



COMPUTER SCIENCE <sup>(/)</sup>



COLUMBIA | ENGINEERING [\(http://engineering.columbia.edu/\)](http://engineering.columbia.edu/)  
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science



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## Prospective Students

Thank you for your interest in our CS@CU programs!  
Please be sure to read through our pages and complete keyword searches to help you gather information and make the most informed decision possible regarding the next step in your educational career.

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Columbia University Admissions Offices  
(<https://www.columbia.edu/content/admissions-offices>)

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## CONTENTS

Application Deadlines	Dual MS in Journalism and Computer Science
Undergraduate Programs	PhD Program
	CS@CU MS Bridge Program in Computer Science
MS Programs	( <a href="http://www.cs.columbia.edu/align-program/">http://www.cs.columbia.edu/align-program/</a> )
MS Express	
( <a href="https://gradengineering.columbia.edu/graduate-admissions/apply#">https://gradengineering.columbia.edu/graduate-admissions/apply#</a> ) – <i>CU Seniors only</i>	FAQs

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## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Undergraduates wanting to major in computer science first apply through one of four undergraduate schools:

- Columbia College (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/college/>)
  - Barnard College (<http://www.barnard.edu/>)
  - School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) (<http://www.engineering.columbia.edu/>)
  - School of General Studies (<http://www.gs.columbia.edu/>)
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## APPLICATION PRIORITY DEADLINES

Applications received and considered complete by these priority deadlines will be reviewed in the first or second priority group of applications. We recommend you submit your application a couple of weeks before the priority deadline to ensure that all

materials, including recommendation letters, are received by the deadline.

<b><i>CS Programs</i></b>	<b><i>Fall</i></b>	<b><i>Spring</i></b>
<b>Doctoral:</b> MS/PhD*, PhD	December 15	October 15
Master of Science (CS MS)	<b>Priority: January 15</b> Regular: February 15	October 15
MS Express Application (Columbia Undergrads only)	Regular: February 15 Final Deadline: May 1st	October 15
Dual MS, CS & Journalism	January 15	N/A
CS@CU MS Bridge Program	February 15th	N/A

\* This is NOT a terminal CS MS degree; it is a degree earned en route to the PhD. CS MS applicants need to follow the Master of Science Deadlines.

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## ***MS PROGRAMS***

The Master of Science (MS) program is intended for professionals who wish to broaden and deepen their understanding of computer science. Columbia University and the New York City environment provide excellent career opportunities in multiple industries. The program provides a unique opportunity to develop leading-edge in-depth knowledge of specific computer science disciplines.

MS applicants whose primary interests include software engineering, theory, AI, machine learning, vision/graphics, natural language processing, or other core CS areas should apply to the Computer Science MS Program (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/education/ms/>).

MS applicants whose primary interests include computer architecture, parallel systems, embedded systems, or digital/VLSI design should apply to the Computer Engineering MS Program (<http://www.compeng.columbia.edu/>).

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## ***DUAL MS IN JOURNALISM AND COMPUTER SCIENCE***

Admitted students will enroll for a total of five semesters — approximately three in The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science and two in the Journalism School. In addition to taking classes already offered at the Journalism and Engineering schools, students will attend a seminar and workshop designed specifically for the dual degree program. The seminar will teach students about the impact of digital techniques on journalism; the emerging role of citizens in the news process; the influence of social media; and the changing business models that will support news gathering. In the workshop, students will use a hands-on approach to delve deeply into information design, focusing on how to build a site, section, or application from concept to development, ensuring the editorial goals are kept uppermost in mind.

*Want to learn more? Visit the program website*  
(<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/education/ms/journalism/>)!

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## ***PHD PROGRAM***

A small number of highly qualified students are admitted each year to the PhD Program in Computer Science. Admission is very competitive, based primarily on research-oriented reference letters, academic grades, and overall experience and record. Applicants need not already hold a master's degree; bachelor's degree-level applicants are also encouraged to apply.

Most admitted students receive full financial support through Graduate Research Assistantships, which consist of a monthly stipend plus full tuition exemption (continuation of support is, of course, contingent upon the student's satisfactory progress in the PhD Program and availability of funding). In addition, the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science awards a small number of prestigious "Presidential Distinguished Fellowships." These fellowships provide full financial support to their recipients. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek external funding, such as government and industry fellowships. Also, Columbia rents low-cost subsidized apartments near campus for both single students and students with families.

All PhD students are expected to participate in departmental and laboratory activity **full-time on-campus** throughout the program, except possibly for summer internships elsewhere. Therefore, the department does not normally consider admission of part-time students. Also, note that it is **not** possible to participate in the PhD Program through the Columbia Video Network (<https://www.cvn.columbia.edu/>).

You are also encouraged to investigate the research conducted in the Department of Computer Science prior to application. In particular, think about which faculty members (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/people/faculty/>) share your research interests and also look at the research group homepages (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/>). Feel free to contact potential faculty advisors by email to request information about their recent research and publications, and to ask about opportunities in their research groups or labs.

Finally, become familiar with our PhD degree requirements (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/education/phd/requirements/>).

If you are interested in learning more about a day in the life of our PhD students, check out the Demystifying the Dissertation: PhD Research Discussions (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/demystifying-the-dissertation/>) seminar series, which highlights several Computer Science PhD students. In their videos, these students discuss their experiences and research projects. This series is a CS Student Services initiative and its goal is to help undergrads, master's students, and alumni understand the often mystifying world of PhD research and the dissertation process. Watch the series here (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/demystifying-the-dissertation/>).

### ***COMPUTER SCIENCE PhD PRE-SUBMISSION APPLICATION REVIEW (PAR) PROGRAM***

The PhD PAR program offers a one-time review of an applicant's Personal Statement and CV. The review is done by a current computer science PhD student. For more information, please visit PhD Pre-Submission Application Review Program (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/cscu-phd-par-program/>).

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## Questions

### Why CS@CU?

Is there a specific emphasis on expertise and research within the Computer Science Department at Columbia? Which areas of CS are particularly strong at Columbia?

Why should I pursue an undergraduate degree in Computer Science at Columbia?

What makes your Computer Science program stand out compared to other top programs and institutions?

What opportunities are there to get involved in Computer Science research at Columbia?

What research, internship, and fellowships opportunities exist during the summer months, and how do I participate?

What kinds of career opportunities would this major/concentration prepare me for?

What percentage of your Computer Science undergraduates go on to graduate school?

How does the Computer Science program differ between the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), Columbia College, Barnard, and General Studies?

Is it possible to do a double major with an entirely different subject (e.g., English)?

It may be possible to complete a double major in these circumstances as a Columbia College or General Studies student. Please consult your Advising Dean.

What are the differences between the Computer Science and Computer Engineering degrees?

Does the CS department process undergraduate admissions?

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## The Application Process – Bridge, MS, & Doctoral

What are the application requirements?

How do I apply?

What is the full application process?

How much is the application fee?

What is the minimum GPA required to be admitted?

Who should I contact to confirm the receipt of my official documents?

What are the application deadlines?

Can I apply for admission to the summer semester?

What are the admission requirements?

Do I have to take these prerequisite courses at Columbia University?

Do you offer a path to take this foundational/bridge coursework at Columbia University?

I applied previously, can I reuse my old application materials?

I already have an MS/Doctoral Degree. Will that disqualify me from applying?

## TRANSCRIPT

My transcripts are not in English. What should I do?

My course grades on my undergraduate transcript are based on a different scale from Columbia's. What can I do?

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

What should I write about in my personal statement?

What are recommended formatting and word count guidelines for the personal statement?

## RECOMMENDATION LETTERS:



What is the deadline for the arrival of the recommendations or other materials supporting my application?

My recommenders cannot submit their letters of recommendation electronically. Can I have them sent as hard copies via mail?

Can my recommenders send letters of recommendation from their non-institutional email addresses (e.g. Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo)?

My Recommendation provider does not have a current business card, what should they do?

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT:

Do I need to submit the financial document along with my application?

## TECHNICAL PROBLEMS:

I'm having problems entering data, completing the interview, and/or uploading documents in the online application system; what can I do?

## BEING FORWARDED TO THE MS APPLICATION POOL FROM THE PHD APPLICATION POOL:

I applied to the PhD program, but I have received a notice that I have been admitted to the MS program. What does this mean?

I applied for the PhD program, was unsuccessful, and have been offered a place on the MS program. If I join the MS program, can I reapply for the PhD program later?

## DECISION:

When will I receive a decision on my application?

I submitted my application a while ago and still have not heard about a decision yet. Has a decision been made?

If I am denied admission, may I receive feedback on the reasons behind the decision?

## FUNDING INFORMATION:

Are there funding opportunities?

## REACTIVATION:

I have been offered admission to the MS program, but my situation has changed and I want to enroll in a later semester. What should I do?

I want to apply for admission for the Fall or Spring semester in one year's time or more, but I cannot see my semester of choice in the online system. What can I do?

I was denied admission. Can I reactivate my application?

I am reactivating my application. Do I need to submit my test scores?

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## COLUMBIA VIDEO NETWORK (CVN):

What is Columbia Video Network (CVN)?

Can I apply to CVN and transfer to in-person or visa versa?

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## TEST SCORES

Is the GRE required?

Is there a minimum GRE score for admission?

What are the GRE and TOEFL institutional codes for the Columbia University Department of Computer Science? How do I send IELTS scores to Columbia University?

Who is required to submit standardized test scores?

Do you have minimum language scores?

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## COSTS:

I would like to request an application Fee Waiver. How can I do that?

How much does the program cost?

## REGISTRATION:

Can I study part-time?

Do you offer classes at X time?

## QUESTIONS:

We receive an enormous volume of emails with application-related questions, so **read this website** carefully **before sending us an email**. Questions about particular research groups or individual faculty members should be directed to the appropriate faculty members by email.

Transcripts, GRE/TOEFL/  
IELTS, fee waivers

Office of Graduate Student Affairs (mailto:  
<seasgradmit@columbia.edu>)

Undergraduate Admissions

Office of Undergraduate Admissions (mailto:<ugrad-  
ask@columbia.edu>)

CS MS Admissions

MS Admissions (mailto:ms-  
admissions@cs.columbia.edu)

CS PhD Admissions

PhD Admissions (mailto:<phd-  
admissions@cs.columbia.edu>)

CVN MS Program

CVN (mailto:support@cvn.columbia.edu)

*Updated 10/27/2023*

deadlines



**Find the COVID-19 Resource Guide here (<https://news.columbia.edu/news/update-covid-19-university-guidance>).**

## Computer Science at Columbia University

The computer science department advances the role of computing in our lives through research and prepares the next generation of computer scientists with its academic programs.

Find out more about the department here (/about).

## Upcoming Events

NOV  
**03**

Theory Lunch - Tamalika Mukherjee

Theory Lunch

**Friday 12:30 pm**

CS conference room (CSB453)

Tamalika Mukherjee, Columbia University

NOV  
**06**

Academic Holiday (No Classes Held)

**Monday 9:00 am**

NOV  
**07**

Election Day (University Holiday)

**Tuesday 9:00 am**

NOV  
**08**

Causal Representation Learning and Optimal Intervention Design

Distinguished Lecture Series

**Wednesday 11:40 am**

CSB 451 CS Auditorium

Caroline Uhler, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

[View All >> \(https://www.cs.columbia.edu/calendar/\)](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/calendar/)

## In the News

# MIT Technology Review

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/the-computer-scientist-who-hunts-for-costly-bugs-in-crypto-code/?redirect=0c99d322ac4a621f0cb1bf31ffea64ba>)

**The Computer Scientist Who Hunts for Costly Bugs in Crypto Code** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/the-computer-scientist-who-hunts-for-costly-bugs-in-crypto-code/?redirect=0c99d322ac4a621f0cb1bf31ffea64ba>)

(Ronghui Gu)



(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/this-self-aware-robot-taught-itself-how-to-control-its-own-body/?redirect=2275dd724f7cd014090b808bf9f6c3c9>)

**This Self-Aware Robot Taught Itself How to Control Its Own Body** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/this-self-aware-robot-taught-itself-how-to-control-its-own-body/?redirect=2275dd724f7cd014090b808bf9f6c3c9>)

(Carl Vondrick)



**Columbia Awarded \$185 Million in Patent-Infringement Lawsuit** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/columbia-awarded-185-million-in-patent-infringement-lawsuit/?redirect=00ff51e39830d7b7a1521ed64b5174b7>)

(Salvatore Stolfo)

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/columbia-awarded-185-million-in-patent-infringement-lawsuit/?redirect=00ff51e39830d7b7a1521ed64b5174b7>)



**Mathematicians Transcend Geometric Theory of Motion** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e>)

(Andrew Blumberg)

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e>)



**Auto-scans of phones would violate data privacy, say security experts** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1>)

(Steven Bellovin)

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1>)

## Press Mentions

The logo for the magazine TIME, rendered in a large, red, serif typeface.

**How The Morning Show Rewrites the Notorious 2014 Sony Hack** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/how-the-morning-show-rewrites-the-notorious-2014-sony-hack/?redirect=01cb778274fb38a72826afd84056ab79>)

(Suman Jana)

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/how-the-morning-show-rewrites-the-notorious-2014-sony-hack/?redirect=01cb778274fb38a72826afd84056ab79>)

The logo for The Washington Post, featuring the words "The Washington Post" in a black, gothic-style serif font.

**Your Résumé Isn't the Only Thing Popular Job Sites Evaluate** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/your-resume-isnt-the-only-thing-popular-job-sites-evaluate/?redirect=f25fb139a595563c5d6b2ebf335c354a>)

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/your-resume-isnt-the-only-thing-popular-job-sites-evaluate/?redirect=f25fb139a595563c5d6b2ebf335c354a>)

The logo for SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, with the words "SCIENTIFIC" and "AMERICAN" stacked vertically in a large, black, serif font.

**Yes, AI Models Can Get Worse over Time** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/yes-ai-models-can-get-worse-over-time/?redirect=bd00821a18c6554527db1cab787c273b>)

(Kathleen McKeown, Vishal Misra)

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/yes-ai-models-can-get-worse-over-time/?redirect=bd00821a18c6554527db1cab787c273b>)





**Here's how AI is being used to unlock secrets still hidden in the human brain (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/heres-how-ai-is-being-used-to-unlock-secrets-still-hidden-in-the-human-brain/?...>)**

(Richard Zemel)

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/heres-how-ai-is-being-used-to-unlock-secrets-still-hidden-in-the-human-brain/?>

Apply

redirect=4055e95b510974e140a3552097549bb7)

(<http://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/learn/academiclife/engineering>)



M.S./Ph.D. Application (<https://apply.engineering.columbia.edu/apply/>)

**Does AI in NYC need restrictions? Officials hold closed-door meeting to discuss**

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/does-ai-in-nyc-need-restrictions-officials-hold-closed-door-meeting-to-discuss...>)

(<http://grad.engineering.columbia.edu/mis-express-application-columbia-university-undergraduates>)

(Jeannette Wing)

([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/does-ai-in-nyc-need-restrictions-officials-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/does-ai-in-nyc-need-restrictions-officials-hold-closed-door-meeting-to-discuss/?)

ai-in-nyc-need-restrictions-officials-

CS@CU MS Bridge Program in Computer Science (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/ms-bridge/>)

hold-closed-door-meeting-to-

discuss/?

(<https://www.columbia.edu>)

redirect=557ac481d534504ff10bb8a2246504e8)

Links

Map ([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/morningsidemap\\_2015aug-7.pdf](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/morningsidemap_2015aug-7.pdf))

School of Engineering And Applied Science (<http://engineering.columbia.edu/>)

Data Science Institute (<http://datascience.columbia.edu/>)

CRF (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/crf>)

MICE (<https://mice.cs.columbia.edu>)

ASCENT Program (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/ascent/>)

Copyright FAQ (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/resources/copyright/>)

CS Advising (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/academic-advising/>)

## Contact

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Contact Us (</contact>)

Directions (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/resources/directions/>)

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Webmaster (<mailto:webmaster@cs.columbia.edu>)

Privacy Policy (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/privacy-policy/>)