

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!

Discovering Your Leadership Practice

True leadership calls us to engage on multiple levels: to know ourselves, to build authentic relationships, to mobilize teams, and to navigate change with vision and adaptability. The Fellows program is your opportunity to explore and strengthen each of these domains. By experimenting across all four, through the course of a year, you'll not only expand your capacity to lead, but also discover a leadership practice that feels both effective and authentic to you.

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.

As an Empeiria Leadership Fellow, you will **greatly accelerate your growth as a leader** by learning how to activate the energy of others toward meaningful change. 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 different domains of leadership and connect with classmates who are passionate about leading.
- **Leadership Accelerator Coaching Program** – Go deep through one-on-one or themed group coaching 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
 - Leadership Stories
 - Influence Others and Move Teams Forward
 - Lead Without Authority
 - Leadership as Practice
 - Make Conflict Constructive
 - Cultural Competency: Leading in a Culturally Diverse World
 - Navigating Change
 - Leading from the Inside Out: Working with Emotions to Empower Yourself and Others
- **Retreat: Leading Forward** – A new era of leading is about to begin for you! Before graduation, join this reflective, playful and rewarding retreat to weave together and distill all you've learned about yourself as a leader so that you are prepared to lead in your own voice and help others do the same.



Leadership Development for MBA Programs

Completing Your Fellowship

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. This program is designed to be completed in one year; you will have one academic year to complete the sequence and earn your badge.

Skills Workshop Offerings 2025-2026

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	Date & Time	Description
Make Conflict Constructive	Saturday, Nov. 8 10:30 am - 12 pm, Thursday, Jan. 15 5:30pm - 7pm Saturday, April 11 10:30 am - 12 pm	- Learn about and practice how to address conflict constructively within teams. - Explore the strengths and limitations of various conflict response styles - Understand your own personal conflict style and identify how to more effectively navigate conflict in a team setting.
Everest Simulation: Influence Others and Move Teams Forward Note: If you have previously participated in the Everest Simulation, we ask that you do not attend this session.	Saturday, Nov. 15 12pm - 5pm Saturday, April 4 8:45 am - 2 pm	- 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
Master Feedback and Difficult Conversations	Thursday, Nov. 13 11:45 am - 1:15 pm Tuesday, Jan. 20 11:45 am - 1:15 pm Saturday, April 11 1 pm - 2:30 pm	- Explore the challenges of broaching difficult conversations - Practice skills for delivering feedback that might be difficult to hear - Workshop a real, difficult conversation that you want to have with someone in your life
Cultural Competency: Leading in a Culturally Diverse World	Tuesday, April 14 11:45 am - 1:15 pm	- Gain practical insights and skills for leading more effectively cross culturally - Explore how culture shapes communication, decision-making, and perceptions of effective leadership
Lead without Authority	Wednesday, Jan. 7 5:30pm - 7pm Rescheduled: Wednesday, April 8 5:30 pm - 7 pm Sunday, April 26 9 am - 12 pm	- Explore what it means to influence without authority and why it matters - Play <i>The AIM Game</i>: a highly interactive card deck for exploring how Awareness, Intention, and Meaningful Action can strengthen your leadership



Leadership as Practice	Saturday, Feb 14 9 am - 12 pm Rescheduled: Saturday, Mar 28 9 am - 12 pm	• Use Applied Improvisation - the “Other AI” - to rehearse leadership in a highly interactive setting • Learn how agency, relatedness, and competence can motivate, animate, and sustain your leadership
Lead from the Inside Out: Working with Emotions to Empower Yourself and Others	Saturday Feb. 7 1 pm - 4 pm	• Learn how to manage your reactions to stressors and negative thoughts, in order to bring out your best leader self • Improve your confidence in taking interpersonal risks • Role-play empowering team members to do their most impactful work using cognitive behavioral coaching and positive psychology
Navigating Change	Tuesday, Dec 2 11:45 am - 1:15 pm	• Practice building trust through case studies and empathy mapping • Develop emotional intelligence and communication skills needed for navigating teams through change
Leadership Stories	Thursday, Dec. 4 5:30pm - 7 pm Thursday, April 2 5:30 pm - 7 pm	• Learn persuasive storytelling techniques that enable you to speak up, make your case, and establish credibility • Draft a personal leadership story and workshop it with your peers

Required Fellows Experiences to Complete Sequence

Fellows participate in all four of these experiences.

Program Title	Date & Time	Description
Empeiria Leadership Fellows Kickoff	Saturday, Nov 1 5:30 pm - 8 pm	- Explore the four domains of leadership - Map your path through the Fellows Program - Build community with other Leadership Fellows
Leadership Accelerator Workshop & Coaching	Saturday, Jan. 10 1 pm - 2:30 pm Winter & Spring Quarter Coaching	- Attend the workshop to prepare for getting the most out of your three 1:1 sessions or 4 group coaching sessions with your Leadership Accelerator coach - Complete three (3) coaching appointments in Winter & Spring Quarter OR - Complete three (3) group coaching sessions in Winter & Spring Quarter
Retreat: Leading Forward	Saturday, May 2-3	- Travel to Wisconsin for an insightful and fun retreat (Travel, lodging, & meals are provided.) - Weave together and distill all you've learned about yourself as a leader so that you are prepared to lead in your own voice and help others do the same
Canceled: Completion Celebration	Thursday, May 7 2025, 6-8pm	- Gather together with the Empeiria 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.

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.