



# Brandeis University

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## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL

### IBSTalk

From the Office of Administration & Student Services  
July 26, 2012

## Welcome to IBSTalk

Welcome to Student Service's first issue of Brandeis International Business School's weekly newsletter for incoming students. We are excited to welcome you to our community. We will do our best to keep you informed about all you need to know as you prepare to join us. Weekly issues will be sent to help make your transition to Brandeis and the Boston area a smooth one. Topics will include issues of academic, cultural and social relevance. Feel free to contact us with any questions. We are here all summer and look forward to getting to know you.

Safe journeys and welcome to Brandeis,

*Kate, Chris, Viola, Karen, Meredith, Matt, Pam and Echo*  
*(IBS Student Services staff)*

## Office of Administration & Student Services

A hearty welcome from all of us in the Office of Administration & Student Services. Whether you are coming from another part of the United States or from the other side of the world, please consider us to be your 'home away from home'. There are almost two hundred new students arriving with you in August, and you represent, along with the second year students, about 70 different countries. We are indeed a small United Nations.

We recognize that transitions are not always easy, even for graduate students. And for many of you, English is not your first language. Our staff is here to help with those transitions, whether it's a question about courses, housing, where to get your mail or just a need to connect. We want to get to know each of you, and provide you with the assistance you need.

If you haven't yet checked us out, please visit our [Current Students page](#) to learn more and see more about what we have to offer.

Here are some important dates for you to keep in mind as you make your travel plans:

**Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** through **Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** = New Student Orientation  
**Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>** = Classes begin

Because most of you are coming from far away, you may wonder about what you will need to bring with you. To make things a bit easier, be aware that our [Graduate Students Office](#), will organize two scheduled shopping trips to a nearby mall, with bus transportation provided, on August 25 and August 26. Buses will leave from campus at 5 pm.

**In upcoming Newsletters, we'll tell you more about some events to look forward to. In the meantime, keep checking our [website](#).**

## Degree Program Guidance

Although anyone at Student Services is very happy to help students from any of the degree programs, we do have specific staff dedicated to each program. You should seek out these individuals first for any questions about your respective degree program.

Program	Staff Program Advisor	Email
MAief, BA/MA	Chris Johnson	<a href="mailto:clj@brandeis.edu">clj@brandeis.edu</a>
MBA, PhD	Viola Morse	<a href="mailto:vmorse@brandeis.edu">vmorse@brandeis.edu</a>
MSF	Karen Muise	<a href="mailto:kmuise@brandeis.edu">kmuisse@brandeis.edu</a>

## A Word About Exemptions

If you think you can be exempted from a particular class based on previous coursework, please see your program advisor during orientation. Do not un-enroll from a required class until you have met with your advisor. Exemption requests for any and all degree requirements are to be submitted during the first semester.

## Want to See Who Your Classmates Are?

Shortly after you arrive at Brandeis, you will each receive a "Netbook", which is our version of a pictorial student guide. Each student (first and second years) as well as staff and faculty are pictured in this book, along with their names and a bit about them, so that it becomes much easier to get to know everyone in the IBS community. In order to streamline the process, we'd like to ask you to submit an electronic copy of a good (Passport-like) photo showing just your face (head and shoulders, like the example to the left). Please keep in mind that these photos need to be professional and of you alone. Additionally, we invite you to fill out the attached form that you received with this email, so that we can match it with your photo.

Please send the photo and the completed form to: Matt Rocker ([rocker@brandeis.edu](mailto:rocker@brandeis.edu)) **by July 31**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Matt. Your cooperation with this process is greatly appreciated.

[Click here to view last year's Netbook.](#)

## Course Registration

You are undoubtedly beginning to think about which courses you will be taking in your first semester, and what you may need to know about registering for courses. To make it easier for incoming students, you are all pre-registered in several of the program requirements.

**BA/MA** students are not preregistered due to their need to coordinate their graduate classes with their undergraduate requirements. BA/MA students can contact Meredith Robitaille ([mrobitai@brandeis.edu](mailto:mrobitai@brandeis.edu)) with questions about registration.

If you are in the **MA** or **MBA** programs, you will be pre-registered in the following course requirements:

**ECON 201a** - Global Economic Environment

**ECON 207f**- Applied Microeconomics (if needed)

**ECON 210f**- Foundations of Statistics (if needed)

**FIN 201a**- Investments

**FIN 212a**- Accounting & Financial Analysis

If you already have a background in **Financial Theory** or **Accounting**, you will be enrolled in their more advance equivalent.

Additionally, **MBAs** will be pre-registered in the following:

**BUS 252a**- Marketing Management

**BUS 228f**- Management Communication

If you are in the **MSF** program, you will be pre-registered in the following required courses:

**ECON 201a** - Global Economic Environment

**ECON 210f**- Foundations of Statistics

**FIN 201a**- Investments

**FIN 202a** - International Corporate Finance

**FIN 212a**- Accounting & Financial Analysis

Students interested in purchasing textbooks ahead of time can go to the [Brandeis Bookstore](#) online to determine which books are required for which courses. Please note that returning students often wait until the fall to post notices about selling their used books. You will learn more about this during orientation.

## Health Insurance Requirements

Since the following are required by law, and not the University, Brandeis doesn't have the authority to "exempt" someone from the law. A student must take the University health insurance unless s/he has comparable coverage. A "comparable plan" MUST include:

- 1) The policy MUST be purchased through a U.S.-based company or U.S.-based subsidiary.
- 2) The plan MUST go beyond emergency care and include:
  - a. Diagnostic and medical services
  - b. Coverage for pre-existing conditions
  - c. Pregnancy coverage
  - d. Some level of prescription drug subsidy
  - e. At least \$100,000 coverage per illness/injury
  - f. Emergency medical transportation
  - g. Maximum deductible of \$250

**A student is required by law to either:**

- 1) attest that her/his coverage meets these legal standards -- or--
- 2) sign up for the University coverage.

## Meet Your Leadership Fellows

One of the ways in which new students are welcomed to the IBS Community is through our Leadership Fellows program. Sixteen specially selected second year students are designated as Leadership Fellows. It is their responsibility to reach out and connect with a small group of incoming students and assist them with their academic,

cultural and social adjustment throughout the year.

Over the next few weeks, you will hear from your Leadership Fellow and your group (randomly selected) will consist of about 14-16 other first year students who come from a variety of different countries and backgrounds. They are here to answer your questions about almost anything from which neighborhood to live in, to which finance course to sign up for. And if they don't know the answer, they will know to whom to refer you so that you can get the right answer. You'll be hearing a lot more about them and from them in coming weeks.

[Click here to visit our Leadership Fellows webpage.](#)

**IBS Social Networking:**

