Information for Pre-arrival into the United States

Welcome to Brooklyn College!

Upon arrival please make an appointment with the Office of International Student and Scholar Services at Brooklyn College. Please contact Keisha Simon at West Quad Building—Room 234, (718) 951- 4477 for further details. Below contains a map of the campus, West Quad Building is located in the circle.

Getting Started at Brooklyn College

Upon arrival at Brooklyn College, you may feel that you need to know everything at once and that can be overwhelming. You will soon find that numerous resources are available to assist you. Start your journey by following this checklist of things that you should do within the first two weeks of arrival.
Arrival

When you arrive in New York, you will be directed to the U.S. Customs station. If you must take a connecting flight to New York, you may be required to follow the U.S. Customs & Boarder Protection procedure upon your first landing in the United States. There are a few airports in the tri-state area: John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia, and Newark.

An immigration officer will examine your documents and may ask a few questions about your reason for coming to the United States. The officer will stamp your passport indicating the date of entry, your class (J-1) and the date you have to leave (D/S). Make sure the officer notes the correct visa when they stamp your passport, which indicates the purpose of your admission to the United States and the length of time you may remain. Once you enter the country, you can retrieve your I-94 card at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/request.html. Please print and bring a copy in when you check in to the Office of International Student Services.

Getting to Brooklyn College

Brooklyn College is located in the heart of the borough of Brooklyn and extremely accessible. You can take:

- The #2 or #5 train to Brooklyn College- Flatbush Avenue and we are located 5 minutes from the station
- The Q train to Avenue H and walk east towards Ocean Avenue

You can also take ground transportation:

- The SBS B44 or local B44 bus to Flatbush Avenue “the junction”
- The B6 local or express to Bedford Avenue and Campus Road
- Q35 to Flatbush and Avenue H
- B11 to Bedford Avenue and Campus Road
- B41 express and local to Flatbush Avenue “the junction”

Transportation from JFK

AirTrain

AirTrain JFK is the easiest way to get to, from and around Kennedy International Airport. AirTrain connects with MTA New York City Transit subways and buses and the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), providing a low-cost, easy way to travel by mass transit to major destinations in New York and New Jersey. Best of all, you never have to worry about traffic conditions and can lower your carbon footprint. Below gives a list of prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Connection</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan (below 14th St) &amp; Brooklyn</td>
<td>Subway - MTA NYC Transit A Train</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan (midtown) &amp; Queens</td>
<td>Subway - MTA NYC Transit E Train</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan (Penn Station) &amp; Queens</td>
<td>Long Island Rail Road</td>
<td>$15.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information including a map of departures go to http://www.panynj.gov/airports/pdf/jfk-airtrain-brochure-english.pdf.

**Car and van service at JFK**

Reservations for shared-ride van and private car services can be made at the Port Authority Welcome Center located on the Arrivals level of each terminal. If the center is closed, there is a convenient self-service kiosk nearby where you can contact authorized shared-ride or private car services.

Between JFK and Manhattan -- Flat Fare is $52 to the first destination (plus tolls and tip). The taximeter and receipt should reflect that this trip is a flat fare. There is no $1 peak time or 50-cent night surcharge for these trips.* For a list of authorized car services go to http://www.panynj.gov/airports/jfk-taxi-car-van-service.html

Estimated fares (do not include tolls)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip</th>
<th>Fare Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between Terminals</td>
<td>$ 4 - $14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the Bronx</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-op City</td>
<td>$52 - $57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hub (149th&amp; 3rd Ave.)</td>
<td>$48 - $53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverdale</td>
<td>$63 - $68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Brooklyn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>$59 - $64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coney Island</td>
<td>$42 - $47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Queens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citi Field</td>
<td>$28 - $33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main St. &amp; 60th Ave.</td>
<td>$24 - $29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Staten Island</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Dorp Lane</td>
<td>$67 - $72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Boulevard</td>
<td>$74 - $79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To LaGuardia Airport</td>
<td>$34 - $39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Newark Liberty International Airport</td>
<td>$97 - $102 (+$17.50 surcharge)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Car Rentals**

Finding your rental is easy at JFK. On the Arrivals level of each terminal (usually near the baggage carousel), there is either a rental car counter or courtesy telephone with instructions on contacting each of the companies listed below. As for the cars themselves, simply take AirTrain to the Federal Circle Station.

**Enterprise**

718 553-7013
800 736-8222
Hertz
718 656-7600
800 654-3131

National
718 632-8300
888 826-6890

**Transportation from LaGuardia**

**NYC Airporter**
Departure roughly every 30 minutes - Port Authority Bus Terminal, Grand Central Station and Penn Station. Fare $14. Purchase tickets online at www.NYCAirporter.com. For more information, call (718) 777-511.

**Public Transportation**
New York City buses provide service between LaGuardia and Manhattan and Queens with connections to New York City subways for destinations beyond. Connecting LaGuardia and upper Manhattan, the M60 bus travels from all LaGuardia terminals via Astoria Blvd. in Queens to West 106 Street and Broadway in Manhattan. The M60 now provides Select Bus Service with limited stops and faster service. Customers pay before boarding the bus and can use any door. To learn more, visit the MTA’s website. Key connections include the N and Q subway trains at Hoyt Avenue/31st Street; the 4, 5, and 6 subway trains at Lexington Avenue; and the Metro-North Railroad at Park Avenue.

**Car and Van services at LaGuardia**
Taxi and van service is also available at LaGuardia. Taxi service is available in front of all terminals. Ground transportation information counters, located on the lower baggage claim level of all terminals, provide information and reservations for buses, shared-ride vans and private cars or limousines. You can call 1 (800)-AIR-RIDE for information on authorized transportation services. For more information, please visit http://www.panynj.gov/airports/lga-taxi-car-van-service.html.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip</th>
<th>Fare Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between Terminals</td>
<td>$5 - $10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Upper Manhattan</td>
<td>$29 - $37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Mid-Manhattan</td>
<td>$25 - $37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Lower Manhattan</td>
<td>$32 - $37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the Bronx Co-op City</td>
<td>$43 - $48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hub (149th &amp; 3rd Ave.)</td>
<td>$20 - $25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverdale</td>
<td>$35 - $40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Brooklyn Downtown</td>
<td>$28 - $33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coney Island</td>
<td>$59 - $64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Queens Citi Field</td>
<td>$10 - $15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main St. &amp; 60th Ave.</td>
<td>$18 - $23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Staten Island New Dorp Lane</td>
<td>$65 - $70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip</td>
<td>Fare Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Boulevard</td>
<td>$67 - $72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Kennedy International Airport</td>
<td>$32 - $35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Newark Liberty International Airport</td>
<td>$78 - $83 (+$17.50 surcharge)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transportation from Newark**

*AirTrain Newark*

AirTrain is a simpler, easier way to get to, from, and around Newark Liberty International Airport. Operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, AirTrain provides easy connections to NJ Transit and the rail lines that run on the Northeast Corridor and North Jersey Coast Line. When you buy a NJ TRANSIT or Amtrak ticket to or from Newark Liberty International Airport Station, that one ticket includes the AirTrain Newark portion, which is $5.50.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Connection</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midtown Manhattan</td>
<td>NJ Transit</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Penn Station</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark Penn Station</td>
<td>NJ Transit</td>
<td>$8.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey City, NJ</td>
<td>NJ Transit to Newark Penn Station, PATH to Journal Square</td>
<td>$10.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Trade Center</td>
<td>NJ Transit to Newark Penn Station, PATH to World Trade Center</td>
<td>$10.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bus Services**

Newark Airport Express offers fast, easy, convenient express bus service between Newark Liberty International Airport and New York City. Buses are only $16 one way or $28 round trip and arrive at each stop every 15 minutes during the day, 365 days a year (departures every 30 minutes before 6:45 AM and after 11:15 PM). For more information, please visit [http://www.coachusa.com/olympia/ss.newarkairport.asp](http://www.coachusa.com/olympia/ss.newarkairport.asp).

**Car and Van Services at Newark**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip</th>
<th>Fare Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To the City of Newark</td>
<td>$15 - $18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the City of Elizabeth</td>
<td>$20 - $25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Edison &amp; Edison township</td>
<td>$56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Hackensack</td>
<td>$59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Hoboken</td>
<td>$46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Jersey City</td>
<td>$46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Trip Fare Range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip</th>
<th>Fare Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To New Brunswick</td>
<td>$59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Teterboro</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Union City</td>
<td>$52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To New York City/Manhattan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery - W 23rd St.</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 24th St. - W 58th St.</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 59th St. - W 96th St.</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 97th St. - W 185th St.</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above W 185th St.</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Checklist Upon Arrival

1. Check in with your sponsor and contact Keisha Simon at West Quad Building—Room 234 (718) 951- 4477 at the Office of International Student and Scholar Services in Brooklyn College upon arriving in New York City. Bring your passport, I-94, DS-2019. Check-in is usually conducted as an individual meeting with the Office of International Student and Scholar Services. We must check your documents to make sure that your first or most recent entry to the United States was handled properly. We will also collect your local address and emergency contact information and provide an overview of U.S. immigration regulations. This is an ideal time to ask us questions, find out how to get necessary information, and receive important updates.

2. Photocopy your passport, DS-2019, visa stamp page, I-94, and all identity or important documents. Immediately store the copies in a location separate from the originals. It is much easier to replace lost or stolen items if there is a record.

3. Obtain a Brooklyn College ID card. You can obtain this from the Enrollment Services Center at 102 West Quad.

4. Contact your consulate in New York City. Most countries have representatives here. Consulates provide such services as emergency assistance, cultural programming, and tax treaty information. Some countries require that their citizens who are abroad register at the nearest consulate.

### Medical Insurance

As per U.S. government regulations all J-1 Research Scholars or Professors and their accompanying dependents must be covered by health insurance as follows:

1. Medical benefits of at least $100,000 per accident or illness
2. Expenses involved with medical evacuation in the amount of $50,000
3. Repatriation of remains in the amount of $25,000
4. A deductible not exceeding $500 per accident or illness.

### Housing

For information on housing you may contact our:

**Student Life and Housing Office**
**Location:** 219 Student Center
**Hours:** Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:00pm
**Phone:** 718-951-5000 ext. 6534 or 6533
The Residence Hall for Brooklyn College is located at 1 Kenilworth Place, Brooklyn NY 11210 and provides residential living for Brooklyn College students. The Residence Hall is owned by RHBC Management LLC, a private company offering a suite style residence hall for students. Students can apply for either for their own place or opt to room with someone. Below contains the pricing and layout of the apartments and resident halls as well as the amenities offered in our apartments and resident halls:

Each apartment offers the following amenities:

- Fully furnished
- Kitchenette
- Microwave
- Refrigerator
- Private or shared bedrooms
- All utilities included
- Wi-Fi Internet
- Cable TV
- Individually-controlled air conditioning and heat
- Proxy key access

Residence Hall offers the following amenities:

- Laundry facilities
- 24-hour courtesy patrols
- Meeting and study rooms
- Exercise room
- Courtyard
- Lounge with plasma screen TVs
- Views of Brooklyn and Manhattan
- Wi-Fi in public areas

For an application go to https://www.1kenilworth.com/apply-online.php.

For further information you can go online at https://www.1kenilworth.com/contact-us.php where you can access live chat with further inquiries or call (718)252-5000.
Other Housing Resources:

Apartments, furnished rooms and shares are available in the College neighborhood and some landlords notify us of available accommodations. Housing referrals are posted on the housing database. Referral information is not available by phone or correspondence. Most landlords will only handle applications in person so you must be here to make these arrangements.


- **Craig's List** - [newyork.craigslist.org](http://newyork.craigslist.org/) - Search for apartments and other housing options.

- **North Brooklyn / 12 Towns YMCA** - [http://www.ymcanc.org/north-brooklyn/guest-rooms/guest-rooms/](http://www.ymcanc.org/north-brooklyn/guest-rooms/guest-rooms/) - Facility offers single private rooms for $45 per night. Rate includes access to gymnasium, pool, and computer lab. There is also a special student rate of $850 per month.

- **New York City YMCA** - [http://www.ymcanc.org/ymca-of-greater-new-york/guest-rooms/](http://www.ymcanc.org/ymca-of-greater-new-york/guest-rooms/) - Three YMCAs in Manhattan, two each in Brooklyn and Queens, offer clean, comfortable and tranquil hostel accommodations for under $100 per night.

- **Metro International Housing Information** - [http://www.metrointl.org/programs/housingbooklet/listings.html](http://www.metrointl.org/programs/housingbooklet/listings.html) - Excellent web site for NYC housing information- including short-term accommodations list, NYC rental regulations, etc.

- **International House** - [http://www.ihouse-nyc.org](http://www.ihouse-nyc.org) - A private residence hall for international and American students attending educational institutions within New York City, offers rooms and apartments to students and their families. For an application, write directly to International House, 500 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027 (telephone 212-316-8400, fax 212-316-1827).

- **New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Sharing Program** - [http://www.nyfsc.org/services/](http://www.nyfsc.org/services/) - matches students with senior 'hosts'. Contact information is as follows: 11 Park Place, 14th Floor New York, NY 10007-2801 (212) 962-7559 ext. 244 or e-mail nyfscinc@aol.com

International Student Resources:

- **CUNY International Student Guide** - [http://www1.cuny.edu/international/sec5-5.html](http://www1.cuny.edu/international/sec5-5.html) - Offers resource for international students and tips assisting with finding housing in New York.


*Please note: Brooklyn College provides housing information solely for the convenience of its visitors. The college does not endorse or recommend any housing. Housing arrangements are the exclusive responsibility of the scholars and student.*

**Opening a Bank Account**

When opening a bank account it will allow you to store your money in a secure place and allow for easy transfer of fund from your home country. Below are a list of documents you should bring when opening a bank account:
J1 Pre Arrival Information

- Passport
- Brooklyn College ID
- Cash
- One or more of the following documents:
  - Valid driver's license
  - International tax identification number
  - Diplomatic ID
  - Proof of current residence
  - Social Security number if you're working in the US
  - W-8 forms declaring your non-residency

**Obtaining a Social Security Number:**

You must make a formal application to receive a Social Security number if you have never applied for one or you had a number temporarily assigned to you by the College. You will need to submit an application in person at a Social Security Administration office. You must go to the Social Security office in the borough where you receive your mail.

Security Social Administration offices close by

- The Bronx: 820 Concourse Village West, Second Floor, Bronx NY 10451
- Brooklyn: 154 Pierrepont Street, Sixth Floor, Brooklyn NY 11201
- Manhattan: 123 William Street, Third Floor, New York, NY 10038
- Queens: 155-10 Jamaica Avenue, Second Floor, Jamaica, NY 11432

See below for the required documents needed to obtain a social security number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Documents</th>
<th>J-1 Students</th>
<th>J-1 (AT) Students</th>
<th>J-1 Scholars</th>
<th>J-2 Dependents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passport</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-94 record or passport admission stamp</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS-2019</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Letter (see below)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment or Fellowship Authorization (see below)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education for your Children**

Public school education (grades 1 to 12) in the United States is free and required. Homeowners and apartment renters pay taxes directly or indirectly and thus earn the right to enroll their children in the public school system.
Grades

Preschool and Nursery Schools: educational programs for very young children, usually aged 3 – 5 (depending on when the student’s birthday occurs). These programs are usually for half a day – in either the morning or the afternoon – and are intended to provide children with reading and social skills. This is not required.

Kindergarten: the educational program of most kindergartens is intended to provide children with social skills, reading skills and basic elementary education that will help him or her succeed in elementary school. Generally, children whose 5th birthday occurs before the end of September enroll in kindergarten. This is required.

Elementary school: Educational programs intended for children ages 6 or 7 through 11; children begin to learn about reading, writing and arithmetic as well as other skills. These are usually grades 1 through 6. Children tend to stay in one room for their instruction, with possible exceptions for physical education and some arts programs if the school offers them. This is required.

Middle School: For children aged 11 to 14 (grades 7 through 8), during this phase of the American education system, children begin to gain greater understanding of basic subjects. They are assigned a home room where they receive important information about the school’s activities, but tend to move from one class room to another during the course of their day to study different subjects. This is required.

High School: Depending upon the school system, high school might cover grades 9 – 12 or 10-12. Students aged 14 - 18 begin to specialize in their studies, focusing on either gaining technical skills or preparing for university study. This is required.

Immunizations for School
It is required for your child to have certain vaccinations upon entering school. Vaccinations requirements differ depending on age. Below contains a list of vaccinations:

### New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccines</th>
<th>Pre-kindergarten (Day Care, Nursery, Head Start, or Pre-K)</th>
<th>School (k-12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria Toxoid-Containing Vaccine</td>
<td>3 doses (New York City Schools – 4 doses)</td>
<td>3 doses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus Toxoid-Containing Vaccine and Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap, DTaP)</td>
<td>3 doses if born on or after 1/1/2005</td>
<td>3 doses if born on or after 1/1/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis Booster (Tdap)</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>Born on or after 1/1/1994 and enrolling in grades 6 through 8 for the 2012-2013 school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio (OPV or IPV)</td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>3 doses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)</td>
<td>1 dose</td>
<td>2 doses of measles-containing vaccine and 1 dose each of mumps and rubella (preferably on MMR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>3 doses</td>
<td>3 doses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemophilus influenza type b (HiB)</td>
<td>3 doses if less than 15 months of age or 1 dose administered on or after 15 months of age</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)</td>
<td>Born on or after 1/1/2008 4 doses by 15 months of age, given at age-appropriate times and intervals</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella (Chickenpox)</td>
<td>Born on or after 1/1/2000 1 dose</td>
<td>Born on or after 1/1/1998 or born on or after 1/1/1994 and enrolling in grades 6 through 12 for the 2012-2013 school year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment information for children

In order to find out what school to enroll your child into go to [http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolsearch/](http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolsearch/). This link provides you with a list of schools available for your child based on your zone and your child’s age. Below is a list of two elementary schools (prekindergarten to 5th grade in the zones of Brooklyn College)
School of Science & Technology (K152)
725 EAST 23 STREET, Brooklyn, NY 11210
718-434-5222
Grades: PK, 0K, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, SE
District: 22
Distance: 0.15mi

P.S. K315 (K315)
2310 GLENWOOD ROAD, Brooklyn, NY 11210
718-421-9560
Grades: PK, 0K, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, SE
District: 22
Distance: 0.16mi

Documents to bring
When you come to register, please bring your child with you. You also must bring:

- Child’s birth certificate or passport
- Child’s immunization records
- Proof of residence, which will be verified by any two of the following:
  - A residential utility bill (gas or electric) in the resident’s name issued by National Grid, Con Edison, or the Long Island Power Authority; must be dated within the past 60 days
  - Documentation or letter on letterhead from a federal, state or local government agency, including the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), City Housing Authority, Human Resources Administration (HRA), the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), or an ACS subcontractor indicating the resident’s name and address; must be dated within the past 60 days
  - An original lease agreement, deed or mortgage statement for the residence
  - A current property tax bill for the residence
  - A water bill for the residence; must be dated within the past 60 days
  - Official payroll documentation from an employer such as a form submitted for tax withholding purposes or payroll receipt; a letter on the employer’s letterhead will not be accepted; must be dated within the past 60 day
- Child’s latest report card/transcript (if available)
- Child’s Individual Education Program (IEP) and/or 504 Accommodation Plan (if applicable and available)

Staying Safe
New York is generally a safe place, however like all areas there are some general precautions you should take when travelling.

Protect Your Valuables
1. Leave your valuables in the hotel safe or home. There's no reason to carry a lot of cash with you, so leave extra credit cards and cash in the safe at the hotel or home. Use caution when using ATMs and don't carry too much cash around with you. Lock your suitcases and hide your laptop computer while out of your room.
2. Never wear flashy jewelry if you can avoid it.
3. Men should keep their wallets in a front pocket. Women should carry their purses in front, if possible, with one hand firmly on your purse straps.
4. Don't ride in an empty subway car. Stick with the crowds, even on subway platforms.

Avoid Scams
1. Don't deal with anyone who approaches you on the street with a money-making proposition or a sob story.
2. Avoid card games on the street, more commonly known as "Three Card Monte." You will not win the game, but you're sure to lose plenty of cash. In addition, the card games are patently illegal and the organizers of the games
will simply fold up shop and run if they see the police.
3. Don't get into a taxicab unless it is a yellow Medallion cab. These are the only cabs authorized by the New York Taxi & Limousine Commission to pick up riders hailing a cab. Avoid unmarked "gypsy" cabs, which are unregulated, less safe and will charge you more than medallion cabs.

Should you find yourself the victim of a crime, contact a police officer. In case of an immediate emergency, call 911. Otherwise, contact 311 (free from any pay phone) and you will be directed to an officer who will be able to take a report. 311 calls are answered 24 hours a day by a live operator.

**Driving in New York City**

**How to obtain an International Driving Permit**

*An International Driving Permit is not a driver license.* The permit only verifies that you hold a valid driver license in your home country. Your foreign driver license, not the International Driving Permit, allows you to drive in NYS. Contact the authorities in your home country to get an International Driving Permit. If you are not a resident of the US, you cannot apply for an International Driving Permit in the US. Please note that your International Driving Permit will expire and then you will need to follow up the Department of Motor Vehicles to receive a New York License.

You are not required to have an International Driving Permit to drive in NYS, but the permit has value. The permit verifies, in several languages, that you have a valid foreign driver license. A police officer who cannot read the language on your foreign driver license can read the permit.

**The Rules of the Road**

When entering the United States whether you are a driver or a pedestrian, it is important to know the traffic signs. Knowing the rules of the road is important in such a crowded and busy area such as New York City.

Below contains a list of rules to follow:

- The legal drinking age in the United States is 21, those under 21 who consume alcoholic beverages will face serious consequences if found doing so. Do not drink and drive! It is strictly prohibited, if after a night out you need to get home take a taxi home.
- Be observant and cautious of traffic a light, walking against a green light is illegal and known as “jay walking”.

Below contains a list of signs to follow when driving.
Travelling in New York:

**Subway and Bus:**

The base fare for a subway or local bus ride is $2.75. The fare for an express bus ride is $6.25. Up to three children 44 inches tall and under ride for free on subways and local buses when accompanied by a fare-paying adult. Infants (under two years of age) ride express buses free if the child sits on the lap of the accompanying adult. You may pay with either a Metro Card or cash. A Metro Card is a plastic card that can be purchased for $1 at any subway station and is used on the subway and bus systems. If you decide to pay in cash make sure you bring exact change because there is no option to give you back change on the bus. If you need help planning a trip you can go to [http://www.mta.info/](http://www.mta.info/) and on the right side click on the trip planner option. For a list of subway stations please visit [http://web.mta.info/nyct/service/index.html](http://web.mta.info/nyct/service/index.html).

**Long Island Railroad:**

The Long Island Railroad is a train that travels from various areas in Long Island to New York City. The price of a ticket varies based on the station and distance you are travelling (refer to train map below to see train stations). This train is very prompt so make sure that you arrive at least 5 minutes early because the train can leave. For more information on scheduling and ticket prices go to: [http://lirr42.mta.info/](http://lirr42.mta.info/)

**Metro North**

The Metro North can be used to travel in various areas, but is mainly used to travel to areas upstate, New Jersey and Connecticut. The prices of tickets vary based on location. Please refer below for a map of train stations. You can access more information on schedules and fares at [http://www.mta.info/mnr/html/planning/schedules/](http://www.mta.info/mnr/html/planning/schedules/)

**Things to do in New York City**

**Broadway Shows**

An up-to-the-minute guide to all Broadway shows-musicals, dramas, comedies, and those that are great for kids. [http://www.nycgo.com/broadway/](http://www.nycgo.com/broadway/?a=1&b=1&cid=nycgov_bway_101309)

**The Bronx Zoo**

Learn about the animals, plan your visit, and find out about educational programs at the Bronx Zoo. [http://www.bronxzoo.com/](http://www.bronxzoo.com/)

**Ellis Island and Immigration**

Browse photos documenting the history of Ellis Island and its role in early 20th century immigration or search immigration records. [http://www.ellisisland.org/](http://www.ellisisland.org/)

**Empire State Building**

Visit the Web site of the Empire State Building to learn about visiting hours and fees, see the lighting schedule, and take a virtual tour. [http://www.esbny.com/](http://www.esbny.com/)

**New York Aquarium**

Get tips for your visit; learn about the animals, and a map of the site at the New York Aquarium's Web site. [http://www.nyaquarium.com/](http://www.nyaquarium.com/)

**Statue of Liberty**

Dedicated in 1886, the Statue of Liberty has long been an international symbol of political freedom and democracy. [http://www.nps.gov/stli/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/stli/index.htm)
Times Square
Get maps, special event and entertainment resources, and more from the Times Square Business Improvement District.

American Museum of Natural History
Visit the Rose Center for Earth and Space, see an IMAX, or see current exhibitions at the Museum of Natural History.
http://www.amnh.org/

Madame Tussauds New York
In a city with millions of things to see and do, there is only one place where everyday over 200 world-famous celebrities line up to provide you with the experience of a lifetime. Become a star at Madame Tussauds New York's 85,000 square feet of interactive entertainment located in the heart of Times Square.
http://www.madametussauds.com/NewYork/

Metropolitan Museum of Art
The Met, which opened in 1870, holds over two million pieces of art from all over the world, spanning 5,000 years of art and culture.
http://www.metmuseum.org/

For more detailed information on these places go to:
http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/menuitem.b89ffdd82b13aff6a62fa24601c789a0/

Brooklyn Botanical Garden
To take a look at the beautiful garden display, plan a trip to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. For more information go to www.bbg.org

Governors Island
Learn about the history of the southern tip of Manhattan, at the confluence of the Hudson and East Rivers in New York Harbor. The island's fortifications - Fort Jay and Castle Williams - served as an early outpost to protect New York City from enemy naval attack and were an integral part of a larger coastal defense network.
http://www.nps.gov/gois/historyculture/a-brief-history-of-governors-island.htm

Free events:
There are several free events in New York, for a list of events which you can attend go to:
http://www.nycgo.com/free/?a=1&b=1&cid=nycgov_free-in-nyc_73109
http://www.newyorkled.com/

Gratuities and tips
Generally, service charges are not included in bills. It is expected that these charges will be covered by tips, an acronym for “to insure proper service.” Tips often constitute the primary income of service employees who earn a small hourly wage. For satisfactory service in a restaurant, tip 15 to 20 percent of the check’s pretax subtotal. Taxi drivers are generally tipped 10 to 15 percent of the fare. Other workers routinely tipped are luggage handlers at airports ($1 per bag), bell captains and housekeepers at hotels, and anyone providing a personal service (e.g., a manicurist or hair stylist). If service is unsatisfactory, you may tip less than the suggested amount or not at all. Tips are not expected in take-out restaurants, cafeterias, or fast-food establishments.

Finding a Cultural Town in NYC
Upon entering New York you will realize that it is very diverse and caters to many cultures. NYC offers “cultural towns” that you may feel help you adjust. These cultural towns provide certain groceries, activities, clothing, dining areas similar to your country of origin.
China Town
Here you can find all the essential Chinese ingredients to cook traditional dishes. You will also find doctors who practice traditional Chinese medicine as well as religious areas such as Buddhist temples.

7 Pell Street
New York, NY 10013
(212) 219-2828
http://www.explorechinatown.com/

Korean Town (K-Town)
Koreatown, which is centered on 32nd Street between 5th and Broadway, is a little slice of Korea in the heart of Manhattan where you can enjoy traditional Korean Barbeque.

http://culinarytravel.about.com/od/newyorkculinarytravel/ig/NYC-Favorite-Food-Guide/KoreaTown-JPG.htm

China Town in Flushing, Queens (Asian)
Flushing is similar to China town however it tends to be more diverse serving Koreans, Chinese, Taiwanese and more.

32 and Linden Place
Queens, NY
http://www.nychinatown.org/flushing/flushing.html

Japan Town
Every sign might not be in Japanese, but there are plenty of good Yakitori, Izakaya, Sushi, Ramen, and other Japanese restaurants to go to.

East 8th Street or St. Marks Place
New York, NY

Little Brazil
Here you can enjoy Brazilian restaurant style called rodizios and enjoy traditional dishes such as feijoada.

Astoria, Queens
Between Broadway and 31st Street
New York, NY
http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/real-estate/guide-astoria-brazil-article-1.1044156

Spanish Harlem
Here you can visit places that honor Latin American and Caribbean art and culture such as El Museo Del Barrio.

East Harlem
New York, NY
http://www.nyc.com/visitor_guide/el_barrio_spanish_harlem.75851/editorial_review.aspx

Little Italy
Located here are your favorite Italian desserts, authentic foods and coffee. Come by to enjoy a cannoli, Arancini or even authentic Italian espresso.

Mulberry Street
New York, NY
http://www.littleitalynyc.com/
Little Ireland
Here come enjoy some traditional Irish tea, Irish Guinness or a traditional Irish breakfast.

Woodlawn, Bronx
Bronx, NY

Little Poland
Come here to get a taste of back home with foods like kielbasa, pierogi and sweet treats such as Pączki.

Greenpoint, Brooklyn
Brooklyn, NY

Counseling

Upon arriving you may feel overwhelmed with the culture shock from moving from one country to another. Brooklyn College offers free and confidential counseling at 0203 James Hall. Serves include:

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Theme-Centered Workshops
- Video Showing and Discussion Groups
- Drug and Alcohol Counseling
- Couples, Marriage and Family Counseling
- Housing Referral

Guidelines for Maintaining J-1 Status

- Make sure your passport is always valid.
- Apply for any program extension at least 30 days before the expiration date in section 3 of your DS-2019
- Do not leave the United States without having your documents reviewed by the Brooklyn College Office of International Student Affairs.
- Report any change of address to the Ryan Buck within ten days of the move.
- Contact the Office of International Student Affairs immediately if any of your immigration documents are lost or stolen.

Information Booth

The Information Booth provides a range of information on campus services to address your concerns and needs. The Information Booth is open seven days a week for most of the year and is located at: 1139 Boylan Hall, or James Hall entrance (mobile booth). For more information call 718.951.4748.