THE MIDYEAR PATH

BE WHO YOU ARE

Brandeis
Welcome to Brandeis.

We can’t wait to meet you.
At Brandeis, we are fortunate to receive applications from a greater number of qualified students than we could ever offer fall admission. By offering part of the class an opportunity to join our community in January, we can enroll more students whom we know will excel at Brandeis and enrich our community.

We know that you and the approximately 100 other mid-years who arrive in January will contribute a great deal to our community and infuse our campus with new enthusiasm about what it means to be a Brandeisian.

You will join fellow students, faculty and alumni who are friendly, creative, intellectually curious and ready to challenge conventions. Through the Brandeis Core curriculum, you will develop a comprehensive liberal arts foundation within a thriving research institution. You will gain practical skills to guide your education today and shape your career journey tomorrow.
Imagine what we can do together.
ACCESS TO LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

As a medium-sized, top-tier research university, Brandeis offers a culture of learning and mentorship essential to a 21st-century liberal arts education. Close relationships with professors and research opportunities that enable first-year students to collaborate with faculty members are among Brandeis’ academic advantages. Whether you want to take graduate-level courses, partner with a faculty mentor on fieldwork, or see what happens when you bridge neuroscience and studio art, you will be able to challenge yourself intellectually and explore your personal interests.

94%
INCLUSION BEGINS WITH OUR FOUNDING VALUES

The American Jewish community established Brandeis at a time when discrimination barred Jews and other marginalized groups from many leading U.S. colleges and universities. Our founders envisioned a school that would be open to all students, faculty and staff, regardless of background. Diversity, equity and inclusion aren’t just important values at Brandeis today — they are rooted in our identity as an institution. They serve as a regular reminder for self-reflection, and a continuous call to grow.

33%

THIRTY-THREE PERCENT OF BRANDEIS UNDERGRADUATES ARE STUDENTS OF COLOR. TWENTY PERCENT OF UNDERGRADUATES ARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.
No matter what inspires you …

or prompts you to ask “why,” you will meet other Brandeisians in class — or through more than 200 student-led clubs and organizations — who share your passions. You will learn how to apply your curiosity, skills, knowledge and values to benefit society. As a community, we work toward positive change, locally and globally. Even a global pandemic hasn’t stopped us from coming together to support one another with compassion and community spirit, regardless of where we are.

And we are stronger for it.

#6

The Princeton Review ranks Brandeis #6 for students most engaged in community service.
Being a midyear is a unique opportunity.
As a midyear, you have an entire semester to take advantage of your independence. Students are encouraged to spend this time in a pursuit that they and their families feel will offer a productive and fulfilling experience before entering Brandeis, whether that be working, volunteering, studying abroad or taking classes at a college or university near your home.
Finding a Job, Internship or Volunteer Opportunity

Working or volunteering during the fall is a great way to transition from high school to Brandeis. It teaches time management, fosters teamwork, hones critical thinking and provides leadership opportunities, giving you valuable real-world experience.

Taking Courses Before Enrolling at Brandeis

The Office of the University Registrar assists midyear students who wish to take courses at another institution before enrolling at Brandeis to ensure those courses are transferable. Faculty and staff advisors are assigned to midyear students over the summer and are available to provide advice regarding course registration, academic options, and other university policies and processes before the start of the fall semester.

Semester Abroad Programs Designed for Midyears

Brandeis works with study abroad programs in three cities that are tailored to meet the academic and social interests of midyear students. Participants on these programs can earn 16 credits. Each program is offered in partnership with Arcadia University and CET Academic Programs, two longtime study abroad partners that Brandeis has reviewed for their commitment to student health and safety.

For more information, please visit brandeis.edu/abroad/midyear.html.

Fall Program in Florence

CET Academic Programs, a leading study abroad program provider, offers Brandeis midyear students the chance to spend their first Brandeis semester in Florence. Students take a full course load while studying and living in one of the world's most captivating cities. Classes include “Beginning Italian,” a first-year writing seminar and three electives in fields such as art history, studio art, politics and economics. The program also brings learning outside the classroom. Students can bike through the Chianti countryside, participate in a pizza-making class and take a weekend trip to Rome.

Fall Program in London

The College of Global Studies at Arcadia University sponsors a fall program in London for Brandeis midyears. Experience all the culture and excitement London offers through field study, excursions and cross-cultural activities, along with thought-provoking lectures. With the city of London as your classroom, you’ll take a full course load with classes in areas such as history, politics, literature, economics and journalism. Students enroll in a first-year writing seminar and three elective courses. You’ll also have the option to study alongside local students.

Fall Program in Philadelphia

Also sponsored by the College of Global Studies at Arcadia University, the Midyear in Philly program offers students the chance to live at Arcadia’s residential campus in Glenside, PA, while gaining professional experience at an internship placement in Philadelphia. Students will take a full course load, including a first-year writing seminar and elective courses in the areas of art history, racial justice, and the immigrant experience in Philadelphia.

Transitioning to Campus

Midyear Orientation

Before arriving at Brandeis, you’ll attend virtual meetings with your Orientation Leader and other students so you can ask questions.
and get to know the university and each other before the semester begins. In January, prior to the start of classes, Orientation will provide you with opportunities to engage directly with staff members, peer advisors and your classmates.

For more information, visit brandeis.edu/orientation.

**TAKE THE LEAD AT BRANDEIS**

Many midyears quickly assume leadership positions at Brandeis. It’s a great way to immerse yourself in the campus community while developing an important life skill. You can run a club, star in a theatrical production, serve as an editor of a campus publication or join the student government association, just to name a few of the opportunities available to you. The Winter Involvement Fair, held at the start of the semester, will give you the opportunity to join the clubs and organizations that interest you.

See our clubs at brandeis.edu/clubs.
Who are Brandeis midyears?
What does being a midyear mean to you?
Being a midyear was a good way to cultivate my independence and ability to adapt to different environments. The midyear experience allowed me to explore new opportunities in my fall semester that prepared me for life at Brandeis.

What did you first think when you were offered a spot in the midyear class?
I was a little anxious, because I had no idea about this program. However, when I arrived in London, my reaction totally changed. I realized how lucky I was. Studying abroad in the first semester of college is really cool! It broadened my horizons and helped me become more independent.

What do you love about Brandeis?
The professors, staff and students here are very friendly and willing to help. For example, when I got lost at the gym, I just asked a passerby for directions. She not only pointed the way for me but also left her phone number. She said I could call her if I still got lost.

What did you do in your fall semester? What did the experience mean to you?
I took advantage of the study abroad opportunities and spent the fall 2017 semester in London. I improved my time management skills and experienced the British academic environment. Besides being a college student, I learned more about taking care of myself as a midyear in London. When I came back to Brandeis, I needed to adapt to the new American academic environment and life in Waltham. This unique experience of being a midyear made me grow a lot.
What did you first think when you were offered a spot in the midyear class?  
I was initially confused! However, once I realized I was able to study abroad in London (on the same program my dad went on when he was in college), I was sold and ready to commit to Brandeis. I knew that being a midyear was a good fit for me because it would allow me to gain independence and have an entirely different experience from my peers in high school.

What do you love about Brandeis?  
I really love the community here. There’s a culture of collaboration at Brandeis where people are invested in each other’s welfare academically, socially and emotionally. My friends and I are studying completely different things and involved in a wide array of extracurriculars, but at the end of the day, we all strive to support each other and celebrate each other’s success while also supporting each other through our inevitable setbacks. There’s also a sense of anonymous support as well, even as simple as someone holding the door open for someone else. It broadened my horizons and helped me become more independent.

What did you do in your fall semester?  
I went on the London program for Brandeis midyears, which was such an awesome experience. Not only was I able to take classes that took me all over the city of London, but I was able to travel all over the U.K. and Europe. I also learned how to cook and take public transportation, which were skills that I did not have before moving to London. The program allowed me to gain a sense of independence and adjust more easily to college life.

What advice would you give future midyears?  
Don’t let the fact that you were not at Brandeis in the fall hold you back. People are excited to meet midyears, and when I arrived on campus, I found people across all years wanted me to get involved in their organizations. I joined theater groups, alumni relations efforts and the student union. Also, keep your friends and memories from your midyear semester close. Some of the Brandeis midyears I lived with in London are still my closest friends to this day.
Frequently asked midyear questions.
HOW LARGE A MIDYEAR CLASS WILL BRANDEIS ENROLL?
Brandeis enrolls approximately 100 midyear students each academic year.

WHEN DO MIDYEAR STUDENTS GRADUATE?
Like other Brandeis students, midyears follow a program designed to be completed in eight semesters. Some students, however, are able to fulfill their requirements in seven semesters. The choice of when to graduate, like the choice of how to spend the fall semester, is one you will need to make for yourself, in conjunction with your advisors and family.

WHAT HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR MIDYEAR STUDENTS?
Midyears are guaranteed housing in a residence hall for their first three consecutive semesters. You will be notified about your housing assignment in November.

CAN MIDYEAR ADMISSION BE DEFERRED FOR A SEMESTER?
No, all admission offers at Brandeis are deferrable for a full year only. Midyear students must start at Brandeis in the month of January.

WILL MEMBERS OF THE MIDYEAR CLASS BE CONSIDERED FOR FINANCIAL AID?
Yes. If the CSS Profile application was filed on time, you will receive a tentative financial aid award letter from the Office of Student Financial Services.

This application must be filed online at collegeboard.org.

CAN MEMBERS OF THE MIDYEAR CLASS TAKE COURSES AT ANOTHER COLLEGE DURING THE FALL SEMESTER BEFORE THEY ENTER BRANDEIS?
Midyear students may enroll in a nondegree-seeking program at a regionally accredited, degree-granting institution prior to matriculating at Brandeis. The Office of the University Registrar at Brandeis can help you determine, before you enroll in fall classes, whether you will receive credit for such coursework and whether those courses will fulfill Brandeis academic requirements.

To learn more, please visit brandeis.edu/registrar/transfer/midyear.html.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS IF I’M INTERESTED IN PRE-HEALTH OR THE SCIENCES?
Brandeis has an excellent record of preparing midyears to pursue science degrees and education in the health professions. With some careful planning, midyears can position themselves to attend top medical schools or other science graduate programs. There are benefits to starting your academic career in the spring. A semester off can give you time to focus on other pre-health or science-related activities, such as gaining EMT or CNA certification, working in a hospital or doing research full time. Such experiences can help strengthen your understanding of the health- and science-related professions and improve your candidacy for professional school.

If you are planning to major in chemistry, biochemistry or physics, it can be challenging to pursue these academic tracks as a midyear student. We strongly recommend that you meet with your advisor in Academic Services to discuss course sequencing. The Academic Services staff is dedicated to working with you to support your academic pursuits.

To learn more about advising, visit brandeis.edu/advising. For more information on the sciences and pre-health at Brandeis, visit brandeis.edu/acserv/health.
We want to help make your midyear transition a smooth one.
IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US.

ACADEMIC SERVICES
781-736-3470
acserv@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/acserv

ATHLETICS
781-736-3668
sportsinfo@brandeis.edu
brandeisjudges.com

COMMUNITY LIVING
781-736-5060
dcl@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/dcl

HIATT CAREER CENTER
781-736-3618
hiattcenter@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/hiatt

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
781-736-4411
diversity@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/diversity

ORIENTATION
781-736-5074
brandeisorientation@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/orientation

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT
781-736-3470
access@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/accessibility

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES
781-736-3700
sfs@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/sfs

STUDENT LIFE
781-736-3600
deanofstudentsoffice@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/dean-of-students

STUDY ABROAD
781-736-3483
abroad@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/abroad

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
781-736-3500
admissions@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/admissions

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR
781-736-2010
registrar@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/registrar