

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
Office for International Services

Essential Information
for
New International Students



oisnewstudent@fordham.edu
www.fordham.edu/ois

Dear International Student,

The **Office for International Services** (OIS) welcomes you to Fordham! International students have studied at Fordham University since its founding in 1841. Fordham values the diversity of culture and experience international students contribute to the academic and student life of our campuses. Adjustment is not always easy, however.

This Essential Information pamphlet is our way of trying to help you make the transition from your home country to Fordham. It contains many different kinds of information gathered with the specific needs of the international student in mind. Please read this information carefully. * If there is any additional information you need, please, do not hesitate to contact us.

Throughout your stay, we hope that you will consider the OIS a place to come for assistance. Whether you need advice and guidance about University policies, immigration concerns or cultural adjustment, we will do our best to help you. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Salvatore C. Longarino
Director, Office for International Services

*Please note information included is subject to change. Everything is as accurate as possible at the time of publishing.

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THE OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

The OIS is a key resource center for students and scholars from abroad. The OIS provides information about immigration regulations and the benefits for which non-immigrants are eligible under immigration law. We also sponsor activities and sessions which we encourage you to attend.

New international students are required to [check-in](#) with the OIS upon arrival at the University.

OIS holds special **mandatory orientations** specifically for international students arriving in the Fall and Spring terms. These orientations contain information that is very important and useful for international students, and you must attend your orientation. Information about your OIS orientation can be found on the OIS website, www.fordham.edu/ois, and then by clicking “Programs and Events”. Orientation times and locations are confirmed throughout the summer, so if there is no information for your school’s orientation, please check back regularly.

OFFICE INFORMATION:

www.fordham.edu/ois

	Lincoln Center Students	Rose Hill Students
Location	Martino Hall 45 Columbus Avenue, Suite 315 New York, NY 10023	540 East 191 st Street, 2 nd Floor Bronx, NY 10458 To enter, ring the buzzer to the left of the door
Hours	Appointments, drop-offs, pick-ups: Monday – Thursday 10:00am – 4:00pm	Monday – Thursday 10:00am – 4:00pm

OIS is a small office which serves over 3,000 international students. We always respond to all inquiries and requests as quickly as possible.

BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE US:

- Check passport validity. Passports should be valid at least 6 months into the future
- Check our website for updates and announcements:
www.fordham.edu/ois
- Apply for your F1 or J1 visa stamp at a U.S. consulate or embassy (except Canadian citizens). The earliest date you could apply is **(365)** days before your “reporting date” (Program of Study section on I-20s and section 3 on DS-2019).
 - You can check the Consular’s ‘Visa Wait Times’ website to see how long it will take for a visa to be processed:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>
 - **DO NOT** enter the U.S. on the “visa waiver” program or B-2 visa
 - When you fill out the DS-160 Form (Visa Application Online Form), you are prompted to provide a Contact Person in the U.S., and Address Where You Will Stay in the U.S.
 - o If you do not have an answer for either of these questions, you would be able to list Mr. Salvatore Longarino as Contact Person in the U.S., and use the corresponding OIS office address for your campus (Rose Hill or Lincoln Center) listed on page 4 of this book as address information, and as Address Where You Will Stay in the U.S.
 - o Additional corresponding contact information would be listed on our Fordham OIS [Contact Us webpage](#).
 - o email: oisnewstudent@fordham.edu
 - o phone: +1(718)817-3145
- Find out how and when your sponsors will transfer funds for your tuition and living expenses.
- Have a physical, vision, and dental examination before you leave. (Medical care is very expensive in the U.S. and your

standard Fordham health insurance does not cover dental and visual care unless you register for these plans by paying extra. We recommend you get your eyes and teeth checked before leaving your country!!)

- Get your medical prescriptions officially translated into English, if you require medication. Not all of your medications are approved for use in the U.S. Get extra pairs of glasses or contacts lenses, if you wear them.
- Make housing arrangements. If you were unable to secure housing, contact one of the services listed in this book for temporary residence. If you wish to live off-campus and need more information on possible housing options, check the links in our “New Students” section of www.fordham.edu/ois, read the housing section here carefully, and refer to the comprehensive housing information in the One To World ebook *International Student’s Survival Guide to Living in NYC*.
- Bring an electric current converter to 110 volts for your electric equipment.
- Contact your academic department for academic questions before the end of May; your professors may not be on campus during June and July. The OIS office is open all summer.
- If you drive, get an international driver’s permit, if available. You can use your permit for a temporary period in the U.S.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The F1/J1 visa regulations allow you to enter the US **up to 30 days** before the start date listed on your I-20/DS-2019. Therefore, **DO NOT** arrive in the U.S. more than 30 days before the start of your academic program.

FOR A SMOOTH ARRIVAL:

- Make plans to arrive in NYC at least 1 or 2 weeks before classes begin.
- Carry your passport and I-20 or DS-2019 with you on your person when you travel. **DON'T** pack them in your luggage.
- Label your baggage inside and out with your name, your permanent *and* U.S. addresses and telephone numbers. If you do not know your U.S. information, you can use our address and telephone number (listed on the back of this booklet).
- Decide how you will get to your residence/temporary accommodation once you arrive in New York. (i.e. taxi cab, public transportation, friend pick-up, etc...) Read our section on Transportation Options from the Airports.
- We recommend that you have about US\$200 in cash and access to \$1,000 - \$2,000 via an ATM or debit card.
- Learn the currency conversion between the U.S. \$ and your country's currency.
- **DO NOT** bring food or bulky belongings.
- **AT THE AIRPORT DO NOT ACCEPT A RIDE OFFERED TO YOU BY SOMEONE YOU DO NOT KNOW. EVEN IF THE PERSON LOOKS "NICE" AND OFFERS TO CHARGE YOU AN "INEXPENSIVE FEE."** (Read the section on transportation from the airport carefully.)

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

Necessary Documents

As a foreign national entering the U.S., you need certain documents as evidence of your legal status. These include a passport and a U.S. visa stamp in your passport. (Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa requirement). Individuals entering as F-1 non-immigrant students will need the “Certificate of Eligibility” Form I-20; J-1 visa holders need Form DS-2019. After entering the U.S. you will be able to retrieve the I-94 entry record online.

Passport: Your passport is issued by your home government and may be renewed in the U.S. through your government’s embassy or consulate. Your passport must remain valid at all times while you are in the U.S.

Visa Stamp: A U.S. visa stamp allows you to enter the U.S. You can only apply for a student visa at a U.S. consulate and embassy outside of the U.S. Notations on the visa stamp indicate the type of visa (F-1, J-1), the number of entries allowed and the expiration date. **IMPORTANT: A VISA STAMP MAY EXPIRE WHILE YOU ARE IN THE U.S. WITHOUT COMPROMISING YOUR LEGAL STAY BECAUSE THE ONLY PURPOSE OF THE STAMP IS TO ALLOW ENTRY TO THIS COUNTRY.**

Form I-94: This document records the date and purpose of your entry, and the length of time you are allowed to stay in the U.S. The officer records your entry to the country electronically using your passport, so the I-94 is an **electronic** document that you can print. You must retrieve your I-94 **after** you enter the U.S. by going to www.cbp.gov/i94. The “**Admit Until Date**” should say “**D/S**” (Duration of Status), which means your I-20 completion date plus 60 days (F-1s) or DS-2019 completion date plus 30 days (J-1s).

Certificate of Eligibility Form SEVIS I-20: This is a three page document issued by Fordham, which describes the nature and expected duration of your program, your financial resources, and other information. Form I-20 permits one to apply for an F-1 visa stamp and to request F-1 (student) status upon entry to the U.S. This will serve as your primary immigration document during your entire stay in the U.S. Keep it in a safe place with your other important documents. **MAKE SURE TO SHOW YOUR I-20 TO THE OFFICER** at the airport when you enter the U.S.

Immigration regulations require that you attend the school that issues you the I-20 you use to enter the U.S. **DO NOT** use another school's I-20 to enter the U.S. if you intend to study at Fordham.

Certificate of Eligibility Form DS-2019: This is a one page (2 sided) document issued by your sponsoring organization that describes your purpose for entering the U.S., the expected duration of your program, and your sources of funding. Form DS-2019 permits you to apply for a J-1 visa stamp and request J-1 (Exchange Visitor) status upon entry to the U.S. This form will serve as your primary immigration document during your entire stay and should be kept in a safe place with your other important documents.

Obtaining an F-1 or J-1 Visa and Entering the U.S.

If you are now overseas, you may apply for your visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate. You will need your I-20 or DS-2019, your passport, recent photographs, proof of SEVIS fee payment, and proof of financial support. You could also bring a copy of your acceptance letter.

We suggest that you call the consulate or embassy or check their website for specific instructions and requirements before you apply. Copies of TOEFL scores, previous academic grades or other test scores are helpful as well. You could visit our website

www.fordham.edu/ois for more information. The Department of State website <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html> provides specific information about specific U.S. posts' policies and procedures.

Your goal is to convince the US consul you have no intention to become a U.S. immigrant. You might be asked to prove strong economic, personal and social ties with your home country. Avoid any remarks describing dreams and goals you might have in the U.S. AFTER you have completed your academic program. A “rule” is: Never lie, but you don’t have to tell the entire truth.

If your application is denied, you should with respect and kindness request a written list of needed documentation to overcome this refusal and, if possible, the officer’s name. Then notify our office.

As we mentioned before, if you have an “ALREADY USED” and unexpired F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in your passport, you CAN use it along with Fordham’s I-20 or DS-2019 to enter the US. It does not matter if your previous school’s name is noted on the visa, as long as you actually attended the institution for which it was issued originally.

***A Note About Majors as They Appear on the I-20:** Many students write to us concerned or confused that the **"Major"** on page 1 on the I-20, does not match exactly how Fordham defines its own program (usually noted in a student's Admission Letter). **This is normal and should not be a cause of concern.** The reason is based on US Govt semantics. When filling out the DS-160, you can write your major as noted in your Admission letter.

AT THE AIRPORT/ENTERING THE U.S.

If you prepared your documents properly, your experience with U.S. Immigration and Customs will go easily, but it might be time consuming.

At the U.S. airport, when you leave the airplane, you will be directed to the immigration station. There, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspector will ask to see your passport, visa stamp, and your I-20 or DS-2019. If you have more than one US visa in your passport, **open the passport to the correct page** – do not expect the officer to open your passport to the correct page. They may also ask to see proof of financial support.

Once cleared, immigration will give back your I-20 or DS-2019. They will also put an entry stamp in your passport (usually on the page across from the F-1/J-1 visa). Make sure the stamp says “F-1” or “J-1” and “D/S”!

IF YOU LOSE OR MISPLACE YOUR I-20 OR DS-2019:
DO NOT PANIC. **ASK THE IMMIGRATION INSPECTOR TO ISSUE YOU A Form I-515.** This will allow you to enter the U.S. as an F-1, but for only one month. The OIS will take care of that form when you check-in with our office.

You will then be directed to the “Baggage Claim” area. Your checked baggage will be placed on a carousel marked with your flight number. Do not worry if you do not see your luggage at first. Sometimes it takes a while to have all bags placed on the carousel. There might be carts available to carry your bags to the Customs desk and to the ground transportation area. Sometimes these carts are free or to rent for about \$5.

Then, at the U.S. Customs desk, you will show your passport and the customs declaration form that your flight attendant gave you. Customs regulations will not allow you to bring fresh foods or plants into the country, so you should leave such items at home.

The officer might ask you to open your bags for inspection.

TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT

Proceed to the “Ground Transportation” area. **DO NOT ACCEPT OFFERS OF TRANSPORTATION FROM ANYONE WHILE GETTING TO THE GROUND TRANSPORTATION STATION. THERE, THE OFFICAL DISPATCHER CAN DIRECT YOU TO LEGAL AND SAFE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.**

Unfortunately, the OIS does not have the resources to meet students at the airport. Please read our following suggestions:

Transportation Options for JFK and LaGuardia Airports:

1. **Car Services:** 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. Review the list of Shared and Private Car Services available from JFK, plus their contact information, here:
<https://www.jfkairport.com/to-from-airport/taxi-car-and-van-service>

Another option is to utilize car service phone applications such as **Uber**, **Lyft**, and **Via**. Be sure to download these on your phone before leaving, and note that you will need working phone service and location abilities in the US to use these apps.

2. **Taxicabs:** The average taxi trip to midtown Manhattan from JFK will cost \$70 (flat fare) plus tolls and about \$50 from LaGuardia. Similar fares will be charged for service to the Bronx. (The website above lists sample fares to different destinations in the city.) The fare will be shown on a meter inside the taxi and it covers all passengers in the car. The passenger pays all bridge and highway tolls, and a 15-20% tip is customary. To avoid problems, only take

yellow cabs at the taxi booth outside the terminal and note the taxi number when you get into the car.

3. **Airtrain and Subway:** If you arrive during the day, you can safely take the Airtrain and the subway from JFK to either campus. (www.airtrainjfk.com) Go to the Airtrain station at your terminal (ask any Airport personnel, they can guide you) take AirTrain JFK to Howard Beach station to connect to the NYC subway. **Take the Inwood - 207 St bound "A" train to 59 St - Columbus Circle.**
 - At 59th St/Columbus Circle get off and walk one block west to 9th Avenue to reach the LC campus.
 - To get to the Bronx campus, transfer at 59th street to the Bronx bound "D" train. Take the "D" to Fordham Road. At Fordham Road take the BX12 bus east to the campus. The Airtrain-Subway ride costs \$7.75 with a free transfer to the bus and also a \$1 new card fee will apply to new MetroCard purchases from the vending machines

NOTE: Subways and buses cost \$2.75 per ride. You may transfer subway trains or from the subway to bus without paying a second fare with your MetroCard. You can buy a MetroCard from the vending machines in the subway stations. Until you are settled and comfortable at Fordham avoid the subway after dark.

Transportation Options from Newark Airport:

1. **Car Services:** 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. Review the list of Shared and Private Car Services available from Newark, plus their contact information, here:
<https://www.newarkairport.com/to-from-airport/taxi-car-and-van-service>

Another option is to utilize car service phone applications such as **Uber**, **Lyft**, and **Via**. Be sure to download these on your phone before leaving, and note that you will need working phone service and location abilities in the US to use these apps.

1. **Airtrain and Train:** There is no subway line from Newark into Manhattan. Instead, you will have to take a commuter train run by NJ Transit. That train will bring you to 34th Street- Penn Station, which has connection to the 1, 2, 3, A, C, and E subway lines. You can learn more about train transportation options from Newark on Port Authority's website:
<https://www.newarkairport.com/to-from-airport/public-transportation>
2. **Bus:** Newark Liberty Airport Express bus service serves Newark Airport. The bus service starts around 4:00 AM and is available to different parts of Manhattan. The fee is about \$17 to Manhattan. For more information, please review their website: <https://www.newarkairportexpress.com/> or call them at 877-894-9155 or (908) 354-3330.

From Manhattan you could take a cab or subway to your final destination. If your final destination is the Rose-Hill campus, take the Newark Liberty Airport Express bus that goes to

Grand Central Terminal. Before boarding, (ask the driver to confirm the destination, as there are different buses serving different locations) and read the instructions below.

Getting to the Rose-Hill (Bronx) Campus from Manhattan:

Metro North Train:

From Grand Central a safe and reliable commuter railroad, Metro-North, is available to the Fordham Road Station for about \$6-\$13 (depending on the time of day and how you purchase your ticket). Trains leave at least once every hour and stop right next to the campus. **If it is your first time coming to the school by yourself we advise you to use the Metro North Train until you familiarize yourself with the subway.

Subway:

You can take two different trains to Fordham's Rose-Hill campus from Manhattan: the orange "D" line and the green "4" line. For both lines, take the Bronx bound train and get off at Fordham Road and take the Bx12 bus to Fordham.

"Ram" Van. This van commutes students between the Rose Hill and Lincoln Center campuses. The ride is about 30-45 minutes. The van leaves every half-hour from both campuses and it costs \$3.50 each way. You might have to sign up online in advance on busy days. Additional information is available on <http://ramvan.blog.fordham.edu/2015/08/30/ram-van-101/>

ONCE YOU ARRIVE IN THE U.S.

VERY IMPORTANT: You must check-in with the OIS within 10 days after your arrival. You will need your I-94 document and passport. Check-in is a digital process that can be done quickly and is **required** to maintain your status. For more information about check-in and the online check-in link, visit our website at www.fordham.edu/ois and click the “Online Check-In” button found on the main page.

NOTE: If you are a J-1 student with a DS-2019 issued by Fordham, you may check-in online, but you **must** still come to the office with your DS-2019 so that we can give you a travel signature.

U.S. Address: Make sure your address information is up-to-date in your my.fordham.edu account:

1. Login to my.fordham.edu
2. Select the Student tab on the top left
3. Select the “Information” folder tab under My Information
4. Select Update Addresses and Phones

NOTE: you must choose the **Non-University Local** category for your US local address.

- Make sure the permanent address listed is a non-US address
- If you will NOT live in University housing, make sure your local US address is up-to-date

Orientation: Make sure you attend your OIS orientation session. This is when we will give you very important information about how to legally stay in the US with your F-1 or J-1 status.

If you are an undergraduate student, your OIS orientation will be part of the mandatory Global Transition program.

Remember that *ALL* international students must complete the Online Insurance Registration process via the Fordham University website.

DO NOT visit any Federal Office (especially Social Security or the DMV) before you check with our office first.

PLANNING YOUR BUDGET & INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF MONEY

Estimate of Expenses: The cost of living in the New York metropolitan area is high, relative to other areas of the U.S. The amount estimated for living expenses on your Certificate of Eligibility (**\$2,000**) is a very *low* average figure. This estimate is conservative to facilitate the visa application. It is extremely difficult to live in New York City for less than \$2,000 / month. You will need more money if you wish to enjoy social events in New York City, travel to other parts of the U.S., or remain in the U.S. for the summer months. Please note that the cost of tuition and living expenses usually increases each year.

Planning your Budget: If your native language is not English, your department may require you to take an English test upon arrival, regardless of your TOEFL score. Based on the results, you may be required to take classes at Fordham University's Institute of American Language and Culture (**IALC**). Graduate students may not receive degree credits for these classes. Consequently, the length of time needed to earn your degree, and your costs, may increase.

As an F-1 or J-1 student, you are required to carry a full-time program of study (undergraduate 12 credits; graduate 9 credits; IALC 18 hours/week which is usually 3 courses per week) during the academic year (September to May).

Budgeting & On-Campus Work: You are allowed to get a job on campus. However, please note that if you do not have a Social Security Number already, you may not be able to start working/getting paid until you obtain the SSN, which could take several weeks. Therefore, make sure you have sufficient funds for your first few weeks without payment for your on-campus work.

Initial Expenses: For taxis, meals, telephone calls, etc. you should have about \$200 in small bills and access to \$1,000-\$2,000 through an ATM or debit card. Even in NYC it can be difficult to exchange currency. It is not advisable to carry large amounts of cash.

Social Security Numbers: The student ID number issued by Fordham is **NOT** a SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN) and should **not** be used in place of SSN (except when first logging into my.fordham.edu). The U.S. government has restrictions on who can apply for a Social Security number, so you may or may not be able to apply for one (it depends on the need). Although not having an SSN may complicate some transactions (i.e. opening a bank account, getting a cell phone), it is possible to accomplish these things without a SSN. The OIS can advise you on how to successfully accomplish these goals.

Banking: You should plan to open a bank account in New York soon after you arrive. Consult with the OIS on how to apply for a bank account properly.

Transfer of Funds: If your country allows foreign exchange transfers, you should find a bank in your home country that can transfer funds to a corresponding bank in New York. The OIS can provide any official letters needed to obtain permission to exchange currency. The major banks have branches in New York City. Delays in bank transfers are common and the University requires full payment of the first semester's tuition before starting classes.

How to Pay Tuition: All students must pay one semester's tuition and any on-campus room and board fees during the registration period.

Payment may be made by cash, check (including traveler's

checks), wire transfer, debit card or money order. Fordham does not accept credit card for Tuition, Room and Board, Technology Fee and General Fees. (Exceptions: PCS and IALC students). Fordham also utilizes a service called Pay to Study, which offers a fast and secure way to send payments globally. Please see the Student Accounts (p. 27) webpage for details.

Payment is expected to be made in full. If you have not paid in advance of arriving, we suggest that you bring a check, in US\$, payable to Fordham University, for the amount you expect to pay. If the check exceeds the amount due, you will receive a credit towards the next semester's tuition, or a refund once your home bank clears the check. We do not recommend that you rely on bank transfers because of frequent delays. Fordham charges a fee for late tuition payments.

It is possible to **wire money** to Fordham to pay your tuition. Here is the procedure to wire money into your account:

1. Find out your student ID number (it is in the following format: A0001813). If you do not know it yet, you can find out by emailing your admissions office
2. Go to your bank in your country and request a wire transfer. The request must include the following information:

Bank of America
100 West 33rd Street
New York, NY 10001
ABA #: **0260-0959-3**

For credit to Fordham University
Fordham University's Account #:4830-0692-5201

Your name
Your Fordham student identification number
School/ Program
The amount of money you are transferring

For international wires, in place of the ABA number,
Use swift number: BOFAUS3N

For ACH transfers, in place of ABA number above
Use ABA No. 0210-0032-2

Be aware that banks usually charge a fee for wire transfers. The typical charge is \$15.00. That sum is usually deducted from the amount sent via the wire transfer, so make sure you transfer enough money to cover that fee. Also, be aware that wiring money from certain countries can take a long time, so make sure you plan ahead!

Financial Aid: No financial aid is available to incoming students other than what is awarded during the admission process. Accordingly, you should make sure that your financial position is secure and that you have made the necessary arrangements regarding foreign exchange permits and transfers of funds.

Employment Restrictions: Regulations severely restrict the employment opportunities available to international students. Part-time on-campus employment (up to 20 hrs per week when school is in session and up to 40 hrs during summer and winter breaks) is the only option for newly arrived international students. On-campus jobs, however, are hard to find and relatively low-paying. Therefore, **you should not expect to finance** your stay in the U.S. through employment.

Credit Cards: International bank transfers are frequently delayed and, in New York City it is difficult to cash checks drawn on overseas banks. Credit cards such as MasterCard and Visa are extremely useful, as are traveler's checks. It is not advisable to carry a lot of cash. You can use your Visa or MasterCard from your home country here, but ask your bank first. It may be necessary to activate your card for overseas use.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

At Fordham University the different colleges and departments have individual program and degree requirements. It is therefore essential that you obtain and READ the University bulletin (catalogue) for your school, not only for its course listings, but also for information pertaining to credits, grades deadlines, etc.

All international students are required by immigration regulations to register full-time. For undergraduates, 12 credits is considered full-time; graduate students must take 9 credits; and IALC students must take the full-time intensive program (18 hours per week). Your academic department may require you to take more than the number of credits that is considered full-time for immigration purposes. The Fall term usually goes from late August through December. The Spring term goes from late January through mid-May.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM NEW YORK WEATHER

During the summer, June through September, the weather is often hot and humid and requires lightweight clothing. The temperature ranges from 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 degrees Celsius) to the 90s (above 32 degrees Celsius). A light-weight rain-jacket and an umbrella will be useful as there can be severe rainstorms.

The winter season, late November through March, is marked by sudden and extreme weather changes; several days of cold weather may be followed by days of moderate temperatures. The range in winter is between 20 degrees Fahrenheit (-7 degrees Celsius) 40 degrees Fahrenheit (7 degrees Celsius), and occasionally the temperature drops to zero (-18 degrees Celsius).

New York City often sees a considerable amount of snowfall in the winter. If you are from a very warm climate that does not experience cold winters, you should be prepared to spend at least \$200-300 on warm clothing. Stores hold winter clothing sales in the late spring, early summer. In addition, boots are definitely recommended.

The spring and fall seasons are generally moderate. The temperatures range from the 50s Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius) to the 70s (20s Celsius). The city receives a moderate amount of rain in these seasons.

In case of inclement weather, you can call Fordham's official **Weather Line** to find out about possible class cancellations or school closures. Toll-free: **1-800-280-SNOW or 1-212-636-7777.**

HOUSING

If you do not have a permanent residence upon your arrival, you could contact one of the hotels and hostels below for temporary housing while you settle down in NYC and begin your search for a permanent location.

Please note that the OIS does not promote these options over any other.

- Bellclaire Hotel. Phone: 212-362-7700, 250 West 77th St., NYC, <http://www.hotelbelleclaire.com/>
- De Hirsch Residence. Phone: 212-415-5650, <https://www.92y.org/residence>
- International House. Phone: 212-316-8400, 500 Riverside Drive, NYC admissions@ihouse-nyc.org. For more info, go to the website: www.ihouse-nyc.org
- Intl. Student Center Hostel. Phone: 212-787-7706, 38 W 88th St., NYC. Shared rooms. <http://www.nystudentcenter.org/>
- Hostelling International New York. www.hinewyork.org
Reservations: [reserve@hinewyork.org/](mailto:reserve@hinewyork.org)
- Vanderbilt YMCA 212-756-9600 224 E.47th St., NYC, <http://www.ymcanyc.org/association/guest-rooms>

Off-Campus Housing:

Off-Campus housing costs

Apartment housing is difficult to find and rents are high. Before moving into an apartment, a security deposit equaling at least one month's rent is usually required. An additional fee of one month may be paid to a real estate broker if one is used. Therefore, students who desire off-campus housing must expect to pay at least the equivalent of three months' rent to move in (first month, security deposit, and fee). In the Bronx, the rent for a one-bedroom apartment ranges from \$1500 to \$2500 (less if you intend to share). Manhattan rents for a studio range from \$2000 to \$3000. Please note that recently, a few students looking for housing in midtown Manhattan have been obligated to pay a full year of rent up front, in lieu of a U.S. lease co-signer. The OIS is able to provide letters of recommendation for you. You can request this and other letters on our website (www.fordham.edu/ois) under "Forms and Letter Requests."

Most students try to find roommates to share apartments. At the Rose Hill campus, listings are available at the Office of Residential Life. At the Lincoln Center campus, listings are posted on the Bulletin Board outside of Lowenstein Room 408.

Housing Search

The web-links below could come in handy as you do your own apartment search:

www.villagevoice.com is a popular free newspaper released every Wednesday. It has listings for all 5 boroughs of the city. You can access their classified listings from their web page.

Internet forums where people post vacancies daily:

<http://newyork.craigslist.org/>
www.places4students.com/
www.myapartmentmap.com

You can access these ads before your arrival, and have a sense of prices in different neighborhoods. When using these sources though, be extremely careful about giving out personal information.

The International Student's Survival Guide to Living in NYC (prepared by One to World) can serve as an additional housing resource guide for international students in New York. One to World is a non-profit membership organization that links New York City with the rest of the world through an array of educational services and outreach programs. To learn more about One to World and the services they provide, visit their web page at: www.one-to-world.org and follow the link "Students". An excerpt of the housing section is listed on the website.

Educational Housing is a not-for-profit organization that aims to provide housing to students in the NYC area. They have three residences in NYC, semester-based leases, and low deposit requirements. You can contact them at 212-977-9099 or at 1-800-297-4694. More information can be obtained from their website: www.studenthousing.org

On-Campus Housing:

Housing on the Rose Hill Campus is available only to undergraduates. However, limited graduate student housing is available in apartments located near the campus. On-campus housing at Lincoln Center is available to undergraduates and nearby off-campus housing is available to graduate students in the Fordham School of Law (LAW), Graduate School of Business (GBA), Graduate School of Social Service (GSSS) and Graduate School of Education (GSE). Arrangements must be made in advance through the Office of Residential Life at either the Rose Hill or Lincoln Center campuses.

Students are able to move-in early to the Residence Halls generally a day before the International Student Orientation. Students MUST EMAIL Residential Life to arrange for early move-in. Undergraduate students must complete the Orientation Registration online which includes move-in information. Detailed information will be emailed during the summer.

Contact Info for the Office of Residential Life can be found on Page 30.

IMPORTANT: The residential halls on the Rose Hill Campus for undergraduate students close during the winter and spring breaks. Consequently, if you plan to live on the Rose Hill campus, you will need to make other arrangements during the following holidays: Christmas/New Year's and Spring break (a week in March). During Thanksgiving (late November), in order to stay on campus, students must complete a "Breakstay" form.

University housing cannot provide accommodations to married students.

HEALTH INSURANCE

All students in F-1 or J-1 visa status and their dependents are required to maintain health insurance coverage. You will automatically be charged for Fordham's health insurance coverage. This insurance fee is billed separately from tuition charge. Insurance will cost about **\$3,567** each year for you, but considerably more for a spouse or children. If you can provide evidence that you have comparable medical insurance from an outside source, you may be waived from the University's policy. To waive the Fordham health insurance coverage, you must complete an online form AND submit documents to the office of University Health Services. Please visit www.fordham.edu/health and follow the link under the Insurance section for International Students to learn about what documents are required for a waiver.

NOTE: You will automatically be billed for health insurance if you do not officially waive Fordham's policy every September.

Make sure to carefully read the enclosed Understanding Healthcare in the US as an International Student letter.

IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH PAPERS

New York State Law requires that all students born on or after Jan. 1, 1957 submit documentation of immunization against Measles, Rubella and Mumps.

Vaccinations must have been given after your first birthday and must include 2 shots against Measles and one for Mumps and Rubella.

You must bring official documentation of these vaccinations and dates with you, in English, or translated, to present at academic registration. You may not be allowed to register for

classes without these documents. If you cannot provide specific vaccination information, you may receive vaccinations, for a minimal charge, from the University's Student Health Services. Health Services also offers free Tuberculosis testing. To download the immunization forms or for more info, go to their website: <http://www.fordham.edu/health>; or send an email to health@fordham.edu.

SAFETY TIPS

- Be aware of people around you and keep hold of your wallet or purse, camera and other valuables.
- Do not keep your wallet or cell phone visible while you are walking.
- Keep your passport and money in a pouch under your clothes and have only enough cash in your pocket for your immediate needs.
- At night, travel with other people and stay in well-lit areas.
- If you feel uncomfortable, get in a taxi, walk into a shop or restaurant, or go where there are people.
- Don't hesitate to contact us for any reason.

Important Offices and Contact Info

Safety & Security

Website: http://www.fordham.edu/info/20017/public_safety

LC: Residential Life Office, McMahon Hall Lobby

212-636-6075/6076

RH: Thebaud Hall Annex; 718-817-2222

Health Services

Website: www.fordham.edu/health

health@fordham.edu

LC: McMahon Hall 2nd Floor, Rm. 203; 212-636-7160

RH: O'Hare Hall, Basement; 718-817-4160

IALC (ESL): Institute of American Language and Culture

Website: www.fordham.edu/esl

LC: 33 W 60th St. 3rd Floor; 212-636-6353

esl@fordham.edu

Information Technology: Help Desk

Website: www.fordham.edu/it

718-817-3999; helpdesk@fordham.edu

Residential Life

Website: http://www.fordham.edu/info/20421/living_on_campus

LC: McMahon Hall, Rm. 108; 212-636-7100

reslifelc@fordham.edu

RH: Loschert Hall Basement; 718-817-3080

resliferh@fordham.edu

Student Accounts

Website: http://www.fordham.edu/info/20787/graduate_financial_a_id/3680/contact_us

LC: Lowenstein Building, Rm. 214; 212-636-6700

studentaccts@fordham.edu

RH: Thebaud Hall; 718-817-4900

studentaccts@fordham.edu

Admissions Offices and Contact Info

Undergraduate

Undergraduate International Admissions

intadmission@fordham.edu

www.fordham.edu/intl

Gabelli School of Business – Graduate

212-636-6200 admissionsgb@fordham.edu

Website: http://www.fordham.edu/info/20451/graduate_business

Graduate School of Law

LLM: 212-636-6883; llm@law.fordham.edu

JD: 212-636-6810; lawadmissions@law.fordham.edu

Website: <http://law.fordham.edu/admissions/admissions.htm>

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

718-817-4419; fuga@fordham.edu

Website: http://www.fordham.edu/info/21263/graduate_school_of_arts_and_sciences

Graduate School of Education

212-636-6400; gse_admiss@fordham.edu

Website: http://www.fordham.edu/academics/colleges_graduate_s/graduate_profession/education/admissions/index.asp

Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education

718-817-4800; greadmit@fordham.edu

Website: http://www.fordham.edu/info/20380/graduate_school_of_religion_and_religious_education

Graduate School of Social Services

212-636-6600; gssadmission@fordham.edu

Website: http://www.fordham.edu/info/20348/graduate_school_of_social_service

