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KPMG LLP has worked with The Ohio State University Max M. Fisher College of Business and Villanova School of Business to develop a bold new approach to learning with master's degree programs emphasizing data and analytics (D&A) in accounting.

“The **KPMG program** encompasses the newest innovation to our firm's award-winning recruiting and learning culture by facilitating data and analytics innovations in the Master of Accounting programs of two of our nation's leading business schools,” said Scott Marcello, KPMG's Vice Chair, Audit. “This program

integrates perfectly into KPMG's D&A and cognitive capabilities, and starts real

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This KPMG program will pay the full tuition, room and board for 50 students who will enter the universities' graduate programs in the fall of 2017 and will work between semesters as KPMG audit interns, applying what they learn in the coursework, extensively using KPMG's data and analytics tools on audit teams and preparing for the program's second semester. The KPMG program will also involve working with The Ohio State and Villanova to integrate the latest audit technology into the classroom. Upon graduation from Fisher College of Business or the Villanova School of Business in the summer of 2018, the students will join KPMG's audit practice through an advanced entry program.

Created to develop auditors in the data age, the program innovations are part of broader data analytics initiatives at Fisher College of Business and the Villanova School of Business. For the students, the KPMG Master of Accounting with Data and Analytics Program combines practical use of the latest analytics technology and data sets, as well as real-world experience using the firm's proprietary tools in the classroom and as members of KPMG audit teams.

Villanova School of Business Vice Dean Daniel Wright, Ph.D., called this master's degree "a rarity in academic-business cooperation that goes well beyond tuition reimbursement. We know of no other program where a company directly funds students' master's degrees in accounting analytics and provides a full-time position upon graduation."

"Strong partnerships between leading companies and top academic institutions are essential to building an agile workforce equipped to meet today's business challenges," said Anil Makhija, Dean and John W. Berry, Sr. Chair in Business at Fisher College of Business. "Fisher is proud to join with KPMG and the Villanova School of Business in recognizing the importance of data analytics in accounting and

in providing the next generation of industry leaders with a truly unique academic

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materials and presentations for faculty to use in their classrooms, and offers internship opportunities for students.

Among its extensive academic programs, the [KPMG University Connection](#) site offers curriculum and case-study materials on technical topics, professional judgment and ethics. KPMG also sponsors webinars and a faculty symposium, and provides partners and professionals for presentations to students and faculty throughout the country. The KPMG Foundation-sponsored [PhD Project](#) encourages diversity within business school faculty through programming for doctoral students in underrepresented minorities.

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