Welcome to Georgetown

On behalf of International Student and Scholar Services (IS), Georgetown University and the surrounding community, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to you. Our staff looks forward to getting to know you as we provide assistance during your stay at Georgetown. Upon your arrival at the University, there will be a great deal of information to absorb about your new environment in a very short time. This handbook, designed by the IS staff, provides important information to help you achieve your goals as a student or scholar and to live comfortably in our community. Keep this handbook in a convenient place for the first few months of your stay so that you may use it as a reference guide to the University and its surrounding area.

Throughout your stay here in the Georgetown community, you are invited to call or come into our office any time you need advice, assistance or information about life on campus or in Washington, DC. The International Student and Scholar Services staff hopes that you have an enjoyable and academically rewarding experience at Georgetown University.

Katherine S. Bellows
Assistant Dean & Director
International Student & Scholar Services
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## HOYA SAXA!

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The mission of the Office of International Programs is to provide international educational opportunities for the university community. OIP is an information and advising resource, providing international student and scholar services, administering overseas study programs and coordinating special projects. International Programs has two divisions: International Student and Scholar Services (IS) and Overseas Studies (OS).

Office of International Programs Administration

Michael Vande Berg, Ph.D., Director of the Office of International Programs
Ms. Tyrene Haralson, Director of Finance and Administration
(Position to be filled), Assistant to the Director

International Student and Scholar Services

The Division of International Student and Scholar Services (IS) provides assistance to international students and scholars, and coordinates cultural and educational programming for the Georgetown community.

Ms. Katherine Bellows, M.Ed., Ed.S., Assistant Dean and Director
- Oversees and sets policy for the IS Division
- Oversees all immigration compliance issues related to international students and scholars for all three campuses, including SEVIS preparation
- Counsels departments on policy and regulatory issues related to international students and scholars

Ms. Sandra Layton, Assistant Director of Scholar Services, Director of GUMC Immigration Services
- Manages immigration services for university faculty and researchers
- Advises faculty and researchers on J-1, H-1B, O, TN and permanent residency issues
- Oversees all immigration compliance issues related to employment of international scholars for all three campuses

Ms. Sheila Miller, Assistant Director of Student Services
- Manages programming and outreach for the international student population
- Advises the Global Living Community (GLC)
- Coordinates international undergraduate, graduate and exchange student orientations
- Organizes I-WEEK (International/Intercultural Week)

Ms. Kerry Moriarty, SEVIS Academic Records Coordinator
- Monitors immigration information
- Advises students, scholars, and their dependents on all aspects of the Dept. of Homeland Security Program, and the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

Ms. Melanie Buser, Administrative Assistant
- Processes immigration documents
- Handles general IS administration

Ms. Rachel Rubin, International Student and Scholar Advisor
- Advises F-1 undergraduate students in MSB
- Advises F-1 students in all MA programs except for MSFS and MALS

Ms. Lisa Gordinier, International Student and Scholar Advisor
- Advises F-1 undergraduate students in SFS
- Advises F-1 students in the MSFS and MALS
- Advises F-1 and J-1 students in non-degree programs (exchange students).

Ms. Lisa Swaim, Assistant Director of Student Immigration Services
- Manages immigration services for students.
- Advises all F-1 undergraduate students in COL and NUR.
- Advises all F-1 PhD students.
- Advises J-1 degree candidates.
Overseas Studies

The Overseas Studies (OS) staff serves Georgetown students who wish to study in other countries.

**Ms. Lori Citti**, Ph.D., Associate Director for the Division of Overseas Studies, Advisor for Middle East and Turkey

**Ms. Magdalena Chica-Garzon**, Advisor for Spain and Latin America

**Ms. Tina Constantine**, Assistant to the Division of Overseas Studies

**(Position to be filled)**, Advisor for Japan, China, Korea, Southeast Asia, Africa

**Ms. Maura Gregory**, Assistant Director, Advisor for the United Kingdom

**Ms. Alexis Northcross**, Assistant Director, Advisor for Belgium, France and Italy

**Ms. Joan Wilson**, Financial Officer

**Ms. Veronique Dozier**, Summer Programs and Special Projects Coordinator

**Ms. Sylvia Mitterndorfer**, Advisor for Austria, Germany, Denmark, Central Europe and Russia.

**Ms. Elizabeth Everson**, Advisor for Australia & New Zealand, Resource Center and Exchange Student Coordinator

International Programs Resource Center

The International Programs Resource Center provides detailed information on Georgetown University student exchange programs and non-Georgetown study abroad programs. The Center provides information on work, travel and scholarship opportunities outside the US. It also supplies information on health insurance and tax payments for international students.
Humor Stage
After the hostility stage passes, most visitors realize how intense their reactions were. Being able to review their experiences from a distance allows them to gain a new level of understanding about themselves. Their sense of humor finally returns. Situations which seemed so serious before now appear comical. Visitors in this stage are more relaxed, are able to make friends more easily, understand the language with greater ease and become more productive academically.

Home Stage
When most people reach the home stage, they are adjusted to the point of being able to retain allegiance to their own culture while being able to “feel at home” in the new culture.

Easy Adjustment
Here are some reminders to help you ease cultural adjustment:

• By having these experiences, many people gain greater insight about themselves and the people around them.
• Newcomers may want to re-evaluate expectations they had of the new culture and of themselves upon arrival. Are these realistic?
• It is helpful to avoid making judgements until you have assessed the situation from different cultural angles.
• Visitors should try to spend time with people from similar backgrounds who can give advice on how to ease the cultural adjustment process. However, overtly criticizing people in the U.S. may make adjustment more difficult.
• Newcomers may want to befriend a U.S. host family. Spending time with U.S. friends helps one to see beyond stereotypes.
• Keeping a journal of daily moods and thoughts helps alleviate the pressure of cultural adjustment.
• You may want to become involved in non-academic activities on or off campus, such as the arts, athletics or volunteer work. These are great ways to meet people and practice English.

Returning Home
Experts in cultural adjustment stress that internationals who are aware of the potential difficulties of readjusting to their home countries experience relatively less severe reverse-culture shock. During your time in the U.S., you should keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues at home. Reading the newspaper from your home country will help you stay up-to-date with social and political changes. When you return, your friends and family may find that you have changed. You may have adopted new behaviors, communication styles and values during your time in the U.S. Furthermore, while you have been abroad, much may have changed in your home country. When it is time to return home, you may wish to consider the following issues:

Professional Expectations
What relevance does your area of study have for the professional opportunities in your country? Will you be able to find a job when you return?

Social Concerns
How will the differences in the types of relationships between individuals at home and those in the U.S. affect interaction with family and friends? Will cultural differences affect working relationships, friendships, your marital situation, political views or participation?

Family Expectations
How will your friends and family react upon your return?

Finally, it is helpful to keep in touch with friends and colleagues in the United States. You may also find support from others in your home country who have spent time in the U.S. Above all, it is important to remember that stress associated with reentry is a normal and common reaction. If you would like to speak with a staff member about your cultural adjustment experiences, please call Kathy Bellows at (202) 687-5867.
Although no one knows for sure how or where it originated, the term “HOYA SAXA” is forever connected with Georgetown. One theory suggests that years ago, when all Georgetown students were required to study Greek and Latin, the phrase was shouted at rugby games. Allegedly, the Georgetown athletic teams were called the Stonewalls. “HOYA SAXA,” loosely translated as “What rocks!” was a team cheer. “HOYA,” which is Greek for “what a” or “such a,” was combined with “SAXA,” the Latin phrase for “rocks.” It is said that around the 1930s, the phrase was shortened to “HOYAS” to identify all Georgetown athletes and students.

Why a bulldog for a mascot? Legend has it that Father Vincent S. McDonough, Prefect of Discipline at Georgetown in the early 1920s, had a scrappy Boston bulldog who accompanied him to football games. A newspaperman began associating the dog with Georgetown teams and the bulldog became known as the official Hoya mascot. Hoya fans know him as “Jack.”

In 1999, a number of Georgetown students, faculty and alumni worked together to bring a real "Jack the Bulldog" to Georgetown campus. This past summer, a new Jack moved to campus and will live with Father Steck in Reynolds Hall. Jack loves to stroll around the campus and attend the Hoya basketball games, where he receives more attention than anybody else!