

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Fact Sheet for

International

Exchanges



Academics

Visiting and Exchange students at Bennington College will have access to an exciting range of classes from across the liberal arts. You can see a [full list of our areas of study](#) on our website. Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 Bennington Credits per term for full time status, but are permitted to enroll in up to 18 credits in order to best pursue their academic and personal interests.

While we teach new, unique, and exciting classes in each term of study, you can get a sense of what has been taught in recent terms by reviewing our college's [curriculum](#).

Bennington divide our classes into two overarching levels of study - 2000-level classes (for which there are no prerequisites and all necessary learning is delivered within the class itself) and 4000-level classes (for which there is prerequisite learning, knowledge, or experience, and for which students can only register with permission from the teaching faculty).

As a Visiting or Exchange student to Bennington College, you will be supported by the Study Away Counselor, a member of our Academic Services Office, to build a schedule that is well-balanced, functional, and well-connected to your academic goals during your period of study at Bennington College.

Housing and Meal Plan

Bennington College is a fully residential college, and all Visiting and Exchange students are both required to live on campus and guaranteed housing. Students at Bennington live in individual houses of approximately 30-40 students, in either double- or triple-occupancy rooms. All houses offer shared common facilities including kitchens, lounges and common rooms, bathrooms (which will have a mix of showers and bathtubs for use), and special extras for many houses like patios or music rooms! Every house is supported by a student House Chair, who is available to their house as a community leader and mentor. House Chairs lead a weekly Coffee Hour update session and are also available for general support and guidance, conflict mediation and resolution within their house, and referral to professional support services on campus. Here at Bennington, we find that each house has its own personality, and we're excited to support you into a place that fits you well! You can [learn more about our houses](#) and even take video tours of some of them.

All Bennington College students also participate in our full meal plan - during the term, you will have access to all of your daily meals seven days a week in our college dining hall (with some reduced service on national holidays and service unavailable during most term breaks). While you are welcome to make use of your House kitchen to prepare your own meals, the vast majority of our students have all their meals in our Dining Hall. You can learn more about [meal choice and options](#), as well as support for preferences and dietary restrictions.

Tuition and Fees

Item	Payment
Tuition	Paid by all visiting students to Bennington College, paid by all exchange students to their home institution
Housing	Paid by all students to Bennington College (unless your home institution's exchange agreement includes housing)
Meal Plan	Paid by all students to Bennington College (unless your home institution's exchange agreement includes housing)
Fees	Paid by all visiting and exchange students to Bennington College
Health Insurance	Required to be paid by all international visiting and exchange students to our Bennington College plan provider, IFS

The amount students will pay to Bennington College for their visiting or exchange period of study will depend upon whether there is an exchange agreement in place between our institutions, and what aspects of campus fees are covered in that exchange agreement, as well as the duration of study. For an up-to-date [breakdown of all fees listed](#), please visit our website. Remember that fees on our website are presented for a full academic year - single term Visiting or Exchange students should plan to pay half of these amounts.

Student Life

Bennington College has a vibrant community of students, and there are a wide range of clubs, organizations, and activities on campus in which Visiting and Exchange students can get involved! You will begin your journey with Bennington student life and campus culture when you arrive for New Student Orientation the weekend prior to the start of your first Bennington term, and we can't wait to get to know you and support you to connect with your community here on campus! In the meantime, learn more about [student life at Bennington College](#).

Disability Support and Access

Bennington College can provide [reasonable accommodations](#), both in academic and residential life, to students who have need of them due to documented disabilities or health conditions. If you believe you have a disability or health condition that would be best supported during your studies at Bennington College by reasonable accommodations relating to your classroom environment, management of learning, dining services, or housing, please do not hesitate to contact us to learn more. You can always be connected directly to our Director of Student Accessibility Services

through the Study Away Counselor, or you are welcome to reach out directly to accommodations@bennington.edu to begin the conversation.

Our Campus

Bennington College is set in the beautiful landscape of southern Vermont, and is a fully residential campus. Our students live and eat on our 440 acres, and with the exception of a few field-trip or site-based topics, all of our classes are taught on campus as well. [View our campus map](#) to see more about our home and our available facilities!

University Information

Mailing Address - General	Study Away Office Bennington College 1 College Drive Bennington, VT 05201 USA
Mailing Address - Transcripts	Office of the Registrar Bennington College 1 College Drive Bennington, VT 05201 USA
Study Away Counselor	Stephanie Meyer, Assistant Director of Academic Services stephaniemeyer@bennington.edu studyaway@bennington.edu +1 802 440 4408
International Student Services Office	Jenny Morgan, Assistant Director of International Student Services jennymorgan@bennington.edu iss@bennington.edu +1 802 440 4366
Office of the Registrar	Carly Rudzinski, Registrar / Alexa Litchfield, Assistant Registrar carlyrudzinski@bennington.edu / alexalitchfield@bennington.edu registrar@bennington.edu +1 802 440 4384
Housing Office	Donnie Redd, Assistant Dean and Director of Residence Life donnieredd@bennington.edu housing@bennington.edu +1 802 440 4333

Application Deadlines

Process	Fall Term	Spring Term
Exchange Nomination Deadline	March 15	October 1
Visiting/Exchange Student Application Deadline	April 1	October 15

Application Information

All Visiting or Exchange student applicants are required to submit a full [Visiting/Exchange Student Application](#) by the named deadlines for their chosen term of study. In application to Bennington College as a Visiting or Exchange student, you are required to submit:

- **Completed Visiting/Exchange Student Application**, including:
 - **Personal Information Form**
 - **Emergency Contact Form**
 - **Proposed Course of Study Form**
 - **Financial Responsibility Agreement**
 - **Signed Declaration of Agreement**
 - **English Language Background Form** (only required for applicants whose primary language of instruction at their home institution is not English)
- **A Letter of Authorization from your home institution**, confirming your permission to attend Bennington College as a Visiting or Exchange student
- **An Application Essay**, detailing your interest in studying at Bennington College and how your pursuits with us will be relevant to your primary studies at your home institution
- **A Graded Writing Sample** showcasing your academic work at undergraduate level
- **A Letter of Recommendation** from a faculty member at your home institution
- **An Official Transcript** of your undergraduate studies
- A copy of your **Passport's picture page**

Academic Calendar

Please see our website for our most up-to-date [academic calendar](#) for this year. In general, our orientation and term dates are:

Process	Fall Term	Spring Term
New Student Orientation	Last Weekend of August / First Weekend of September	Mid-February
Term Dates	Early September through Mid-December	Mid-February through End May

Pre-Departure Information

Travel

Visiting and Exchange students will be provided with a suggested arrival window based upon the New Student Orientation dates for their first term of study. If possible, we strongly recommend waiting to book your travel until these dates are confirmed for you! Our arrivals team will be happy to coordinate with you around shuttle service pickup at either our most local airport, [Albany International](#) (approximately a 1 hour drive from campus) or our most local regional train station, [Albany-Rensselaer](#). Please note that you will need to follow our provided shuttle booking instructions to ensure your pickup is confirmed.

Insurance

We recommend that all Visiting and Exchange students to Bennington College carry appropriate and sufficient medical insurance to support their needs while studying with us. International students are required to carry health insurance through the IFS Secure Plus, the college's recommended plan, for the entire duration of their stay in the United States. Accepted students will be sent information on how to apply for IFS as part of their welcome information. You can also check [Insurance for Students](#) for the most up-to-date information about your required plan and how to purchase.

F-1 Student Visa

All International students will be required to secure a valid F-1 Student Visa for the duration of their program of study in the United States. Bennington College will sponsor your F-1 Student Visa for your program of study, and can provide guidance and support to you throughout your visa application process. You can find more information on our website [for incoming international students](#) (including links to external government websites specifically for the F-1 process). Broadly speaking, incoming International Exchange students should expect to follow a few key steps:

- **Certificate of Finance** - upon acceptance of your application to study at Bennington College and completion of your student enrollment, you will be provided with a Certificate of Finance, which you must complete and return to the college. This certificate allows you to demonstrate your ability to meet the costs associated with your period of study in the United States - please note that these costs will vary depending on your status as a visiting or exchange student and the duration of your study at Bennington College, but may include tuition fees, housing and meal plan fees, college fees, insurance costs, and personal living expenses.
- **Form I-20** - once your Certificate of Finance has been reviewed, confirmed, and accepted by the Bennington College Financial Aid Office, you will be provided with Form I-20, a three-page document you must complete and have with you for your F-1 Student Visa appointment. Please be in touch with our International Student Services Office (iss@bennington.edu) for any questions related to completion of your Form I-20.
- **F-1 Student Visa Appointment** - you should book an appointment at the US Embassy or Consulate appropriate to your home location in order to complete your application for your F-1 Student Visa. Please pay careful attention to your home location's visa processing times and adhere strictly to local guidance when booking your appointment. Documentation requirements can vary significantly by location, so please follow the instructions provided by your Embassy or Consulate closely, however at minimum students should be prepared to bring a valid passport (with an expiration date at least 6 months beyond the end of your proposed stay in the United States), your completed Form I-20, and proof of payment of your SEVIS fee.