# BROWN AND YOU

FOR ENTERING STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES 2021

# BROWN AND YOU



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ACADEMIC LIFE AT BROWN

Degree Requirements
Academic Advising
Choosing Courses and Registering
Choosing a Concentration
Course Placement and Placement Credits
Special Curricular Options
Undergraduate Research
Academic Resources
Libraries and Information Literacy
Computing and Information Services

### **CAMPUS LIFE AT BROWN**

Residence Hall Life
Resources for Students
Health and Wellness
Financial Aid
Student Activities
Athletics and Recreation
Department of Public Safety
Transportation
Getting to Know Providence
What's Next

# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Entering Brown Student,

Today marks the start of your Brown experience. You have embarked on a daring educational adventure, and I invite you to dive in. You are now part of a truly extraordinary community of thinkers, creators and doers on this historic campus. I could not be happier that you have chosen Brown as your home away from home. Truly, these may well be some of the most transformational years of your lives.

As you settle in, you will soon see that Brown is a place where students study what they love and find boundless educational opportunities. We are enormously proud of the academic freedom students enjoy here at Brown. It will, I am sure, inspire you to take full advantage of the Open Curriculum and explore our many interdisciplinary centers and institutes in charting your own scholarly journey.

You come here as talented, accomplished, intellectually curious young leaders and change-makers. And you arrive at a time when the University is realizing bold ambitions — keen to innovate, advance knowledge in the world and shape consequential lives. What comes next is very exciting.

You will come to cherish the collaborative spirit you find here on College Hill. Brown's size, scale and diversity foster an uncommon camaraderie and joy in working across differences in background, life experiences and perspectives. Opportunities for learning appear at every turn, in many forms. These range from partnering with graduate students on cutting-edge research to participation in campus organizations, conversations with professors and community engagement in and around the dynamic city of Providence.

You will quickly appreciate the deep commitment Brown students share for putting their education to work to make an impact in their communities, in their home countries and around the world.

So, embrace this experience. Explore academic and extracurricular pursuits outside your comfort zone, and participate fully in the life of this remarkable University. We are thrilled to have you with us. We look forward to supporting you along your educational journey and celebrating your accomplishments in the months and years to come.

~L Az

Christina H. Paxson President Brown University

# ACADEMIC LIFE AT BROWN

Brown's vision of liberal education is embodied in its Open Curriculum, which gives you a great deal of freedom — and a great deal of responsibility — to plan your education. Liberated from the constraints of a prescribed curricular pathway, you are encouraged to pursue a course of study that reflects your interests, passions and goals.

At Brown you are expected to innovate, create and chart your way through a vast array of curricular choices. By crafting a unique education with the guidance of advisors and teachers, you are challenged to explore widely across the disciplines, to define liberal education for yourself and to become an active learner who takes responsibility for your education.

We, as members of the Brown University community — faculty, undergraduates, graduate and medical students, and staff — are dedicated to supporting and maintaining a scholarly community in which all share together in the common enterprise of learning. As a central aim, Brown University promotes intellectual inquiry through vigorous discourse, both oral and written.

We strive for a sense of community in which the individual growth of all members is advanced through the cultivation of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding. Brown values and encourages individuality while also affirming the community dimensions of academic life. A socially responsible community provides a structure within which individual freedoms may flourish without threatening the privileges or freedoms of other individuals or groups.

The University is committed to honest, open and equitable engagement across racial, religious, gender, ethnic, sexual orientation and other differences. The University seeks to promote an environment that in its diversity is integral to the academic, educational and community purposes of the institution.

### **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Brown awards two baccalaureate degrees, the bachelor of arts (A.B.) and the bachelor of science (Sc.B.).

Provided you meet certain University guidelines and deadlines, you may receive a combined A.B.-Sc.B, or a five-year bachelor's and master's degree.

Select first-year students are accepted to the Program in Liberal Medical Education, which they complete before entering the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown, and the Brown-RISD Dual Degree Program, in which students earn a B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design and an A.B. from Brown. Students enrolled in these programs must meet certain additional degree requirements.

### Earn 30 Course Credits

In order to graduate with a Brown A.B. or Sc.B., you must successfully complete at least 30 full-credit courses, of which at least 15 course credits must be earned at Brown. A maximum of four course credits from summer courses (taken at Brown or elsewhere) and Wintersession courses (taken at Brown only) may be applied toward this requirement. Approved study at another institution may also count toward transfer credits and thus toward this degree requirement.

### **Complete a Concentration (major)**

Brown offers close to 80 standard concentrations that lead to either the Sc.B. or the A.B. You must complete at least one concentration in order to graduate from Brown. In keeping with the philosophy of the Open Curriculum, you, with support from a faculty mentor, may apply to complete an independent concentration of your own design if standard departmental offerings do not match your interests. Brown does not offer minors.

# Demonstrate Competence in Writing

Learning to write well occurs over time. For this reason, you must work on your writing at least twice: once during the first half of your college experience and once during the second half. You meet the first half of this requirement in your first four semesters by completing an approved writing course at Brown. In semesters 5 through 7, you must take another approved writing course. For transfer students, only a transfer credit in the subjects COLT (comparative literature), ENGL (English) or LITR (literary arts) from a course at their prior institution will satisfy the first half of this requirement.

### **Fulfill the Enrollment Requirement**

You are required to accumulate eight semesters, or 32 units, of enrollment credit in order to graduate, of which a minimum of four full-time semesters of enrollment must be on campus at Brown. A semester of enrollment credit can be earned by studying full time at Brown for a semester, by transferring in a full semester's worth of work from an approved program of study at another institution, or by applying for advanced standing on the basis of transfer credits from certain pre-Brown international certificate programs and/or certain Advanced Placement (AP) exam credits. Summer and winter courses do not count toward the enrollment requirement; however, students who successfully complete a combination of four summer and winter courses at Brown may seek a waiver of one semester of enrollment.

### **Progress Toward Graduation**

The standard course load at Brown is four courses each semester. As a full-time student, you may enroll for five course credits maximum each semester. You may earn three course credits in a semester as long as doing so will not bring you below the level of good academic standing. Academic life at Brown is intense and immensely rewarding. Students feel a strong personal need to meet their own high expectations.

### ACADEMIC ADVISING

A strong network of advisors and mentors helps you engage fully and successfully with Brown's open learning environment. The University assigns new students two advising partners: an academic advisor who is a Brown faculty member or administrator, and a student peer advisor. Academic advisors provide long-term institutional perspective on educational options while informing, encouraging and, occasionally, challenging you. Meiklejohn and TRUE peer leaders provide an experienced perspective on the ins and outs of course registration, course selection, prerequisites and the like.

You are required to meet with your academic advisors throughout your first two years of study or until you declare a concentration and then have a concentration advisor. In these meetings, you are expected to present your academic plans, articulate reasons for your choices and remain open to suggestions. Advisors serve as supportive critics, asking probing questions and suggesting alternatives that you may not have considered.

### **Advising Resources**

You are also welcome to consult with any academic dean during drop-in hours held Monday through Friday.

### First-Year Advising (FYA)

All first-year (including Resumed Undergraduate Education) students are matched with an academic advisor and a peer advisor.

# Transfer and Resumed Undergraduate Education (TRUE) Advising

The TRUE Advising Program connects incoming transfer and Resumed Undergraduate Education (RUE) students to many advising resources as part of their orientation to Brown, ranging from peer leaders to academic deans, academic advisors and concentration advisors (for those preparing to declare their concentration that semester). Transfer and RUE students receive special advising support throughout their studies at Brown from several deans in the College.

### **Pre-Professional Advising**

Health Careers Advising assists current Brown undergraduates and recent alumni interested in education and careers in health and medicine. **Group information sessions**, discussions, workshops and individual consultations with Health Careers advisors and the **Health Careers Peer Advisors** are offered throughout the academic year for students and alumni at any phase of their career exploration and preparation for graduate health and medicine study.

HEALTH CAREERS ADVISING brown.edu/go/healthcareers

### Law Careers Advising

Law Careers Advising offers a wealth of support to students and alumni interested in the study and practice of law, including one-on-one advising. They support and organize **events and programs** about the law school application process, legal education and law careers.



# Academic advisors can provide valuable perspectives on students' educational choices.

### **Business Careers Advising**

Business Careers Advising provides many resources to students and recent alumni interested in business careers and education, including understanding and managing the application process to MBA and other business programs. These include information sessions, web resources, career fairs and group and individual advising.

# BUSINESS CAREERS ADVISING brown.edu/go/businesscareers

### **Peer Advising**

Brown's commitment to the Open Curriculum invites — even expects — you to tap into strong peer advising networks. The many peer advising programs at Brown are directly connected to the curriculum and involve the kind of student-to-student learning that is a hallmark of a Brown education.

Chief among these is Brown's Meiklejohn Peer Advising Program, which provides first-year students an informed student perspective on curricular options and student life in general. The Matched Advising Program for Sophomores (MAPS), which incoming sophomore transfers may apply to participate in, provides second-year students with a peer mentor. MAPS assists sophomores who are interested in discussing how to choose a concentration, explore career pathways, deepen their learning through self-directed research and be better prepared for maintaining day-to-day health and wellness.

At the departmental level, Department Undergraduate Groups (DUGs) provide peer advising to students in over 60 concentration programs. Along with faculty advisors, DUGs host departmental open houses for students interested in their concentration, organize guest lectures and conferences and plan discussion forums with faculty.

You are encouraged to take the initiative with peer advisors and to seek relevant information from professors and academic administrators, as well.

### Student-Directed Learning

Brown undergraduates participate in an array of teaching activities that extend their education to the larger community at Brown. Undergraduate teaching assistant programs are offered by departments as diverse as computer science, theatre and economics. Students may serve as peer tutors or academic coaches for other students or serve as writing or problem-solving fellows in courses across the curriculum.

Additionally, you can design your own concentration or courses, which are called Group Independent Study Projects.

### CHOOSING COURSES AND REGISTERING

Brown's advising team will send regular emails about important steps in the course selection process. You will also receive a booklet that provides detailed instructions on how to begin planning your studies at Brown.

You can start thinking now about the courses you might take during your first semester. Here are suggestions to guide this process: • Use the interactive web tool, Undergraduate Concentrations, to explore the many intellectual paths at Brown. The site helps you investigate specific concentrations and explore how personal interests might take academic shape.

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS brown.edu/undergraduate\_concentrations

• Explore **cab.brown.edu**, a tool that allows you to search course offerings by department and keyword. The site also allows you to experiment with various class schedules, and is used to register for courses.

### BROWN'S COURSE SEARCH TOOL cab.brown.edu

- Consider First-Year Seminar courses, recommended for all first-year students.
- Sophomore transfer students will have an opportunity to register for a Sophomore Seminar during registration.
- Choose a balanced set of courses. Sample courses from the different divisions of humanities, social sciences, and natural and physical sciences.
- Give serious thought to taking a language course. In regions of the world in which German, French, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese is the primary language, you often need to demonstrate proficiency in order to study abroad.
- Use the search filter to browse courses by these focus areas: Race, Gender, Inequality; Community-Based Learning and Research; Collaborative Scholarly Experiences; Writing-Designated.

### **CHOOSING A CONCENTRATION**

Brown offers more than 80 concentrations. A concentration is an in-depth area of study centering on one or more disciplines or themes. These guidelines will help you think about a concentration.

- Talk to faculty, academic advisors, deans and upper-division students. Seek advice from several different sources. Although the final choice of concentration is up to you, professors, administrators and other students can help provide new perspectives and critical information. Your intended concentration also may have an affiliated Departmental Undergraduate Group (DUG) that can provide insight into a course of study.
- Review departmental requirements for concentrations you are considering. Instead of a standard concentration, you can consider applying for an independent concentration. Visit the Curricular Resource Center for Peer Advising to consult with one of the peer counselors and to review a database of previously approved independent concentrations.
- Visit a concentration advisor and attend the concentration fair. Each department has at least one faculty member who serves as a concentration advisor. You can make appointments with concentration advisors at any time of the year.
- When choosing courses each semester, consider some of them as possible trial runs for a concentration. Evaluate likes and dislikes; try to get a feel for academic strengths and weaknesses as they might apply to a given field.

Remember that, at Brown, education unfolds over time. The declaration of a concentration is a blueprint, subject to revision. You build relationships with concentration advisors, faculty, academic deans and others. The people in your advising community will help to guide your educational goals, options and course of study.

# COURSE PLACEMENT AND PLACEMENT CREDITS

At Brown, students with Advanced Placement (AP) test scores and International Certifications, such as A-Levels or HL International Baccalaureate (IB), and/or prior college coursework may be able to place out of certain prerequisite courses and into more advanced courses, or satisfy a concentration requirement, even without transcript notation of placement credit.

If you wish to have your AP or HL IB subject test/exam results considered for placement credit before registration begins you should have official test/exam results sent directly to the Admission Office after you commit to attend Brown and before mid-July.

Whether your scores/grades qualify for transcript notation of placement credit depends on department policies. Some AP and HL IB placement credits will be transcripted automatically (based on receipt of official scores), while others will be posted only after you satisfy additional criteria. Placement credit does NOT reduce the 30 minimum course credits required for the baccalaureate degree; in other words, they carry 0.0 course credits.

You will be able to review the AP and HL IB test/exam results Brown has received and select credit notation preferences in ASK. The placement credits you do not decline will appear on your internal academic record.

For pre-Brown college courses and international exams other than the IB that qualify for placement into a higherlevel course, you may seek an instructor's override for registration. If you have a qualifying course or result but can not obtain an override, you can seek placement credit through the College (i.e., carrying 0.0 course credits), if Brown has your official college transcript or exam results.

Actual transfer credit (carrying 1.0 course credit) for pre-Brown college courses or qualifying international exam results may be requested only starting with sophomore year, and only if you need the course credit in order to graduate. No more than two course credits can be awarded without consequent advanced standing. Because Brown's policies related to transfer credits and advanced standing are quite strict, you must consult first with an academic dean who will determine your eligibility for transfer credits. Students who register for courses equivalent to their test/ exam results will forfeit any kind of transcript notation of test/exam credit for those exam results, if they remain registered in the equivalent course beyond the last day to add a course in the semester.

AP POLICIES brown.edu/go/ap

INTERNATIONAL EXAM POLICIES brown.edu/go/international-exam

### SPECIAL CURRICULAR OPTIONS

### **Independent Study**

Consistent with its commitment to student-directed learning, Brown offers a variety of independent study opportunities. Many departments offer independent research or reading courses. You may also initiate, design and execute independent study projects with the help of faculty advisors. Group Independent Study Projects allow students and faculty to develop credit-bearing courses that are not a regular part of the Brown curriculum.

Finally, you may choose to design your own independent concentrations if standard concentration offerings do not suit your interests.

### Summer and Winter Study at Brown

Brown's sessions in the summer and winter allow you to earn up to four course credits toward your Brown degree. Benefits of summer or winter study include smaller classes, more opportunity for close interaction with faculty, and time to focus on a limited set of objectives.

Because the schedule of study is very intense, you may take a maximum of two courses in a given summer and one course during a winter. No more than four summer and winter courses, in any combination, may be counted toward your Brown degree.

### **Rhode Island School of Design**

Brown students have the option of taking courses at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). Up to four RISD classes may count toward degree requirements at Brown. During the fall, winter and spring, you may enroll at RISD as part of your Brown tuition. During the summer, you pay RISD directly for a class.



### Brown University-Tougaloo College Partnership Semester Exchange Program

On May 18, 1964 — the 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision — Brown University and Tougaloo College, a historically Black college in Jackson, Miss., developed a "cooperative agreement." With the issues of Civil Rights confronting both institutions, they entered a relationship that has remained a unique collaborative venture after more than 50 years — one that engages the culture, academia and histories of these two distinctive institutions. As one of the partnership's signature programs, the Student Semester Exchange offers Brown and Tougaloo undergraduates the opportunity to study for a semester at the partner institution, and immerse themselves fully in academic and campus life and the overall residential college experience at the partner institution.

### **Study Abroad**

Brown University offers undergraduate students the opportunity to study abroad through a wide variety of academic programs, some offered directly by the University and others sponsored by institutions that Brown approves for academic credit. More than 400 Brown students study outside of the U.S. each year and are transformed by their experiences in the most positive and profound ways.

The Office of International Programs works closely with students to consider and select one of Brown's many study abroad program offerings. For decades, Brown has offered its own programs in France, Italy and Germany. As the administering lead institution of the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad, Brown also provides students with study opportunities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ireland and Spain. Additionally, the University partners

STUDENTS AT BROWN LEARN ABOUT THE VALUES AND PERSPECTIVES OF OTHERS WHILE DEVELOPING A RESPECTFUL SENSE OF COMMUNITY. with leading world universities in Japan and the United Kingdom. In addition, you may consider more than 70 approved programs in other countries.

It's never too early to begin thinking about study abroad. Brown encourages you to plan ahead on how to incorporate study abroad into your academic planning. Interested students may visit the Office of International Programs website and attend a Study Abroad 101 information session (schedule available online on the OIP web site).



### **Study Away**

Brown students sometimes choose to study at another college or university while they are matriculated at Brown. Subject to transfer credit guidelines, you may seek transfer credit for courses from another institution when you need it to satisfy Brown degree requirements, with prior approval of the appropriate academic departments and a degree completion dean.

### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Brown sponsors a number of fellowship and grant programs that support student research. Many of these programs are specifically designed to facilitate faculty-student research collaborations.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES brown.edu/academics/college/ undergraduate-research

SPRINT (Summer/Semester Projects for Research, Internship and Teaching) now serves as the platform for all College-funded experiential learning opportunities, including BrownConnect, LINKs, UTRAs and other awards.

### UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AND RESEARCH AWARDS brown.edu/go/sprintawards

# Collaborative Research and Scholarly Experiences (COEX)

Collaborative Research and Scholarly Experiences (COEX) engage groups of students in addressing a research question or knowledge gap of interest to scholarly communities. These courses make research and scholarly experiences more inclusive and accessible to students, and they are designed to complement the traditional model of 1:1 facultystudent mentorships or independent studies.



### **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships**

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships encourage individuals from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, as well as students who may not come from traditional minority groups but have otherwise demonstrated a commitment to eradicating racial disparities in higher education, to pursue doctoral degrees and to join college faculties. Each fellow conducts a longterm research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students apply for the program in their sophomore year. Fellows who remain in good standing receive a stipend for each of the two summers of their fellowship and for each semester of their junior and senior years. Upon enrollment in an eligible graduate program, fellows receive additional support.



### **RAB Grants**

Research at Brown (RAB) grants support student-initiated research projects and travel to present their research at professional conferences. You may submit proposals for up to \$400 of funding at any time during the academic semester.



### The Leadership Alliance

The Leadership Alliance endeavors to develop historically underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business and the public sector. This consortium of 36 member institutions and private industry places undergraduates in paid, summer-long research opportunities at 22 institutions across the country in the biomedical sciences, engineering, applied mathematics, physical sciences, and humanities and social sciences. For more information, visit **theleadershipalliance.org**.

Brown is a pioneer in involving undergraduates in cutting-edge research projects.

### ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Academic life at Brown, at times, can be demanding. Students report that the intensity is less about competition and more about needing to meet their own high standards. Brown provides an abundance of services to support you in achieving academic objectives.

### The College

The academic deans help you take full advantage of Brown's intellectual resources and curricular options. Academic deans interact with you on an individual level and on a regular basis: They oversee Brown's academic advising programs and provide assistance to students needing enhanced academic support.

Academic deans are available for drop-in consultations every weekday. You may also make appointments with deans who specialize in programs you are interested in.



### Writing Fellows Program

This program trains selected undergraduates as writing tutors to work with students taking courses in a wide variety of disciplines. Writing fellows assigned to a given course comment on students' written work and discuss revision strategies during one-on-one consultations. As peers, writing fellows serve as compassionate readers, providing informed, constructive criticism.

The Writing Fellows Program provides an important element of support for Brown's requirement that all its graduates achieve competence in writing. Underlying the program's interactive, collegial approach is the conviction that writing is, ultimately, a communicative process best accomplished in active dialogue with other people.



### **Problem-Solving Fellows Program**

The Problem-Solving Fellows Program prepares undergraduate educators to be more effective problem solvers through teaching. Most fellows are peer educators (e.g., undergraduate teaching assistants, tutors) who facilitate recitations and group problem-solving sessions, or hold office hours. Fellows take the course The Theory and Teaching of Problem Solving, which focuses on evidence-based learning and teaching strategies, learning theory, epistemology, culture and context, identity, fixed and growth mindset, critical thinking and the problem-solving cycle. The term ends with a project in which fellows work with instructors to improve teaching and problem solving at Brown.

PROBLEM-SOLVING FELLOWS PROGRAM brown.edu/go/problemsolvingfellows

### Writing Center

The Writing Center provides individual and group writing support free of charge to all members of the Brown community. Writing associates assist students at any stage of the writing process, from finding a topic through drafting, revising and final editing. Typical assignments include academic essays, lab reports and research projects, as well as professional materials for fellowships, internships and the job market. Writing Center appointments are scheduled for one hour and should be requested at least five days in advance.

WRITING CENTER brown.edu/go/thewritingcenter

### **English Language Support**

Brown welcomes students from around the country and the world, and their diverse perspectives enrich our community. For students whose primary language is not English, English Language Support offers individual and group language programs on a wide range of topics, including writing, listening, speaking and U.S. academic culture.



brown.edu/go/english-support

### **Academic Support Services**

Academic Support Services supplements the resources provided by course instructors and teaching assistants. Peer academic coaches conduct workshops and meet individually with students to help develop successful study habits and learning strategies. Workshop topics include time management, note taking, exam preparation and other study skills.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES brown.edu/go/academic-support

### **Academic Tutoring Program**

The Academic Tutoring Program provides no-cost, small group tutoring support for select introductory STEM and language courses. Tutors meet with students weekly to review concepts taught in class and share tips and learning strategies that promote deeper learning. A complete list of supported classes is available on the tutoring website.



### **Curricular Resource Center**

At the Curricular Resource Center for Peer Advising (CRC), students help one another engage with Brown's Open Curriculum, utilize academic resources and explore the possibilities for furthering their learning goals.

The CRC staffers coordinate information sessions, community-building events and individual meetings with students for advising about independent studies and concentrations, applying for funding opportunities, issues related to the first year and sophomore year, and more.



### Center for Careers and Life After Brown

The Center for Careers and Life After Brown (CareerLAB) supports you through every aspect of career planning and development. This includes finding internships, writing resumes and cover letters, networking with alumni, practicing interviews, meeting employers both on and off campus, searching for full-time jobs, considering graduate and professional school options and sorting through the many potential career pathways available to you.

BrownConnect is another key resource you can use to connect with more than 50,000 Brown alumni, find highquality summer internships and research opportunities and learn about ways to secure significant funding for summer opportunities.



### **Swearer Center**

The Swearer Center for Public Service is a community of scholars, students, practitioners and community members who work together creatively to build on community strengths and address community challenges. This work yields transformative learning and positive sustainable change through collective action.

SWEARER CENTER brown.edu/academics/college/swearer

### **Science Center**

The Science Center serves as an inclusive space that welcomes and supports new scientists at Brown, especially first- and second-year undergraduates exploring science pathways. It is home to peer mentoring programs that actively address barriers to science participation by students from traditionally marginalized groups in STEM.



### Math Resource Center

The Math Resource Center provides academic support for students taking introductory mathematics courses. The center is staffed by graduate and undergraduate students who help students on an individual or small group basis. Any student enrolled in introductory math courses may come in for help related to their classes. Many students use the center as a meeting place for small study groups.



### LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Your Brown University Library welcomes you to explore, discover, question and create. Expert staff members eagerly await your research questions and can provide you with support at every step of the research process, helping you navigate the abundance of resources available to you through your library. Check out the Library Information playlist on the library's **YouTube channel** for tutorials about conducting research in an academic library.

Brown's collections include more than 6 million physical items as well as digital resources, with nearly 2.5 million e-books, 150,000 scholarly journals and more than 300 databases, many of which can be accessed anywhere in the world. Partnerships with other IvyPlus libraries and rapid interlibrary loan service give you access to more than 90 million titles.

The University Library system consists of the **Rockefeller** Library (humanities and social sciences), the **Sciences** Library (physical sciences), the John Hay Library (special collections), **Orwig Music Library**, the **Champlin Memorial Medical Library**, and the **Annmary Brown Memorial** (a unique library/art gallery/mausoleum).

Students find the **special collections** at the John Hay Library particularly intriguing. While the materials available through the Hay are rare and unique, they have been collected so that students, faculty and researchers can study them. You're encouraged to explore these items, most of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world. They await your investigation for creative, research and personal projects. In addition, the Hay's undergraduate fellows program provides fellows a chance to delve deeply into special collections while working on a scholarly topic of individual interest with guidance from an expert curator.

The Brown University Library is also a pioneering institution in the area of digital scholarship. Staff in the **Center for Digital Scholarship** advise, design and carry out projects and workshops for every discipline on campus, with particular expertise in data management and visualization, scholarly communication, textual and quantitative analysis, GIS and mapping, and digital research project consulting, design and implementation.



### COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Brown's Computing and Information Services offers a wide range of technology services.

Brown's fast, secure Wi-Fi network is available everywhere on campus. You have access to software and online services such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud, Rosetta Stone and more. Student software can be downloaded at **software.brown.edu**. Many other tech services and subscriptions are listed at **it.brown.edu**.

Most courses have materials on Brown's learning management system, Canvas, allowing access to syllabi, assignments, reference sources, multimedia and class discussions.

Read more about technology at Brown on the CIS **New Student FAQ** page.

### **Accounts and Email**

When you commit to Brown, you activate your Brown username. This account provides access to most Brown services.

# Passwords can be reset using the Forgot Your Password feature at myaccount.brown.edu.

You will be required to activate your Brown email address by June 1 (or as soon as possible after acceptance).

The password created for your email account is not connected to the password for your Brown account. An email address is typically in the form **firstname\_lastname@brown.edu**. Brown Google accounts have an unlimited quota, with access continuing after graduation.



### Laptops

You are encouraged to consider bringing a laptop to campus, allowing the flexibility to engage fully in opportunities in and outside the classroom.

### **Getting Help**

The IT Service Center offers technical support to members of the Brown community.

IT SERVICE CENTER brown.edu/go/itservicecenter

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STUDY BROADLY, PARTICULARLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR BROWN CAREER, IN ORDER TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THEIR INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS.

# CAMPUS LIFE AT BROWN

You come to Brown expecting an outstanding education, in courses taught by world-class faculty. What you should also be prepared for is an extraordinarily diverse and exciting campus life experience. A remarkable array of student activities occurs outside of the classroom at Brown; these activities complement your formal education and are a key element of Brown's unique culture of learning.

Brown's requirement that you live on campus for a minimum of six semesters (unless you entered as a Resumed Undergraduate Education (RUE), second-semester sophomore or junior transfer student) reflects the fact that residential college life is a critical component of the Brown educational experience. When you live on campus, you are much more likely to participate in student organizations and projects, cultural events and social gatherings, and civic engagement activities. Students who live on campus are also more likely to turn to one another for advice on academic choices, social opportunities and personal issues.

By actively participating in the life of the University, you learn from all members of the campus community.

### **Brown Card**

The Brown University identification card, or Brown Card, is used to check out library materials, access meal plans, open secure doors in campus buildings and use laundry facilities. It can also be used to ride on any Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) bus or trolley to go anywhere in the state at no charge.

The Brown Card may also be used as an on-campus debit card with a Bear Bucks Account, a Universitymaintained debit account that allows you to make purchases without cash.

You can also use the Brown Card to charge books, technology, supplies and general merchandise at the Brown Bookstore. The charge account is separate from the Bear Bucks Account.

### **Meals on Campus**

All entering students are enrolled in a 20-meals-per-week plan. All non-transfer and non-RUE first-year students must be on a full meal plan.

Options run the gamut from traditional "all-you-care-to-eat" service to à la carte dining at retail cafes and casual restaurants around campus. Each meal plan also comes with FlexPlus Points that can be used to purchase food at campus snack bars, coffee carts and convenience stores.



A team of chefs and dietitians plans menus and advises students with special dietary needs. Kosher and halal meal plan options enable observant Jewish and Muslim students to adhere to dietary laws.

### **RESIDENCE HALL LIFE**

Students living in the residence halls at Brown benefit from intentional programs and services as well as myriad interpersonal interactions with members of the Brown community. You'll receive direct guidance and support from your interconnected community of peer scholars as well as Residential Peer Leaders who live in the residence halls and interact with faculty and deans to create a vibrant living and learning environment. Living on campus augments your overall educational experience at Brown. For these reasons, first-years, sophomores and juniors, including incoming non-RUE transfers, live on campus.

Every first-year student lives in a residence hall room with one roommate. Efforts are made to assign incoming transfer students housing in residence halls with students of similar semester levels. RUE students may live on or off campus.

In most residence halls, students are housed on the same floor without regard to their sex or gender. You may request single-gender housing, quiet housing, substance-free housing and other options when completing the new student housing questionnaire.

Students with housing-related questions regarding gender identity are encouraged to call the Office of Residential Life at 401-863-3500.

Requests for disability-related accommodations should be addressed directly to Student and Accessibility Services at 401-863-9588, no later than July 5.



### **Residential Peer Leaders**

Residential Peer Leaders (RPLs) are carefully selected and extensively trained upper-division leaders (sophomores, juniors or seniors) who work as paraprofessionals for the Office of Residential Life. Their primary role is to support students individually and collectively while building a vibrant, healthy and positive community living experience. Throughout the first year, RPLs host various fun activities to allow you to meet and interact with your neighbors, learn about campus resources and discuss ways to navigate the social, emotional and academic challenges of the residential experience.

### **Roommate Selection**

We recognize that students function most effectively when they are paired with roommates whose habits are reasonably similar to their own. The new student housing questionnaire is designed to help Residential Life staff match you with roommates who have similar patterns of study, sleep and recreation. Information regarding how to access the new student housing questionnaire will be sent in the coming months.

The Residential Life staff works hard to foster a supportive and inclusive living environment for all. To promote this kind of environment, Brown will not accept specific roommate and/or hall requests, nor will we make room assignment changes based on race, national origin, color, religion, sexual orientation or other identities. All students are expected to be caring and respectful of others and to bring an enthusiasm to interact with all. You are encouraged to study broadly, particularly at the beginning of your Brown career, in order to discover and develop your intellectual interests.

### What To Bring

Once you receive notice of roommate and housing assignments, you are encouraged to communicate with one other regarding large room items (microfridges, televisions, area rugs, etc.). Each student is provided a twin extralong bed and mattress (36" x 80"), desk and chair, dresser, trash can, recycling bucket and bookcase. Linens are not provided, so you will need to bring sheets, pillowcases, blankets, a bedspread or comforter and towels. Wireless network access and online TV subscriptions are available in all residence halls; the TV service does not require a TV set.

All residence halls are protected by water sprinkler systems and equipped with fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, fire doors and smoke detectors. Any items or actions that are considered a fire hazard are prohibited in the residence halls. This includes candles, incense, toasters and other common items, so you should know residential fire safety rules and regulations prior to arrival.

FIRE SAFETY brown.edu/go/residential-fire-safety

### **Personal Property Insurance**

We recommend that all students have adequate personal property insurance. Brown is not responsible for personal property under any circumstances, whether it is in a residence hall, in storage or en route. Your family's homeowner or tenant insurance may provide coverage, or you can purchase insurance through a private agency.



The Department of Public Safety (DPS) recommends that all students register their laptop to deter theft and assist in theft recovery.

### **On-Campus Supplies**

Established in 1969, Brown Student Agencies is Brown University's largest student-run company, providing products and services to the University community. Brown Student Agencies manages the The Underground coffeehouse and offers laundry services, affordable linens and more.

# BROWN STUDENT AGENCIES bsabrown.com

The Brown Bookstore offers much more than books. The bookstore's Technology Center offers a full line of discounted computers, tablets, software, peripherals and supplies and is an authorized Apple and Dell service center. No sales tax is charged to Brown students purchasing textbooks, school supplies and course-related materials. The bookstore also offers a complete line of residence hall and apartment furnishings — plus a cafe on the ground floor.



### **RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

### Student Support Services

The Student Support Services staff is available to assist you with a wide range of issues and concerns (personal, health, family, etc.). Student Support deans are available to consult with about your personal questions/concerns, provide a sounding board to explore options and help to connect you to the right set of resources, allowing you to succeed and thrive in your academic pursuits. A 24-hour administrator-on-call is also available for students with personal or family emergencies.



### **Brown Center for Students of Color**

The Brown Center for Students of Color (BCSC) serves as a gathering place for communities of color on campus, hosting events and programs that build and affirm community. The center provides a place and space for students of color to explore their identity, develop their leadership skills and build a sense of community in a welcoming and supportive environment.



### **Global Brown Center for International Students**

The Global Brown Center for International Students provides support for students who self-identify as international students, regardless of visa status, through ongoing programmatic efforts such as the International Mentoring Program and International Orientation, cultural events, community-building initiatives and advocacy.

### GLOBAL BROWN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS brown.edu/globalbrowncenter

Support for international students is also available through Global Brown, a network of several offices that works to coordinate the broad range of community and support services. Students studying on a visa will work with the Office of International Student and Scholar Services, which handles all matters related to immigration and student visa concerns.



### LGBTQ Center

Brown's LGBTQ Center provides a comprehensive range of education, information and advocacy services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and questioning students. The LGBTQ Center works closely with other identity-based centers on campus to counsel individual students about their aspirations and concerns, advise student leaders and help organize programming. The LGBTQ Center staff also advises various LGBTQ+ student groups, including the Queer Alliance, an undergraduate group of LGBTQ+ students and allies that serves as a hub of LGBTQ+ organizing on campus.



### Sarah Doyle Center for Women and Gender

The Sarah Doyle Center for Women and Gender provides a dynamic environment for exploring issues of gender, including the intersections of gender and gender identity with race, ethnicity, economic class, sexuality, disability, age and geography. The center's staff works closely with the LGBTQ Center. All members of the Brown community are welcome to visit the center and to make use of its resources. The center provides meeting spaces, an art gallery and a library, and also maintains contact information for the gender and sexuality organizations at Brown and in the Providence area.

SARAH DOYLE CENTER FOR WOMEN AND GENDER brown.edu/sdwc

### Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life

The Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life leads Brown's work in religious diversity and strives to enhance religious literacy within the University community. The office supports more than 18 traditions, including the Brown-RISD Catholic community, Brown-RISD Hillel, Brown Muslim Students' Association, Protestant groups (i.e., ecumenical, multiple evangelical, Pentecostal, African American and Episcopal), Quaker, Christian Scientist, Orthodox Christian, Unitarian, Baha'i, Hindu, Buddhist, yoga and mindfulness, queer faith and contemplative practices.

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAINS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE brown.edu/ocrl

### **Office of Military-Affiliated Students**

The Office of Military-Affiliated Students provides advice, advocacy, information and support for students who have served, are serving or are interested in serving in the U.S. military, as well as offers support to student veterans of other nations. Brown students may participate in Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) for the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. Programs are offered through partnerships with nearby host universities; transportation is provided.



## RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS brown.edu/go/rotc

### Undocumented, First-Generation College and Low-Income Student Center

The Undocumented, First-Generation College and Low-Income Student (U-FLi) Center, located on the fifth floor of the Sciences Library, is a communal, learning and advocacy support space for undocumented, low-income and/or firstgeneration college students at Brown. The First-Generation College and Low-Income Scholars Program — a cohortbased transition experience program — provides first-year students with an opportunity to connect more closely with U-FLi Center staff, develop meaningful relationships with other students, and learn about the various resources available at Brown.

\$

UNDOCUMENTED, FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE AND LOW-INCOME STUDENT CENTER brown.edu/ufli

### Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards investigates and adjudicates alleged violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Students who have been harmed or who have witnessed harm are encouraged to report these incidents and speak with deans.



### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Brown University Health and Wellness aims to holistically engage you in collaborative and compassionate care to support your self-discovery, intellectual growth and lifelong wellbeing. Health and Wellness encompasses five departments: **Brown Emergency** Medical Services, BWell Health Promotion, Counseling and Psychological Services, Health Services, and Student Accessibility Services.

**Brown Emergency Medical Services** (BEMS) is a blended volunteer/paid service licensed by the State of Rhode Island to provide all levels of pre-hospital care to the Brown community. BEMS provides basic and advanced life support care and transport 24 hours a day year-round, except during brief interruptions for periodic maintenance.

**BWell Health Promotion** offers a wide variety of educational services for topics such as alcohol /drug use, nutrition/eating concerns, men/women's health, and sexual health, and maintains an extensive resource center and website on a variety of topics.



**Counseling and Psychological Services** (CAPS) takes a goal-focused and collaborative approach to mental health services to assist students in improving their lives. The diverse CAPS staff offers a range of psychological treatment and prevention services in an inclusive, compassionate, affirming and socially just environment. Services are available 24/7 for urgent needs.



**Health Services** provides wellness services and medical care to Brown students. You may make appointments with staff physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nutritionists and nurses; same-day appointments are available if you call ahead. If you are ill or have medical questions, you should contact Health Services for advice.



### Pharmacy

The Health Services pharmacy carries prescription medications and over-the-counter products. To fill a prescription, the pharmacy requires a written or telephone prescription from your health care provider. Health Services can also transfer refills from the pharmacy that originally filled the prescription. You may also be seen by a provider at Health Services to obtain a prescription. The pharmacy may be contacted by phone at 401-863-7882.

The pharmacy has an online store for over-the-counter items. Purchases are available for pickup at the pharmacy or can be delivered to your campus box. Payment is by credit or debit card.

### **Required Health-Related Documentation**

All incoming students are required to complete medical forms before arriving on campus. Instructions for completing these forms and uploading required documents are featured on the **Undergraduate Student Health Requirements** page on the Health Services website. Students who plan to participate in competitive athletics must have had a physical within the past six months before starting at Brown (after February 1). For continuity of care, students with chronic, serious medical conditions should forward their medical records to Health Services.

Rhode Island state law requires all students to have received a variety of vaccines. Please visit **the undergraduate health requirements website** for details.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS brown.edu/go/undergraduate-healthrequirements

### **Health Insurance**

All Brown students must have separate health insurance to cover services not included in the health fee (such as lab, x-ray, pharmacy and hospital expenses). You will be automatically enrolled in the Brown Student Health Insurance Plan, specifically designed to complement the services provided by the Health and Wellness departments. However, you may waive enrollment in the Student Health Insurance Plan if you are covered by a comparable health insurance plan.

When evaluating your plan, you must verify that your plan provides adequate coverage that is accessible in the Providence area. To decline coverage, you must complete an **online waiver form** by the deadline listed.

### **International Students**

It is particularly important for international students to verify that their health insurance plan provides adequate coverage that is accessible in the Providence area before waiving the Student Health Insurance Plan.

INSURANCE OFFICE brown.edu/about/administration/insurance

### **Student Accessibility Services**

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) coordinates and facilitates services and accommodations for students with medical, physical and psychological disabilities or concerns, as well as students with learning conditions such as attention deficit disorder, dyslexia or other specific learning disabilities..

Students with disabilities (including medical conditions and temporary injuries) who plan to request accommodations or services at Brown should begin the **SAS registration process** as soon as possible.



### **FINANCIAL AID**

The Office of Financial Aid partners with undergraduate students and their families to meet the cost of a Brown education. The Financial Aid team reviews financial aid applications and determines awards consisting of needbased federal, state and institutional funds for which a student may be eligible. Financial Aid counselors are available to assist with exploring financing options, regardless of whether or not a family qualifies for needbased assistance. The staff holds open office hours to answer your specific questions on any aspect of the aid process, as well as to provide individual counseling on financial aid issues. No appointment is necessary. Counselors are also available via phone or email for any financial aid inquiry.

The Office of Financial Aid conducts outreach throughout the year to educate students on financial aid topics such as the annual financial aid application process, financial aid for the summer term or while abroad, and other aidrelated topics.



### Financial Aid during and after the First Year

Although the first-year aid award usually provides a rough indication of the financial aid you may expect to receive in subsequent years, the ability of your family to contribute to educational expenses is evaluated each year. Your financial aid award may increase, decrease or remain the same from year to year, depending on your family's current ability to pay. Additionally, if circumstances arise during the year that change your family's ability to cover educational expenses, the Office of Financial Aid will work with your family to help identify ways to meet expenses.

You must reapply for financial aid each year and meet all published deadlines to preserve eligibility consideration. Application instructions on how to apply for aid are communicated prior to the start of the spring semester. Aid award notifications are available in June to all students who meet the application deadline. Students who do not meet the deadline for filing their renewal applications may jeopardize their eligibility for scholarship assistance.

### **Student Employment**

Many students' financial aid packages include federal workstudy or campus employment.

The amount of the award is based on a student working an average of 8-10 hours per week during the academic year. Income from work-study or campus employment may be used to meet personal expenses, to purchase books and to cover other educational costs. Because funds earned are paid directly to the student, this portion of the financial aid award will not show as a credit on the billing statement from the University.

Students apply for jobs based on their interests, skills and schedule. Students apply for positions in Workday — please visit the Student Employment website for more details.

Questions regarding work-study or campus employment may be directed to **student\_employment@brown.edu**. A federal work-study or campus employment award is a work opportunity, not a requirement. Students who are able to cover their non-billed educational expenses by other means are not penalized in any way and are not mandated to work.



### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### **Student Activities Office**

The Student Activities Office supports you as you engage in identity and community building and leadership development through co-curricular involvement. Through advising, mentoring, and collaborating with student leaders, the office staff fosters skill building and critical thinking. The office also manages the Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center, the hub of campus life, as well as Greek and Program Houses and two performing arts facilities for students.



### **Student Organizations**

More than 500 student organizations thrive on Brown's campus: academic and career-related organizations, cultural and spiritual groups, media and publications, performance and art groups, political and public service organizations — the list goes on. These student organizations extend learning beyond the classroom and provide students with a sense of community and shared purpose. They provide an arena for putting classroom learning into practice, and they enable you to contribute to the creation of Brown's vibrant student culture.



### **Student Government**

The Undergraduate Council of Students strives to actively advocate for student interests in all aspects of the University. Membership in the council is open to any undergraduate who has gathered the required number of signatures and attends two meetings. Officers are determined by campus elections each April. The Undergraduate Finance Board distributes student activities fee monies to more than 200 student organizations.



### ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

At Brown, student-athletes compete on 34 varsity sports teams, and Brown teams routinely are among the nation's leaders in NCAA honors for academic achievement.



### **Fitness Centers**

The Nelson Fitness Center is a state-of-the-art recreational fitness facility that features more than 85 cardio machines, 12,000 pounds of free weights, selectorized equipment, a functional training/stretch area and three fitness studios. Additionally we offer an Aquatics Center, indoor track and courts, indoor squash and tennis courts, and recreational ice time. The department offers more than 75 group fitness classes per week in the areas of aerobics, fitness and mind/body. Brown also offers tailored fitness training for individuals or groups.

### Intramural and Club Sports

Brown's Intramural Sports program offers structured recreational sport opportunities in a variety of team, dual, individual and special-event programs. Brown's Club Sports program offers a higher level of competition than oncampus intramural sports, but without the time constraints required by varsity sports. Most club sport teams compete extensively in extramural competitions, and many hold memberships in athletic conferences.



### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Brown University's Department of Public Safety (DPS) is a nationally accredited police agency responsible for the safety and security of more than 10,000 students, faculty, staff and Brown guests. With a jurisdiction including all University property and adjacent city streets, the department is responsible for all University buildings over an area in excess of 140 acres.

DPS sponsors a comprehensive set of programs to ensure the safety of the entire Brown community. Programs include Safewalk, a student-run service that provides on-campus point-to-point walking escorts for Brown community members; the Campus Blue-Light Emergency Phone System; Brown Guardian, a free public safety mobile application option for all students, faculty and staff; free distribution of PALs (personal alarms) to all students; RAD (Rape Aggression and Resisting Aggression Defense), a nationally known basic self-defense course for women and men; advocacy and support services for victims of a crime; Operation ID property registration for laptop, bicycle and personal property registration; Card Access, a security system in all residence halls; and a variety of community outreach initiatives for all members of the Brown community.

The DPS Communications Center and patrol operations are offered 24/7, 365 days a year. DPS Department Headquarters, along with administrative offices, is located at 75 Charlesfield St. and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number for the administrative office is 401-863-3103; the front lobby of headquarters is open to the public 24/7. For emergency police, fire or medical assistance call Public Safety at 401-863-4111.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY brown.edu/publicsafety Students at Brown learn about the values and perspectives of others while developing a respectful sense of community.

### TRANSPORTATION

### By Air

The easiest way to get to Providence by air is via T.F. Green Airport, which is about 10 miles from Brown. Logan International Airport, located in Boston, is about 40 miles from Brown. Logan is much larger than T.F. Green and includes an international terminal.

### By Train

Rail service to and from Boston and New York (and points in between and beyond) runs through the Providence Amtrak station, a 20-minute walk uphill to campus. In addition, the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) commuter rail runs between Providence and Boston.

### By Bus

All Greyhound and some Peter Pan routes stop at Kennedy Plaza, a short uphill walk to campus (public transit buses or taxis are also available). Peter Pan's main terminal is located at the edge of town. Some routes require taking either the shuttle to Kennedy Plaza or a taxi to campus.



### **GETTING TO KNOW PROVIDENCE**

Providence combines the friendliness of a small town with the culture and sophistication of a big city. With a thriving arts community, vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, and a renowned restaurant scene, Providence is an exciting place to call home.

College Hill, Brown's home neighborhood, contains one of the nation's more extensive and distinguished collections of historic architecture. Thayer Street offers restaurants, cafes, the Brown Bookstore and shopping geared toward students.

A full range of transportation options makes it easy to get around Providence safely and efficiently. Brown provides day and nighttime shuttles around campus and all public transit bus trips (RIPTA) are free with a Brown Card.



### WHAT'S NEXT

The next booklet in this series for new students, "Designing Your Brown Education," will arrive soon and will help you begin the process of designing your studies at Brown. In it, we'll answer many of your questions about the Open Curriculum, advising, course registration and more.

In the meantime, visit the new student page for next steps, forms, important deadlines and other information to help you as you start your journey at Brown. Welcome!







The College Division of Campus Life and Student Services Brown University Box 1828 Providence, Rhode Island 02912