



CHALLENGE
convention.
CREATE
change.

APPLICATION *guide*

Everything you need to navigate the application process
— plus a checklist to keep you one step ahead.

adler.edu



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

At Adler University, graduate education is more than the pursuit of advanced knowledge — it is preparation for a lifetime of leadership, purpose, and impact. Each step you take with us brings you closer to shaping organizations, systems, and communities that reflect your vision of a healthier world.

This is the moment to imagine the difference you are called to make. At Adler, you will join a dynamic global community of practitioners, scholars, and breakaway thinkers who are committed to advancing health and well-being across society. Our students bring perspectives and passions that create an environment where ideas are tested, voices amplified, and new solutions are born.

Your graduate journey will be rigorous, transformative, and deeply rewarding. Our faculty will mentor you through applied learning and opportunities that connect theory with practice. The curriculum is designed to expand your capacity for leadership while equipping you with the skills to respond to the most pressing challenges of our time.

As you take the next step, this guide will walk you through the application process and the opportunities that await. Know that you will not move forward alone — we are ready to stand beside you, not only as educators but as partners in your growth as an Adlerian life-long learner and contributor. The work will do matters: to your future, to the lives you touch, and to the systems you will help transform.

Lisa Coleman, Ph.D.
President, Adler University

SUMMARY

This guide is designed to simplify the application process and answer your most pressing questions so you can focus on what matters most: taking the next step in your graduate education at Adler University. We're proud to welcome students with a wide range of experiences who are united by a shared commitment to driving meaningful change.

Our admission process is built to recognize your achievements, values, and aspirations, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS. *let's get started.*



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WHY GRADUATE SCHOOL — AND WHY ADLER?

Deciding to pursue an advanced degree is a significant step — personally, professionally, and financially. As you move forward in the process, it's important to reflect on questions such as:

- What are the financial and time commitments?
- How will a graduate degree advance my career?
- Which program aligns with my goals, values and interests?

Take time to evaluate where you are in your life and your career. Understanding your motivations will help you choose the right program and format, whether you're seeking flexible scheduling, hands-on learning or focus on systems-level change.

ONCE YOU'VE MADE THIS DECISION TO PURSUE GRADUATE STUDY, THE NEXT QUESTION IS:

why Adler?

True to our namesake, Alfred Adler, the University carries forward his belief that individual health and well-being is inseparable from that of the community. Our students put this into action by creating solutions that strengthen individual and societal health, advancing collective well-being in pursuit of a better world — *not for ourselves, but for all.*

“The Adler student population is one of the most diverse examples of *pluralism*. Our connections cultivated solidarity that transcended locational boundaries and social difference.”

- Kimberely Jung, Ph.D.'24

PROGRAM OVERVIEWS

Adler University offers many exciting and unique master, doctorate, and certificate programs that can help you achieve your professional goals. These programs are taught by our amazing faculty who are all leaders in their respective fields. Visit each program page to learn more about that individual program, as well as its specific application requirements. For international students, additional requirements may be needed to apply for a specific program.

CHICAGO

Master's Programs:

- Master of Arts in [Clinical Mental Health Counseling](#)
- Master of Arts in [Counseling: Art Therapy](#)
- Master of Arts in [Couple and Family Therapy](#)
- Master of Arts in [Forensic Mental Health Leadership](#)/Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Master of Sciences in [Sport and Human Performance](#)/Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Doctoral Programs:

- Doctor of Psychology in [Clinical Psychology](#)
- Doctor of Philosophy in [Counselor Education and Supervision](#)
- Doctor of Philosophy in [Couple and Family Therapy](#)

Certificates:

- Certificate in [Sex Therapy](#)

VANCOUVER

Master's Programs:

- Master of Arts in [Counselling Psychology](#)
- Master of [Counselling Psychology](#)
- Master of [Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy](#)
- Master of Arts in [Counselling Psychology: School and Youth Concentration](#)
- Master of [Counselling Psychology: School and Youth Concentration](#)
- Master of Arts in [Industrial and Organizational Psychology](#)
- Master of [Industrial and Organizational Psychology](#)
- Master of Psychology in [Health and Wellness](#)

Doctoral Programs:

- Doctor of Psychology in [Clinical Psychology](#)

ONLINE

Master's Programs:

- Master of Arts in [Clinical Mental Health Counseling](#)
- Master of Arts in [Counseling: Art Therapy](#)
- Master of Arts in [Industrial and Organizational Psychology](#)
- Master of Arts in [Psychology](#)
- Master of Arts in [Military Psychology](#)
- Master of Arts in [Organizational Leadership](#)

Doctoral Programs:

- Doctor of Philosophy in [Art Therapy](#)
- Doctor of Philosophy in [Counselor Education and Supervision](#)
- Doctor of Philosophy in [Industrial and Organizational Psychology](#)
- Doctor of Philosophy in [Organizational Leadership](#)

**Additional requirements may be needed to apply for a specific program. Find details on page 9.*

APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

Adler University operates on a rolling admissions basis for most programs, but it's important to plan ahead. Below is a general timeline to help you stay on track. Be sure to check your program's page for specific deadlines.

1

Application opens

Applications for most programs open in **early fall** each year.

2

Priority deadlines

Some programs may offer early consideration or preferred timelines. Refer to your program's admissions page.

3

Interview invitations

If selected, you'll receive an invitation to participate in an **interview** with faculty. This will not be the case for all programs.

4

Admission decisions

Applicants are notified via email following their interview, with decisions typically arriving within **1-4 weeks**.

5

Acceptance + enrollment

Accepted students will receive an official offer letter through email and instructions to submit an enrollment deposit.*

6

Decision due dates

Enrollment deadlines vary by program. Check your letter for the response deadline.

“ I wouldn't have been able to get my master's without the online options available. As a working professional, that *flexibility* was essential. ”

-Daniel Katz, MA'24

Tip:

Submit your application early to allow time for materials to be processed — and to secure your place in competitive programs. If you are an International Applicant, it is important to apply early to ensure adequate time for the visa application process.

**If required. Not all programs require a tuition deposit.*



APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Utilize this checklist to help you keep track of what materials are needed in the application process. Be sure to look at the specific requirements for the program you are interested in. Some may require additional materials.

Begin your application through our [online portal](#).

☐ ONLINE APPLICATION

In our online portal, you will need to create an account before starting your application. Once you're logged in, fill out personal information, contact information, use of information, test scores, academic history, and work history.

☐ APPLICATION FEE

Programs in Chicago and Vancouver require an application fee, online programs do not.

☐ RESUME/CV

Your resume/CV must be uploaded to the “Files” section of the online application.



□ STATEMENT OF INTENT

This written statement should be no more than three pages, double-spaced.

Include your personal and professional experiences, your career goals, and interests relevant to the degree program for which you are applying. Please answer the prompts below and include any other information that you feel will help us assess your qualifications.

Chicago + Online

- How will this degree assist you in achieving your professional goals?
- Why did you select Adler University as your university of choice?
- Respond to the Adler University mission statement as it relates to being a leader in your industry.
- What challenges will you need to overcome to earn this accelerated degree? **Online only.*
- For undergraduate GPAs lower than 3.0: Please indicate what led to the low GPA, what is different today and how you will be more successful in an accelerated, academically challenging graduate program.

Vancouver

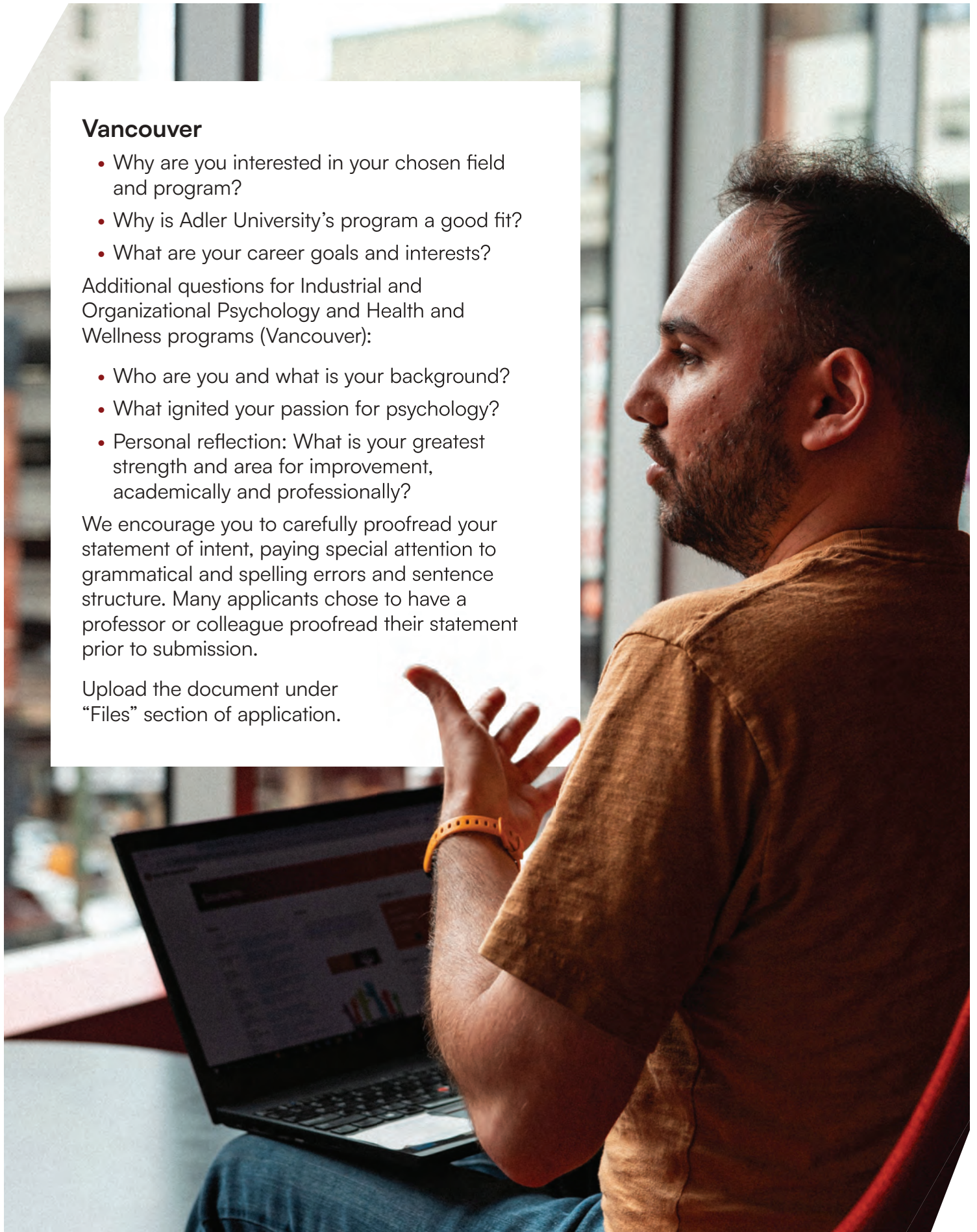
- Why are you interested in your chosen field and program?
- Why is Adler University's program a good fit?
- What are your career goals and interests?

Additional questions for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and Health and Wellness programs (Vancouver):

- Who are you and what is your background?
- What ignited your passion for psychology?
- Personal reflection: What is your greatest strength and area for improvement, academically and professionally?

We encourage you to carefully proofread your statement of intent, paying special attention to grammatical and spelling errors and sentence structure. Many applicants chose to have a professor or colleague proofread their statement prior to submission.

Upload the document under "Files" section of application.



❑ LETTER(S) OF RECOMMENDATION

Not required for all programs. Please refer to your desired program's requirements.

Master's applicants with an undergraduate GPA below a 3.0 are required to submit two letters of recommendation.

Letters must be provided by a professional, supervisor, or academic connection. The number of references required depends on the degree program. Make sure to thank those providing a letter for you!

Details can be found under the "References" section of the online application. Those providing the reference will receive a link to a survey requesting information about the applicant and will be able to submit their letter of recommendation.





❑ OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS FROM ALL UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Unofficial transcripts are accepted and can be uploaded under the “Files” section of the online application. Official transcripts are still required prior to full acceptance.

Official transcripts must be sent from the institution through [Parchment](#) or sealed through the mail.

Physical transcripts can be sent to:

- Admissions Office
- 17 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60602.
- 520 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 3J5.

Transcripts for online programs should be sent to Adler’s address in Chicago, addressed to - Admissions, Online Campus.

**If your degree is still in progress at the time of submission, a final transcript showing your degree conferral and graduation date will be required and can be submitted upon completion. The deadline is before the end of the first day of classes, but preferably before the term begins.*

“The teams at Adler were *responsive throughout the process* from admissions to my program director. I’m grateful for my experience, and the knowledge and relationships I was able to build.”

-Elizabeth Blondel, MA’22

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In addition to the application materials listed previously, international students wishing to apply will have to submit supplementary materials. Please refer to the information listed based on which program you will be applying for.



CHICAGO PROGRAMS

1. English language test: Applicants whose language of instruction in a degree program was not English must provide an English proficiency test scores from one of the following testing services. *Exceptions apply. Please speak with your Admissions Advisor.*
 - a. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
 - i. Paper-based TOEFL minimum score is 580 required.
 - ii. Computer-based TOEFL minimum score is 240 required.
 - iii. Internet-based TOEFL minimum is 92 required.
 - b. International English Language Testing Language (IELTL)
 - i. Minimum score of 7.0 is required.
 - c. Pearson Test of English (PTE)
 - i. Minimum score of 66 is required.
2. All transcripts from outside of Canada and the U.S. must be evaluated on a course-by-course basis by a National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC) approved service.
 - a. SpanTran, OneEarth, World Education Services, Educational Credentialing Evaluators
3. Students must submit an Affidavit of Financial Support and the I-20 documentation. These can be submitted at any time but are required to proceed past deposit.



VANCOUVER PROGRAMS

1. English language test: Applicants whose language of instruction in a degree program was not English must provide an English proficiency test scores from one of the following testing services. (Exceptions apply. Please speak with your Admissions Advisor).
 - a. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) iBT
 - i. Minimum score of 92, with no sections under 22.
 - b. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic
 - i. Minimum score of 7.0 is required, no bands below 6.5.
 - c. Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic (for non-clinical programs only)
 - i. Minimum score of 66 is required.
2. All transcripts from outside of Canada and the U.S. must be evaluated on a course-by-course basis by a National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC) approved service.
 - a. For clinical programs only: SpanTran, World Education Service, Educational Credentialing Evaluators, International Credential Evaluation Service.
 - b. Official transcripts must be sent to admissions@Adler.edu for non-clinical programs.
3. Color copy of passport.
 - a. Upload within your online application. If you are a permanent resident in Canada, please email your permanent resident card to admissions@Adler.edu.



“[The support from my cohort] truly reflects the spirit of this program. Adler is an *inclusive, close-knit family*. The camaraderie we share is irreplaceable, and the connections we make today are for life.”

-Shrija Bose, MA'26

TRANSFER CREDIT

There is an opportunity for credits to transfer and count towards your degree at Adler University. Each program may have different requirements. If you wish to transfer credits after being admitted, fill out the transfer credit forms linked below. Explore the requirements and forms to learn more about what credits may transfer.

CHICAGO PROGRAMS

If accepted for admission, you may receive transfer credit for equivalent graduate-level courses previously taken at other accredited institutions. You must submit a transfer credit request to the Office of Admissions. Please refer to your desired program's informational page to learn more about accepted credits, as well as prerequisite requirements.

VANCOUVER PROGRAMS

If accepted for admission, you may apply for transfer credit for graduate-level courses previously taken at other accredited institutions. You must submit a transfer credit request to the Office of the Registrar. A maximum of 12 credit hours may be transferred into an M.A. program, and a maximum of 24 credit hours may be transferred into the Psy.D. program. Please note, transfer credits are carefully evaluated and typically do not reach the maximum. Transfer credits are rigorously assessed to maintain teaching and training standards. Students wishing to apply for transfer credit must submit course syllabi, official transcript, completed transfer credit form and pay the applicable fees.

ONLINE PROGRAMS

If accepted for admission, you may receive transfer credit for equivalent graduate-level courses previously taken at other accredited institutions. You must submit a transfer credit request to the Office of Admissions. Please refer to your desired program's informational page to learn more about accepted credits, as well as prerequisite requirements.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Disability Services within the Office of Student Affairs (Chicago) and Student Services (Vancouver) serves and supports students by creating a learning environment that removes barriers by coordinating necessary accommodations for success.

To learn more or request accommodations:

CHICAGO + ONLINE

DisabilityOffice@Adler.edu
312-662-4141

VANCOUVER

VanStudentServices@Adler.edu
236-521-2433



FINANCIAL AID

A big part of considering graduate school is the financial aspect. Adler University offers many resources, scholarships, and aid to help relieve financial stress, so students are able to focus on their studies. Use the links below to explore options more in-depth. We are always here to help answer any questions and make your experience at Adler as stress-free as possible. Here are some of the services the Office of Financial Aid provides:

- Counseling services to help students determine the amount of financial aid they require and discuss debt management and personal budgeting.
- Personalized loan counseling.
- Presentations about debt management, loan repayment, loan consolidation and loan forgiveness options.
- Information about financial aid options including scholarships, federal work study and student loans.

Office of Financial Aid:

CHICAGO + ONLINE

FinancialAid@adler.edu

312-662-4150

VANCOUVER

VanFinancialAid@adler.edu



U.S. FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS:

- Financial aid is available from federal, institutional and outside programs, which include grant and loan options.
 - [Basic student eligibility criteria for financial aid](#) from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Adler University offers a variety of scholarships to help support the educational goals of its students. Unlike student loans, scholarships do not need to be repaid and are awarded based on a variety of criteria. In-depth scholarship information can be found [here](#).
- The U.S. government offers veterans and dependents [education benefits](#) and military assistance.
- ScholarshipUniverse: New program that offers an option to connect students with scholarships from outside organizations. When you are accepted into Adler, you will be prompted to answer a few questions related to your program, campus, and country of citizenship (there are scholarships for international students as well!). You will then receive a list of matched scholarship opportunities that have been vetted for legitimacy.



CANADIAN FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS:

- Student Aid BC is the provincial program that works in partnership with the federal government to offer financial aid to BC residents.
 - [Apply at Student Aid BC.](#)
- Students outside BC
 - Students from a province or territory other than BC are eligible to receive government student loan assistance, but they must apply through their home province.
- Adler University offers a variety of scholarships to help support the educational goals of its students. Unlike student loans, scholarships do not need to be repaid and are awarded based on a variety of criteria. In-depth scholarship information can be found [here](#).
- ScholarshipUniverse: New program that offers an option to connect students with scholarships from outside organizations. When you are accepted into Adler, you will be prompted to answer a few questions related to your program, campus and country of citizenship (there are scholarships for international students as well!) and will then be provided with a list of matched scholarship opportunities. The displayed scholarships are all vetted for legitimacy.

HELPFUL REMINDERS

Applying for graduate school can be stressful. We're here to make it a little simpler! Here are some helpful tips as you begin your application.

- Pay close attention to the details in submitted documents. Your statement of intent should be edited, polished, and fully answer the questions being asked.
- Before submitting your application, make sure everything is completed.
- Reach out to Admissions or your advisor via email or phone if you have questions. We are here to help you!
- The website is a resource with lots of great information. If you can't find what you're looking for, just ask us!
- Remember to save the application as you go — and submit as early as you can!



WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS IN YOUR APPLICATION JOURNEY?

INTERVIEW DAY

Selected applicants are invited to participate in interviews with faculty so they can get to know you! Not all programs will require an interview. More detailed information about Interview Day, including travel and logistics, can be found in this PDF.

FINAL DECISIONS

Applicants will be notified of their status via email.

- International students enrolling in Vancouver programs require a Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) to accompany the Letter of Acceptance.
- International students enrolling in Chicago or online programs require an Affidavit of Financial Support and the I-20 document.





FAQS

Q: Do I need a bachelor's degree to be admitted? In which field?

A: All programs require a completed bachelor's or master's degree, based on the level of study. Applicants can still apply while completing their required studies, as long as final coursework is done by the first day of classes.

Q: Do I need to submit a transcript from the institution where I studied abroad?

A: Not if you took the coursework within your home institution within the U.S. or Canada. Those credits should appear within your home institution transcript.

Q: Is there an application fee?

A: Yes, there is an application fee for Chicago and Vancouver Programs. Online programs do not have a fee.

Q: Can I defer admission?

A: Yes, but there is a non-refundable fee, and you need to submit a written request including reason for deferral. For Chicago and Vancouver, you can only defer for one year. For online, you can only defer one session.

Q: Do you accept unofficial transcripts?

A: Yes, but official transcripts are still required prior to full acceptance.

Q: Are there any resources to help me move?

A: Yes, see attached PDF about moving to Chicago or Vancouver.



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are looking for more specific information that wasn't included in this guide, please reach out to us.

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Admissions@Adler.edu

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

844-459-3710

Chicago/Online: FinancialAid@Adler.edu

Vancouver: VanFinancialAid@Adler.edu

OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Chicago/Online: StudentAccounts@Adler.edu

Vancouver: CConcepcion@Adler.edu

DISABILITY SERVICES

Chicago/Online: 312-662-4141

DisabilityServices@Adler.edu

Vancouver: 236-521-2433

VanStudentServices@Adler.edu

Book a recruitment session.

Book an advising session.