CDE UPDATE

The CDE slowly returned to normal in 2022-23 as fewer pandemic-related precautions were necessary over time. By April-May 2023, CDE life had become busy academically and socially once again. A trip to Niagara Falls and an excellent June 1 pool party were highlights before graduation for the CDE Class of 2023 and departures for home.

In 2023-24, the CDE has 30 students for the first time since 2016-2017 due to faster US visa processing. August review courses were demanding, but the CDE Class of 2024 found time to develop an appreciation for the nearby treats of Lickety Split ice cream, art museums, and shopping. A Boston trip awaits after the hurdles of first semester exams. New York City will come at the end of January and then Washington, DC, in March.
During tutorial, I worked on policy briefs related to basic education in Pakistan and technical / vocational education (TVET). I also created a financing plan to support changes in the TVET sector in Pakistan and developed an evaluation plan for my proposed reforms. Our tutorial sessions were so engaging that time flew by, and our discussions often continued during lunch and tea breaks! " Faiza Zia (CDE ’23, Pakistan)

CURRICULAR SPOTLIGHT: TUTORIALS

Inspired by the Oxford model, the Williams CDE tutorial is a unique academic experience that brings CDE Fellows and faculty together for policy work. Under guidance from a professor, two students alternate formulating policy briefs and critiquing their partner’s work. This format offers mentored practice in crafting detailed policy papers in English, simulating a critical aspect of policy-makers’ work. After graduation CDE alumni are well prepared to make first drafts of policy briefs for senior management of their home institutions before visits by the IMF, World Bank, and others.

In the tutorial “ECON: 508 Skills for a Modern Economy and How to Pay for Them”, Prof. David Evans (Center for Global Development / formerly World Bank) explores the skills gaps between rich and poor countries that impact almost every aspect of the economy. Prof. Evans leads students to examine the economic policies that are essential for nations to upgrade the skills of their workforce and the fiscal policies needed to finance those investments. During the semester, students explore complementary economic policies - in areas from labor markets to agriculture and healthcare - that allow maximum returns to skills and training investments.

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Check our Faculty Listings

Check out 2023-2024 Course Listings
The CDE is launching the "CDE / Per Jacobsson Foundation Speaker Series" featuring 2-3 extended visits by accomplished alumni annually and supported by the Per Jacobsson Foundation for three years. During these visits, CDE Alumni speakers will share their practical experiences and advice with current CDE Fellows.

On Sept 16-17, 2023 Ahmad Kaikaus (Bangladesh, CDE ‘00) visited the CDE. Dr. Kaikaus (the former Principal Secretary of Bangladesh and current Alternate Executive Director at the World Bank) gave a talk and was interviewed by CDE Prof. Bernard Sheahan.

Did you miss the live events? Check the videos out on our website

CDE Alumnae at African Association of Central Bankers Meetings in Zambia

From left – Kiden Betty Ade (CDE ‘22 South Sudan), Priscille Mikebanyi (CDE 2019 Rwanda), and Nilza Antonio (CDE ‘22 Angola). They also met Mussah Kamara (CDE ‘07 Liberia).

Bangladesh Group Mini-Reunion with Prof. Quamrul Ashraf

From left – Md. Faizul Islam, Chairman of Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (CDE ‘00); Prof. Quamrul Ashraf (Williams / CDE Chair), Syed Ali Bin Hassan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance (CDE ’15)

We received information about the following promotions since September 2022

• Ainura Mambetkul Kyzy (CDE ‘22) – Head, Economic Dept, Nat’l Bank, Kyrgyz Republic
• Blama Siryon (CDE ‘22) – CFO, Liberian Bank for Development and Investment
• Francine Inarukundo (CDE ‘17) – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Burundi
• Farah Al Shami (CDE ‘16) – Senior Fellow, Arab Reform Initiative, Lebanon
• Edouard Bigendako (CDE ‘14) – CEO, Nat’l Bank for Econ Dev’t, Burundi
• Mariana Cire Sylla (CDE ‘13) – IFC Country Officer, Burundi
• Mansour Rageh (CDE ‘12) – Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Yemen
• Gunakar Bhatta, PhD (CDE ‘06) – Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Finance, Nepal
• Jerson Posada (CDE ‘06) – Minister of Finance, El Salvador
• Soulysak Thamnuvong (CDE ‘04) – Director General, Monetary Policy, Bank of the Lao PDR
• Rath Sovannorak (CDE ‘05) – Deputy Governor, National Bank of Cambodia
• Faizul Islam, PhD (CDE ‘00) – Chairman, Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission
• Ahmad Kaikaus, PhD (CDE ‘00) – Alternate Executive Director, the World Bank
• Eteri Kvintradze, PhD (CDE ‘99) – Director, IMF Capacity Dev’t Office in Thailand
• Dr. Judith Kateera, PhD (CDE ‘94) – SADC, Deputy Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs
CDE ADMISSIONS

CDE Application Timetable

**Sept**
- **Application Portal Open**
  - Visit the CDE website and follow directions. 410+ applications annually on average.

**Dec**
- **December 1**
  - Submit application on time!

**Jan**
- **Math and Language Testing**
  - Testing of invited candidates where GRE/TOEFL are not readily available.

**Feb**
- **Interviews**
  - CDE staff conducts interviews as necessary.

**Mar**
- **Decision Time**
  - CDE Admissions Committee makes decisions for 30 places per year.

**Apr**
- **Funding**
  - Joint work to get funding. Don't hesitate to apply due to lack of funding!

**May**
- **Visa**
  - After funding is confirmed, then work to secure US visas.

**Aug**
- **Arrival and Orientation**
  - Arrival to Williams and CDE August review courses before 1st semester.

CDE CLASS ‘24 PROFILE

Class size: 30 students
Age Range: 25-40
GRE* Quantitative Score Range: 640-785
Average # of work experience: 5 years
Gender Ratio M/W: 53/47%
Africa: 56%
South East Asia: 15%
South Asia: 13%
Eurasia/CIS: 10%
Latin Am/Middle East: 6%
*CDE proprietary testing is used to approximate GRE Scores in cases where GRE testing is not possible

The World Bank Scholarship

Beginning in 1987, the World Bank has been granting fellowships for advanced studies in economics. Over the past 25 years, the World Bank has awarded more than 170 scholarships to CDE Fellows. In 2023-2025, the CDE has been chosen as a "Participating Program" for the Joint Japan/World Bank Scholarships.

Funding concerns should not prevent anyone from applying.
In recent years, 100% of CDE students have received full or partial scholarships or training funds to support their studies. This funding has come from home governments or employers, international scholarship providers, or directly from Williams College. More info about the application and funding is available on our website.

Do you have news about a promotion? Have you recently changed your email address? Please keep us informed by sending an email to Lisa at lak2@williams.edu.