

Pre-College Program Frequently Asked Questions

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BROWN
Division of Pre-College
and Undergraduate Programs

This page includes FAQs for Brown University Pre-College students participating in programs offered through the Division of Pre-College and Undergraduate Programs. Seasonal pre-college program staff working in these programs who are not otherwise affiliated with Brown University should review information in their respective portals for information and resources.

International pre-college students who require non-emergent assistance or support before they begin their Brown Pre-College Program are encouraged to reach out to the Pre-College Program Advisors at 401-863-7900 during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET) or contact us by email at precollege@brown.edu.

For emergent situations while participating in a Brown University Pre-College Program, please contact the Department of Public Safety (DPS) at 401-863-3322 and ask to speak with the Pre-College staff on-call. The Pre-College staff on-call is available 24 hours a day 7 days each week while programs are in session.

For Brown University undergraduate students, graduate students, medical school students, faculty, staff and scholars, please see the information on the main [Status Inquiry FAQs](#) page that is specific to those community members.

RESPONDING TO GOVERNMENT REQUESTS REGARDING CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION STATUS

What should I do to register as a non-U.S. citizen?

Beginning on April 11, 2025, all non-U.S. citizens are required by Section 264 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to register with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and, if required, provide their fingerprints. Regulations specify that this registration is accomplished via [Form I-94](#) for nonimmigrants (temporary visa holders) and Form I-551 (the Permanent Resident Card or “green card”) for immigrants. **The majority of international pre-college students at Brown University have already been issued documentation that meets the registration requirements through the process of applying for a visa abroad at a U.S. consulate or embassy, and/or admission to the United States as nonimmigrants who were issued Form I-94. Permanent residents also completed the process when acquiring their green card.** [USCIS](#) details documents that verify registration (in the “How to Determine if You are Already Registered” section).

It is advisable that all individuals always carry and have in their possession evidence of their registration. For most pre-college students, this means carrying a printed copy of their [I-94](#) record at all times.

In addition, **all non-citizens must report in writing to DHS a [change of physical address](#) within 10 days.** Failure to comply with the change of address requirement can also result in criminal and civil penalties. Please note that DHS has signaled that this rule will now be enforced in a much stricter fashion than it has in the past.

In short, who needs to register includes:

- Any noncitizen, regardless of previous registration, who turns 14 years old in the United States, must update their registration and be fingerprinted within 30 days after their 14th birthday.
- Nonimmigrants, such as F-2, H-4, or J-2 children of nonimmigrants, who obtained their nonimmigrant visa or last entered the United States under age 14 are required to register by creating an account on the myUSCIS website and filing Form G-325R. Parents of children are responsible for ensuring their children’s fingerprinting.
- Green card holders who obtained their green cards under age 14 are required to register by filing Form I-90, to replace their green cards, and be fingerprinted, upon reaching age 14. They should file Form I-90 instead of Form G-325R.

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- All non-US citizens who were not registered and fingerprinted (if required) when applying for a visa to enter the United States and who remain in the United States for 30 days or longer. This includes Canadian visitors who entered the United States at land ports of entry and were not issued evidence of registration must now register if they intend to remain in the U.S. for 30 days or longer; however, fingerprinting will continue to be waived for Canadian visitors.

To complete the Registration for yourself or a child, you will need to create an account on the myUSCIS website and submit [Form G-325R \(Biographic Information – Registration\)](#). Individuals who register under this requirement will receive a “certificate of alien registration or alien registration receipt card” and must “at all times carry and have it in their personal possession.”

For more complete instructions and information, please refer to the [USCIS webpage for the Alien Registration Requirement](#).

What should I do if I am approached by a local, state or federal official regarding my immigration status or the status of others while attending the Pre-College Program?

If the situation is emergent, Pre-College students should first contact their parents/guardians immediately and then contact the DPS at 401-863-3322 so they can dispatch an officer to provide support.

If the situation is not an emergency, Pre-College students should first contact their parents/guardians immediately and then inform a Pre-College staff member as soon as possible.

If someone serves a Pre-College student a personal summons, subpoena or other legal notice, they should contact parent/guardian who may reach out to an attorney or pursue other legal resources for assistance.

If a Pre-College student’s family must consult with an immigration attorney. The links below provide some useful information to student and scholars engaged in the process of finding an immigration attorney:

- [Finding the Right Immigration Lawyer](#), offered by Siskind, Susser, and Bland, Immigration Attorneys
- [American Immigration Lawyers Associate \(AILA\)](#)

Does the University participate in law enforcement investigations of immigration status?

Brown University will only share information with law enforcement regarding the immigration status of community members under a valid subpoena. DPS does not inquire about or act on information related to immigration status and does not partner with federal or state agencies to do so.

TRAVEL GUIDANCE

Pre-College students should review their [Enrolled Student Page](#) on the Pre-College website for specific information regarding travel.

What recommendations does Brown have for non-U.S. citizen travelers applying for visas?

Changes in U.S. immigration policy and procedures have introduced additional screening processes, and in some cases, extended processing times, for those applying for visas at U.S. consulates. Below are some recommendations and guidance on applying for visas and planning timely arrival to Brown University.



Visa Delays: Expect potential delays in visa issuance at U.S. consulates due to increased summer travel, consular staffing reassignments, and enhanced vetting and screening of applications. Check the specific consulate for average [appointment and processing wait times](#). Pre-College students and families should plan to apply for the student's visa as soon as possible to allow for maximum flexibility to make their planned travel dates.

Enhanced Screening: During the visa application process, be prepared for enhanced security screening including reviews of the applicant's social media activity, prior criminal and civil violations (including minor offenses, even if the incident did not result in an arrest or conviction) and prior U.S. immigration violations (such as visa overstays, visa revocations or denials), which may result in lengthy wait times. In addition, the embassy or consulate may require additional information as part of the visa application. If security clearance is being conducted, the visa won't be issued until it's complete. Consulates would likely not confirm clearance is underway but may indicate "administrative processing." This can take days to months, and expediting is unlikely.

Port of Entry Screening: Once a Pre-College student arrives at a U.S. port of entry (via land, sea or airport), expect a security screening, including biometric data collection. Customs and Border Protection at the airport can also ask a traveler to step out of line to speak with them in a secondary inspection area and may question the traveler about their status, travel, background, or studies. During the secondary inspection process, the agent may request to search the traveler's electronic devices. Federal agents can search electronic devices and data; however, they are not permitted by law to search data that is stored remotely (i.e., on the cloud). The following resources have information regarding this matter. Both provide more information on the protocols for electronic device inspections at ports of entry.

- American Immigration Lawyers Association's "[Border Search of Electronic Devices at Ports of Entry](#)" guidance
- ACLU's "[Can Border Agents Search Your Electronics](#)" information

Obtain I-94 Record: After entry, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will create an electronic I-94 record with the traveler's admission details and authorized stay. Obtain a printout online, double check to make sure all of the details (e.g., name, date of birth, nationality) are accurate, and keep track of this document at all times.

Be Patient and Cooperative: We appreciate that the process may be unnerving, but we encourage students and any family traveling with them to remain patient during inspections. Ask for clarification if unsure about directives, or a translator if more comfortable speaking in another language. We also advise travelers to always answer questions truthfully.

Prior Legal Consultation: If a Pre-College student's family has any concerns about prior civil or criminal violations, social media activity or prior U.S. immigration violations, seek immigration counsel before travel.

What should I do if I plan to travel internationally as a non-U.S. citizen or non-immigrant student?

Travel regulations and policies continue to evolve, both in the U.S. and internationally, which may cause travel disruptions and potentially impact or restrict U.S. border entry for some international Pre-College students, as well as undocumented or DACA students.

All U.S. visa holders must ensure they have a valid passport and, if the Pre-College student is an F-1 or J-1 visa holder, a travel signature that has been issued within the last 12 months of the anticipated return. Pre-College students (F-1 and J-2) who need a travel signature should request these through the institution or organization that sponsored their visa.

In addition, Immigrants Rising has a [resource guide](#) for undocumented individuals traveling within the U.S.



What documentation do I need when traveling within the U.S.?

Please note that the DHS requires non-U.S. citizens (including minors) to carry [proof of registration](#) at all times.

For international Pre-College students on F-1 and J-2 status, a printed copy of your most recent Form I-94 is a valid form of registration, while lawful permanent residents are required to have their green cards readily available. In addition, Pre-College students are encouraged to also carry a copy of their admission letter.

What do I do if I encounter challenges at the U.S. border?

If a Pre-College student who is a U.S. visa holder (B-2, F-1, J-1, H-1B, O-1, TN, etc.) encounters issues at any U.S. port of entry, they should contact their parent/guardian immediately.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact the Division of Pre-College and Undergraduate Programs at 401-863-7900 during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET) or contact us by email at precollege@brown.edu.