Educating leaders for BUSINESS & SOCIETY
Our mission to educate leaders for business and society inspires everything we do at the school. Our academic approach is designed to give you the tools you need to succeed in any field you pursue while also empowering you to keep the big picture in sight and contribute to a better world. Our community welcomes people with a strong sense of purpose and provides the unique support of being among others who care about business and society.

Join us.
Mario Palarino ’22

Hometown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Undergraduate institution Penn State University
Pre-MBA PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)
Internship Bank of America
I came to business school to work on my interpersonal relationship skills. They’re critical when you’re dealing with teams and when you’re working with groups across cultures and regions of the world. I wanted to understand the academic research that underpins what we know about effective leadership and management and how to apply it when I re-enter the field.

I took two electives, Behavioral Economics and Behavioral Finance, that had a particularly large impact on me. Yale SOM is on the cutting edge of research in the behavioral area. It was really eye-opening to learn the psychological framework behind the more traditional understanding of economics that I already had.

Working in professional services is largely relationship-based. It often comes down to building relationships that are rooted in trust. Bankers and consultants are typically called upon to solve problems and make decisions that are very impactful for a lot of people. It’s a one-time deal. You want to get it right.

It was a surprise to me just how nice everybody is at Yale SOM, how friendly, how authentic and vulnerable people are with one another. I was expecting the MBA experience to be really cut-throat, zero-sum, and transactional. I’ve really enjoyed it here.

I’m motivated by the thought of leaving the world a better place than I found it. My company, my community, and society-at-large—I want to make an impact on them that outlives me.

Favorite study spot Ross Library
Favorite club Hockey Club
Favorite New Haven restaurant Pepe’s Pizzeria
Most important career resource During my recruiting, the CDO (Career Development Office) was a big help in getting everything polished—my résumé, my story, and my interviewing skills. I couldn’t have done it without them.

Message to admitted students Coming to Yale SOM was a no-brainer for me. It’s a big decision, but there is value in just taking the leap and pursuing a program like this because it will pay off in ways you may not be able to imagine.
In my previous job, I had a lot of exposure to C-suite leadership. I could see how their decision-making and negotiating style trickled down into how every employee approached their work, and I was really interested in understanding what it takes to be a good leader. Over the last year and a half, equity and inclusion has become an even more critical part of that for me. I'm focused how can we make sure people's voices are included—and how we make sure people are getting into the room for that to happen.

My career has been in pharmaceutical consulting and healthcare insurance and I wanted to pivot into healthcare delivery. Being able to understand what happens at the point of care can be really important in terms of designing solutions that are better for the patient and more efficient—and in understanding how to reduce healthcare disparities for lower-income individuals and underrepresented minorities.

Yale’s SOM close ties with the Yale School of Public Health foster a really great environment to pursue healthcare career opportunities. I'm friends with some of the MBA-MPH joint degree students and it's been great how we've supported each other throughout the recruiting process.

I interned at the Chartis Group, which is a healthcare consulting firm. I worked with a nonprofit health system that was implementing a hospital-at-home program, which included having patients complete the last few days of their inpatient stay at home. We found it wouldn't be financially profitable for the first five years. But it provides patients with better quality care and would lower costs of care over the long term. I worked on how to approach discussing this program with stakeholders in the hospital and how to make it scalable. It was a great learning experience.
**Favorite club** We formed Business Students for Racial Equity during the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in mid-2020 to create a hub for discussions about racial equity. One of my favorite events was a podcasting brainstorming session with the Black Business Alliance, a nonprofit organization in Connecticut that supports Black business owners.

**Favorite spot at Yale** Grove Street Cemetery

**Message for admitted students** The next two years are going to be a roller-coaster. Remember the values and the goals that you have at this point, because it’s going to be easy to get swept away by all the opportunities that will be available to you.
Kelechi Umoga '22
Joint degree School of Medicine

Hometown Abuja, Nigeria
Undergraduate institution Cornell University
Pre-MBA Cru Global; Yale School of Medicine
Internship Crossbonds; Massachusetts General Hospital
I was born and raised in Nigeria. Where I’m from you can work hard and not see much output; I wanted to come to a place where if you put in the work, you can climb the ladder and make a lot of money. But when I came to the United States for college, I realized that a lot of people who had the grades and the money were unhappy. That was what led to me to my Christian faith. And because of my faith, I define success differently now—as loving people well and wielding everything within my power to make sure that the needs of people around me are met.

While I was in college, I set up a clinic back home in Nigeria, which I’ve been running remotely during medical school. Our work in that village evolved to include an elementary school as well. Once I started medical school, I set up two businesses in the village to fund the clinic and the school. Now we’re trying to scale up the model of a clinic, a school, and a business that sustains them in one village, starting from the northern part of Nigeria.

I figured business school would be the place to understand critical concepts like finance. But I also knew that my goals were big and I needed to engage with people who were doing all kinds of things in the world. That was the pull to come to Yale SOM. People coming together from all walks of life, with different experiences, who are interested in solving problems.

Favorite spot in Evans Hall
Eating lunch and studying at Charley’s Place. It’s strategically located by the courtyard so you can see people passing back and forth. Sometimes I leave my work to go meet them and just hang out.

Favorite spot at Yale
The Science Quad, overlooking the whole campus

Message for admitted students
Congratulations, you made it! This is an incredible place to learn. I encourage you to take advantage of the global offerings, and to be open to your classmates, who will challenge how you think.
Yale SOM’s mission to educate leaders for business and society drew me here, but I questioned, “Is this place really going to carry through this mission in all courses, and will I meet classmates who care as much as I do?” Then I got here. The mission is ingrained in so much of what we do. This is a place where people care, where we have social impact discussions even in more traditional business courses. It’s been a pleasant surprise.

Coming from a nontraditional background, my aspiration was to expand my business foundations and discover new career opportunities. Yale SOM checked off both boxes and helped me discover marketing and the many paths it provides for creating impact.

The MBA program accepts a very diverse pool of candidates in terms of background. I wasn’t the only one with an arts background, so I was able to learn from second-year students who understood how to navigate a similar career transition. The CDO and Career Coaches also really helped, not only professionally, but personally. You’re able to have in-depth conversations about your goals, and it helps bring a lot of clarity. I’ve been able to take on a lot of leadership roles and explore new paths because I have supportive friends and advisors backing me up.

Favorite study spot Evans Hall Courtyard
Favorite clubs Marketing Club; Media & Entertainment Club
Favorite New Haven spot East Rock Park
Most important career resource The Marketing Club. At Yale SOM there is a great pipeline of students coming from the arts and transitioning into brand management who helped me navigate the process.
Message to admitted students This is a program where you’ll get the richest educational experience possible because you’ll enter a class with an incredibly diverse group of people. Classmates bring perspectives from their backgrounds, and everyone is enriched in the process.
Jessica Newman ’22

Hometown Boston, Massachusetts

Undergraduate institution Eastman School of Music; University of Rochester

Pre-MBA ArtsEmerson
Internship Procter & Gamble
Post-MBA Procter & Gamble
Harnoor Sidhu ’22

Hometown Malout, India
Undergraduate institution Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh
Pre-MBA Goldman Sachs, Bangalore
Internship Amazon
Post-MBA Boston Consulting Group
I came from a poor village in India. Starting with my first full-time job, I was very passionate about bringing about change at a sustainable level. As an analyst, I looked around and asked, “How can I improve the system around me?” In my division at Goldman Sachs, I started a training program that’s now been tested for years. It’s about delivering stable impact.

“I wanted to understand more about myself and what we should do with our lives. What attracted me to Yale SOM was its mission, its focus on business and society. As the world evolves and becomes more open, businesses have to adapt. One action will have impact all across the globe. You need the ability to look at all your actions from not only the perspective of how much financial impact they’ll have and how much strategic impact they’ll have but also ask, how much social impact will they have? And are they ethical?”

In my first year, I recruited tech and I spent a summer at Amazon. Now I’m doing consulting recruiting. The clubs have been so helpful. Your classes are about building your thought process; the clubs are about how you showcase that thought process in an interview. How do you take a problem and solve it, specifically for the tech domain or the consulting domain?

Favorite place in Evans Hall
The courtyard

Favorite New Haven spot
Hiking in East Rock Park

Favorite clubs
I’m the co-leader of two clubs, the South Asia Club and FinTech Club, and I don’t want to pick a favorite. South Asia Club is a cultural club. FinTech Club is focused on recruiting and the technical aspects of fintech, with a separate group that focuses on the crypto ecosystem.

Message to admitted students
Be yourself. Bring your whole personality to Yale SOM. It’s going to be one of the most intense learning periods in your life. You’ll get access to a lot of different kinds of people, so come with an open mind.
I'm passionate about women's empowerment. My long-term goal is to start a nonprofit organization to empower women’s professional development in China. For me, success is being able to use your life to do something meaningful for other people and for society. Yale SOM shares this vision. It’s a business program for leaders of business and society. That’s what makes it so special.

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What I really want is for women to have the same opportunities as men. There’s a lot of interest in gender equity at Yale SOM, and a number of professors have done interesting research on how to address these issues. All the people I reach out to, in clubs or in the alumni network, are so genuine about wanting to help you and see you succeed.

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I learned so much from the core curriculum courses. Competitor, Investor, State and Society—they all showed me what business looks like from different perspectives. And I was surprised by the amount of teamwork that goes on. I've come to see how important the learning team experience is. Teams are a big part of global business and building the relationships that are so critical in success.

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In U.S. schools, networking is very important. I wasn’t really sure what that meant when I first came to Yale SOM. But I've learned how to find the people who'll be meaningful and helpful in achieving my future goals. I came here to learn about business on a global scale and how it’s done. The people I’ve reached out to—through the clubs, classes, my learning teams, and alumni—have been so genuine and so supportive. Now I want to become that person others turn to when they need help.

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Favorite study spots Ross Library and breakout rooms
Favorite club Greater China Club
Favorite New Haven restaurants Bar and Zinc Kitchen
Most important career resources I'm not a native English speaker, and I didn’t understand some of the U.S. business rules and etiquette. The CDO Career Coaches and Professional Communication Center were so helpful. I attended every coaching session, and they gave me a lot of support.

Message to admitted students Decide how you want to spend the two years of your MBA. What type of community do you want to be part of? How do you define yourself? Ask yourself what your values are and how you define success. You’ll build a lasting network at Yale SOM.
Joy Han ’22

Hometown Inner Mongolia and Shandong, China
Undergraduate institution Beihang University
Pre-MBA China Center for Education and Human Resource Research
Internship Liberty Mutual Insurance
Post-MBA Liberty Mutual Insurance
Austin Broussard ’22

Hometown Atlanta, Georgia
Undergraduate institution Morehouse College
Pre-MBA T. Rho Investments; Bain & Company
Internship T. Rho Investments
My values are anchored by three core pursuits: faith, financial peace, and shareable freedom. I want to make business better. As a result, success isn’t complete for me unless it includes the ability to make room for others and create opportunities that will outlive me.

I have ready access to academic resources whenever I need them. Even on Zoom during the pandemic, professors were available, and those in the real estate space have been genuinely helpful. This is not just a story of silent support; I value the fact that they advocate with active voices on their students’ behalf. Some of my classmates have even been hired by visiting speakers in our real estate course. It has been wonderful to see the actualization of classmates’ MBA goals in living color.

At Yale SOM, we have the chance to help chart the school’s future. You’re tasked with having an entrepreneurial spirit, and you’re encouraged to use it here and then to take it with you. My classmates care and are intensely invested in how people are doing, beyond the balance sheet. These are the people who will push the needle forward across industries, across continents, and across time.

Favorite study spot Sterling Memorial Library
Favorite club Real Estate Club
Favorite New Haven restaurant The Cast Iron Chef
Most important career resources Professors Kevin Gray and Kate Cooney and the access they facilitate to real estate conferences, industry leaders, and relevant opportunities
Message to admitted students Know why you are coming, and play an active role in curating your two-year experience. Also, know that there is a vibrant African American community here, not only at Yale SOM, but across the university. There are hundreds of students from across the diaspora here who make it a point to remain connected.
I’m focused on financial inclusion. My long-term goal is to run an impact investing fund that is focused on investing in areas where the lack of economic opportunity is a contributor to violence. My internship at an accelerator for early stage fintech startups in North Africa showed me that there are a lot of skills that I need to gain in order to really bring value as a leader in that space. In the short term, I’ll be gaining those skills in a management consulting role.

I participated in MIINT, MBA Impact Investing Network and Training, which is how I connected with the organization I interned with. And in the Global Social Enterprise course, I consulted for an organization in Kenya that was offering free Wi-Fi on public transit to help young Kenyans engage in the labor market. SOM offers so many opportunities to engage in the business side of social impact.

I don’t come from a traditional MBA background. The Consulting Club was so supportive in helping me navigate whether consulting was the right next step for me and ensuring my success in the process. That has motivated me to serve as co-president of the club this year to find the students with unique backgrounds who want to have an impact and think that consulting is the right next step for them.

Favorite spot in Evans Hall
I love going up and down the stairs in Evans Hall, because the building is made of glass and you can see a friend across the building. The school is built so we can connect with one another.

Favorite spot at Yale
Beinecke Rare Book Library

Most important career resource
Second-year students

Message to admitted students
As you think about where you want to call home next, my advice is to follow your heart. When you talk to students at Yale SOM, you’ll find that they’re supportive and welcoming and want to help you make the best decision for you. Congratulations!
Rona Baresh ’22
Joint degree Jackson Institute for Global Affairs

Hometown New Paltz, New York
Undergraduate institution University of Michigan
Pre-MBA International development in Amman, Jordan
Internship Village Capital; McKinsey & Company
Post-MBA McKinsey & Company
What to do next

Find everything you need to prepare for your Yale SOM experience on the Class of 2024 website, som.yale.edu/2024. Return regularly to the site for important announcements and information.

Important steps

• **Accept your offer of admission** and **submit your enrollment deposit** on the Class of 2024 website.
• **Attend online events and activities** that interest you to meet members of our community and learn more about Yale SOM.
• **International students**: Go to the International Students section on the Class of 2024 website to **learn about the visa process and access resources** available through Yale’s Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS).
• **Join the Class of 2024 Slack Workspace** to connect with your classmates.

som.yale.edu/2024