



Meet Matthew Davis, who believes in mixing business with pleasure

Matthew Davis

MA in Global Finance, Trade and Economic Integration, Josef Korbel School of International Studies
International Masters of Business Administration, Daniels College of Business
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Tell me about yourself:

I grew up in Minnesota. I've done a lot of traveling in the past. I was in Mongolia for two years teaching English. I knew I wanted to go abroad and travel before I settled down. Mongolia sounded the most exotic and adventurous – and it was, it really was. But I knew I didn't want to teach English for the rest of my life so I came back for grad school.

What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?

I was already living in Denver. I always liked Colorado – I'm an outdoor enthusiast – so I wanted to stay around here. I also looked at Texas A&M. They have a good school, but Colorado drew me. I really liked the flexibility. A lot of other programs seemed more specific. At the time, I knew I wanted to do something in international affairs but I didn't want to narrow it down so much from the start. After my first quarter at the Josef Korbel School I narrowed it down to [GFTEI](#) (Global Finance, Trade and Economic Integration). Also the reputation of Korbel. But not the price.

What made you decide to add the IMBA component to your graduate studies?

I did an internship with a venture capital firm in Asia and some of my colleagues suggested getting the [IMBA](#). I'm still excited about GFTEI, but I felt courses in business would expand my horizons and would give me a better possibility to attain my future goals. I felt Korbel was more theory based and not as technical or practical and that a mix with the IMBA would balance it out. I thought it would open more doors and give me more opportunities. It makes you more well-rounded. It's not a bad deal, it's only one extra year of school for an IMBA that generally takes 2 years. And it's been an easy transition.

Do you participate in any extracurricular activities?

I play [intramural](#) kickball at DU. There's also a large Mongolian community in Denver where I am involved in event planning in addition to teaching an ESL course on the weekends.

Where do you see yourself after obtaining your degrees?

I have an open offer to go back to Mongolia and work with the same company. It's a good offer but I feel it may be time to try something different. Most of my travel has been in Asia so I feel most comfortable there. I'll be going to Tanzania as part of an IMBA course this quarter and am very excited to see a new part of the world. We'll be doing some projects with a local non-profit. First we're writing some business proposals and then we'll go over and meet with them. We'll also be meeting with other local businesses there. Another interest of mine lies in working for an international consulting firm.

Have you had any pleasant surprises at the Josef Korbel School?

I have been impressed with the quality of professors – with their level of professional commitment to the students and their expertise.

**-M. Schwinn, MA candidate in International Security
Josef Korbel School of International Studies**