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

Take the enclosed I-20 (for the F-1 visa) or DS-2019 (for the J-1 visa) form, the SEVIS fee receipt (I-901) 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/

☐ Carefully read the important information at: http://www.brynmawr.edu/pensby/international/students/new_students/index.html

☐ Apply for a student visa at the nearest American embassy or consulate.

☐ Make flight arrangements to Philadelphia. You should arrive at Bryn Mawr on Monday, August 28. If you plan to arrive earlier, make a reservation at one of the hotels suggested on our website. Radnor Hotel is closest to Bryn Mawr College. Remember: Campus accommodations are not available at BMC until August 28. (undergraduates only)

☐ Complete and submit the ISO Registration form

☐ 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 housing. If you plan to live on campus, you will receive your assignment in early August. (undergraduates only)

☐ Return a completed Physical Examination Form in the envelope provided. 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 in August or during ISO.

☐ 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.)

☐ 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.

☐ 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?

☐ 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

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 will stamp your travel document. The admission stamp will show the date of admission, class of admission, and the date that you are admitted. You may also receive on arrival a flier alerting you to go to CBP.gov/I94 to obtain your admission record information. https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/consent.html

The U.S. government advises that you keep all your immigration documents. Never discard any I-20/DS2019 or any other official forms.

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

As an international student, you may be 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.
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 $1,600 per year (August 15 to August 15). You must enroll in this insurance plan. 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. 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 open Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm and Saturday-Sunday 9 am-2 pm. 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, it is strongly recommended that you fly directly to 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 Monday, 8/22. You may request guidance from the airport on the ISO registration form. Follow-up directions will be sent to you via email in mid-August providing instructions on meeting guides at the airport.

You may choose to travel to campus from the airport without assistance from student guides. 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. The 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
- If you take prescription medication, make sure it is in its original container, accompanied by the doctor’s original prescription.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

If you have an emergency while traveling in the U.S., you may call the International Student/Scholar Services and Advising at 610-526-7390 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time Zone. For emergencies after business hours, call Bryn Mawr Campus Safety at 610-526-7911. The emergency number for a police department almost anywhere in the U.S. is 911.

Visit the Pensby website regularly throughout the summer for updated information.

http://www.brynmawr.edu/pensby/international/student/new_students/ISO2016.html