

2019 INTERNATIONAL ACAC EXECUTIVE BOARD APPLICATION

Name: Ruby Bhattacharya
Title: Associate Director of Admissions
Member Type:
Institution: Barnard College
Location: United States



Position for which you are applying:
Vice President for Admissions Practices

PUBLIC BALLOT INFORMATION

Provide information regarding your professional roles:

I began my international admissions career at my alma mater, Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, where I served as an Admissions Counselor and Assistant Dean of Admissions from 2011-2016 and was very involved in international recruitment from the start of my career. While in graduate school, I was the College Counseling intern at Concord Academy, an independent boarding school in the Boston area. I also was an application reader for Williams College and an InitialView Interviewer. After earning my master's degree in Higher Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2017, I started my current role as Associate Director of Admissions at Barnard College in New York City, where I presently serve as Coordinator of International Recruitment and the First-Year Application Review Process. Throughout my eight years in college admissions, I have had the privilege of traveling to twenty-five countries throughout the world to meet with students, alumni, college counselors, Education USA advisers, and other community-based organizations.

Provide information regarding your International ACAC, NACAC, and/or other international education organizational experience.

I have been an active member of International ACAC since 2012 and have served on the International ACAC Membership Committee since 2014. During my time on the Membership Committee, I have been a part of the vetting committee, a sub-committee that evaluates prospective International ACAC membership applications for approval, particularly from for-profit applicants, independent consultants, and recruitment agents. I have worked closely with the Vice Presidents for Membership over the years to evaluate and rewrite our policies regarding double-dipping and individual membership criteria. Vetting applications and communicating directly with applicants to International ACAC about their practices, how they work with students/universities, and their interest in gaining membership has furthered my knowledge about the broader landscape of the international educational field beyond the college admissions and counseling perspective. From 2015-2016, I was nominated by the International ACAC Executive Board to join the International ACAC Task Force on the Membership of Agents, led by past Vice President for Admissions Practices, Andrew Moe. This Task Force clarified the organization's position regarding educational agents by submitting a proposal to the Executive Board and incorporated the NACAC International Initiatives Committee's work into International ACAC's policies and practices. Outside of International ACAC committee work, I have attended four International ACAC summer conferences and one regional institute. I have presented three times over the years with colleagues on all sides of the desk on topics ranging from highly-selective admissions and holistic review, recruiting in India, and advocating for women's colleges in the current political climate. I was also a guest presenter at the 2015 College Board Summer Institute for International Admissions at Georgetown University, helping to train new college counselors on the benefits and value of a liberal arts education. Throughout my career, I have also worked closely with Education USA advisers by attend the Education USA Forum, visiting centers worldwide, conducting webinars to meet with students, and most recently, training EducationUSA advisers from South America through admissions case studies.

Please provide a maximum 250-word statement of your experiences, why you wish to run for the International ACAC Board, and other relevant information you would like members to know about you.

I am excited to be considered for Vice President for Admissions Practices. As an admissions representative for a women's liberal arts college and personally, as a woman of color and daughter of an international student, I look forward to sharing my voice by working collaboratively within our community to remove barriers to access, to raise awareness of ethical standards, and to ensure accountability among the membership. I have worked in international admissions for eight years, primarily at Swarthmore and Barnard, and earned a Ed.M. in Higher Education from Harvard. For the past five years, I have served on the International ACAC Membership Committee, for which I evaluate applications from for-profit entities, educational consultants, and agents. I have also worked on the Task Force on the Membership of Agents, which clarified International ACAC's agent policies. These experiences have led me to pursue this specific position on the Board. As VP for Admissions Practices, raising awareness and understanding of NACAC's new Code of Ethics and Professional Practices (CEPP) among our members would be my priority. I also want us to proactively review testing practices and their intersection with access, the rise of early admission programs, and other emerging trends and issues in our profession. By communicating with applicants seeking International ACAC membership, I have gained valuable knowledge and understanding of the CEPP. As a Board member, I am eager to take on more leadership to advance diversity and inclusion dialogue within our community at the membership, committee, and Executive Board levels.