

Empeiria Leadership Fellows Program Overview

Full-Time, Evening, and Weekend MBA students in the second half of their MBA programs are eligible to apply for the Empeiria Leadership Fellows Program. Learn about becoming a Leadership Fellow below!

Leaders Bridge the Gaps

What does it take to lead? Leaders are those who help us bridge the gap between where we are now and where we need to go, between the present and the future. Ultimately, you succeed as a leader when you can effectively navigate the gaps that occur whenever we seek to activate the energy of others – gaps between individuals, gaps in shared understanding, and gaps in your own skills and capabilities.

As an Empeiria Leadership Fellow, you will **greatly accelerate your growth as a leader** by learning how to bridge these critical gaps. Through **early access to experiential sessions and workshops, and exclusive access to 1:1 leadership coaching and program events**, you'll practice, experiment, and develop your skills in a supportive community of your peers.

The Fellows Program includes:

- **Fellows Kickoff** – Dive in at our opening event in the fall, where you'll explore the gaps you most need to bridge as a leader and connect with classmates who are passionate about leading.
- **Leadership Accelerator Coaching Program** – Go deep through one-on-one sessions with a leadership coach to make progress on core challenges and skills that matter to you.
- **Skills Workshops** – Deepen your skill in core leadership competencies by participating in at least two of our experiential workshop offerings designed for immediate application. Topics include:
 - Master Feedback and Difficult Conversations
 - Speak Persuasively and Powerfully
 - Influence Others and Move Teams Forward
 - Lead Without Authority
 - Make Conflict Constructive
- **Capstone Retreat: Lead Forward**– Before graduation, weave together & distill all you've learned about yourself as a leader into core principles, goals, and action steps for leading post-Booth at a reflective, playful, and rewarding retreat.

Learning to Bridge the Gaps

Empeiria is a Greek word that means **experience**. We believe that the best way you can unlock growth as a leader is through experience – by expanding your set of experiences and by learning more from every experience – and the Empeiria Leadership Fellows Program is designed to help you do exactly that.

To earn your verified completion badge (for display on LinkedIn and other online sites), you will participate in at least **two (2)** skills workshops and each of the **four (4)** required experiences. If you are a Full-Time MBA student, you have one academic year to complete the sequence and earn your badge. If you are an Evening or Weekend MBA student, you can complete the sequence in up to two academic years to earn your badge.

Skills Workshop Offerings 2024-20245

Note: Fellows are expected to attend at least two workshops.

Unless otherwise specified, all workshops will be held at Gleacher Center or Harper Center.

Workshop Title	Dates & Times	Description
Speak Persuasively & Powerfully	Saturday, 11/2/24, 1-3:30pm OR Thursday, 4/10/25, 5:30-8:00pm	- Develop skills to speak up in formal and informal environments. - Utilize persuasive speaking techniques to make your case. - Leverage storytelling to build credibility and relationships.
Master Feedback and Difficult Conversations	Wednesdays, 11/6 & 11/20/24, 6-7:30pm OR Saturdays, 2/8 & 2/22/25, 11:45am-1:15pm	- Explore the challenges of broaching difficult conversations. - Practice skills for delivering feedback that might be difficult to hear. - Experiment with giving real feedback between workshop sessions.
Influence Others and Move Teams Forward (Everest Simulation)	Saturday 11/16/24, 8:45am-2pm OR Saturday, 4/5/25, 8:45am-2pm	- Participate in the experiential, interactive team simulation of climbing Mt. Everest. - Learn how to navigate team dynamics more effectively. - Experiment with influencing others in key decision making moments.
Make Conflict Constructive	Thursday, 11/14/24, 11:45am-1:15pm OR Thursday, 2/13/25, 6-7:30pm	- Learn about and practice how to address conflict constructively within teams. - Understand your own personal conflict style and identify how to more effectively navigate conflict in a team setting.
Lead Without Authority	Rescheduled for Tuesday 2/18/25, 11:45am-1:15pm OR Thursday 2/20/25, 6-7:30pm	- Strengthen your ability to manage relationships and persuade others in situations where you lack formal authority. - Intentionally shape how you show up as a leader.

Required Fellows Experiences to Complete Sequence

Fellows participate in all four of these experiences.

Program Title	Date & Time	Description
Empeiria Leadership Fellows Kickoff	<i>Saturday, 10/26/24, 5-8pm</i>	- Explore the critical gaps you'll need to bridge as a leader, and how the Fellows program can help. - Build community with other Leadership Fellows.
Leadership Accelerator	<i>Thursday, 1/9/25, 6-7:30pm (online) OR Saturday, 1/11/25, 11:45-1:15pm (in-person)</i>	- Attend <u>one</u> of the two workshop sessions to prepare for getting the most out of your three 1:1 sessions with your Leadership Accelerator coach. - Do three (3) coaching sessions in Winter quarter.
Lead Forward Retreat	<i>May 2-4, 2025</i>	- Travel to the Grand Geneva for an insightful and fun retreat. (Travel, lodging, & meals are provided.) - Develop an understanding of who you are, and want to be, as a leader post-Booth.
Fellows Program Completion Celebration	<i>Friday, 5/9/25, 5:30-7:30pm</i>	- Gather together with the Leadership Fellows Community. - Celebrate your growth and all you learned by completing the program.

Applying to be an Empeiria Leadership Fellow

Eligibility

The Empeiria Leadership Fellows Program is intended for MBA students nearing graduation from Booth. In the Full-Time MBA program, students must be in their second year at Booth to be eligible to participate. In the Evening and Weekend MBA programs, students must be more than halfway through their program to be eligible, and can take up to two years to complete the program.

It is also important to note that while Evening and Weekend students who anticipate graduating in Spring or Summer 2026 can apply for and begin participating in the Empeiria Leadership Fellows Program this year, we require that some of the program components (specifically the 1:1 leadership coaching program and the Lead Forward Retreat) be completed during your *final* year at Booth. This maximizes the value of the learning you gain.

How to Apply

The application can be found here: [Empeiria Leadership Fellows Program Application](#). The application includes three mini-essay questions designed to help us understand the fit between your goals and priorities and the Empeiria Leadership Fellows program. **Responses to each question of at least a paragraph (approximately 100 - 150 words) will be most effective in helping us understand what you might gain from and offer to the program.** The three mini-essay questions are:

1. Why do you want to participate in the Empeiria Leadership Fellows Program?
2. What are 2-3 areas where you'd most like to improve your skill at leading, and why does developing in these areas matter to you?
3. Every Booth student has a packed schedule. What's one barrier or challenge you might face in fully committing to the Fellows program, and how will you go about addressing it?

Please note that you cannot save your progress on the application as you are completing it, so we recommend drafting your mini essays in a Word or Google doc before starting the application.

Empeiria Leadership Fellows Agreement

Booth students are asked to sign an agreement at the start of the Empeiria Leadership Fellows Program. You are agreeing to participate in a sequence of workshops and experiences to develop your own leadership skills. If you have logistical questions about the Empeiria Leadership Fellows, please contact Colette Bell at colette.bell@chicagobooth.edu.

Scheduling, Rescheduling, or Canceling a Session

You are responsible for attending at least **two (2)** skills workshops and the **four (4)** required experiences of the Fellows program. You will receive frequent communication about events via your Booth email and the **Fellows Canvas Page**. We understand that schedules and circumstances change. A majority of the events for this program will be managed through Booth Groups Events. We request you **make any scheduling changes 24 hours in advance** using the scheduling link in Booth Groups. In the rare instance that you experience last minute change of circumstance, please email Colette Bell at colette.bell@chicagobooth.edu.