



# Frequently asked questions

**KPMG Master of Accounting  
with Data and Analytics Program –  
*Developing Accountants in the Data Age***





## Program Expectations

### What is the intention of the KPMG Master of Accounting with Data and Analytics Program?

Data and analytics (D&A) is changing the way that KPMG and the public accounting profession provide services. Beyond a deep knowledge of accounting, professionals often need to be D&A-savvy and possess the analytical skills and critical thinking to improve procedures and deliver insights that are expected in the data age. The focus of D&A in academia is not primarily aimed at our profession, and new talent will benefit from more preparation in order to work in today's data-driven accounting environment. The KPMG Master of Accounting with Data and Analytics Program (the Program) has been created to help provide this education. In addition to the benefits to the graduates of the Program, we plan to include elements of the curriculum in the training that our existing professionals receive.

### Why is D&A so important to KPMG and the accounting profession?

The quantity of information new D&A technologies and tools are able to handle, and the speed with which they are able to do so is unprecedented. Clients and shareholders expect their audit and tax professionals to keep pace, improve services and provide deeper insight based on the new capabilities and data volumes. Addressing this new reality is critical to our profession's focus on quality. Our connection with leading business schools to develop the Program curriculum is one example of our innovative approach to resolving an industry-wide challenge.

### Why should individuals become participants in the KPMG Master of Accounting with Data and Analytics Program?

This award-winning KPMG Program offers students:

- A one-of-a-kind master's degree for accounting professionals in the data age. The demanding coursework will go beyond traditional accounting principles to include technologies and methodologies used in today's highly complex, data-centric accounting environments, ensuring that next generation accounting students are equally comfortable in their D&A skills, as they are in their traditional accounting skills.
- Paid tuition, and reasonable costs for room and board, books, and technology/supplies fees toward a graduate degree specializing in advanced accounting with D&A methods, tools and technologies, including KPMG's proprietary tools and data sets.
- Real-world experience using KPMG's proprietary tools during a paid D&A-focused internship in the spring semester.
- A position as a full-time Experienced Associate at KPMG with the opportunity for an accelerated leadership career path where high performers will have the opportunity to be promoted to and compensated as a Senior Associate after one year and a Manager after four years.

## Which universities are participating in the Program?

It is KPMG's intention to advance the education of accounting with D&A. We expect to work with other universities to create innovative and impactful programs to achieve our intentions for the benefit of KPMG, our profession, academia, and students working to build a career in the accounting profession in today's data age. KPMG developed the Program working with The Ohio State University Max M. Fisher College of Business and the Villanova School of Business. We've now expanded the Program and will be funding tuition for students at the following additional universities: Arizona State University's W. P. Carey School of Business; the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business; the University of Mississippi's Patterson School of Accountancy; the University of Missouri's Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. College of Business; the University of Southern California's Leventhal School of Accounting, and Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business (together with Fisher College of Business and the Villanova School of Business, the "Program Universities"). The University of Mississippi's Patterson School of Accountancy will offer both a Master of Accountancy and Data Analytics and a Master of Taxation and Data Analytics. In addition, KPMG will provide Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business technology and proprietary audit tools for use in its Master of Accounting curricula.

# Curriculum

## What courses will be offered in the Program?

The demanding coursework at the participating universities goes beyond traditional accounting principles to include technologies and methodologies used in today's highly complex, data-centric accounting environments, ensuring that next generation accounting students are equally comfortable in their D&A skills, as they are their traditional accounting skills.

Each university has integrated the Program to fit seamlessly within its master of accounting and/or master of taxation degree. The coursework includes curriculum such as those listed below:

- Data Analysis and Visualization
- Systems for Data Analytics
- Auditing through Information Systems
- The Future of Data and Analytics in Tax Practice
- Probability and Uncertainty and Statistical Decision Making
- Auditing with KPMG Automated Audit Procedures
- The Future of Data and Analytics
- Data Mining for Business Intelligence
- Fraudulent Financial Reporting

## Application/Acceptance Process

What is the KPMG application process for admittance into the Class of 2018 – 19 Program?

Application to the Program is a two-step process. Applicants must first be accepted into the Program by KPMG, then the candidates will be asked to move to the next phase, applying to one of the designated Program Universities.

### Audit Application & Selection Process

The KPMG application will be available in March 2017 on the Program website, [www.KPMGmasters.com](http://www.KPMGmasters.com). Interested applicants should reach out to their Campus Recruiting contact or visit the Program website at [www.KPMGmasters.com](http://www.KPMGmasters.com) to receive more information. Students can identify their Campus Recruiting contact by visiting [www.KPMGcampus.com/connect-with-kpmg](http://www.KPMGcampus.com/connect-with-kpmg).

The KPMG application includes submitting a resume and a most recent transcript, completing an employment application, submitting an unofficial GMAT score, as well as answering several essay questions. KPMG will review applications and select candidates who will move on to an interview process. Based on the results of the interview process, KPMG will request selected candidates to submit an application along with a GMAT score to the designated universities.

Key dates and deadlines for admission into the Class of 2018-19 for Audit:

- KPMG application availability: March 2017
- KPMG announcement of additional Program universities: prior to application deadline
- KPMG application submission deadline: May 15, 2017
- Applicants must take the GMAT and submit their unofficial score: July 1, 2017
- KPMG notifications of acceptance to candidates: August 2, 2017
- University application deadline (including GMAT score): August 16, 2017
- University acceptance: communicated by August 31, 2017
- Candidate acceptance of the offer: September 15, 2017
- Program start: fall 2018 and will follow each university's academic calendar
- Program Busy Season Internship: spring semester 2019
- Graduation: end of summer semester 2019

### Tax Application & Selection Process

For tax, interested applicants should reach out to their Campus Recruiting contact for an application. The KPMG Tax application will be available in May 2017.

The KPMG application includes submitting a resume and a most recent transcript, answering essay questions and submitting an unofficial GMAT score. KPMG will review applications and select candidates who will move on to the interview process. Based on the results of the interview process, KPMG will request selected candidates to submit an application along with a GMAT score to the designated universities.

All key dates and deadlines for admission into the Class of 2018-19 for Tax align with the Audit, except for:

- KPMG application availability: Early May 2017
- KPMG application submission deadline: June 2, 2017

The above deadlines are approximate. Please continue to check the Program website at [www.KPMGmasters.com](http://www.KPMGmasters.com) for updates.

## When should an applicant apply to the Program?

A student should apply to the Program during the spring semester/spring quarter one year prior to their anticipated graduation with a bachelor's in accounting (or equivalent program). By graduation, the student should have completed the minimum number of units for their bachelor's in accounting (or equivalent program) but does not need to have completed the units required for CPA licensing. Following are a few examples:

- Student plans to finish a bachelor's degree in accounting by August 2018 and will take additional units to be CPA eligible during fall 2018/spring 2019. Student should apply to the Program in the spring of 2017.
- Student plans to finish a bachelor's degree in accounting along with a second major by August 2018. The student is unable to complete the bachelor's degree in accounting without the second major any earlier. Student should apply to the Program in the spring of 2017.
- Student is completing a double major in accounting and international business in December 2018, but plans to finish the bachelor's degree in accounting by August 2018 (student would be unable to complete the second major and would instead do the Program). Student should apply to the Program in the spring of 2017.
- Student plans to finish a bachelor's degree in accounting by August 2018 and continue with a master's degree in accounting, which will be completed in spring 2019. Student should apply to the Program in the spring of 2017.
- Student plans to finish an integrated bachelor's and master's degree program in accounting in May 2019 at one of the KPMG Master of Accounting with Data and Analytics Program's universities. Student should apply to the Program in the spring of 2017.
- Student plans to finish an integrated bachelor's and master's degree program in accounting in May 2019 at a university that is not one of the KPMG Master of Accounting with Data and Analytics Program universities. The student is unable to complete the bachelor's degree without completing the master's degree. Student should apply to the Program in the spring of 2018.

Individuals who have already graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting from an accredited college or university and who otherwise meet the basic qualifications of the Program and to be admitted into one of the designated Program Universities may apply to the Program in the spring of 2017.

## What is the application process for the Program Universities?

Candidates will be conditionally accepted into the Program by KPMG contingent upon acceptance by one of the designated Program Universities. Thus, once candidates have been selected for the Program, they will need to apply directly to one of the designated Program Universities. For Audit, the Class of 2018-19 applicants will be able to indicate which Program Universities they will not be able to attend during the selection process; however, admission to each university is solely based on the university's admission criteria. For Tax, the Class of 2018-19, applicants will only be able to attend the University of Mississippi's Patterson School of Accountancy.

## Do applicants need to have an accounting degree to apply for the Program?

In order to be eligible for the Program, applicants will have completed their bachelor's degree in accounting (or equivalent program) from an accredited college or university in time for the start of the Program in fall 2018. Students must have completed all educational requirements to be CPA license eligible in the state of employment upon the completion of the master of accounting or master of taxation degree associated with the Program.

## Who at KPMG will interview the candidates?

Candidates for the Program will be interviewed by select individuals from the KPMG's Master of Accounting with Data and Analytics Program team and by KPMG partners from their local offices.

If a student has already accepted a full-time offer with KPMG, can the student still apply for the Program and defer the full-time start date?

Applicants who have accepted full-time offers for winter 2018 and beyond are eligible to apply to the Program.

Does an applicant's bachelor degree need to be entirely complete to start the Program?

An applicant's bachelor degree must be entirely complete by the start of the Program in fall 2018.

Can an individual apply for the Program if they will need sponsorship now or in the future for a visa?

Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States without the need for visa sponsorship by KPMG now or in the future. Applicants should not require sponsorship for a nonimmigrant visa (such as an H1-B visa, TN, etc.), now or at any point in the future. Those initially working pursuant to OPT, EAD, a STEM extension or a J visa, will require sponsorship upon its expiration and therefore are not eligible for consideration for the Program.



## Differentiated Experience

How is the internship in the spring semester within the Program differentiated from other audit or tax internships?

Students within the Program will have a semester of education on KPMG D&A tools before they enter their internship. With that education, the interns can participate in the KPMG engagement team's advanced D&A strategy at a level that is beyond a traditional intern. As such, during the Program's internship, students will be working on select KPMG audit or tax teams using KPMG's advanced D&A tools on our largest accounts. Upon their master's degree completion associated with the Program, the former interns will return to their respective internship cities and engagements to begin their KPMG careers.

What are the basic qualifications for the Program?

- Applicants are seeking a career with KPMG in Audit or Tax.
- Applicants have an interest in data and analytics.
- Applicants have demonstrated leadership, innovation ability, and adaptability to change.
- Applicants will have completed their bachelor's degree in accounting (or equivalent program) from an accredited college or university by their start in the Program.
- Applicants must complete all educational requirements to be CPA license eligible in the state of employment upon completion of the master's degree program.
- Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States without the need for a visa sponsorship now or in the future. Applicants should not require sponsorship for a nonimmigrant working visa (such as an H-1B visa, TN, etc.), now or at any point in the future. Those initially working pursuant to OPT, EAD, a STEM extension or a J visa, will require sponsorship upon its expiration and therefore are not eligible for consideration for the Program.
- Participants are contractually committed to remain in good academic standing and to professional employment with KPMG for three years upon acceptance to the Program (to begin from the date of full-time hire), and are subject to a repayment provision as outlined in the program agreement. Employees otherwise remain employees at will during (and after) the three year period.

When enrolled at one of the Program Universities, what living options will participants have?

Graduate students may live on-campus in graduate housing (when available) or in off-campus apartments. Housing options will vary by school. Reasonable room and board costs for graduate school housing will be paid in the form of a stipend. The amount of the stipend is determined based on the Program University each participant attends. Each participant will be responsible for securing their own housing.

During the spring semester internship will participants need to find their own housing?

Yes, it is up to the participant to find and pay for their own accommodations in the city of their paid internship, if necessary.

Will the degree meet the CPA license requirements in the state of my preferred office?

Participants are responsible to ensure they meet the educational requirements to be CPA license eligible in their state of employment. The Program Universities will provide accredited accounting and D&A related coursework as part of their master of accounting or master of taxation degree.

## How will a participant's career at KPMG be enhanced through their participation in the Program?

Participants will be hired and compensated as Experienced Associates. With an expected accelerated leadership career path, they will have the opportunity to be promoted to and compensated as a Senior Associate after one year and a Manager after four years. In addition, graduates from the Program Universities will serve on a selection of KPMG's largest audit or tax engagements using our advanced data & analytics tools as well as participate in a leadership development program exclusively for Program participants. While on campus and once they start fulltime, candidates will have both a Partner and a Senior Manager mentor. Participants are contractually committed to professional employment with KPMG for three years upon acceptance to the Program, to begin at the date of full-time hire, otherwise they are subject to a repayment provision as outlined in the program agreement.

Note that promotions are performance-based and are not guaranteed. Likewise, employment at KPMG remains "at will" and is not guaranteed for any period of time.

## What will my career path be at KPMG?

As a part of the Audit or Tax Practice, all participants of the Program will be on an accelerated leadership career path where high performers will have the opportunity to be promoted to and compensated as a Senior Associate after one year and a Manager after four years.

## Are there any rotations available to participants as a result of participating in the Program?

As with all KPMG professionals, there are a number of rotation opportunities available as a full-time employee and as one progresses in his or her career.

## What are the travel expectations once a participant begins to work at KPMG?

Travel is often necessary in a career in public accounting and at KPMG. As such it may be necessary to travel to locations where engagement teams using KPMG's advanced D&A strategy are working.

## Will a student's internship during the Program and full-time position be in the same office?

The internship during the Program and full-time assignments are expected to be in the same office.

## Which KPMG offices are participating in the Program for the Class of 2018-19 and beyond?

For Audit, KPMG offices from across the US will participate in the Program.

For Tax, there will be a limited number of positions in each of the participating KPMG offices which are expected to include: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, and San Francisco. The offices included for the Program were determined by examining the locations with the highest concentration of large engagement teams deploying advanced D&A strategies.

## Will there be an opportunity for a participant to relocate to another office after joining with KPMG full time?

As with all KPMG personnel, transfers to other offices will be considered on a case by case basis based upon specific office needs.

## The tuition, room and board, books, and technology/supplies fees are taxable to the students. Will KPMG pay the students an amount for the estimated tax liability?

KPMG's funding of tuition, and reasonable costs for room and board, books, and technology/supplies fees is taxable to the student. However, to further demonstrate KPMG's commitment to the student's success and the value we place on the student's future with KPMG, the firm will reimburse each student in an amount intended to approximate the additional tax liability incurred by a typical student as a result of this KPMG funding.

## Program Expectations

How long must a graduate of the Program commit to work for KPMG at a minimum?

Upon acceptance to the Program, participants are contractually committed to remain in good academic standing and to professional employment with KPMG for three years after graduation with their Master Degree associated with the Program (to begin from the date of full-time hire). Otherwise, 100% of tuition, room and board, books, and technology/supplies fees paid by KPMG on behalf of the participants are to be paid back to KPMG. Employees otherwise remain employees at will during (and after) the three year period.

What academic standards do students need to meet during their coursework?

All accepted candidates are expected to maintain a strong academic record while they are students at each of the Program Universities. Students are to adhere to the academic standards required at their Program University as well as the honor code and/or code of conduct.

Will students be able to work part time (either at KPMG or elsewhere) during their coursework at one of the Program Universities?

Other employment while in the Program (other than during the internship) is at the student's discretion, however it cannot detract from the student's strong academic progress toward graduation in the summer of 2019.

Will students have a mentor to guide them through the Program? Will they have a contact at KPMG during their coursework at the university?

Students will have both a Partner and a Senior Manager mentor while on campus and once hired by KPMG (as an intern and full-time professional).

What are the beginning and ending dates of the semesters at the universities? What are the dates of spring break, holidays, etc.?

Please refer to the academic calendars published by each of the Program Universities on their respective websites.

Upon completion of the master of accounting or master of taxation degree associated with the Program, will students receive their degrees at a university ceremony?

Students will receive their degrees at a ceremony consistent with the timing available at each Program University.

The information contained herein is of a summary nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. The rules and policies applicable to this program are set forth in program documents, which may be amended at KPMG's discretion.

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