May 2017

Dear International Parents and Guardians,

A warm welcome from the staff at the Pensby Center! We congratulate you on your daughter’s admission to the college! By choosing Bryn Mawr, your daughter is about to embark on a marvelous journey of self-discovery and intellectual challenges. She will have many opportunities to explore new fields of interest, to work closely with a dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators, and to interact with intelligent and creative peers from around the world. As you prepare to join our community, we would like to take this opportunity to let you know about the arrangements that have been made to meet and welcome your daughter. The information below highlights some of the important things you need to be aware of as you send your daughter to Bryn Mawr. We look forward to greeting your daughter as she arrives and to helping her make a successful and pleasurable transition to college life.

Bryn Mawr College Welcomes Your Daughter through ISO

On behalf of the entire Bryn Mawr Community, our office is delighted to welcome your daughter to Bryn Mawr through the International Student Orientation (ISO) program. This program is designed to ease your daughter’s transition to life in the United States and to familiarize her with academic life and culture at Bryn Mawr College. ISO is a program for all incoming international students including first-year, graduate, transfer, and exchange students. ISO is intended to help students learn about and understand important immigration regulations and procedures required of F-1 and J-1 visa status students and confirm their arrival for required government reporting purposes.

In addition, you daughter will have an opportunity to form friendships, have fun and settle in before the arrival of the rest of our students. ISO is mandatory for all new international students and your daughter is required to attend. The program begins Monday, August 28, 2017. Move-in begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues through the afternoon.

US Customs & Immigration

Please remind your daughter to carry, on her person, the original of all her immigration documents for travel to the United States. Your daughter should not leave the original documents with family nor pack them into the luggage that she will check-in on the plane. At the Port of Entry, your daughter must present: 1) her passport, 2) her original I-20 or DS 2019 document with I-901 receipt attached and 3) original financial documentation as evidence of adequate financial resources for one year of her studies at Bryn Mawr. Once your daughter is present in the U.S., she is required to maintain her original documents in her possession.

What your Daughter Should Bring

Please encourage your daughter to pack lightly! She should refrain from packing heavy items in order to avoid paying excess luggage fees. Moreover, she may have to carry the entire heavy luggage by herself when she arrives at the U.S. airport. Rather, we strongly suggest that your daughter bring some cash to purchase essential items upon her arrival on campus. During ISO, she will have an opportunity to go shopping to buy whatever she could not bring with her.
Accompanying Your Daughter to Bryn Mawr College

Every year, a number of international students travel to Bryn Mawr College with parents or family members, perhaps touring the area before International Student Arrival Day. If you choose to come to the United States early, please be advised that there are no accommodations for international students at Bryn Mawr before Monday, August 28, 2017. Students that access their dorm room prior to ISO Move-In Day, on August 22 are subject to being fined. In addition, Bryn Mawr College is not equipped to lodge family members during International Student Orientation. We recommend that family members organize their travel and lodging through a reputable travel agent. Please visit the Bryn Mawr Admissions website at https://www.brynmawr.edu/admissions/visit-campus for information about visiting the Philadelphia area. Once international families arrive on campus, understandably, they are often quite concerned with getting students moved into their rooms and with helping to make essential arrangements for living in the United States. Please do not encourage your daughter to claim a portion of the room without discussing it with her roommate(s). It is important that we help all members of the Class of 2021 get off to a good start – including those whose parents cannot be here. If you do not plan to travel to the United States, we will encourage your daughter to contact home as soon as she arrives. Please do not worry if you do not hear from your daughter immediately. Flight delays are possible and the drive to campus often takes longer than expected.

International Parent program on Monday, August 28

Parents and family of international students are welcome to attend an information session on Monday, August 28 in the afternoon. Those attending the session will have an opportunity to meet with, staff, administrators, and faculty to learn about the curriculum and support services that are available to students.

What To Expect At ISO

On arrival day, August 28, 2017, the ISO assistants will be available to guide your daughter from Philadelphia International Airport to campus and to answer questions your daughter might have. During ISO, international students will be given assistance opening up bank accounts and attending shopping trips to purchase items that they were unable to bring. The ISO Assistants will also help students to move into dorms. They will lead fun events and activities that will help your daughter feel connected to and supported by the BMC community.

We look forward to meeting your daughter in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact us. Updated information about ISO will be posted throughout the summer on the Pensby website: http://www.brynmawr.edu/pensby/international/students/new_students/index.html

Sincerely,

Patricia Lausch, Director
International Student and Scholar Services and Advising
Principal Designated School Official