

# Chazen MBA Exchange Program Info Session

February 10th, 2025

# Partner Schools

**Argentina** [Universidad de San Andrés](#)

**Australia** [Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne](#)

**Austria** [Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, University of Vienna](#)

**Brazil** [Escola de Administração de Empresas de São Paulo/Fundação Getúlio Vargas](#)

**Finland** [Aalto University](#)

**France** [The HEC MBA Program](#)

**Germany** [WHU, Otto Beisheim School of Management](#)

**Hong Kong** [Hong Kong University of Science and Technology](#)

**Italy** [Scuola di Direzione Aziendale, Bocconi](#)

**Japan** [Keio University, Graduate School of Business](#)

**The Netherlands** [Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam](#)

**Singapore** [National University of Singapore](#)

**South Africa** [University of Cape Town](#)

**Spain** [IESE—International Graduate School of Management, Universidad de Navarra](#)

**Sweden** [Stockholm School of Economics](#)

**Switzerland** [Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, Université de Lausanne](#)

- [University of St. Gallen for Business Administration, Economics, Law and Social Sciences](#)

**United Kingdom** [London Business School](#)

**United States Fall only** [Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley](#)

## Why students apply...

- "An exchange program stands as a pivotal next step in this journey, offering a unique lens through which to view and understand the global business ecosystem. It is an opportunity to immerse myself in a new cultural and academic setting, which will enhance my adaptability and cultural sensitivity—skills that are imperative in today's globalized business environment. This experience will also allow me to apply the theoretical knowledge gained at CBS in a different context, testing and refining my strategic thinking and problem-solving skills in real-world situations."
- "With my goal of being a global leader, I'm looking forward to immersing myself in decision making, leadership skills, and strategies that are different from the United States."
- "As I aim to become a strategy consultant with a global perspective, the knowledge and experiences gained from the program will be invaluable in understanding and navigating the complexities of international business"

## Why students apply...

Evaluate your exchange program choice with the same thought and consideration you did while selecting and applying to CBS...

- **Enhanced Cultural Immersion:** compared to shorter Chazen travel programs
- **Expanded Network**
- **Broader Perspectives:** Exposure to different viewpoints- in the classroom and outside
- **Improved Skills:** Engaging with varied business practices sharpens critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- **Career Differentiation:** An exchange program adds a distinctive element to resumes, highlighting adaptability
- **Personal Development:** Living and studying abroad fosters independence, confidence, and a greater appreciation for diversity.
- **Invaluable Market Insights:** Firsthand experience in foreign markets offers critical insights
- **Career Advancement:** Some programs may lead to internships or job opportunities in host countries.
- **Academic Growth:** compliment to CBS curriculum, cases, etc.

# Who is eligible?

- Students can participate during their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> semester only
- Dual-degree students are not eligible to participate in exchange programs
- For eligibility: all core requirements completed by the time you go on exchange with minimum gpa of 5.5 by the time of the exchange semester. (J term students can submit a screenshot of their SSOL.) GPAs will be confirmed with OSA ahead of exchange semester
- Students may not be considered if they are on probation for any reason
- Holds must be cleared by the exchange semester

# Before you apply...

Please consider how an exchange semester could affect the following...

- **Your CBS academic career:** Please check in with your academic advisor about your MBA course plan, review any CBS academic questions you may have with them.
- **Your career and recruiting goals:** Is there a certain school or region that may enhance them? Please check in with your CMC advisor.
- **Your time at CBS:** Certain CBS programs may conflict with exchange, for example the value investing program, peer advisor program, etc. Please check to see whether there may be any conflicts and which semester might work best if you are interested in exchange.
- **Your Financial Aid:** If you are currently utilizing any sort of financial aid, please check to see how exchange semester dates and enrollment plans might affect this and also how financial aid can support you.
- **Research the partner schools-** through their websites and factsheets Chazen and the partner school coordinators can answer any questions.
- **Check for conflicts with other CBS leadership positions** (For example, Peer Advisors, CMC fellows, etc.)

Consider  
these  
reasons to  
apply...

- Personal
- Professional
- Academic

# Application Details

## Application Requirements

- **Application Form (online)**
- **Current résumé**
- **Responses to essay questions**

The essay should focus on why you wish to participate in the exchange program, how study at a particular school/region will help you in accomplishing your future goals, the type of courses you plan to take, and why you would be an effective representative of Columbia Business School while abroad.

- **Unofficial transcript**

(SSOL can provide this; you may scan or capture the screen using the print screen function-J termers please provide midterm grades)

## FAQ

### What should the essay include?

- The essay should focus on why you wish to participate in the exchange program, how study at a particular school/region will help you in accomplishing your future goals, the type of courses you plan to take, and why you would be an effective representative of Columbia Business School while abroad.

### What % of people get their first choice, how competitive is selection?

- You can put up to 2 choices on your application. Demand for each school changes each year/semester. We try to keep a 1-1 ratio with partner schools.



# Application Details Cont'd

Please read carefully to ensure your application is complete and accurately reflects your preferences:

**1. First Choice School and Semester:**

- Please select your **first choice school** and your **first choice semester**. These are the options you are most interested in.
- It is important to choose schools and semesters you are genuinely interested in attending, as this will help us interview you accordingly.

**2. Second Choice School and Semester:**

- You also have the option to select a **second choice school** and **second choice semester**.
- If you do not have a second choice, it is perfectly fine to leave this section blank or indicate "N/A" (not applicable).

**3. Important Notes:**

- **Selecting the same school for both semesters does not increase your chances of being selected.** Each school and semester choice is considered separately.
- If you are only interested in one school and semester, you may select just that option. There is no need to select a second choice if you do not have one.
- Be sure to only select schools and semesters that you are genuinely willing to attend. This will help us ensure a smoother interview and placement process.
- If there are other school options (beyond two) you are considering, please write these in your essay.

We recommend that you carefully research each school and semester option before making your selections. Thank you for applying, and we look forward to reviewing your application!

# Application timeline

Timeline	
Applications Due (Fall & Spr)	2/18
Interviews (all applicants interviewed)	2/19-3/6
Nominations offered	3/7- possibly earlier 1 week to consider offer and sign student agreement
Student decisions due	3/15 (for Haas- earliest nomination deadline) *Dates vary for all other schools
Nominated to partner school for processing	Dependent on school
Outgoing fall predeparture mtg	Mid-to end of April

# Application timeline

- **Applications for all FALL 2025 and SPRING 2026 exchange programs are open now and due February 18th**
- Submitting your application is not binding
- You will either receive a nomination or be placed on the waitlist for your school, if you list more than one school in your application you could be given a spot for your 2<sup>nd</sup> or choose to stay on the waitlist for your first place school depending on the nomination deadline of the partner school
- With your nomination email you will be sent a student agreement, once you accept your nomination and send back your student agreement you will be confirmed for your exchange program.
- Since you will be participating in your host school's course selection, your CBS Course Match budgets & target credits will be adjusted for the semester you will be out on exchange, based on the following formula:  
80% budget reduction AND 12.0 target credit reduction  
Leaving you the ability to select up to 6 CBS credits of non-conflicting classes if you wish  
\*if you then withdraw you will still be charged this
- For students applying for Spring exchange, we will follow up about your student contract in June to confirm your spot

## Academics while on exchange (covered in pre-departure meeting)

- Students commit to the entire semester exchange, and then build their schedule how they wish, allowed to take classes at both CBS and exchange partner depending on academic calendar, classes you get into, no conflicts, etc.- Some partner schools are still confirming the dates of their semesters- if you have a question about program dates please email [Chazen@gsb.columbia.edu](mailto:Chazen@gsb.columbia.edu)
- The maximum amount of CBS credits you can receive for completing an exchange program is 15 credits (exceptions may be possible)
- Some schools have flexibility on the minimum amount of classes you can take. Some have fixed programs you must take or require their equivalent of a full semester.
- Credit equivalencies are determined by contact hours and approved by OARR. Chazen will work with you to make sure you know how many credits you will get for your exchange course load so there is no confusion when you return.
- No pass/fail courses permitted, you must receive a grade for each exchange class
- Your grades do not transfer back, only the credits you complete. There will be an exchange marker of “12 credits” on your SSOL, then this will be updated once we receive your transcript and confirm the courses you complete- the credit conversions will then be adjusted
- Exchanges may affect financial aid depending on the number of credits and enrollment dates.
- Talk to your OSA academic advisor to make sure your exchange program goals fit into your graduation plan

Classes taken while on exchange programs must meet the following criteria to be eligible for CBS credit:

- In English (no credit for language classes either- some schools may offer these)
- Graduate level
- Business electives
- In person
- Not pass/fail- you must receive a grade for your courses



# Exchange Programs and Career Management

# Exchange Programs and Career Management



- Meet CMC advisor to discuss best exchange semester considering job search targets and recruiting timelines
- Get reciprocal recruiting and career education privileges at exchange campus and CBS
  - Book appointments with CBS CMC advisor, coaches, fellows while on Exchange
  - Full access to CBS campus recruiting, COIN job portal, Canvas Careers course content
- Leverage proximity to target geography for recruiting and on-the-ground networking...Haas and West Coast Tech vs. LBS and English language money center vs. Bocconi and key Retail/Luxury Goods hub
- Secure CPT or AT work authorization as a foreign national for in-semester internships of maximum 20 hrs/wk while on exchange in the US. Apply via CBS after internship offer.
- International Exchange Considerations:
  - Receive no work authorization privileges during any international exchange, unless already a citizen or permanent resident of that country
  - To apply for F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) in spring 2025, you MUST physically be in the US. If on Exchange abroad, plan to ideally return to US to apply late February - mid March.
- The opportunity to become a 2<sup>nd</sup> year CMC Fellow may not be compatible with exchange programs; disclose possible exchange semester plan and location in your CMC Fellow application this spring (MBA-Sept only)

## Things to know...

- While on exchange, CBS remains your home institution and all CBS tuition and fees remain the same (for partial & full semester exchange)
- Some partner schools may have additional fees required- please check their factsheets
- International students who have a Columbia sponsored visa keep their same visa status while on exchange
- Chazen Travel Grant Funds can be used for exchange (application for grants will be publicized end of spring)



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# Feedback from students...

- “Living in Milan and studying at Bocconi made my MBA experience even more unique” - Matheus Almeida (Class of 2025)
- “I recommend this exchange program to anyone seeking to expand their worldview and gain invaluable life skills. It was an incredible opportunity!” - Yuliya Prots (Class of 2025)
- “Going on exchange at LBS really completed my MBA experience. It was an amazing way to see how climate tech and VC — my focus areas — are taught and practiced in another leading city and business school.”
- “My semester at Haas was an enriching and complementary experience to my time at CBS. The small class size fosters a tight-knit, supportive community, and the proximity to the Bay Area's innovation hub provided countless opportunities to learn from industry experts in entrepreneurship, tech, and healthcare. The professors are invested in your success, offering personalized guidance to help you achieve your goals. I'm grateful for the fresh perspectives and dynamic learning environment I experienced at Haas.”  
- Annie Yu c/o 2025
- “Studying abroad at London Business School was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The chance to interact with a diverse and dynamic group of peers, combined with Chazen's exceptional networking opportunities, enriched my understanding of global business practices. Beyond the classroom, the vibrant city of London offered endless opportunities for exploration, while its central location in Europe further enhanced my ability to immerse myself in other cultures. This exchange program not only advanced my professional journey but also allowed me to build lifelong connections and cherished memories. I am deeply grateful for this experience and wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone considering studying abroad.” (Seung Lee | CC'17 | CBS '25)

Thank you for  
attending

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Any Questions?