



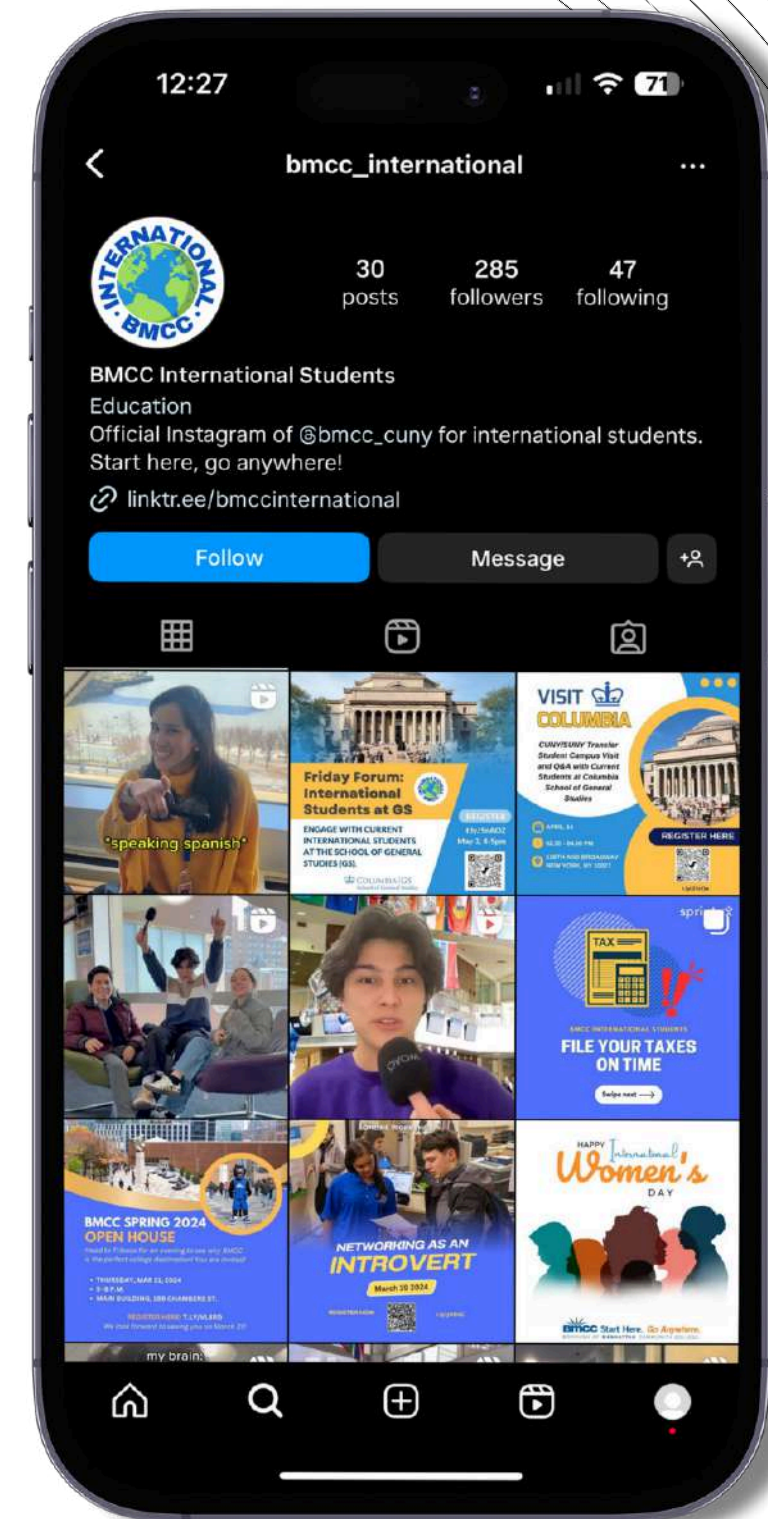
LIVING IN NYC

PRE-ARRIVAL SESSION

International Students Services Office



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Living in New York

Experience NYC with an Open Mind

New York City is a vibrant, diverse place where you can immerse yourself in both American culture and a wide range of international cultures. The city's neighborhoods reflect a rich tapestry of ethnicities and traditions, making it a unique place to live and explore. You will encounter people from many different backgrounds, including those from your own culture.

Tips for Living in New York:

- **Adapt to the Pace:** NYC moves quickly, so be prepared for a fast-paced lifestyle.
- **Embrace Diversity:** Explore various cultural neighborhoods to experience the city's full spectrum of traditions and cuisines.
- **Navigate the City:** Use public transportation and familiarize yourself with the subway and bus systems.
- **Manage Your Budget:** NYC can be expensive, so plan your finances carefully and look for affordable housing and dining options.
- **Stay Safe:** Be aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded areas and late at night.
- **Connect with the Community:** Join local groups or events to meet people and integrate into the community.



Housing in New York City

01.

Campus-Sponsored Housing

Students attending CUNY community colleges can apply for housing at Baruch College, City College of New York, College of Staten Island, Hunter College, Queens College and Graduate Center Apartments.

Learn more: t.ly/t-fXX

02.

Off-Campus Housing

- Apartment.com
- Zillow
- Searching for Rooms on FB groups
- Streeteasy

Learn more: t.ly/yRR6c



Documents and Places to Stay in NYC:

Tips for Finding a Place to Stay

- **Cost:** Set a budget and consider all expenses (rent, utilities, groceries).
- **Location:** Choose a safe neighborhood with easy access to campus.
- **Commute:** Factor in public transportation options and commute times.
- **Safety:** Research the safety of the neighborhood and building.

Required Documents for International Students Renting in NYC

- **Proof of Identity** (Passport, Visa)
- **Proof of Enrollment** (I-20 or DS-2019)
- **Financial Documents** (Bank Statements, Affidavit of Support)
- **Guarantor Information** (If needed)
- **Credit Score** (a plus but not mandatory)

Learn more: theguarantors.com

Diverse Neighborhoods of NYC

- **Bronx :** Known for its rich culture and affordable housing options.
- **Brooklyn:** Offers a mix of trendy neighborhoods and family-friendly areas.
- **Manhattan:** Central location with bustling city life and convenient access to amenities.
- **Queens:** Extremely diverse, with many international communities and affordable living.
- **Staten Island:** More suburban feel with plenty of green spaces and quieter living.

Learn more: nyctourism.com



Safety in the City



01

Be aware of your surroundings

02


Try to choose the train car where the conductor is available

03

Avoid the train car with no people in it

04

Be aware of scams
(Eg: text messages, emails)



BMCC

Public Safety

The BMCC Public Safety Department is here to foster the mission of the college by providing a safe, secure, and comfortable environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. All members of the BMCC/Public Safety Service are expected to respect each individual, and treat each individual with professionalism and civility while maintaining the rules and guidelines that will ensure the safety and security of all persons at the college.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

BMCC strongly urges all members of the BMCC community to sign up for CUNY Alert. You will then receive text, email and/or voice alerts of emergencies or weather related closings on your campus.

It is the goal of BMCC to plan for the safe and orderly evacuation of all individuals, during an emergency. With that goal in mind BMCC conducts drills during the fall, spring and summer semesters. Drills are conducted both day and night and at the main campuses and at the non-campus locations.

IDENTITY THEFT AND PREVENTION

Identity theft occurs when a criminal uses another person's personal information to take on that person's identity. Identity theft is much more than misuse of a social security number-it can also include credit card, and mail fraud.

Tips on prevention:

- Never give out your personal information unless the person you can trust.
- Protect your Social Security Number-this is not a number just anyone can have if they ask, always ask why companies or people might want your Social Security Number.
- Do not carry your extra credit card or important identity documents in your purse or wallet unless it is necessary.
- Keep a photocopy of all credit cards (both front and back)
- Never leave your wallet or purse unattended-at work, restaurants, parties etc.

DON'T FALL FOR JOB SCAMS

- Thoroughly review companies before applying on Career Express and when job searching elsewhere.
- Do not share personal financial information with new employers or accept direct deposits before starting work.
- Be cautious of unsolicited job offers that seem too good to be true; consult the Center for Career Development if unsure.
- Avoid suspicious interview locations or times, and inform someone about your interview details.
- Report any suspicious or scam activity to the Center for Career Development immediately.

Learn more: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/career>

NYC SUBWAY SAFETY

Every Station has an Off-Hours Waiting Area. Off-Hours Waiting Areas may be located near the station booth, in the middle level in a two-level station, or the platform. Yellow signs usually hung from the ceiling mark these well-lit areas. In stations where you can't see the platform from the Off-Hours Waiting Area, an electronic sign alerts you to the arrival of a train.

- There are closed circuit television cameras in the Off-Hours Waiting Areas.
- Avoid waiting at the far end of a platform at any time.
- Ride in the conductor's car in the middle of the night.
- At night, NYC TA sometimes runs trains with fewer cars. Look for a black and yellow platform sign that tell you where to board the Conductor's Car.

Remember:

- Be careful not to display money in public.
- Hold on to your pocketbook when using the shoulder straps.
- Keep your wallet out of sight and never put your wallet in your rear pocket.
- Be sure your necklaces and other jewelry are not visible.
- Do not doze or fall asleep on the train.



BANKING AND FINANCES

Opening a Bank Account

- Popular Options:
 - Chase Bank
 - Bank of America
 - Citibank
 - Credit Unions



Steps to Open an Account

1. Choose a Bank: Compare services, fees, and locations.
2. Required Documents: Passport, visa, I-20 form, proof of address, and student ID.
3. Visit a Branch: Bring your documents and make an initial deposit.
4. Online Setup: Register for online and mobile banking for easy access.

FOOD AND GROCERIES

NYC is home to a vast array of global cuisines, so take the opportunity to try them all.

If you want affordable Places to Buy Groceries:

- Trader Joe's
- Aldi
- Local Markets

Special Dietary Needs:

- Whole Foods Market: Offers a wide selection of gluten-free, vegan, and organic products.
- Trader Joe's: Also provides various options for special diets.

Ethnic Food Stores:

- Chinatown: Numerous stores for Asian groceries.
- East Harlem: Excellent for Latin American foods.
- Jackson Heights: Diverse selection of Indian, Bangladeshi, and Latin American products.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Exploring NYC:

- Eventbrite: Application to explore new experiences and popular events to meet new people who share common interests.
- @explorenyc: Instagram profile to help you explore the city.

Navigation:

- MTA Application, Google Maps, Citymapper: Tools for navigating NYC.

Cultural and Recreational Activities:

- Tourist Attractions: Parks, museums, etc.
- Culturepass: Log in with your BPL, NYPL, or QPL to get free tickets to 50+ museums in NYC.

Identification:

- ID NYC: Provides access to a wide variety of services and programs offered by the City.
- NYS ID (Non-Driver ID): State-issued identification.
- DMV: For obtaining a driver's license or state ID if needed.





THANK YOU

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