



Class of 2015 Information Guide for International Freshman Parents

**Produced by:
Penn Parents Program**

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New Penn Parent Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How long should I stay during my child's move-in and orientation?

A: Family events are scheduled for Thursday, September 1 between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Beginning at 9:00 p.m., students will be invited to participate in orientation events, therefore families are strongly encouraged to depart Thursday evening to allow students to adjust to their new surroundings.

Q: What will I need to know for move-in and orientation?

A: Housing and Conference Services has set-up a website to specifically answer parent questions at www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing. A full calendar of events for new student orientation can be found online at www.upenn.edu/nso. Events for families will take place the afternoon of Thursday, September 1 and include a New Penn Parent Orientation Panel and a welcome from the President and Provost.

Q: What are the meal plans and dining hall options for my child in his/her freshman year?

A: All freshmen are **required** to have a meal plan during their freshman year at Penn. However, the options vary based on the individual needs of each student. Please see the Dining Services website for more detailed information at www.cafebonappetit.com/penn or call (215) 573-8632.

Q: How are students assigned academic advisors?

A: Each student has been assigned an academic advisor who is a member of either the school's faculty or the professional staff. This advisor will work with the student throughout his or her first two years at Penn to assist in planning courses each semester. Each school has a different advisor policy. You will be sent information over the summer from the school regarding the specific set-up for your school and program. For more information, please visit:

College: www.college.upenn.edu/advising/index.php or call (215) 898-6341

Engineering: www.seas.upenn.edu/undergraduate/advising/index.php or call (215) 898-7246

Nursing: www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/Pages/StudentAdvising.aspx or call (215) 898-6687

Wharton: <http://spike.wharton.upenn.edu/ugrprogram> or call (215) 898-7608

Q: Do students need cars on campus?

A: Since parking spaces are limited, we strongly discourage students from bringing cars to campus. The campus is easily walkable, and there are various shuttle services available, as well as public transportation.

Q: Does it matter if my child uses a laptop or desktop computer?

A: No. Students find that the type of computer they choose is based solely on personal preference and does not seem to dictate their study habits. The library has free laptops that can be used while studying in the library, so students will always have a laptop available to study remotely. Wireless technology is becoming more prevalent and can be found in many indoor and outdoor areas at Penn. To purchase a computer, you can visit Penn's Computer Connection which serves as an on-campus computer retail center offering educational discounts to the University of Pennsylvania community. You can visit their website at www.business-services.upenn.edu/computerstore/index.html or call (215) 898-3282.

Q: How do I send mail or a package to my student?

A: First-class mail is sorted into student mailboxes Monday through Friday. Correct addressing is vitally important to speedy delivery of mail through the postal system and to residents. To view the correct address for a particular College House, please visit the information page for the College House and Sansom Place at www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/residences/residences.html.

In all buildings, mail is sorted and delivered by Datrose Inc., an outside vendor contracted by the University to manage residential mail and package services. Each College House and Sansom Place has a mailroom and a package room. (Please note that if a package is sent via US Mail with a return receipt, the receipt information provides the time that the package arrives at the main Philadelphia post office and not the time the package actually arrives on campus.)

During move-in, alternate notification may be used, including package slips in student mailboxes or lists posted at pick up locations during this high volume time.

Q: When is Family Weekend?

A: Family Weekend 2011 is from Friday, October 28 to Sunday, October 30. A complete list of events and activities can be found online at www.vpul.upenn.edu/osa/fw. For more information you can call (215) 898-6533. We encourage all families to attend the activities and join in the fun. **Make sure to book your hotel room as soon as possible.** For a list of hotels visit www.pennparents.org/Resources/hotellist.shtml.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend *A Conversation with President Amy Gutmann* on Friday, October 28, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Irvine Auditorium.

Q: What are some of the campus programs and resources that Penn Parents should know about?

A: When you visit the Parents Program website at www.pennparents.org, you will be able to find links to campus programs and resources that are important for Penn parents. For additional information, please call us at (215) 746-4646.

Q: As a parent, do I have the right to view my student's grades and other records?

A: Students have the right to consent to the disclosure of information contained in their education records, except to the extent that FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) authorizes disclosure without consent. In order to release sensitive information, like grades, your student must change their privacy settings at www.sfs.upenn.edu/mustdo/index.htm.

Q: What are the health insurance requirements for students?

A: Full-time students are required to have adequate health insurance. The Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP) is available for students who do not have alternative coverage. The Student Health Brochure and a list of services are available online at www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/files/shsbrochure.pdf.

Q: Where can I learn more about campus safety?

A: The Division of Public Safety’s website, www.publicsafety.upenn.edu, is a wonderful resource for the latest news in campus safety. Also please review this list of additional contact numbers:

- Special Services:** (215) 898-6600
- Escort Services:**
 - Walking* (215) 898-9255 (WALK)
 - Van* (215) 898-7433 (RIDE)
- General Information** (215) 898-7297

To reach the University police dial (215) 573-3333 or 911 to reach Philadelphia police. The Philadelphia Fire Department can also be reached by dialing 511 on a campus phone or 911. To see a full list of important numbers, please visit www.upenn.edu/directories/emergency.php.

UPennAlert: The University of Pennsylvania emergency notification system enables fast and efficient dissemination of critical information to members of the University community during a major emergency. UPennAlert allows the University to send simultaneous alerts through text messaging, voicemail and email to numerous devices, such as cell phones, landline phones, fax machines and PDAs, and permits two-way communication between each recipient and the University. It provides students, staff and faculty with an additional layer of security and protection in an emergency, in conjunction with our already well-established emergency communication methods, such as University-wide broadcast emails, online updates via the Penn homepage, coordinated use of public media outlets and public address systems within all College Houses. For frequently asked questions regarding the UPennAlert system, visit www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/PennReady/upennalert.asp.

Student Financial Services Contact Information

- Website: www.sfs.upenn.edu E-mail: sfsmail@sfs.upenn.edu
- Phone: (215) 898-1988 Fax: (215) 573-5428

Please fax documents to expedite processing and ensure their security. Include your student’s *full* name, date of birth, school of enrollment and Penn ID number on a cover sheet, which can be found online at: <http://www.sfs.upenn.edu/pdf/2011-12/tax-id-2011-2012.pdf>

Mailing Address
Student Financial Services
University of Pennsylvania
005 Franklin Building
3451 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6270

Mailing Address for Bill Payments
University of Pennsylvania/Tuition
P.O. Box 785551
Philadelphia, PA 19178-5551

For answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.sfs.upenn.edu/parents/index.htm
For billing information, please visit www.sfs.upenn.edu/billing/index.htm#
Please note that you will receive your first bill in July.

Move-in

Move-in for first-year students:

Thursday, September 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

- Early move-in for first-year students is available at an additional charge. Early move-in is on Wednesday, August 31, 2011. If you have any questions, call (215) 898-3547 or visit the housing website at www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/assignments/move/movein.html
- Early move-in support will be limited due to the small number of staff and volunteers available. Cart loans, traffic and unloading support will be provided at a reduced level from that normally associated with official move-in and move-out operations.

Move-in Instructions

- There will be unloading areas designated throughout the campus. Plan to unload your vehicle in those areas and then immediately move your vehicle to alternate parking. Please be advised there is heavy congestion associated with move-in traffic.
- Complimentary garage parking for the entire day of your arrival will be available on peak move-in days in order to facilitate unloading for all and convenience for you. Enforcement of unloading time limits is fairly stringent and is done in the interest of accommodating the arrival of many students to an urban campus.
- Unloading passes and temporary guest passes can be created online at campusexpress.upenn.edu. Click “My Housing” and follow the links to “My Move In.” You can schedule your own passes and bring them along. They will be validated upon your arrival. This service will become available beginning in early July.
- You are strongly encouraged to bring a hand truck or similar moving equipment.
- A limited number of carts are available for move-in. To borrow a cart, visit the Information Center in your building or the cart tent or table located near your building.
- If you plan to mail items to campus, be sure to time the arrival of these packages to arrive at or after move-in, due to the lack of storage space for the high volume of parcels shipped at this time of the year. The University has arranged special pick up locations for UPS Ground parcels. Times and places will be posted on campus. There are several notification methods: a slip will be placed in a student’s mailbox, an email will be sent by the mail staff and lists of recipients of packages that have arrived will be posted at several locations.
- If you do not pick up your UPS Ground package the day it arrives, it will be moved to your area package room.

New International Student Orientation Parent Events

Thursday, September 1, 2011

Provost Breakfast for International Students and their Families

9:00 am – 10:30 am

The Inn at Penn: The Woodlands Ballroom

Student Services Expo and Parents' Lounge

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Houston Hall; 3417 Spruce Street

Family Orientation Information Booths

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

34th & Walnut Streets; 37th Street & Locust Walk

Proud Penn Parent Welcome Picnic

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Class of 1976 Patio (behind Sweeten Alumni Center), College Green

Grab a quick bite and have questions answered by Peer Helping Incoming New Students (PHINS) Orientation leaders, Penn Parents Program volunteers and Penn Traditions staff.

New Penn Parent Orientation Panel

1:30 p.m.

Irvine Auditorium

3401 Spruce Street

Join our distinguished Penn panelists to learn about finances, safety, housing, student life and much more in this interactive session. Our Penn experts will provide an overview of relevant issues facing many Penn parents and families and answer your questions.

President & Provost Welcome

3:15 p.m.

College Green

Penn President Amy Gutmann and Provost Vincent Price welcome Penn families from the steps of historic College Hall in the heart of campus. Please join us to hear these inspiring addresses to the Class of 2015.

President & Provost Reception

3:45 p.m.

Wynn Commons

Perelman Quadrangle

Following the President and Provost Welcome, join us for a Parents Program reception. Meet and speak with distinguished Penn faculty and staff. Learn more about Penn and Philadelphia.

Directions to Local Stores and Shopping Centers:

10 Minute Drive/Accessible by Public Transportation

K-Mart 901 Market Street (215) 629-2410 Hours: Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Sat. 8:00am-8:00pm; Sun. 8:00am – 7:00 pm

Directions: Take Market Street eastbound toward Center City, around City Hall to 9th Street

Bus: Take Route 21 which runs east on Chestnut Street, bus returns west on Walnut Street

Staples 15th and Chestnut Street (215) 864-9520 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 pm;
Sat. 9:00 am – 6:00 pm; and Sun. 11:00am – 5:00 pm

Directions: Take Chestnut Street eastbound toward Center City to 15th Street.

Bus: Take Route 21 which runs east on Chestnut Street, bus returns west on Walnut Street.

30 Minute Drive

Bed Bath and Beyond 70 East Wynnewood Road (610) 642-9296 Hours: Mon – Sat 9:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Sun. 10:00 a.m – 6:00 p.m.

Directions: Starting at 38th and Walnut Street go north and turn left onto Lancaster Avenue and go 1.4 miles. Keep straight onto US-30 [Lancaster Avenue] and go 3.73 miles. Turn right onto East Wynnewood Road and go 0.10 miles.

15 Minute Drive All the stores below are on Columbus Boulevard.

IKEA
(215) 551-4532
Hours: Mon. – Sat. 10 am – 9 pm; Sun 10-7pm

Lowe's
(215) 982-5391
Hours: Mon. – Sat. 6am – 10pm; Sun. 8am – 8pm

Home Depot
(215) 218-0600
Hours: Mon. – Sat. 6 am – 10 pm; Sun 8am - 8 pm

Target
(215) 463-7311
Hours: Mon.- Sat. 8 am – 11 pm; Sun. 8am-10pm

Wal-Mart
(215) 468-4220
Hours: Mon. – Sun. 7:00 am – 12:00 midnight

Best Buy
(215) 336-2212
Hours: Mon. – Sat. 10 am – 9 pm; Sun. 11 am- 7pm

Directions: Take Chestnut Street eastbound toward Center City. At 30th Street make a left onto Schuylkill Avenue (at Main. Continue to follow Schuylkill Avenue (two blocks) and merge onto Vine Street Expressway/I-676 E toward Central Philadelphia (the right lane). Merge onto I-95 South passing the exit for the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. Continue toward exit for International Airport. Exit at Columbus Blvd. (Exit 20 left lane) and stay to the right of the exit. Turn right onto Columbus Blvd. Turn left into Columbus Commons for the stores above.

Information regarding opening a bank account:

United States banking connections can be established before you leave home. To transfer money to the U.S., you can instruct your home bank to issue a foreign draft on a US bank in Philadelphia. This is preferable to presenting a draft on a New York City bank. Clearance on a draft between banks in different parts of the US can result in a delay of up to three weeks in making funds available. Since there are expenses which must be met immediately upon arrival, you will want to avoid such unnecessary delays. A few US banks with branches in Philadelphia have branches in foreign countries. If not, all large US banks have what are called "correspondent" foreign banks in which they have established financial connections. In most countries you can find a local bank that has correspondent relations with a US bank in Philadelphia. A transfer of money from one correspondent bank to another requires obtaining a draft from the home bank and presenting it, with personal identification, to the US bank. The US bank will then give credit in US dollars. You may also request that your bank at home "wire" money to you once you have opened an account at a Philadelphia bank.

Philadelphia Banks in University City

Citizens Bank

134 South 34th Street
(215) 387-1900

Sovereign Bank

3131 Market Street
(215)349-6000

Wells Fargo

3431 Chestnut Street
(215) 222-2139

PNC Bank

3535 Market Street
(215) 823-2300

TD Bank

3735 Walnut Street
(215) 387-1000

Bank of America

3925 Walnut Street
(215) 386-1781

Credit Cards

Credit cards are popular in the US, but are sometimes difficult to obtain for international students and scholars. **You may want to apply for a credit card in your home country rather than in the US.** Major credit cards in the US are Visa, MasterCard, American Express, but businesses do not always accept all cards. To learn more about getting a credit card visit these web sites:

Visa: www.visa.com/globalgateway/gg_selectcountry_ng.jsp

MasterCard: www.mastercard.com/index.html

Information for acquiring a cell phone:

Q: What is the telephone system like? What cell phone plan should my child have?

A: Student Telephone Services has an **optional** telephone service for students living on campus. The 2011-2012 optional telephone service includes free Philadelphia local and metropolitan calls. Individual domestic and international long distance telephone calls incur additional charges. Students will need to provide their own telephone set. Learn more by visiting the web site: www.upenn.edu/sts. However, most students will use their cell phone as their primary phone and we encourage students to use a plan with free national coverage, as students they meet will be from across the country. Students should be sure to choose a minute plan that suits their calling needs.

Cellular Telephones

There are several vendors near campus that provide cellular or mobile phones for sale or rent.

AT&T (formerly Cingular)

3741 Walnut Street
(215) 222-1421
www.att.com

Radio Shack

212 S 40th St,
(215) 662-5949
www.radioshack.com

Verizon Wireless

1700 Market St # 102
(215) 564-7800
www.verizonwireless.com

Fall		2011 Fall Term	2012 Fall Term
Move-in and Registration for Transfer Students	Wednesday	August 31	August 29
Move-in for First-Year Students	Thursday	September 1	August 30
New Student Orientation	Thursday-Tuesday	September 1-6	August 30-September 4
Labor Day (No Classes)	Monday	September 5	September 3
Freshman Convocation and Opening Exercises	Tuesday	September 6	September 4
First Day of Classes	Wednesday	September 7	September 5
Course Selection Period ends	Friday	September 23	September 21
Drop Period ends	Friday	October 14	October 12
Fall Term Break	Saturday-Tuesday	October 8-11	October 20-23
Classes Resume	Wednesday	October 12	October 24
Family Weekend	Friday-Sunday	October 28-30	October 5-7
Homecoming	Saturday	November 5 (Princeton)	October 27 (Brown)
Advance Registration, Spring Term	Monday-Sunday	October 31-November 13	October 29-November 11
Last day to withdraw from a course	Friday	November 18	November 16
Thanksgiving Break	Thursday-Sunday	November 24-27	November 22-25
Classes Resume	Monday	November 28	November 26
Fall Term Classes end	Friday	December 9	December 7
Reading Days	Saturday-Tuesday	December 10-13	December 8-11
Final Examinations	Wednesday-Wednesday	December 14-21	December 12-19
Fall Semester ends	Wednesday	December 21	December 19
Spring		2012 Spring Term	2013 Spring Term
Spring Semester Classes begin	Wednesday	January 11	January 9
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed (no classes)	Monday	January 16	January 21
Course Selection Period ends	Monday	January 30	January 28
Drop Period ends	Friday	February 17	February 15
Spring Term Break	Saturday-Sunday	March 3-11	March 2-10
Classes Resume	Monday	March 12	March 11
Advance Registration for Fall and Summer Sessions	Monday-Sunday	March 19-April 1	March 18-31
Last day to withdraw from a course	Friday	March 30	March 29
Spring Term Classes end	Tuesday	April 24	April 23
Reading Days	Wednesday-Friday	April 25-27	April 24-26
Final Examinations	Monday-Tuesday	April 30-May 8	April 29-May 7
Spring Semester Ends	Tuesday	May 8	May 7
Alumni Day	Saturday	May 12	May 11
Baccalaureate	Sunday	May 13	May 12
Commencement	Monday	May 14	May 13
Summer		2012 Summer	2013 Summer
12-Week Evening Session Classes begin	Monday	May 21	May 20
First Session Classes begin	Monday	May 21	May 20
Memorial Day Observed (no classes)	Monday	May 28	May 27
First Session Classes end	Friday	June 29	June 28
Second Session Classes begin	Tuesday	July 3	July 2