

MORE ARRIVAL INFORMATION

We are very pleased that you have decided to attend Bryn Mawr College. Arriving in a new country or attending a new school can be very exciting. The experience can also be somewhat overwhelming. We hope that this information sheet will address some of your concerns and reduce the stress and confusion that all new students experience. Have a good trip and we look forward to meeting you!

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

- Carefully read the booklet *Important Information for New International Students*. It was in your acceptance packet.
- Carry a photocopy of the identification page of your passport and keep it separate from your passport; also leave a copy at home.
- Apply for a student visa at the nearest American embassy or consulate.
- Make flight arrangements to Philadelphia. You should arrive at Bryn Mawr on Sunday, **August 21**. If you plan to arrive earlier, you should make a reservation at one of the hotels suggested in *Important Information for New International Students*. Radnor Hotel is closest to Bryn Mawr College. Accommodations are not available at BMC until August 21.
- Apply for housing. If you plan to live on campus, you will receive your assignment at the beginning of August.
- Return a completed Physical Examination Form to the Health Center. If not, please bring it with you. You should have routine dental and eye exams prior to departure.
- Complete International Student Health Insurance Plan Enrollment/Waiver Form at www.brynmawr.edu/oip in August.
- Have sufficient funds to cover the initial expenses of your arrival, such as taxi fares and snacks, and items for your dorm room (towels and linens, pillows, lamp, etc.)
- If necessary, make arrangements for transferring money to the U.S. Do you know what documents are required? What are the restrictions on the transfer of funds? How much lead time is necessary?
- Purchase traveler's insurance to cover medical emergencies while you are on your way to Bryn Mawr. Family members accompanying you should also have insurance.
- Provide your family with a detailed copy of your itinerary. Develop a contingency plan to stay in touch. Inform your family immediately if there are changes in your travel plans.
- Hand carry (do not check into the plane) your passport, I-20/DS-2019, SEVIS fee receipt, evidence of financial resources, and the name and contact information of Office of International Programs.

OBTAINING A VISA

Take the enclosed I-20 (for the F-1 visa) or DS-2019 (for the J-1 visa) form, the SEVIS fee receipt with your passport and original documentation of financial resources to the nearest American Embassy or Consulate to obtain an entry visa. Information on U.S. embassy and consular hours of operation and visa application procedures may be obtained on the web at <http://travel.state.gov/>

If the consular officer gives you a sealed envelope, it is important that you do not open this envelope. Remember to hand carry it with your passport.

ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

At the port of entry, inform the Customs and Border Protection Inspector that you will be a student in the United States. The Inspector will examine your information and stamp and return the paperwork with your I-94 card (Arrival/Departure Record on small white card). Please keep your I-94, which is an extremely important document, with your I-20/DS2019, SEVIS fee receipt, and passport.

The U.S. government advises that you keep all your immigration documents. You should not discard I-20/DS2019 or any other forms.

REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

Undergraduate students will register for classes after consulting with their deans. Graduate students should consult with an academic advisor in your school before you choose your courses and register. After registration, there is a short period during which you can alter your class schedule (if necessary) to better suit your needs.

The U.S. immigration regulations require that F-1 and J-1 students maintain full-time status at all times. This means you must be enrolled for a minimum of three courses per semester at the undergraduate level. Full-time enrollment at the graduate level is determined by the individual school. Check with your program for the specific requirements.

HEALTH CARE AT BRYN MAWR

Because the cost of health care in the U.S. can be very high and international students are not eligible for financial assistance from the U.S. government or the College to pay for medical bills, Bryn Mawr requires enrollment in the International Student Health Insurance Plan (ISHIP). The annual cost of the ISHIP is approximately \$1,300 per year (August 15 to August 15). You must enroll in this insurance plan unless you hold health insurance that offers comparable or better coverage. Only then can you apply to have this health insurance requirement waived. If you are applying for a waiver, you must complete the online waiver by Friday, **September 2**, 2011. No insurance waiver will be accepted after this date.

In addition to the ISHIP, all undergraduate students living in housing provided by the College are automatically enrolled in the College's health plan. This plan supplements the ISHIP and allows you to receive medical treatment at the Health Center on campus for no charge. Graduate students living off campus are strongly recommended to sign up for this plan so they, too, can utilize the Health Center at no additional charge.

Please be aware that dental and eye care are not covered by either the ISHIP or the College's health plan. We recommend that you have routine dental and eye exams done prior to arrival at Bryn Mawr.

Bryn Mawr College Health Center provides a full array of primary care and counseling services. The Center is staffed 24 hours a day when school is in session. Make sure that you return the completed physical exam form, which was sent to you by the Admissions Office (for undergraduate students) or your school (for graduate students).

TRANSPORTATION TO BRYN MAWR

Philadelphia International Airport is the nearest airport to Bryn Mawr. When making your reservation, try to fly directly or find a connecting flight to Philadelphia. If you are going to change planes within the United States, you should allow at least a two-hour layover for immigration and customs processing. You can get more information about the Philadelphia Airport by checking its homepage at <http://www.phl.org/>

ISO Airport guides will be available to assist you to campus if you arrive on Sunday, 8/21. Further information will be sent to you via email regarding the process to register for this service.

After you pick up your luggage at the luggage claim area in the terminal, go to the Ground Transportation desk. The Ground Transportation Information representative can assist you by providing a list of transportation providers that are authorized to travel to your destination. Please understand that our Ground Transportation representatives cannot recommend specific services; however, they are there to provide you with transportation options. Our representatives will provide instructions on how to contact the provider of your choice. They will also alert you once your provider arrives to pick you up.

ITEMS TO BRING WITH YOUR CARRY-ON BAG

- Airline tickets
- Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Evidence of your financial resources for your study
- Bryn Mawr College emergency contact card
- If you take prescription medication, make sure it is in its original container, accompanied by the doctor's original prescription.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

As an international student, you are eligible to work on campus up to 17.5 hours per week during the school year. Please be aware that you will also need to apply for a U.S. Social Security card after you arrive. We will assist you with your applications during the International Student Orientation.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

If you have an emergency while traveling in the U.S., you may call the Office of International Programs at 610-526-7530 between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. Eastern Time Zone. For emergencies after OIP business hours, please call the Bryn Mawr Public Safety Office at 610-526-7911. They will assist you if they are able to do so, or refer your call. The emergency number for a police department almost anywhere in the U.S. is 911.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2011-2012

Semester I

Classes Begin	Monday, August 29
Fall Break Begins (after last class)	Friday, October 7
Fall Break Ends (at 8 am)	Monday, October 17
Thanksgiving Vacation Begins (after last class)	Wednesday, November 23
Thanksgiving Vacation Ends (at 8 am)	Monday, November 28
Last Day of Classes	Thursday, December 8
Review Period	Friday, December 9– Saturday, December 10
Examination Period	Sunday, December 11 – Friday, December 16 (12 noon)

Semester II

Classes Begin	Tuesday, January 17
Spring Break Begins (after last class)	Friday, March 2
Spring Break Ends (at 8 am)	Monday, March 12
Last Day of Classes	Friday, April 27
Review Period	Saturday, April 28 – Tuesday, May 1
Examination Period	Wednesday, May 2 – Friday, May 11 (12 noon)

STAYING IN TOUCH...

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