

Williams

Center for Development
Economics



Master's Degree in Policy Economics

Williams College has been one of America's most prestigious colleges for more than 200 years. Though a majority of Williams students pursue bachelor's degrees (this is why Williams is called "college" in the U.S. naming tradition), Williams offers two highly specialized master's degree programs, one in policy economics through the Center for Development Economics (CDE). Since 1960, the CDE master's degree has been a powerful catalyst for the futures of more than 1,300 graduates from 110 nations.

Remarkable Resources, Unparalleled Opportunities

Who We Are

Future Policy Makers

For six decades, the CDE has prepared practicing economists from middle- and low-income countries to become policy makers. Scores of CDE graduates have risen to the highest levels of public service in their nations. CDE alumni posts include prime minister, minister, central bank governor, permanent secretary and ambassador.

Where will the CDE take you?

Each graduate follows a different path, but the strong analytical and writing skills honed at the CDE are critical to navigating your transition from staffer to prominent policy maker. CDE graduates remain engaged with the program long after completion, with many referring future applicants.

#1

#1 National ranking since 2004 among liberal arts colleges in U.S. News & World Report

Founded in

1793

Williams is the second oldest college in Massachusetts (after Harvard).

Top 20 ranking annually since 2008 by *Forbes Magazines* among

2,679

universities and colleges in the U.S.





Selected CDE Alumni

Goh Chok Tong CDE '67 Former Prime Minister, Singapore	Elsie Sia Kanza CDE '00 Tanzania Ambassador to USA
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Rosalía de León CDE '91 National Treasurer, the Philippines	Gelardina Prodani CDE '09 Secretary General, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania
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Ahmad Kaikaus CDE '00 Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Bangladesh	Felix Nkulukusa CDE '05 Secretary to the Treasury, Zambia
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Exceptional Classmates

Up to 30 motivated CDE fellows (master's degree participants) enroll each year for an unforgettable experience. During the 10-month CDE program, sharing knowledge and learning from talented classmates is crucial. CDE fellows bring distinct experiences, perspectives and challenges from their own countries. In and out of the classroom, the CDE program encourages exchange, debate and collaboration among classmates. The intellectual and personal bonds created in the program often remain strong long after leaving campus.

5
average years
of public-sector
work experience
before enrollment

30
average age
of fellows enrolling
since 2014

20+
nations represented
each year

21
countries with active
CDE alumni groups



Targeted Program

The CDE curriculum provides a broad and deep understanding of core economic principles and how to apply them to current policy issues in specific economies.

Course requirements include:

- August orientation course
- 4 required courses in the first semester (September through December)
- 1 January elective course
- 3 second-semester elective courses (February through May), plus 1 writing-intensive course with a mentoring professor—either an independent research project or a policy tutorial with a series of policy briefs

Other Learning Opportunities:

Renowned experts visit the CDE frequently to speak on topics of interest to CDE fellows. Participants also benefit from trips to policy institutions in Washington, D.C., and New York City.



“The CDE’s opportunity cost of being away from my family was very high, but it was worth the sacrifice. Not only was it possible to learn closely from professors with strong academic backgrounds, but they also had vast policy experience with the IMF and World Bank (two institutions where I later worked). On a daily basis at the CDE, I was surrounded by classmates and friends who provided the opportunity to learn from each other as well given the different policy experiences around the world. Almost two decades later, I remain in contact with the CDE and with classmates, most of whom now hold senior responsibility in their central banks and government ministries.”

Felicia Dlamini-Kunene, CDE '03
Deputy Governor,
Central Bank of Eswatini

“The CDE offered me a unique educational experience through extremely invested professors. It also introduced me to lifelong friends across the world who reached highly respectable positions in the governments of their countries and whom I continue to interact with and learn from every day.

After Williams, I went on to become the first Lebanese Rhodes Scholar, allowing me to pursue a PhD at the University of Oxford.”

Diala Al Masri, CDE '15
Ph.D. candidate,
University of Oxford,
Lebanon

“Enrolling in the CDE in 1986, with the benefit of extensive financial assistance from Williams, has been invaluable for me both professionally and personally. I was taught to rigorously analyze facts and policies, to never stop thinking about the world around me, and to do so with honesty and integrity. Nearly 30 years after I was afforded the opportunity to graduate from the CDE, it remains a wonderful program, able to transform the lives of students from around the world. The quality and value of the program to foreign students of economics are unparalleled.”

Ana María Rodríguez-Ortiz,
CDE '87
Vice President (retired),
Inter-American Development Bank,
Colombia

Outstanding Professors

CDE professors combine academic strengths in economics with practical work experience in policy institutions and research relevant to aspiring policy makers. Many have extensive experience in low- and middle-income countries, often with international financial institutions.

The overall student to faculty ratio at Williams is 6:1, with professors making a commitment to being available. At the CDE, you will see professors in class, in office hours, at meals and around town.

CDE Teaching Assistants

Talented teaching assistants provide support to current CDE fellows. Selected from recent graduates of the CDE program, the teaching assistants deeply understand the coursework and are ready to work closely with you to ensure success.

Specialty Curriculum

Close interaction with professors and work in small groups are defining features of the Williams CDE program. With guidance from senior faculty, CDE fellows learn to think, write and present as policy makers do. They formulate evidence-based arguments, robust enough for success in the public sector, and deliver their views in logical, lucid presentations.



Recently visited institutions include

New York

Federal Reserve
Bank of New York

Goldman Sachs

United Nations Development Programme

Moody's Investors Service

Washington, D.C.

The World Bank

Federal Reserve Board of Governors

Inter-American Development Bank

The International Monetary Fund

International Finance Corporation

Center for Global Development



Your Community



A network of interesting people, student services, clubs, sports and excellent facilities awaits you on campus. The newly renovated historic CDE building has been a “home away from home” for generations of CDE fellows. It features classrooms, study rooms, a dining room and recreational space. Built in 2019, Fellows Hall offers private comfortably furnished rooms with all necessary amenities.

Training Policy Makers Since 1960

The CDE’s intensive, 10-month master’s degree in policy economics runs from early August to the following June each year. Applications must be submitted by December of the year before study begins. Please visit the following website to learn more and apply:
cde.williams.edu/admissions

Funding

The CDE works to arrange financial aid for admitted students based on demonstrated need. **Since 2017, 100% of CDE fellows have received full or partial scholarships to fund their studies.** Funding concerns should never prevent anyone from applying to the CDE.





**Williams
College**

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