

Remember: the key to Follies is to show up! You can sign up for as much as you would like to be involved in, and those that choose to spend more time with us can find themselves pulled into directing, costuming, acting, and even starring roles.

Come be funny (or not) and find your sub-community within CBS with us!
Yours,
Jaesha, Follies Co-Presidents