

# This is Cornell

## Founding and Identity

Cornell is a world-class research institution known for the breadth and rigor of its curricula, and an academy dedicated to preparing young people to be well-educated and well-rounded citizens of the world. Its faculty and students believe in the critical importance of knowledge — both theoretical and applied — as a means of improving the human condition and solving the world's problems.

Among the Ithaca, New York, campus, the Weill Cornell Medicine campuses in New York City and Qatar, and the new Cornell Tech campus in New York City, the university enrolls more than 14,300 undergraduates and 8,900 graduate and professional school students from all 50 U.S. states and more than 120 countries. Cornell employs some 8,100 staff and 1,600 professorial faculty members in Ithaca and at Cornell Tech, and an additional 5,000 staff and 1,700 faculty members at Weill Cornell Medicine. The university is governed by a 64-member board of trustees, which includes representatives from the faculty, students, staff, alumni and New York state.

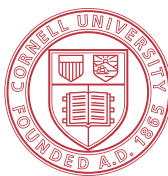
Founded in 1865, Cornell University is a private, Ivy League research university and the land-grant institution of New York state. Cornell's colleges and schools — including four "contract colleges" (operated by Cornell under contract with New York state) — encompass more than 100 fields of study, many of which provide opportunities for learning and engagement that span the state, nation and world. As a land-grant university, Cornell operates a cooperative extension outreach program in every county of New York and has operated the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva for 125 years, developing cutting-edge research and technologies essential to feeding the world and strengthening New York economies.

Cornell counts more than 245,000 living alumni. Its former and present faculty and alumni include 512 Fulbright scholars, 68 Goldwater scholars, 46 Nobel laureates, 36 Udall scholars, 34 Marshall scholars, 33 Rhodes scholars, 25 Truman scholars, 21 Churchill scholars, nine Gates scholars, and six Schwarzman scholars.

## Cornell's Mission

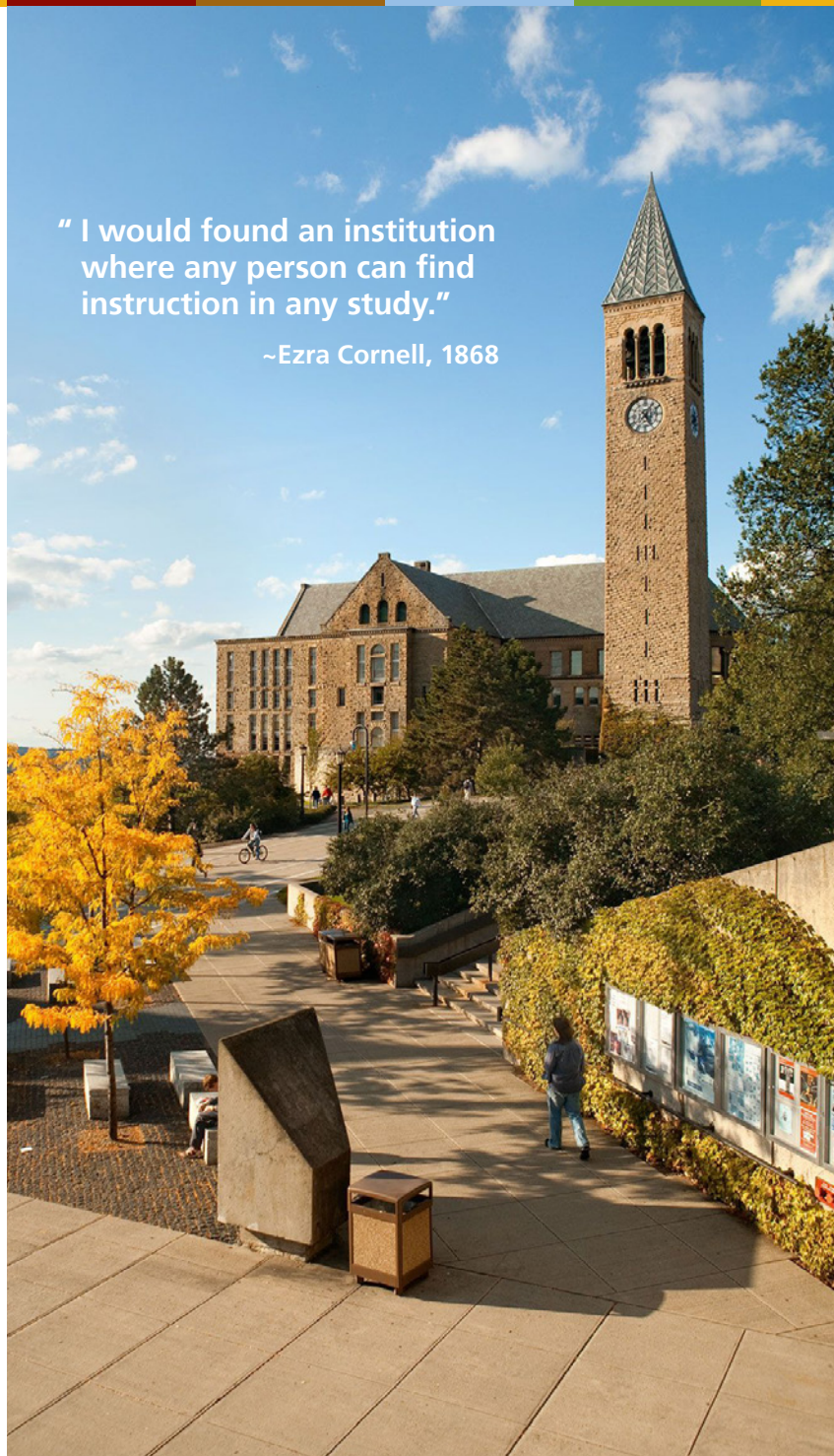
Cornell's mission is to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge; produce creative work; and promote a culture of broad inquiry throughout and beyond the Cornell community. Cornell also aims, through public service, to enhance the lives and livelihoods of our students, the people of New York, and others around the world.

Our faculty, students, alumni, and staff strive toward these objectives in a context of freedom with responsibility. We foster initiative, integrity, and excellence, in an environment of collegiality, civility, and responsible stewardship. As the land-grant university for the state of New York, we apply the results of our endeavors in service to our alumni, the community, the state, the nation, and the world.



**"I would found an institution  
where any person can find  
instruction in any study."**

*~Ezra Cornell, 1868*



## Cornell's Vision

Cornell aspires to be the exemplary comprehensive research university for the 21st century on the basis of our distinctive status as a private university with a formal public mission. Faculty, staff, and students will thrive at Cornell because of its unparalleled combination of quality and breadth; its high standards; its open, collaborative, and in-

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**Cornell University**

novative culture; the opportunities provided by beautiful, vibrant rural and urban campuses; and programs that extend throughout the state of New York and across the globe.

## The University Today

### Colleges and Schools

Cornell University comprises undergraduate, graduate and professional units in Ithaca, two medical graduate and professional units in New York City, and one in Doha, Qatar.

### Global Cornell

Cornell University has placed itself at the forefront of the call for global equity. Recognizing the unique potential of universities to lead this charge, Cornell President David J. Skorton is challenging the Cornell community and universities across the United States to spearhead efforts to reduce economic and societal inequalities in the world. Through teaching, research, and outreach activities, Cornell faculty and students are working with people in communities across the globe to help create real-world solutions for contemporary problems.

### Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is a key outreach system of Cornell University with a strong public mission and an extensive local presence that is responsive to needs in New York communities. The county-based Cornell Cooperative Extension associations and the New York City office provide 56 portals to Cornell University. Today, Cooperative Extension serves urban, suburban, town, and rural areas by offering programs in five broad areas: agriculture and food systems; children, youth, and families; community and economic vitality; environment and natural resources; and nutrition and health.

### Engaged Cornell

From its very beginnings, Cornell University has emphasized its land-grant mission. The university and its Cooperative Extension system reach and serve individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions in large urban settings, small towns, and rural areas—within New York State, across the nation, and throughout the world. In keeping with the tradition of service, embodied in its status as the state's land-grant university, Cornell offers more than 50 service-learning courses where students can learn and make a difference at the same time.

Cornell University is recognized as an institution of community engagement, a classification designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, for those institutions of higher education that collaborate with communities to bring value to society. Cornell's faculty, students, and staff are involved in scores of programs that do everything from helping children avoid burns to educating men in prisons and supporting the sustainability of small farms. The university fulfills its mission of public engagement through applied research and outreach to develop practical solutions in areas that include agriculture and food systems, healthy individuals and communities, environmental protection, and economic development and security.

## Cornell Firsts

Cornell is:

- one of the first co-educational institutions in the East (1872)
- one of the first to admit students of color (mid-1880s)
- the founding institution for Alpha Phi Alpha, the first African-American undergraduate fraternity (1906)
- the founding institution for Rho Psi, the first Asian fraternity in the Ivy League (1916)
- the first university to have an interfaith department for religious affairs (1929)
- the first university to award a PhD in nutrition to an African-American woman, Flemmie Kittrell (1936)
- the first U.S. university to offer a major in American studies (1947)
- the first U.S. university to offer a four-year undergraduate program in the field of industrial and labor relations (1945).

To find out more about Cornell visit:  
[cornell.edu/about](http://cornell.edu/about)

