



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### When is the Access Barnard Pre-Orientation Program held?

Access Barnard's Summer Pre-Orientation ("Pre-O") is a residential program made up of multiple components designed to better support specific population areas as they begin their transition to college life at Barnard.

- CSTEP and HEOP Scholars under Opportunity Programs are required to attend all three weeks of Pre-O, beginning on Monday, August 7, 2023.
- New incoming first-year International students (F-1 visa holders) are also required to participate in one week of Pre-O, otherwise known as *Navigating Barnard Week*, which begins on Monday, August 21, 2023.
- First-generation and/or low-income (FLI) students are invited on a voluntary opt-in basis to participate in *Navigating Barnard Week*, and participating students will arrive on Monday, August 21, 2023.
- ***Please note:*** participation is capped at 250 for the entire program, and it is a first-come, first-confirmed for FLI student sign-up. All students accepted into the program are required to fully participate and engage for the entire duration of the program. Attendance will be taken at each session.
- Pre-O concludes on Saturday, August 27, 2023, and the New Student Orientation Program (NSOP) for the entire College begins on Sunday, August 28, 2023.
- **ALL students participating in Access Barnard's Summer 2023 Pre-Orientation Program must complete the following, which are available in the Enrolling Student Portal**
  - Summer 2023 Pre-Orientation Sign-Up Form
  - Tell Us About Yourself Survey
  - Pre-Orientation Participant Agreement - sign and [upload](#)
  - Media Release Form - sign and [upload](#)

### Is Pre-Orientation mandatory?

All CSTEP, HEOP, and new incoming first-year International F-1 students are required to attend, fully participate, and be present for the full duration of their designated Pre-O program components. First-generation and low-income (FLI) students are invited to participate on a voluntary, opt-in basis. FLI spots will be filled on a first-sign up, first-confirmed basis. Our total program capacity is 250 participants, and students will receive an official confirmation from Access Barnard in June regarding their participation in the 2023 Pre-O Program.

### **What is the purpose of Pre-O?**

The purpose of Access Barnard's Pre-Orientation Program is to provide participating students the opportunity to get an academic and social edge, while quickly becoming familiar with campus resources and the Barnard community. The program also encourages students to form lasting bonds of friendship and a strong peer support network through social and cultural activities. Students who have participated in the program report that it has made a difference in their life at Barnard.

### **Objectives:**

- Welcome new students to Barnard College and the Access Barnard community
- Establish connections within the incoming class and with upper-year peers
- Make incoming students aware of the resources available to them, including but not limited to, (1) academic resources, (2) opportunities for student involvement, and (3) opportunities to establish a relationship with faculty, staff, and alumnae
- Empower incoming Access Barnard students to make responsible and informed decisions as a Barnard community member
- Foster pride, belonging, and enthusiasm in the Access Barnard community

### **What is FLI?**

**FLI** is an acronym commonly used in higher education to identify people who are first generation college students and/or come from lower-income backgrounds. As we define it, First Generation/Low-Income students are students who are the first in their families to attend college, where none or neither of your parents/legal guardians obtained a bachelor's degree. As we recognize that not all students come from two-parent households, we also utilize the more inclusive language where one or more of your parents/legal guardians did not complete their bachelor's degree at the time of your Barnard enrollment; one or more of your parents/legal guardians did not complete their bachelor's degree in the United States (This means you are *not* considered first-gen if one of your parents has a bachelor's degree). For those who come from lower-income households, income and the opportunities to which it provides access varies significantly by geography, cost of living, and family size. Therefore, there is no set definition of low-income – you are welcome to identify as you feel most comfortable. To give a more concrete example, Pell Grant eligible students and students on highest need financial aid often identify as "low-income."

### **What is International?**

Exclusively for the purposes of Pre-Orientation participation, **International** refers only to any new incoming F-1 visa student studying at Barnard.

### **What is OP?**

**OP** refers to Opportunity Programs, which at Barnard includes two New York State funded programs: HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program) and CSTEP (Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program).

**Is there a fee for Access Barnard's Pre-Orientation Program?**

No, there is no fee associated with Access Barnard's Pre-Orientation Program.

**Is there a fee to attend NSOP (New Student Orientation Program)?**

Yes, there is a fee that you are responsible for to attend NSOP. Please refer to the [Bursar website](#) for more information, labeled "Orientation fee (all first-year and transfer students)".

**Is there a recommended hotel where my family can stay during move-in?**

There are several hotel options around the Morningside Heights neighborhood. Please refer to the following accommodations resource list [here](#). *Access Barnard provides these merely as a helpful guide, and does not endorse any of these establishments.*

**What is the difference between Access Barnard's Pre-Orientation and NSOP?**

The biggest difference is that Pre-O is specifically designed for incoming first-year students that identify as OP, FLI, or International F-1. While both programs are meant to help you learn about campus resources and build community at Barnard, Access Barnard's Pre-Orientation is specifically formatted to address issues that are common among our dedicated populations (e.g., Navigating NYC as an International F-1 student, Addressing Imposter Syndrome as a FLI student, etc.).

**Is NSOP mandatory?**

YES. NSOP is required for all new incoming first-year and transfer students. If you have more questions about the details of NSOP, please check out their [webpage](#).

**When does NSOP begin?**

NSOP begins on Sunday, August 27, 2023

**When do fall classes begin?**

Fall classes begin on Tuesday, September 5, 2023

**How do I learn more about living in Barnard campus housing?**

Please visit <https://barnard.edu/reslife/new-students> for frequently asked questions and answers about living on campus, including when and how to apply for Barnard campus housing.

**Do I have to live in Barnard campus housing?**

Students are not required to live in campus housing, but we do strongly recommend that student apply to live on campus for at least their first year at the College, in order to help acclimate themselves to Barnard and living in NYC. To learn more:

<https://barnard.edu/reslife/new-students/why-live-on-campus>

**How do I sign up for Barnard housing?**

You can sign up for on-campus housing in the ResLife & Housing section of your Barnard Enrolling Student Portal.

### **I am a commuter student. Do I live on campus during Pre-Orientation?**

Commuter OP (CSTEP, HEOP) students must live on-campus during Pre-O and will be provided a temporary room assignment in Barnard housing. Commuter OP students will need to **move out** of their temporary assignments **by 4pm on Thursday, August 24.**

#### **As a non-residential first-year, you must complete the “Special Groups” Housing Application through ResLife & Housing for Pre-Orientation.**

- ❖ If you are a non-OP commuter student (aka you are an Internat’l F-1 or FLI student), then you are expected to commute to campus just as you would throughout the academic year, inclusive of Access Barnard’s Navigating Barnard Week and NSOP.
- ❖ **Please note:** *In order to qualify for guaranteed housing at Barnard, you must apply for academic year housing as a first-year.*
- ❖ **Also note:** *unless you have a registered CARDS accommodation, you will most likely **not** be in an air conditioned room. NYC is hot in August & September. **Pro-tip:** Absolutely plan & budget for a fan in your room and welcome to the joys of historic buildings + NYC summers! It’s a rite of passage.*

### **Will I move into my fall housing assignment during Pre-Orientation?**

While we absolutely strive for this as much as possible, OP students may be unable to move into their fall housing assignment, and will instead be placed into a temporary room during the first two weeks of Pre-O. Housing does their best to place you in your room for the year, however this is not always possible due to turn over from summer housing and group rentals.

- Barnard’s residence halls for first-years are in the residential Quad. These buildings are all historic, aka you are almost guaranteed to **not** be in an air conditioned room. New York City is hot in August and September (even October lately!). Bring a fan for your room, or budget to purchase one here! While an unfortunate sweaty rite of passage in NYC, you will absolutely want and need a fan.
- We will notify OP students prior to arrival if they will be placed into a temporary room assignment during the first two weeks of Pre-O. Students in this position should plan a separate bag of clothing and essentials for those two weeks, so they do not have to unpack all of their belongings.

### **When will I find out my room and roommate assignment?**

OP students will be emailed by Aug 4, 2023.

International F-1 and participating FLI students will be emailed Aug 8, 2023.

### **What resources can I use if I want to look at renting an apartment of my own, off-campus?**

Please check out <https://barnard.edu/reslife/housing-options/off-campus> for more links and resources on off-campus housing.

### **What should I wear for move-in day?**

A helpful starting point is Residential Life & Housing's [what to bring list](#). For move-in day itself, we suggest wearing something comfortable with closed toe shoes so that there is less potential for foot injuries (e.g., sneakers). You will be responsible for moving your items into your room and it will most likely be hot out and sweat-inducing. There will be carts available to help you move your items if you have more than suitcases. Note: Pending when you arrive, you may be able to shower/change prior to the start of formal programming after move-in.

**Remember:** NSOP general move-in on Sunday, August 27 is also still for you! You have the added benefit of *not* having to lug your belongings in the sweltering heat and humidity because you did this either three weeks or a week ago! However, the energy and excitement on campus during NSOP Move-In is FOR YOU. Regardless of your head start due to Pre-O, you are still an incoming new student, so go enjoy the festivities!

### **What should I expect for move-in day? What happens if it rains?**

Make sure to arrive with ample time to check-in and move all of your belongings into your room. Moving carts will be available to assist you with transporting your things up to your room. Move-In happens rain or shine, so be sure to check the weather ahead of time and adjust accordingly! Pre-O programming begins promptly at 2:00pm on OP Move-In Day (Aug 7), while Navigating Barnard Week's formal Pre-O programming begins at 4:00pm on Aug 21.

### **What should I wear during Pre-O?**

Pre-O attire is casual attire for the most part, however we do have one evening event with alumnae in which a dressier option would be appropriate (think: [summer cocktail attire](#) — a dress, a skirt or dressy pants with a blouse, or a jumpsuit; or might opt for national dress if preferred). This is not a formal nor semi-formal event, but a fun, dressy evening reception where you will mingle with Barnard alumnae and staff.

### **What should I pack?**

You should pack (*or plan to purchase upon arrival — which really depends on whether or not you are arriving by car or flying here, on domestic or international flights*):

- Basic necessities
  - Personal effects & important documents such as passport, social security card, etc. (if you are flying, **always hand carry these!**)
  - Medications
  - Chargers and electronics (laptop, tablet, phone, headphones, etc.)
    - It is also worth it to invest in a surge protector power strip to increase your outlet accessibility options (extension cords are prohibited)
  - Toiletries that you may not be able to purchase right away and will need your first few days/nights
- Clothing (not too much though!) — even with climate change/crisis, NYC does still get cold at some point during the winter and you will need a winter coat, and will appreciate a hat, gloves, scarf, and sturdier shoes. While we had basically no snow during the 2022-23 academic year, it does snow here; and it does rain. NYC has all 4 seasons, so it's

best to pack wisely for layering across the seasons in your everyday wear, and also have a few dressy options, business casual or professional attire for interviews/presentations, workout clothes, sleepwear, etc.

- Linens for a twin bed (Twin XL sheets, pillows, pillowcase, comforter and/or a blanket)
- Towels/wash clothes, a bathrobe
- Shower slippers/flip-flops
- Shower caddy
- An umbrella
- Something that will make your dorm room feel like home (think framed photos, posters, room decor, a stuffed animal)
- A small desk lamp
- A fan (oscillating/rotating or stationary - power will be key here during Aug & Sept)
- A backpack or bookbag
- Cleaning supplies (although pro-tip, vinegar + water and a microfiber cloth is a wonder!), inclusive of a duster (think Swiffer) or handheld vacuum cleaner

**Can I order items online and ship them so that I will have immediate access to items without having to go out and purchase things in an unfamiliar setting? (i.e., bedding, toiletries, cleaning supplies, etc.)**

Please review this [FAQ Link](#) from ResLife regarding campus mail services. Keep in mind that Residential Life does not manage nor assign mailboxes. **The Student Mail Room will only accept mail & packages for students up to 3 days before their scheduled move-in date.** Mail and packages that arrive earlier will be returned to the sender. If you are sending packages before moving in, please ask the shipper to hold delivery until that time.

**Can I ship items from home?**

Please review the same [FAQ Link](#) regarding campus mail services. Again, the Student Mail Room will only accept mail & packages for students **up to 3 days before their scheduled move-in date.** Keep in mind that while the Mailroom is on campus (Lower Level of Altschul Hall), you are responsible for picking up any packages and transporting them back to your residence hall room (this is important if you are expecting large or heavy boxes).

**How do I know what my mailbox number is?**

The Registrar's Office assigns students their mailbox numbers, and will post this information in the Enrolling Student Portal closer to your Move-In Day.

**How do I get my mail/packages?**

Residential students are assigned a mailbox in the [Student Mail Room](#) in Altschul Hall. Students receive their mail and packages addressed to their campus mailbox. **Any mail addressed to your residence hall room will be returned to the sender.**

**Can I bring another friend or family member to assist for move-in day?**

Yes! You are welcome to bring family or friends to assist you for move-in day. However, please note that outside of move-in, guests and visitors are not permitted at any Access Barnard Pre-Orientation Program, event, or in the College residence halls during Pre-O, with the exception of family members who sign-up to attend Parent & Family Pre-O programming.

**Are FLI transfer students required to attend Pre-Orientation?**

No. Access Barnard's Pre-Orientation Program is specifically geared towards first-year students.

**What if I have a summer job, vacation or other obligations that conflict with Pre-Orientation? What should I do?**

If you are an OP student, then you must plan accordingly to be fully present on-campus for the full three weeks. Similarly, as a new incoming International F-1 student, we are giving you ample time now to plan for travel arrangements so that you will be fully present on-campus for the entirety of Navigating Barnard Week. If you are an opt-in FLI student, then please consider whether or not you can commit to this program before signing up.

Once confirmed as a participant in Access Barnard's Pre-Orientation Program, we expect you to fully commit to the program. As such, attendance and engagement is mandatory and full-time. You should make sure that you have no other conflicts during the program. Attendance will be taken at each session.

**When is the deadline to apply for Pre-Orientation?**

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023**

**Will Access Barnard pay for my travel? What about ground transportation from the airport to campus?**

**No.** You are responsible for all costs associated with your travel and transportation to campus. All associated costs for ground transport (subway/bus/taxi/ride share) are your responsibility. See this link for directions and expected costs: <https://barnard.edu/visit/directions>.

**What if I am arriving late? What should I expect?**

**DOMESTIC:** If you arrive late due to circumstances beyond your control (e.g., delayed flight, storm, etc.), you must inform Access Barnard immediately ([accessbarnard@barnard.edu](mailto:accessbarnard@barnard.edu)). Plan for traffic and potential delays in your travel so that you can ensure that you will reach campus with ample time for move-in prior to the start of Pre-O programming.

**INTERNATIONAL:** If you expect to arrive late due to circumstances beyond your control (late visa appointment, delays in receiving your passport/visa back), you must inform International Student Services ([iss@barnard.edu](mailto:iss@barnard.edu)) as soon as you anticipate a delayed arrival. All students are expected to arrive in time to participate in the mandatory Pre-Orientation program.

### What if I am arriving early? What should I expect?

You absolutely cannot move-in prior to the start of move-in.

- OP Move-In begins at 9:00AM on Monday, Aug 7
- International F-1 and participating FLI Move-In begins at 10:00AM on Monday, Aug 21

If you arrive in NYC prior to move-in, you are responsible for arranging, securing, and paying for your own accommodations. Should you arrive early to campus on Move-In Day itself, you must wait until move-in officially opens. Please do not try to check-in before our welcome tents are staffed and open for receiving new students. There is a Starbucks on Broadway between 113th and 114th streets, and on Monday mornings it opens at 5:30am.

### What is an example of the Pre-Orientation OP Academic schedule?

<b>BREAKFAST</b> Hewitt Dining Hall (8:00 AM - 9:15 AM)
<b>Class</b> (9:30AM - 10:30AM)
<b>Class</b> (10:45AM - 11:45AM)
<b>LUNCH</b> Hewitt Dining Hall (11:45AM - 12:30PM)
<b>Community Building</b> (12:30PM - 1:15PM)
<b>Class</b> (1:30PM - 2:30PM)
<b>Class</b> (2:45PM - 3:45PM)
<b>Class</b> (4:00PM - 5:00PM)
<b>DINNER</b> Hewitt Dining Hall (5:00PM - 6:30PM)
<b>Course Tutorials</b> (6:30PM - 7:30PM)

PAA Check-In/Drop-In Hours  
(7:45PM-8:45PM)



## What is an example of the Pre-Orientation Navigating Barnard Week schedule?

<b>Breakfast</b> Hewitt Dining Hall (8:00AM - 9:00AM)
<b>Morning Huddle</b> (9:15AM - 10:00AM)
<b>Session</b> (10:15AM - 11:00AM)
<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> (11:00AM - 12:00PM)
<b>LUNCH</b> Hewitt Dining Hall (12:00PM - 1:00PM)
<b>Information Session</b> (1:00PM - 2:00PM)
<b>Student Led Workshop</b> (2:00PM - 2:45PM)
<b>ISS   OP/FLI</b> <b>Breakout Sessions by Population</b> (2:55PM - 3:55PM)
<b>Campus Partner Workshop</b> (4:00PM - 4:45PM)
<b>Group Activity</b> (4:45PM - 6:30PM)
<b>DINNER in Cohort Groups</b> Hewitt Dining Hall (6:30PM - 7:30PM)
<b>Community Building</b> (7:30PM - 8:30PM)

We have long days. **Expect them.** Access Barnard's Summer Pre-Orientation Program is not built on the front end for independent time to settle into New York City and explore on your own. We allocate time for this during the weekend before NSOP. Our program is intensive and intentionally robust to fully take advantage of the extremely limited time we have together. We hope that you will arrive well rested from the summer and excited to engage with us!

## What time do Pre-O scheduled sessions and activities end each day?

For OP students, the two academic weeks remain consistent and end each day at 7:30 PM, with optional drop-in hours one set days from 7:45-8:45 PM. Navigating Barnard Week ends at varied times, however most days end at 8:30 PM. Again, you will have more free time the weekend leading into NSOP.

**Will I have any free time? If so, when?**

Yes, generally after 8:00/8:30 PM.

**Are meals included in Pre-O?**

Yes, meals are included for the entire duration of the Pre-O program.

**I have food allergies/sensitivities or specific dietary restrictions/preferences. Who should I inform?**

There will be offerings for all known dietary preferences and restrictions: gluten-free, halal, kosher, vegetarian, vegan. Please make sure to specifically note this in your *Tell Us About Yourself Survey*.

**What is the parent/guardian and family agenda for Pre-O?**

Parents/guardians and families are invited to specific sessions tailored specifically for them. For OP parents/guardians and families, the Parent & Family Pre-O session will take place from 2:00-3:00 PM on Monday, Aug 7. For FLI & F-1 International parents/guardians and families, the Parent & Family Pre-O sessions will take place from 4:00-6:00 PM on Monday, Aug 21.

**Will I have time to spend time with my parents/guardians and family on Move-In day?**

Yes, you will be finished at 7:00 PM on your respective move-in day.

**What are current COVID-19 protocols on campus, with regard to vaccinations, testing, quarantine, masking, etc.?**

Barnard no longer has a COVID-19 vaccine mandate in effect, nor does the College still have testing nor masking requirements in place. We strongly encourage students to self-evaluate how they are feeling, and use an antigen test if you are symptomatic. More information on public health can be found here: <https://alert.barnard.edu/health-safety>. For specifics on Isolation and Exposure Guidance, see here: <https://alert.barnard.edu/isolation-and-exposure-guidance>.

**I am currently, or have a history of being, in therapy and/or receiving psychological treatment. How can I continue my care at Barnard?**

The [Rosemary Furman Counseling Center](#) (Furman) provides short-term psychotherapy and psychopharmacology for Barnard students. There is no charge for their services, and their records are kept confidential. If you are currently or have recently been in psychological treatment, it would most likely be helpful to continue during entry into Barnard. Furman offers support for a wide range of issues from adjustment to college and relationship questions to struggles with depression, eating issues, bipolar, or substance misuse. For students who require longer-term treatment, Furman has a wide network of referral options in NYC.

## **What is required to complete before arriving for Pre-Orientation?**

- Summer Pre-Orientation 2023 Sign-Up
  - You must also receive confirmation of program participation from Access Barnard directly
- Tell Us About Yourself Survey
- Review, sign and [return](#) the Access Barnard Pre-Orientation Participant Agreement
- Review, sign and [return](#) the Access Barnard Media Release Form
- Engage in Access Barnard's 2023 Summer Transition Series
- Read [Access Barnard's Summer 2023 FAQ](#)
- Consider registering with [CARDS](#) if you have any known disabilities and are seeking guidance on accommodations
- Ask your parents/guardians if they would like to opt-in to Access Barnard's Parent & Family Newsletter
- Consider signing up for Access Barnard's Peer Mentoring Program
- Consider applying for Access Barnard's Inaugural FAB (First-Year) Cohort
- Complete all required elements of the Enrolling Student Portal (please read through all instructions carefully and make sure to submit forms and documents by their respective deadlines!!!)

## **When is my bill due?**

Bills are due in August. You cannot move in until you have paid your bill. You will be denied access to your room until your bill is paid, so please make sure to settle this before you arrive on campus!!

## **Can I downsize my meal plan?**

No, not as a first year residential student. You are locked into the highest meal plan, the Platinum Meal Plan. Learn more at [Barnard Dining](#).

## **Are there places where I can find gently used items at more affordable prices?**

Yes! Facebook Marketplace's Buy/Sell/Trade is very robust in NYC, as are the Facebook Buy Nothing groups. Barnard has its own internal open marketplace through [Rheaply](#), which is a free-to-use marketplace that identifies available resources for reuse across different departments on campus, and this partnership was the College's first Circular Campus initiative. Barnard's Office of Campus Sustainability and Climate Action also hosts the Green Sale during NSOP, which is when dorm goods donated back in May during move-out are sold to first-year and transfer students for a small fee. The Green Sale helps to achieve Barnard's waste reduction goals and increases access and affordability. Profits from the Green Sale go directly back to students in the form of the [Climate Action Grant](#), which gives them resources to be a part of creating positive changes here on campus, in New York City and beyond.

### **What communications will parents receive this summer?**

Barnard is producing a publicly accessible site to provide an overview for parents/guardians on what to expect in the lead-up to move-in and orientation. This will serve as an information hub, directing folks to where they can find more information from campus partners.

With specific regard to Access Barnard communication, please create a communications plan with your parents/guardians if they would like to know more about Access Barnard's onboarding and arrival information. We are unable to copy parents/guardians directly on email communications due to privacy laws, but encourage students to establish a communications system with your parents/guardians if they would like to stay informed on messages coming from us. We expect students to communicate directly with our office as incoming new students, and kindly request that you do not have your parents/guardians do it for you on your behalf.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Note: Access Barnard will be sending International students additional information with more in-depth details on navigating NYC and the surrounding NY-metro area.

### **Can I purchase my flight now?**

International students should purchase their flights once they have their visa approved and in-hand. Make arrangements so that you will arrive on campus the same day as International F-1 Move-In, Monday, Aug 21. Move-in will officially be open from 10:00am-4:00pm. **Please make sure to share with ISS your flight information once you have confirmed your flight.**

### **Airport Arrival and Getting to Campus (beware of scammers)**

Whether arriving at JFK International Airport, LaGuardia Airport (LGA) or Newark Liberty (EWR) International Airport, plan ahead for your arrival time and date. While you may be able to connect to airport wifi, if you do not yet have a U.S. SIM card and are unsure of what to do, you may want to book a private car or shared van service (such as [SuperShuttle](#)), or schedule a ride hailing app booking (e.g., Uber, Lyft, Via) online ahead of your arrival. If you opt to take an NYC yellow cab, make sure to head to the official taxi line and get in a licensed, metered taxi.

International students are unfortunately often targeted prey for scammers, so if someone approaches you asking if you need a ride in a black cab, private car, or an independent Uber/Lyft driver (that you did not arrange for through the app), it is most likely a scam and you'll end up paying far more than you should, even if they do get you to your destination. Instead, follow airport signs and head for the official taxi line, pre-book your ground transportation before getting on your flight, or call for a ride directly through the Uber/Lyft/Via app on your smartphone.

**Can I arrive early before Move-In Day?**

You may arrive in the United States no earlier than 30 days from your program start date printed on your I-20 or DS-2019. Keep in mind that you are responsible for your own accommodations until Move-In Day, which begins at 10:00am ET on Monday, Aug 21, 2023. There will be **no exceptions** made to international F-1 move-in so please do not inquire about individual exceptions.

**You absolutely cannot move-in prior to 10:00AM on Monday, Aug 21.**

If you arrive in NYC prior to move-in, you are responsible for arranging, securing, and paying for your own accommodations. Should you arrive early to campus on Move-In Day itself, you must wait until move-in officially opens. Please do not try to get in before our welcome tents are staffed and open for check-in. There is a Starbucks on Broadway between 113th and 114th streets, and on Monday mornings it opens at 5:30am.

**What documents do I need to enter the United States?**

You need your valid and unexpired passport with visa, and your printed I-20. Be sure to keep these documents with you in your carry-on luggage (do **NOT** pack these documents in your checked luggage!!!). **Hand carry ONLY.**

**My parents/family members will be traveling with me when I arrive. Can you assist with a letter to support their visa applications?**

Yes, please email International Student Services ([iss@barnard.edu](mailto:iss@barnard.edu)) with the individuals' names, their relationship to you, the dates of their arrival and departure, and the address where they will be staying. Family members are not permitted to sleep/stay overnight in the residence halls.

**When will I find out about my roommate/room assignment?**

You will find out your roommate/room assignment in August via email — the target date is Tuesday, Aug 8, 2023. Please wait to send any inquiries until you hear directly from Residence Life & Housing on that date.

**What will my mailing address be when I arrive?**

You can find more information and details through [Barnard Mail Services](#).

**What items (aside from required documents) should I bring with me?**

Be sure to pack any over-the-counter or prescription medications from your home country that you may not be able to source in the US, and be sure that you have enough for your stay/until your expected departure. You may be able to access similar brands of medicine in the local pharmacies, but if you prefer to have your own medications that you are accustomed to, be sure to pack enough! Also, plan to pack some clothes and light bedding items. You will be able to shop and/or have purchases delivered to you once you move in on campus.

**Can I have items shipped to my residence hall before my arrival?**

Please refer to information provided by ResLife on [mail and packages](#). No exceptions will be made and Access Barnard does not accept shipments to our office, so please do not ask.

**Where can I find out about on-campus employment? How will I open up a bank account, get a cell phone, etc.? How will I get a social security number (SSN)?**

This information will be covered in materials sent out prior to and during Pre-Orientation. You will only be able to complete these tasks once you arrive in New York. We will also cover material on employment, getting settled, and the rules and regulations of maintaining your immigration status during your studies at Barnard.

**Can I downsize my meal plan once school starts?**

No, not as a first year residential international student. You, like all first-years, are locked into the highest meal plan, the Platinum Meal Plan. Learn more at [Barnard Dining](#).

**Are international F-1 transfer students required to attend Pre-Orientation?**

No. Access Barnard's Pre-Orientation Program is specifically geared towards first-year students. There will be a dedicated international student session during NSOP. If you would like to be further connected to international students or FLI-identifying students within the broader community, please join us for Access Barnard programming throughout the academic year!

**Can I opt out of health insurance?**

No, all international students are required to subscribe to the [health insurance plan offered by Barnard](#).