

CUSPNews

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Mayor Bloomberg Welcomes NYU's Center for Urban Science & Progress Inaugural Graduate Class

Brooklyn, NY -- August 26: Mayor Bloomberg was on hand to welcome the inaugural class of graduate students at New York University's Center for Urban Science & Progress (CUSP). The NYU center was designated just last year as part of the City's groundbreaking [Applied Sciences NYC initiative](#), which seeks to increase New York City's capacity for applied sciences. Building on its mission to define the emerging field of Urban Informatics, CUSP will shape its students into the next generation of scientists who will understand urban data sources and how to manipulate and integrate large, diverse datasets. These skills will enable them to develop solutions to pressing urban problems that recognize and account for the constraints embedded in complex urban systems.

"NYU's Center for Urban Science and Progress will establish New York City as a global leader in urban informatics, and I'd like to welcome their inaugural class of graduate students to Downtown Brooklyn," said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. "As a key part of our Applied Sciences initiative, we are excited to see CUSP attract even more of the best and brightest from around the world to New York City."

"We are truly excited to welcome our first class of students," said CUSP Director Steve Koonin. "We believe that CUSP's curriculum offers a vigorous, dynamic and comprehensive educational program. This first group of students has outstanding credentials, validating the idea that the best young minds are drawn to studying cities, and we are particularly honored to have Mayor Bloomberg – whose *Applied Sciences NYC* initiative made all this possible – here to welcome them. Using New York City as its classroom, this accomplished group of students, along with CUSP researchers, will be poised to study and use big data analytics to drive decision-making in urban areas. We believe that CUSP's graduates will go on to work for private technology firms, public sector agencies, and in entrepreneurship and new venture creation."

The incoming class of 25 students will receive a Master of Science in Applied Urban Science and Informatics. The class holds degrees from 24 universities around the world and come with training in more than 20 different academic disciplines – some from the core disciplines like Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering and Physics; others with strong preparation in the social sciences such as Sociology, Political Science, and Urban Studies & Planning. The unprecedented range of backgrounds illustrates the diversity of the inaugural class ranging from one student with a Ph.D. in Mathematics and another with a degree in Studio Art with near perfect quantitative GRE scores.

The M.S. program offers students the opportunity to engage in the interdisciplinary study of urban science and informatics and to apply their technical skills to challenges facing cities around the world. The intensive, one-year, three-semester M.S. program provides students with core courses in the science of cities, urban informatics, and information and communication technology in cities. Students will select from multiple policy domains to gain breadth and depth in the application of big data analytics to urban problems. The program also contains a focus on entrepreneurship and innovation leadership, and students

will be given the option to study technology entrepreneurship or “change leadership” in an existing organization. The core of the one-year curriculum is a two-semester project – the Urban Science Intensive – during which students, working closely with mentors from CUSP’s Industrial and National Laboratory partners, will apply the principles of informatics to address an actual urban problem with a New York City agency to have a direct and meaningful impact on the quality of life in cities.

About New York University’s Center for Urban Science & Progress

CUSP is an applied science research institute created by New York University and NYU-Poly with a consortium of world-class universities and the foremost international technology companies to address the needs of cities. At the heart of its academic program, CUSP will investigate and develop solutions to the challenges that face cities around the world. This research will make CUSP the world’s leading authority in the emerging field of “urban informatics”. For more news and information on CUSP, please visit <http://cusp.nyu.edu/>.

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