Welcome to Yale Summer Session

A GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Welcome & First Steps

1. Call or Email Home
2. Attend Registration (register for class, pay any balance, check into your room)
3. Check in with the Office of International Students & Scholars
4. Take a Campus Tour
   Tours leave the Visitor Center at 149 Elm Street.
5. Take a Tour of Sterling Memorial Library
   Tour schedules are available on the Library Web site.
   Free iTunes audio podcast where you can listen and do a tour by yourself.
6. Know your residential counselor’s name (if you are living on campus)
Common Experiences

It’s a Time of Profound Change

Some students are better equipped to deal than others, and where you come from is just one of many variables.

- **Loss of what is familiar**
  - Language, food, climate, clothing, routines, personal relationships

- **Need to establish sources of support**
  - First time away from home – homesickness
  - Rely on support from individuals in roles that would not be replicated at home

- **Reconciling expectations**
  - In the classroom, with U.S. and other international students
  - At least 50% never been to Yale or the U.S.

- **Understanding assumptions and reactions**
  - Don’t want to appear that they don’t know
  - Not fully understanding the clues

- **Being far away from home**
  - What if I miss home?

- **Managing money**
  - Paying for things, going out, how and why do I tip someone?

- **Managing the “freedom”**
  - Course selections, personal options, social life, time, etc.
Culture Shock - the ups and downs of adjusting to a new environment

Honeymoon/Euphoria

Pre-arrival anxiousness

Initial adjustment period
Control and rewards

First symptoms of culture shock – confusion and anxiety

Feeling at home
“..the balance is attained as one gains confidence in this new environment. “

Second low stage of culture shock – recognition of complexity

http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/shock.html
Everyone’s experience is a little different... but there are common problems/adjustments

ACADEMIC LIFE

Liberal arts education
Classroom experience
Language
Writing
Fast Pace

Seeking help – ASK! If you’re not sure who to ask- start with your counselor or the nice people in the Summer Session office.

Everyone wants to do well!
Social Life and Finding Community

Some may feel like an outsider

How do I get to know US students?

Temptation to socialize with students from similar backgrounds or experiences and finding that balance

Finding your social niche

Relationships – roommates, dating...

Get involved! Do activities. Many students are in the same boat as you!
Cultural Adjustment

1. What is American culture?
   http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/americans/values.html

2. Basics about etiquette

3. Building relationships
   http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/relationships.html
Cultural Adjustment

4. Getting to know Americans
http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/americans/index.html

5. Culture Shock
http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/shock.html
Top Surprises for International Visitors

1. The Wide Use of Credit Cards
2. Big Food Portions
3. Patriotism
4. It’s ok to leave some food on your plate
5. How big the USA really is
6. Amount of Waste
7. The Coffee Culture
8. Emphasis on Physical Fitness

9. **Tipping** (in dining out in restaurants, drinking at bars, riding in taxis and even getting a haircut. Many foreigners were surprised at the number of services that Americans tip for and the percentage at which they tip.)

10. How nice people are!
1. **Learning in America**
   [http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/academic/index.html](http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/academic/index.html)

2. **Participation in Class.** Most professors expect it. Don’t be afraid to speak up!

3. **Critical Thinking vs. Memorization.** How can you apply the material rather than can you repeat the material.

4. **Talking to your professor.** It’s ok to approach your professor or teaching assistant after class and ask for help.

5. **Get help early if you don’t understand the material.**
Academics at Yale

Writing an appropriate e-mail

- E-mailing your friends is different from e-mailing a professor or member of the university staff. For some, the U.S. classroom and workplace may seem more informal than what they are used to. For example, students and professors, or workers and supervisors, may speak and dress quite casually. It is, however, important to recognize that there is still a respected hierarchy, and relationships remain formal.
Academics at Yale

Library Orientation

There is a guide on how to use the libraries at Yale specifically designed for summer students. Visit the Yale Summer Session website for more details:

Office of International Students and Scholars

Much of the information in this was adapted from the OISS website. It is a wonderful resource for international students!
Practical Matters

Keychain & ID holder (with Important numbers)

Your **Yale ID card** identifies you as a member of the Yale community. You should carry it at all times while you are on campus.

The **Key fob** has important summer numbers.

You are advised to carry your passport and immigration documents with you when traveling within the U.S., as well as when you travel internationally. It is not recommended to carry your passport at all times in and around New Haven.

**ID Center**

246 Church Street (Room 101)

Lost, stolen or damaged ID cards should be reported to Yale’s Security Department, 203-785-5555.
Practical Matters

1. **HTH Worldwide Health Insurance** (for students living on campus).

2. If you have to go to the doctor or hospital tell them you are covered under US based health insurance.

3. You will receive your HTH card at registration.

4. Keep it in your wallet at all times.

Practical Matters

Activities and Trips in the Residential Colleges (for students living on campus).

http://summerlife.yale.edu/
Practical Matters

Cell Phones

http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/practical/cell.html

Wireless & Connecting to the Internet

http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/practical/email.html
Practical Matters

Money
➢ Do not keep large sums of money on your person or in your room
➢ You can use your Yale ID to cash a US check at Bank of America, 157 Church St.

Safety
➢ [Link](http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/practical/safety/index.html)
➢ Blue Phones (see photo). Red button for emergencies. Black button makes an on campus call (i.e.: dial 2-2430 for Yale Summer Session).
➢ 911 (the US’s general emergency number for fire, ambulance, police).
➢ You, Your Safety & You!! [Link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDLf2Yc2PJo)
Practical Matters

Transportation
http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/practical/transportation/index.html

Shopping and Dining in New Haven
http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/practical/shopping/index.html
Practical Matters

• The Yale Summer Session office is a resource!

• YSS lunch tables- Summer Session staff will be in the dining halls. Ask a question if you have one or stop by and say hi!

• Last 3 Important thing to Know:
  ◦ Can’t drink on campus even if you are over 21. (21 is the legal drinking age in restaurants and bars)
  ◦ Can’t change rooms in the residential college
  ◦ Drugs are strictly prohibited and you will be sent home!

YSS = Yale Summer Session
Practical Matters **Before** DEPARTURE home

Return all books and other materials to the library.

Reentry Shock

http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/leaving/reentry.html
Yale Vocabulary

**Buttery** - a late night café in each residential college that serves all sorts of delicious food and snacks late at night after the dining halls have closed.

**Propping** - use an object to keep (something) in position. For example, using a coat hanger to keep a door open. NEVER prop doors open.

**Swiping** - The passing of an ID card through an electronic reader

**Curfew** - a regulation requiring people to remain indoors between specified hours, typically at night.
5 Fun Facts about Yale

Interesting Fact #1

Prestigious Yale University was founded in 1701 in, what was known at that time, as the Colony of Connecticut and is the third oldest university in the country. Yale was originally founded as the Collegiate School at New Haven. Various clergymen in the colony wanted to establish a college to train clergy and political leaders for service to the colony. The founders were alumni from another prestigious school, Harvard, which was founded over 60 years prior.

Connecticut Hall, the oldest building on campus
5 Fun Facts about Yale

Interesting Fact #2

The Collegiate School officially changed their name to Yale University in 1701. This was to honor Elihu Yale, the governor of the East India Company out of Great Britain. He donated a crate of goods to help the struggling school continue to operate.
5 Fun Facts about Yale

Interesting Fact #3

Yale is known for its traditions and staying true to them. The Yale Daily News is the oldest collegiate daily newspaper still in existence. It has been printed five days a week since January 28, 1878. They also have the oldest and best known a cappella group. The Wiffenpoos have been singing on Monday nights since 1909. They typically perform at Mory’s, the famous tavern on the Yale campus.
5 Fun Facts about Yale

Interesting Fact #4

One of the most prestigious secret societies in the country is Yale’s Skull and Bones. It was founded in 1832 by General William Russell and Alphonso Taft after two debating societies disputed that year’s award. Skull and Bones is the oldest of Yale’s secret societies and by far the most determinedly secretive. As such, it has long been an inspiration for speculation and imagination. It still is. The society is, of course, the inspiration for the Universal Pictures thriller *The Skulls*, about a nefarious secret society at an Ivy League school in New Haven.

Fifteen male and female junior level students are chosen each spring for admission. They tend to be campus leaders, athletic team captains, newspaper editors, and members of the political union. The society’s most notorious members include George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, William Howard Taft, and John Kerry.
5 Fun Facts about Yale

Interesting Fact #5

Yale prides itself on academic excellence. Therefore, they are extremely selective in their admittance. They receive over 20,000 student applications for each freshman class. Of those, only 1,300 are accepted.
We wish you well in your studies and we hope you now have the tools for a successful summer at Yale.

Questions: summer.session@yale.edu or 203-432-2430 or visit us at 55 Whitney Ave., 4th floor.