



DEAR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS,

Congratulations on your exceptional achievement, securing your spot at the esteemed University of Pennsylvania! We are elated to welcome you to the Class of 2028 and are thrilled to have such an extraordinary group of international students joining our vibrant campus community. Wherever you hail from in the world, you bring with you a wealth of cultural diversity and intellectual brilliance, enriching the tapestry of experiences at Penn.

Your journey at Penn promises to be an unforgettable one, steeped in history and tradition, offering unparalleled academic opportunities, and an array of diverse extracurricular activities. Beyond these remarkable facets, it's the moments beyond the classroom that will truly shape your college experience and form cherished memories. Picture yourself taking your SEPTA ride to the heart of Center City, relishing the enchanting sights of Locust Walk bedecked in winter lights, or bonding with your roommates and professors over Thanksgiving dinners and delightful food comas.

Throughout your time here, you'll forge bonds with kindred spirits who will become some of your closest friends—whether it's your first-year hall neighbor or a compassionate senior guiding you through your first year of college. Penn is more than just an academic institution; it is your home away from home. With over 30 international and cultural performing arts groups, you'll find your passions nurtured and talents celebrated within this tight-knit community.

To ensure your safety and comfort, the dedicated team at International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) and other campus administrators stand ready to provide unwavering support. From offering guidance on tax filings to assisting during visa and travel restrictions, their commitment to your well-being is paramount. Moreover, the Assembly of International Students (AIS), a vibrant student-led organization, is devoted to creating a nurturing community for international students like yourself. They orchestrate a wide array of programming, including delightful Philly Walking Tours and the annual Winter Formals, where you can feel a sense of belonging far from your native land.

As you embark on this new chapter, rest assured that we have meticulously designed orientation programs tailored to help you acclimate to campus life, discover invaluable resources, and forge meaningful connections with your fellow international peers.

Your time at Penn will undoubtedly be transformative and rewarding, laying the foundation for a bright and fulfilling future. The entire Penn community eagerly awaits the chance to join you on this thrilling journey. Once again, congratulations, and we eagerly look forward to meeting you during the International Student Orientation!

With warm regards,

Dr. Rodolfo "Rudie" Altamirano

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CLASS OF 2028



INTERNATIONAL

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

9am-1pm

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HELP TABLE

Just arrived on campus? Have all your questions answered here at the international student help table! Our PHINS will address any concerns regarding where to go and what to do.

Location: Houston Hall, Main Lobby

1pm-5pm

ADAPT TO PENN TODAY (APT) WORKSHOPS

These interactive workshops will provide you with helpful tips on how to thrive at Penn in areas such as academics, social and cultural integration, health and well-being, and more. Students can come to one or all of the workshops.

Location: Meyerson B1

Register by scanning the QR code.



5pm-7pm

INTERNATIONAL PARENTS AND FAMILIES WELCOME RECEPTION

The Welcome Reception provides the opportunity for Parents and Families to meet fellow families and hear from University leadership.

Location: Penn Live Arts – Annenberg Center (3680 Walnut Street)

Register by scanning the QR code.



5:30pm-7:30pm

INTERNATIONAL & EXCHANGE/IGSP WELCOME PICNIC FOR STUDENTS

Join Penn Global, ISSS, Penn Abroad and the international Class of 2028 for an outdoor picnic! Free dinner and picnic blankets will be provided, and there will be games and other outdoor activities to enjoy.

Location: Shoemaker Green

Rain Location: Fencing Gym

Register by scanning the QR code.



8:30pm-10:30pm

MOVIE NIGHT

Spend the evening watching Ratatouille and chat with friends! Popcorn, candy, and drinks provided.

Location: Meyerson B1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

9am-3pm

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HELP TABLE

Just arrived on campus? Have all your questions answered here at the international student help table! Our PHINS will address any concerns regarding where to go and what to do.

Location: Houston Hall, Main Lobby

9:30am-12:30pm; 1pm-4pm

IKEA SHOPPING TRIP

Take a bus to IKEA to buy necessities for your room and pick up some freebies! Buses depart campus at 9:30am, 10:30am, 1pm, and 2pm. Students can board the bus back to campus at 11am, 12pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm.

Bus Location: 37th St between Sansom & Chestnut

10am-12pm

LIFE @ PENN PANEL & CHAT WITH CURRENT STUDENTS

Come meet some international PHINS and get introduced to your fellow international classmates! Hear international students talk about things they wish they knew before starting their first year at Penn and chat with student panelists!

Location: Meyerson B1

1pm-5pm

ADAPT TO PENN TODAY (APT) WORKSHOPS CONT.

These interactive workshops will provide you with helpful tips on how to thrive at Penn in areas such as academics, social and cultural integration, health and well-being, and more. Students can come to one or all of the workshops.

Location: Meyerson B1

Register by scanning the QR code.



7pm-10pm

ARCADE NIGHT

A night of carnival snacks where students will be able to mingle and play classic and new arcade games in Penn's Student Center. Featuring Penn Traditions Trivia with prizes!

Location: Houston Hall

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

9am-3pm

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HELP TABLE

Just arrived on campus? Have all your questions answered here at the international student help table! Our PHINS will address any concerns regarding where to go and what to do.

Location: Houston Hall, Main Lobby

10am-12pm

CAMPUS TOUR THROUGH SCAVENGER HUNT

Get better acquainted with the campus by going on this scavenger hunt! You will be assigned to a team with a PHINS leader and the first team to complete all the missions will be rewarded with Penn merch!!

Location: College Green

Rain Location: Meyerson B1

M 1:30pm-4pm

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFO SESSION

This mandatory information session will introduce students to staff from International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and its key immigration services and integration programs.

It will also feature members from the Assembly of International Students (AIS) who will talk about life at Penn as an international student. There will be trivia at the end where you could win a waterproof JBL speaker and other prizes!

Location: Meyerson B1

Register by scanning the QR code.



TO FIND A CAMPUS MAP, MEAL TIMES/LOCATIONS, FAMILY PROGRAMS, AND OTHER EVENTS, PLEASE REFER TO THE NSO CALENDAR.

M MANDATORY EVENTS