

2024

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFO BOOK

2025



BOB JONES
UNIVERSITY

LEARN. LOVE. LEAD.

Table of Contents

What do I need to understand about culture anxiety?	1
Where can I go for help?	2
How can I get along with my fellow students?	3
How can I get along with the faculty?	5
What do I do if I have questions about my courses?	9
What activities should I be involved in?	9
Where can I go to find work?	10
How should I handle my money?	10
What housing is available for me?	12
What should I do if I need health care?	16
What do I need to do to drive a car?	17
What should I do during designated breaks?	19
What should I know if I have children?	20
What if I want to obtain an advanced degree?	20
What do I need to know about immigration?	22
Where do I find my classes?	29
How do I get involved in student life?	32
What should I know about Greenville, SC?	37
List of international restaurants in Greenville	39
Tips from international students	40
BJU campus info	42

This information book serves as a special supplement to the regular Student Handbook. We want to do everything possible to help you feel at home and make the most of the opportunities available for you here at BJU.

What Do I Need to Understand About Culture Anxiety?

When a person crosses from his or her home culture into another culture, there is normally a period of adjustment that is sometimes referred to as “culture anxiety.” In simple terms culture anxiety is the feeling that comes when you realize that the habits and patterns of life that have always worked for you since childhood are suddenly no longer effective. Daily activities that were once very routine now require thought and planning because you are doing them in a place where another language is spoken or where the process for such activities is different.

During the first few days in your new setting, you will likely find many things to be unusual and intriguing. You will be filled with interest about the new culture. Within a few days or weeks, however, the pressures of constantly using a second language or stopping to think before accomplishing routine tasks will begin to produce mental exhaustion. At this stage you will likely become irritable and discouraged. The reality of the difficulty of living in this new place may begin to feel like a heavy burden, and you may have an overwhelming sense of homesickness and feel inclined to withdraw from activities. But this response would be a mistake. Culture anxiety makes you feel like running away, even if only to your own room or your own thoughts. Embrace the opportunities God has given to you and be patient with yourself and with others. Do not expect adjustment in one week. Eventually, you will make sufficient adjustments and create new routines so that the burden does not seem so heavy.

After a while the feelings of culture anxiety will pass, and you will accept the differences between American culture and your home culture. The key to surviving culture anxiety is to accept your feelings without rejecting the changes that you are experiencing. You should share your feelings with a friend who is also an international student and has gone through culture anxiety before you. It may help to stay in touch with your home culture by reading a newspaper from home on the internet or by finding a local store that sells food that is familiar to you. If you feel overwhelmed by life in America or at BJU in particular, please contact the staff in the Center for Global Opportunities about your experiences. The staff there will understand what you are going through and will be able to offer advice.

Where Can I Go for Help?

The principal sources for assistance on campus are the Center for Global Opportunities, the Office of Admission, the Human Resources Staffing Services, the Academic Resource Center and the Financial Aid office. Most of these student services offices are located in the Student Services Hub in the Student Center.

Center for Global Opportunities

The Center for Global Opportunities is located on the first floor of the Alumni Building. The CGO staff will generally be the first people you should contact regarding any questions or problems. The CGO staff will answer your questions or direct you to the person or office that can best assist you.

Student Services Hub

The Principal Designated School Official (PDSO) and Coordinator for International Student Engagement is located in the Student Services Hub in the Student Center. The PDSO/Coordinator is the person to contact with any questions regarding visas, employment authorization on or off campus, travel or maintaining immigration status as a student. The Coordinator maintains current information about government regulations and policies relating to students from outside the United States.

Human Resources Staffing Services

The Human Resources Staffing Services manager (or one of his or her staff members) can assist you with campus job-related issues, including obtaining a Social Security card. Please note that F-1 students may work only on campus for BJU, Inc. or BJU Education Group or for organizations on campus that provide services directly to our students (such as Aramark in the dining common, Den, or Cuppa Jones).

Academic Resource Center

Your first-year advisor is in the Academic Resource Center, which is located on the second floor of the Alumni Building. Your advisor will help you create your course schedule and is available to you for academic coaching. If you are an ESOL student, you will also want to talk to the Accommodations Supervisor who can give you longer time to take your tests.

Financial Aid Office

The Financial Aid director can answer questions regarding your account, earnings from campus work, and student loans or scholarships.

First-year Experience

Your first year of college is an exciting and important time in your life, and our program for first-year students is designed to help you adjust smoothly to college life. From Welcome Week to living in residence halls and more, there are many chances to start your college adventure. In your First-year Seminar: Pathways course, you'll work with professors, other first-year students, and student leaders to learn about life at BJU. You'll also get advice from your own First-year Academic

Advisor and help from other students, setting you up for success during your time at BJU and in the future.

Residence Hall

Apart from your roommates and group leaders, the residence hall staff is vital in supporting and encouraging you during your college journey. Your resident assistant (RA), who is also a student, is there to help answer your questions and direct you to other support services if needed. Each residence hall has a supervisor and resident mentors, usually graduate students, who offer care, friendship, and spiritual support whenever you need it. They are committed to creating a supportive and nurturing environment to help you grow personally and academically.

Student Care Office

As believers, we know that challenges are part of our journey, but we take comfort in the promise that Christ surrounds us with fellow believers to support us, share His Word, and help carry our burdens. At BJU, the Student Care Office offers biblical counsel and support, promoting mentoring relationships within the community. It's a safe place where students can confidentially discuss their cares and struggles. The director and women's counselor are also available to address Title IX inquiries and offer guidance on reporting procedures. Students can schedule meetings by emailing or calling the office on the east end of Reveal for personalized support and assistance.

Center for Career and Calling

Our Career Services department is committed to preparing you for your future by providing career advising, planning, and special events where you can meet potential employers. Attend our resume and interview workshops to learn valuable tips and practices for your job search. Utilize our online job board to find opportunities that match your interests and skills. If you're unsure about your academic path, Career Services can help assess your interests and abilities to find suitable programs. We're here to support you at every stage of your career exploration and development.

How Can I Get Along With My Fellow Students?

Adapting to life in a new culture is always challenging. You have left behind many of the details of life that are comfortable and familiar to you. In addition to possibly learning a different language and becoming familiar with different foods, you will need to make numerous adjustments. Understanding some basic aspects of American culture is a good place to start.

First, most Americans have a limited understanding of the ways and customs of other countries because they have had relatively little contact with people from outside the United States. Be prepared to encounter people who know little about your home country or its customs and use this reality as an opportunity to teach others about your homeland. Most Americans are curious about other cultures and will enjoy asking questions about life in your country. They will enjoy hearing

you explain some of the characteristics of life in your culture—such as holidays, traditions, politics and native religions.

Next, you should be aware of some of the priorities of American culture. Examples of these priorities include:

Punctuality

Generally, Americans live on a schedule and make appointments for many of their daily activities. Events begin and end at predetermined times. It is always good to arrive several minutes before the scheduled time for events such as chapel, classes, or appointments with professors or other school officials. Americans expect appointments to begin promptly at the scheduled time. If you are unable to be on time, you should notify the individual you are supposed to meet that you will be late. Punctuality is a high priority at BJU, so please be on time.

Friendship

Americans enjoy meeting people and engaging in small talk. Small talk involves a simple discussion about the weather or an exchange of opinions about current affairs. Americans are typically friendly to strangers and offer to shake someone's hand as a sign of greeting. In many cases Americans will be friendly to everyone but will develop strong friendships with only a few individuals.

Casual acquaintances. Casual acquaintances are simple relationships that involve little or no commitment. Most people will have dozens of casual acquaintances. They are very friendly to these individuals but do not really pursue a deeper friendship. Their conversation centers on non-personal topics.

General friendships. General friendships are stronger than casual acquaintances and involve more openness about personal matters. Friends in this category spend time together engaging in extracurricular events. Most of the people in someone's circle of friends know the person's other friends as well. General friendships typically develop because of mutual activities or interests.

Close friendships. Just as in other countries, close friendships in America develop slowly over time. Most students have close friendships with only two or three other people. They share their secrets and reveal their innermost thoughts to one another. Friends in this category seek one another's advice and make decisions based on how their actions will affect one another.

Individuality

Americans place a high value on individualism. Throughout America's history, rugged individuals have forged their way into new and unexplored territory. Because of this reality, Americans esteem those who stand out from the crowd or who set high goals and achieve them. As a result, they have a strong attitude of competition in many areas of life. In class students tend to be competitive regarding their grades.

Some teachers will post students' scores so that students can know how they compare to others in a particular class. Though most Americans are more alike than they realize, many prefer to behave, dress and think differently from their peers so that they can be considered "unique individuals."

Equality

Even though they value individuality, Americans believe all people are equal in value and dignity. For example, they have the custom of forming a line for goods or services. To “cut” into line in front of others who are already waiting is considered rude and unacceptable. Any show of preference to an individual based on his social position or level of income is considered wrong and unfair.

Although Americans value equality, they are sometimes guilty of prejudice—that is, they occasionally have cautious attitudes toward an individual or group based on certain assumptions regarding country of origin or ethnicity. In reality, all societies, cultures and individuals have prejudices. Be assured that prejudice toward other people because of country of origin or ethnicity is not tolerated at BJU. If you believe you are being treated wrongly because of prejudice, you should contact the Center for Global Opportunities immediately to discuss the situation.

Privacy

Americans enjoy privacy, both physically and mentally. It is never acceptable to look through another person’s belongings without permission. Most Americans enjoy being alone on occasion. You should respect another person’s desire to be alone or to keep his or her thoughts private.

Language

Because most American students speak only English, they tend to be uncomfortable hearing people carry on conversations in other languages. It is always acceptable to speak privately in your native tongue, but you should avoid publicly conversing in a language other than English. You will, of course, also improve your own English language skills by disciplining yourself to speak in English.

Dating

In general, Americans do not practice arranged marriages, and most Americans do not practice formal courtship, in which a man declares his intention to marry a woman before courtship begins. Conservative Christians generally take a serious approach to relationships between the sexes by limiting dating to older teens and by preventing the dating couple from being alone together. The dating guidelines at BJU reflect this conservative position.

How Can I Get Along With the Faculty?

The faculty members at BJU are dedicated to helping you succeed in your educational pursuits. They are sacrificial in their service and devoted to their ministry. Unlike most other universities in America, BJU is a Christian institution that values pleasing God above all else. Your professors see themselves as ministers for the Lord, not just as academicians. During your time at BJU you will no doubt grow to love your teachers and will develop strong friendships with many of them.

Respect

As a general rule, Americans are more casual regarding the relationship between students and professors than are people from other countries. It is not necessary to stand when a teacher enters the room. Faculty members dress in business attire, and students are expected to address their professors as Dr. or Mr./Ms./Mrs. followed by his or her family name (for example, Dr. Smith or Mr. Jones).

Responsibility

Responsibility is a key value in the classroom. On the first day of each new class, the professor will distribute a syllabus and/or an assignment sheet. Follow the instructions carefully to make sure that you complete the expected assignments on time. If you do not understand the assignment sheet, speak with the professor or ask a fellow student to explain it to you. When visiting a professor you should go to his or her office during posted office hours or make an appointment. Arriving at the scheduled time is extremely important.

Responsiveness

Any communication (email, note, or official notice in your residence hall post office box or by phone) from an administrator, professor or staff member should be responded to quickly since the information may be time-sensitive. If you have any questions about how to properly respond to an official notification, contact the Center for Global Opportunities staff for direction.

Getting Help

Have small talk before/after class. It's hard to have a long conversation, but it's enough time to summarize and explain your situation. Take advantage of this time. Here's an example email you could send to your professor.

To	Mail address of the sender of this email
Cc	person/people you think to refer to this email (Not required)
Bcc	

Requesting help for a class.

Dear Dr/Mr/Mrs/Mss. (Professor's Last Name),

Good afternoon. I hope you have a great day. (Start your email with a light greeting.)

I am in (Class name & Time).

I'm having a hard time understanding the class. (Explain why you contacted the professor.)

Is there a time I can meet at your office with some questions I have? (Ask your professor for help.)

Thank you. (Don't forget to thank the professor.)

(Your Name)

What Should I Do if I Have Questions About My Courses?

When you have questions about your course, please contact your professor. Additionally, your first-year advisor will be happy to discuss your studies with you and give helpful recommendations. Several other options for students who need special academic help include:

Academic Resource Center

All students are expected to meet regularly with the first-year advisor. They are located in Room 213 in the Alumni Building. The Academic Resource Center assists students to achieve academic excellence by providing services and resources that support each student's academic goals.

Academic coaches help students to strengthen their specific academic skills—such as time management, study and test-taking skills, note-taking, and goal-setting—when they meet their students each week in first-year seminar.

Study groups provide a forum for students to work together to reinforce their understanding of specific course content.

Tutor referral assists students who are seeking individualized tutoring sessions for specific college courses.

Technology Resources assists students and faculty by providing technical support for personal computing devices. This service also offers advice and guidance for selecting and using instructional technology equipment and applications.

Academic Accommodations provides a personalized support system for students with documented disabilities by establishing reasonable academic accommodations and offering individualized academic assistance.

The **Writing Center** supports students in the development of writing skills by guiding them through the writing process.

See the Academic Accommodations supervisor for information about who qualifies for these accommodations and the procedure that needs to be followed.

Extended Test Time (ETT) for ESOL Students

Extended Test Time (which includes both tests and quizzes) for ESOL students will be managed through the Academic Resource Center. ESOL students will be granted extended test time based on their academic classification each semester:

Freshman: 40% extra time

Sophomore: 30% extra time

Junior: 20% extra time

Senior: No extra time

The Accommodations Supervisor will notify qualified students via their BJU email during the first week of classes each semester.

Qualifications for ESOL status: students who meet both of the following qualifications will be given Extended Test Time:

- students self-identify as ESOL and
- take the TOEFL during the Admissions process.

Procedures for ESOL students needing extended test time

- An ESOL student who wants to request extended test time should come by the Academic Resource Center in Alumni 213 to schedule a meeting with the Accommodations Supervisor.
- If the student qualifies for extended test time, they will receive a letter to give to each professor. He or she will request this letter every semester up until they reach Senior level status.
- ESOL Accommodation test forms, available in either Alumni 213 or 208, must be given to the professors 3 business days prior to each scheduled test throughout the semester.
- All ETT tests MUST be taken on the original test day unless they get approval to reschedule.

Exceptions to granting Extended Test Time

There will be times that a professor will not allow for extended test time. Tests that contain less than 50% of written words are exempt from extended test time (ex. tests that are comprised of mathematical equations).

Appeal Process

ESOL students may request an exception to the policy guidelines for Extended Test Time by scheduling an appointment with the Accommodation Supervisor in the Academic Resource Center.

Requests may be made for the following exceptions:

- Review of the time allowed
- Review of student's ESOL status

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the procedures for ETT, please contact: Mrs. Amy Streeter, Academic Accommodations Supervisor

Office: Alumni 213 (Academic Resource Center)

Email: astreete@bju.edu

Office Ext. 8202

Center for Career and Calling

Career Services helps students and alumni prepare to enter the workforce by offering career counseling, resume advising, recruiting events and employment opportunities.

Class Attendance

The University's mission includes instilling responsibility, dependability and punctuality in students to prepare them for success. A prerequisite to success in any endeavor is "showing up." When you make class attendance a priority, you facilitate learning and your performance in a variety of ways. Thus class attendance leads to

development of healthy life habits and academic success. Missing class may lead to irresponsibility and difficulty in keeping up academically and may impact course grades and/or degree completion in a timely manner.

The Class Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook makes clear to students expectations in regard to class attendance and the consequences of failure to fulfill these academic responsibilities. International students who exceed class absences are withdrawn from the course. A student who drops below a full-time course load (undergraduate students 12 credits, graduate students 8 credits) without authorization from the Registrar and Coordinator for International Student Engagement will jeopardize his visa status and his enrollment at Bob Jones University.

What Activities Should I Be Involved In?

While your primary goals for your time at BJU should be academic, there are a variety of activities on campus or in town that may be of special interest. Involving yourself in these activities is an important part of your education at BJU.

Local Church Attendance

A list of local churches is posted on the University's intranet (<https://home.bju.edu/campus-life/residence-hall-students/>). In addition to these churches, some international students may attend a church in the surrounding area that worships in their home language. If you wish to attend a church that is not already attended by BJU students, please check with the director of the Center for Global Opportunities for advice.

Outreach Ministries

Students are encouraged to go out from the campus to take the Gospel to others. There are dozens of outreach ministries available for student participation. Frequently, international students have opportunities to use their home language to serve the Lord in an outreach ministry. Contact the Center for Global Opportunities in the Alumni Building for further information.

Missions Advance

This student organization meets two nights a week to pray for missionaries around the world. International students bring understanding about other cultures and spiritual needs from other countries. Students who are considering missionary service often find that a conversation with an international student is a part of what God uses to direct them to service in a particular part of the world.

International Student Organization

This student organization is composed of international students, Third Culture Kids (students who grew up in a culture that is different from their parents' home culture) and American students interested in learning about different cultures

represented in the student body. The ISO hosts a variety of activities both on and off campus, from dinners and culture nights to games and special times of worship. Join this community of students to help you feel at home while here at BJU.

Friendships With Individuals From Your Home Country

In many cases there are other students at BJU who are also from your country or from a similar culture. The Center for Global Opportunities can supply you with information about other international students. In addition, Greenville has an increasingly diverse, multi-national population. You may have opportunity to meet some local people who are from your country.

Where Can I Go to Find Work?

Opportunities for employment are limited for most international students because of visa restrictions. In most cases, however, students may work on campus for the University. Human Resources Staffing Services can assist you in finding available jobs on campus. Several other considerations regarding employment in the United States include:

Obtaining a Social Security Card

In the United States, a valid Social Security card is required to have a job and earn wages. After you have been in the United States for 10 days, you can apply for a Social Security card at the Social Security Administration. BJU's Human Resources Staffing Services office can assist you with the process of obtaining this card.

Paying Taxes

F-1 students are subject to withholding for federal and state income taxes and in most cases must pay taxes on a part of their income.

F-1 students are not subject to Social Security or Medicare taxes and should have none withheld.

F-1 students who work on campus generally complete IRS Form 1040NREZ, Form 8843 and the South Carolina Form SC1040 when they file tax returns (which

are due annually on April 15). For current tax forms, please visit the Student Employment website at protect.bju.edu/wiki/x/wpFj.

Most U.S.-based tax filing services like TurboTax will not file correctly for you as a nonresident. The only reliable nonresident tax preparation service we know of is Sprintax, <https://www.sprintax.com/>. The cost for Sprintax is less than having to file an amended tax return should another service get it wrong.

Human Resources Staffing Services cannot assist you with questions regarding filling out tax forms; however, they can refer you to someone who can help you.

How Should I Handle My Money?

International students studying in the U.S. have various options for managing their finances effectively:

- **Opening a Bank Account:** Many opt to open local bank accounts to easily access banking services and receive funds. Student-specific accounts may offer benefits like fee waivers or low balances.
- **Wire Transfers:** This method facilitates money transfers between home and host countries, available through banks, online services, or remittance companies. Comparing fees and rates is crucial.
- **International Student Cards:** Some banks offer student-specific accounts or cards with perks like low currency conversion fees and discounts at partner merchants.
- **Currency Exchange:** Monitoring exchange rates and using reputable exchange services help minimize fees and secure favorable rates for transferring money.
- **Online Payment Platforms:** PayPal, TransferWise, and Venmo are popular for their competitive rates and low fees for transfers, bill payments, and online purchases.
- **Traveler's Checks:** Though less common, traveler's checks offer security but may not be widely accepted and entail fees.
- **Budgeting and Financial Planning:** A budget covering expenses such as tuition, accommodation, food, and transport is essential. Tracking spending helps manage finances efficiently.

Before deciding on a method, students should research options, consider fees and regulations, and choose what aligns best with their needs and circumstances in both their home and host countries.

Two banks close to BJU that international students prefer are:

Bank of America

2003 Wade Hampton Blvd · (864) 271-5707

https://locators.bankofamerica.com/sc/greenville/financial-centers-greenville-11061.html?utm_source=GMBlisting&utm_medium=organic

TD Bank

1450 Wade Hampton Blvd · (864) 255-4945

<https://locations.td.com/us/1450-wade-hampton-boulevard-wade-hampton>

Required Identification

In order to open a bank account, you will need to show a BJU student ID card and one other valid form of identification, such as your passport.

Initial Deposit

You will also need to make an initial deposit. The amount required for the initial deposit will vary depending on which bank you choose.

Cashing/Depositing Checks

In most cases checks drawn from another U.S. bank require several days to process. Checks drawn from an international bank will generally take about two weeks to

process. Funds will not be available until the processing procedure is complete.

Funds Transfer/Wiring Funds

Once a bank account has been established, it will be possible in most cases to transfer funds electronically from an international bank in your country to a local bank in the United States. Though such transfers are quickly completed and the money is immediately available, it is the most expensive means of depositing money from your country into a local account. In most cases both the bank sending the money and the bank receiving the money charge a fee (approximately \$30 each) for this service.

What Housing Is Available for Me?

Most students will find the best housing arrangement is to live on campus. BJU requires unmarried students under 23 years of age to live in the residence halls. (Some exceptions apply; see the Student Handbook.) Even for those students who are eligible, living off campus is not always a good option, since you would need to provide your own transportation and meals. The costs, as well as the inconvenience of traveling each time you wish to use the library or attend a meeting, make living in the residence halls the best choice for most students. It is highly recommended that all international students live in the residence halls for their first year at BJU while they make the adjustment from their home country. Married students and those who are 23 years old or older who choose to live off campus should refer to the following section.

There are 4 residence halls (RH, also called dormitories or dorms) where ladies stay and 4 for men. Each residence hall has a room for prayer, a place to study, and a room with vending machines. Every floor has 2 bathrooms that everyone shares, and the rooms usually have 3 students. Your room will have places to put your clothes, shelves to keep things, a desk for your computer, and space for your books. You can also use the laundry room for free, and there are rooms where you can practice playing piano, singing, or other instruments.

What do I need to prepare for my room?

You'll likely need something for your bed. You can buy it at a nearby store during the international student orientation. The bed size is "twin".

The school doesn't provide hair dryers, fans, slippers, or chargers. You'll need to bring these items from home or buy them at a nearby store.

How many roommates do I have?

You'll typically be assigned 2 roommates. You can find their information on Student Central after August 1st.

How do I check my roommate?

1. Go to Student Central and log in.
2. Look for "Students Life" under the BJU logo.
3. Click "Residence Hall Information/Roommates" in the blue area below.

How can I request a room or roommates? (You can apply for this after your freshman year.)

1. Go to Student Central and log in.

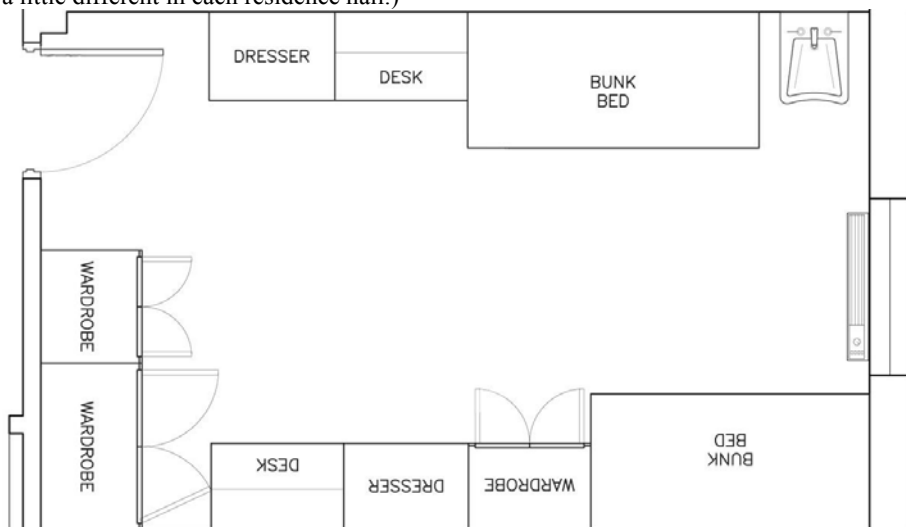
2. Look for "Students Life" under the BJU logo.
3. Click "Room Request" below the Student's Life.

What is Curfew and Lights Out?

Residence hall students should return to their residence halls by specific curfew times: 10:30 p.m. on Sunday and Monday, 11 p.m. from Tuesday to Thursday, and 12 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. They should remain in their residence halls until 5 a.m. (This policy aims to promote community and consideration by reducing noise and light during nighttime hours. Room lights should be turned off by midnight Sunday to Thursday and by 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday to create a suitable sleeping environment for academic success. First-year students in certain residence halls should be in bed with lights out and ready to sleep by midnight on weekdays and 1 a.m. on weekends. No activities that might disturb others are allowed after these times. After midnight, students can study in their rooms using personal lamps or in designated public areas while maintaining a quiet atmosphere.)

What does my room look like?

This is what your room looks like. (How the furniture is set up in the rooms might be a little different in each residence hall.)



Room checks in the residence hall

Room checks in the residence hall take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The back of each room's door lists specific items to check. (Students are encouraged to work together to decide how to share room responsibilities and help each other meet them. If there are any questions or concerns about room expectations, students can ask a resident assistant, mentor, or residence hall supervisor for help and guidance.)

Discipleship Group (DG)

If you live in the residence halls, you'll regularly participate in discipleship groups to pray together and explore the semester's chapel theme more deeply. Discipleship Group meetings are scheduled every Sunday, Monday at 10:30 p.m., and Thursday

at 11 a.m. Sunday and Monday's DG will take place in the dormitory, while Thursday's DG will be held in the location chosen by the GL/AGL.

Dorm Meetings

At the start of each semester, each residence hall holds a meeting. The date for the meeting varies for each residence hall, so be sure to check your email for updates.

Hall Meetings

The meeting will be held on either Sunday or Monday during DG time. It takes place on every floor. Please check your email for the specific meeting date as it may vary.

Dorm Parties

Each residence hall hosts a party during the fall semester. The date of the party differs depending on the residence halls, so make sure to check your email for updates and details.

People

Dorm Supervisor: A person in charge of the residence hall.

Resident Assistant (RA): A person in charge of students in each hall.

Discipleship Group Leader / Discipleship Group Assistant Leader (GL/AGL):

A person in charge of Discipleship Group.

Laundry

The laundry room has washing and drying machines. JOHNSON RESIDENCE HALL has a laundry room in the male residence halls. Women's residence halls have laundry rooms in each residence hall, but GASTON RESIDENCE HALL has more washing and drying machines in its laundry room.

Washing machines

1. Put the laundry that needs to be washed inside the machine.
2. Close the door of the machine.
3. Select the water temperature. (Cold is great)
4. Choose the amount of laundry. (The washing time changes based on how much laundry you wash.)
5. Press the Start button to begin.

Drying machines

1. Put your items to dry inside the machine.
2. Close the door securely.
3. Select a temperature. (Medium is great)
4. Press the Start button. (If you need more drying time, press the Start button to add 15 minutes for each click.)

Off-Campus Housing

A town student lives in the local area but not on BJU campus. To qualify as a town student, individuals must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be at least 23 years old by the end of the semester.
- Be married.
- Have completed a bachelor's degree program or participated in commencement with an agreement to complete coursework for a four-year bachelor's degree.
- Have completed eight full-time resident college semesters.

- Have fulfilled military enlistment requirements, typically a standard four-year enlistment term (reservists are considered on an individual basis).
- Reside with parents who live full-time in the Greenville area or with a court-appointed legal guardian if the student is a minor.
- Live with an aunt, uncle, first cousin (of the same gender), grandparent, or sibling who is at least 23 years old, has completed a bachelor's degree, or is married.

Approval for living arrangements in town must be obtained through the Household Verification process in Student Life.

Most off-campus housing in the Greenville area will require a **deposit** equal to the amount of rent for two months, and many places also require you to pay the **rent for the first and last months** before you can move in.

Utilities (water, electricity, sewer, garbage collection) are sometimes (but not always) included in the monthly rental fee. Make sure you know what your financial obligations are before agreeing to rent a house or an apartment. It will be your responsibility to contact the various utility companies to arrange for service to be initiated. A deposit is generally required for new service. To arrange for electricity service you can call Duke Energy at (800) 777-9898 or fill out their online form at www.duke-energy.com/south-carolina/moving.asp. To arrange for natural gas service you can call Piedmont Natural Gas at (800) 752-7504 or visit <https://www.piedmontng.com/home/start-stop-or-move>.

Although most rental houses and apartments have a stove and refrigerator, not all have laundry facilities. In addition, most do not come with furniture. Fully furnished apartments or houses are sometimes available at a higher price.

Most rental agreements are in the form of a lease. A lease is a binding legal contract that states that you agree to pay the rental fee for a specified period of time—usually six months or one year. If you move out before that time period is complete, you will forfeit your deposit and may be obligated to continue paying the monthly rental fee for the duration of the time of the lease.

Make sure you know what you are agreeing to before signing any lease agreement. Read it carefully and get advice from someone you trust.

In many cases there are government regulations regarding how many children can sleep in each bedroom. If you have several children, be sure to ask about these regulations before making an agreement or signing a lease.

Food

BJU offers different food services for students. Most students living on campus have their meals in the BJU Dining Common.

<https://www.bju.edu/about/campus-map/dining-common/>

There are additional campus-provided food options in the Den, Field House, and Boba Jones.

You can't cook food in your room, but each Residence Hall has a Snack room where you can use your cooking utensils. After cooking, remember to clean up. You can eat snacks or food in your room but talk to your roommate before deciding. You can buy snacks and food in Greenville at local shops, grocery stores, and restaurants.

What Should I Do if I Need Health Care?

Student Health Services

Student health services is an on-campus office located in the lowest floor of Reveal at the end near the parking garage

Student Health Care office

There is a nurse available M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., to help students identify the appropriate medical treatment option for their illness or injury.

Basic first aid, suture removal, and assistance for students with chronic illnesses are also available.

If you miss class due to a contagious illness, you must contact Student Health; you may contact them at (864) 241-1685 or email them at studenthealth@bju.edu.

Under what circumstances should I contact Student Health Services, Moment MD, or go to Urgent Care?

Anytime you are sick or injured and desire a medical opinion concerning your condition and treatment options, especially if any of the following examples apply:

- Flu-like symptoms
- Unusual abdominal pain/GI upset
- Possible broken bones
- Headaches
- Common colds/fever greater than 100.4 F°
- Other health issues that could be taken care of with a routine visit to a medical office, clinic, or urgent care center
- Your parents or residence hall leaders advise you to be evaluated by a medical professional

MomentMD Services

BJU residence hall students can access 24/7 telehealth services through MomentMD, a global cloud-based healthcare community. MomentMD specializes in providing digital health services to college students that fit their busy schedules. Students will be emailed instructions and a promo code to access MomentMD each semester.

MomentMD offers a wide range of essential medical services to students. The program can save students time and money, allowing them to get the tests, prescriptions, and medical advice they need at any time.

International Student Insurance

All international students are covered under the plan provided by World Trips. The charge for this plan is already included in your tuition. The insurance policy provided by BJU is primarily an emergency hospitalization and accident policy to help with large medical expenses. This insurance plan is not intended to cover ALL medical expenses in the U.S., such as routine medical care, dental care, or vision care-these are not covered in this plan. For questions about enrollment in this plan contact the Coordinator for International Student Engagement in the Office of Admission. For questions about in-network providers or filing a claim, contact the Center for Global Opportunities in the Alumni Building. For all healthcare details, including more information about the International Student Insurance policy, instructions for when you're sick, provider lists, and a claim form example, access

the BJU Student Zone. You can print your insurance identification card and find other important insurance information and documents on the BJU Student Zone online at <https://administrators.internationalstudentinsurance.com/zones/bob-jones-SZ/>

Dentist

If you need dental services, you should contact Dr. Brown's office at (864) 408-8873. This dentist serves the needs of many individuals in the BJU community and offers excellent care at reasonable rates. His office is located off campus across the street from the girls' residence halls.

Vision

Vision care is not covered by insurance. See the Student Information packet for a list of nearby providers.

What Do I Need to Do to Drive a Car?

In order to drive a car in the United States, you will need a valid driver's license. BJU partners with **Auto Safe Driving School** in Greenville for student driver training.

209 Pine Knoll Dr B, Greenville, SC 29609

864.297.0003

office@autosafedriving.com

<https://www.autosafedriving.com/>

If You Have a Driver's License From Your Home Country

If you have a driver's license from your home country, you may use it for a few weeks, but you will need to get a South Carolina driver's license to continue driving here.

Please complete Form 4030, which can be found online at www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/forms.aspx (scroll down to find form under heading "Driver's License, Beginner's Permit, and Identification Card Forms"). You will also need a translation of your home country's driver's license done by a school official. Please contact the Registrar's Office in The Hub to obtain the name of a faculty member qualified to translate this document.

If You Do Not Have Any Driver's License

If you do not have any driver's license, you will need to pass the South Carolina state driver's test. Contact the Saluda Dam Road Department of Motor Vehicles at (864) 241-1147 or (803) 896-5000 for more information. Various forms for the Department of Motor Vehicles, including a copy of the Driver's Manual, are available online at <http://www.scdmvonline.com/Forms-And-Manuals>.

What You Need to Get a Driver's License

To get a South Carolina driver's license, take the following items to the Department

of Motor Vehicles located at 15 Saluda Dam Road in Greenville:

- I-20, I-94, visa and passport
- A Social Security card or a letter of denial from the Social Security Administration (for more information about obtaining a Social Security card, contact the Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213.)
- A letter from an insurance company stating that you are insured to drive and that your insurance meets South Carolina state law requirements
- An enrollment verification letter from BJU's Registrar (obtain at The Hub desk) stating you are a full-time student or dependent

NOTE: Your address and all other information must be correct in Student Central before the Registrar can complete this letter. Letter requests should be made at least 48 hours before needed. However, there are some times during the year when requests will require more than the normal two-business-day processing period. Check with The Hub desk early to avoid delays. Letters from the Coordinator for International Student Engagement are not accepted at the DMV except for students on their Optional Practical Training.

Parking on campus

Residence hall students should park only in their assigned lots, following administrative policies, and they need to register their vehicles with the Public Safety Department. Vehicles owned by residence hall students cannot be kept off-campus. Even if a student's parents are faculty/staff, their vehicles should follow residence hall student parking rules. Not adhering to these rules may lead to the vehicle being immobilized with a device and towed, with a \$100 fee payable at the Public Safety office for removing the device. If the device is tampered with, the fee increases to \$200. If the device isn't removed within 24 hours of notification, the removal fee rises to \$200, and after 48 hours, the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.

Town students, including those with parents who are BJU faculty/staff, have specific parking areas during regular weekday class hours. These areas include the Parking Garage, Stadium View Drive, and certain zones along White Oak Drive and Library lots after 5 p.m. and on weekends. They should avoid parking in areas not designated during class hours but can use non-residence hall parking lots after 5 p.m. on weekdays and anytime when classes are not in session. If day students drive their parent's faculty-registered vehicle, they should park in general parking areas. Museum & Gallery and Activity Center lots are available after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends unless reserved for special events. Violations of parking regulations may result in vehicle immobilization and towing, with a \$25 fee for removing the device increasing to \$50 if not removed within 24 hours. The vehicle may be towed after 48 hours, with the owner responsible for all associated costs.

What Should I Do During Designated Breaks?

Students are expected to book flights within the limits set by the University for beginning or ending a semester as well as the start and end dates of designated breaks. We expect students to depart and return to Greenville within the designated times and fulfill required classes, activities or work obligations. Class absences are to be used for the intended purposes stated in the Student Handbook and are not to be used to extend a designated break.

Many international students find that the most difficult times of the school year for them are the break periods (Fall Break, Thanksgiving Break, Christmas Break, Spring Break and Summer) when most students go home. International students may consider several options for these times:

Go Home

Some international students are able to travel back home to be with family and friends during these times of extended break from classes. Because the cost may be prohibitive, however, most international students will be able to travel home only occasionally during the time of their studies at BJU. Some students will not be able to go home at all until their education is complete.

Go to a Friend's Home

As you make friends with fellow students, it is likely that someone will invite you to spend time with him or her during a school break. Most Americans enjoy having international visitors in their homes. Doing so provides an opportunity to exchange ideas and information about one another's cultures and traditional holiday celebrations.

Work

Students can apply to work on the BJU campus nearly year-round, pending job availability (check with Human Resources Staffing Services). The dining common is closed for Thanksgiving, and the campus is completely closed during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's. International students can earn extra money by working on campus during the summer break.

Study

Online classes provide opportunities to get ahead on your degree program. Summer is a good opportunity to take courses from SCOPE; there are two online summer sessions: May–June and July–August.

Housing arrangements at the end or beginning of the semester for students who are not working full time or attending class full time should be made through Student Life and are intended for only **short stays**. In both of these situations, the cost to stay in a residence hall is \$50 per day. To stay late as a student worker after the spring semester requires a move to summer housing which has a separate cost (refer to Student Life for details). If you need housing at times other than the end or beginning of the semester, you should contact the Welcome Center. *Please note that the entire University is closed for two weeks during the*

Christmas Break. No one will be permitted to remain in the residence halls during that time. It is your responsibility to find a place to stay off campus for those two weeks.

What Should I Know if I Have Children?

Several factors should be considered if you are a parent whose children live with you during your stay in the United States.

Education

The education of children is required by law. The U.S. government places great importance on education. In South Carolina, children 17 years and under are required to regularly attend school, whether that school is a public school, Christian school or homeschool. Bob Jones Academy is an excellent choice for the education of your children. You should make arrangements to speak to the principal (overseer) at the school where you plan to enroll your child in order to obtain more information about the enrollment process. Be prepared to show a record of your child's immunizations as well as evidence of past educational performance.

Safety

While Hollywood movies often portray life in America as violent and dangerous, you will find most areas to be safe and tranquil. Because children are especially vulnerable to crime, however, it is wise to keep your children near you when you go out together to shop or for recreation.

What If I Want to Obtain an Advanced Degree?

Before making plans to pursue an advanced degree at BJU, please make an appointment to speak to the registrar. Your undergraduate academic record, your financial status with BJU and the condition of your visa will need to be considered to determine if you may continue further studies. Remember that anytime you change your level of education you need to obtain a new I-20 reflecting your new program of study. See the coordinator for international student engagement in the Office of Admission as soon as you begin to make plans to pursue additional education.

Some graduate students at BJU obtain a position as a graduate assistant (GA). Serving as a GA involves working for BJU 19 hours per week while semesters are in session and taking 9 hours of classwork.

Where do I go if...?	Answer
I need help in a class.	Course professor and/or first-year advisor (Alumni Building, Room 213)
I need help reading English.	Academic Resource Center (Alumni Building, Room 213)
I need a tutor.	Academic Resource Center (Alumni Building, Room 213)
I need a campus job.	HR Staffing Services (Student Services Hub)
I need help managing my finances.	Financial Services (Student Services Hub)
I need housing.	Student Life
I want a driver's license.	South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (864) 241-1147
I'm sick.	Student Health Services or Moment MD app
I am having trouble adjusting to life here.	Center for Global Opportunities (Alumni Building, first floor)
I have questions about my immigration documents.	Coordinator for International Student Engagement (Student Services Hub)
I need advice about my major.	Transition advisor (Alumni Building, Room 213)
I need transcripts.	Registrar's Office (The Hub) or www.bju.edu/transcripts
I want to work off campus.	Coordinator for International Student Engagement (Student Services Hub)

What Do I Need to Know About Immigration?

Welcome to the United States of America!

The U.S. Government welcomes international students to this country. With more than a million international students in the U.S., it is necessary to have rules that direct international student visa programs at schools across the country. We call these rules “laws” or “regulations.” Romans 13:1-7 reminds us that God has put government in place for our good, and that we need to obey laws, as we obey God. One main purpose for government is our protection. On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked our country by turning commercial airplanes into weapons. Those terrorists were in the U.S. on a student visa but were not at school.

In 2001, there wasn't a way to track or report on students. As a result, Congress created the Department of Homeland Security and the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Congress appointed officials at each school who would be responsible to report and ensure compliance with students and visa regulations through the SEVIS database. These persons are called Designated School Officials (DSOs). Congress asked DSOs to train international students in the regulations and to ensure that students and schools comply. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with the information you need to know about the regulations and to stay safe.

Important Practice Note: *It may seem unfair that citizens of other countries walk into this country and overstay their visas illegally; still, they get benefits like work and health care for free. But you as an F-1 international student are called to comply with difficult regulations. Remember that as Christians, we serve God by our obedience, and we want to have a testimony before the world that is without offense toward God and people (Acts 24:16). We have a higher calling. Bob Jones University and our students have always tried to keep a good testimony. Your DSO is here to help you succeed as an international student at BJU. Do not be afraid of your DSO, but reach out with any questions.*

Government

Congress created the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) after 9/11 to protect our country from terrorist attacks. The DHS contains three agencies you work with as international students.

• U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

This agency admits you to the United States. You should be admitted as an F-1 international student with your Form I-20.

You will receive an I-94 document when you are admitted. You can find this document at www.cbp.gov/I94. You will need to print your I-94 and keep it with you.

- **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**

This agency approves and grants benefits like work authorization and change of visa status.

- **United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**

This agency is the immigration police that evaluates visa violations and forceable removal from the country.

Important Practice Note: *We all have authorities. Some authorities are more important than others. As Christians, God is our highest authority. For international students in the U.S., immigration law is the next highest authority. After that, various BJU authorities have a say. Sometimes, authorities can disagree without meaning to. For example, if your class professor says you should drop his class, but immigration law doesn't allow it, you should not drop without first checking with your DSO. Your professor didn't mean to disagree with the law, he just didn't know. If your campus job manager asks you to work more hours, but immigration law doesn't allow it, you have to tell your manager and stop working. Your manager didn't know you would exceed your work allowance. You are responsible to know and obey the laws on your visa all the time, but your DSO is also here to help you.*

Maintaining Student Visa Status

Student records are maintained in a tracking database, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), pronounced SEE-vihs. Both Designated School Officials (DSOs) and students need to report. There are deadlines that students have to report some details; deadlines are very important.

This is what you need to report

1. Report for SEVIS Registration at the start of every academic year.
 - a. Copies will be made of your passport, visa, I-20 and I-94
 - b. Provide other information that your DSO requests.
2. Report any changes to these items to your DSO within 10 days.
 - a. Your official passport name
 - b. Your address (including a residence hall and room number or apartment number)
 - c. Your contact phone and email address
 - d. Your major, secondary major, concentration, minor, and level of education (associate, bachelor, etc.)
 - e. Your graduation date, as near as you know at this time
 - f. Your enrollment in a full course of study every semester in residence

Important Practice Note: *E-mail reporting to your DSO is fine in most cases. Your DSO will report these items to the SEVIS database and will update your I-20 as necessary. Your DSO will also report any disciplinary action or violations of status,*

so it is important that you read and know both F-1 visa regulations and BJU student expectations and that you follow them carefully. You're responsible for your status as a student in the U.S., but you're not alone. If you're not sure about anything, your DSO will be glad to answer questions or connect you with someone else who can help.

To maintain your student visa status, do these

- Enroll full time every semester in campus classes in residence at BJU.
 - Undergraduate students – 12 credits
 - Graduate students – 8 credits
- If necessary, apply for a Reduced Course Load (RCL) before you drop credits below the full-time limits.
 - A RCL may be granted to undergraduate freshmen students who are struggling with English language or American testing methods.
 - A RCL may be granted for certain medical conditions; a doctor's note is required before you qualify for this RCL situation.
 - A RCL may be granted to graduating students to finish their last semester with what they need to complete the degree.
 - A RCL cannot be granted if you are failing a course and do not want to hurt your GPA.
 - Follow these steps to get RCL authorization.
 - Reach out to the registrar to secure academic permission.
 - Reach out to the DSO to grant the RCL on a new I-20.
 - After RCL is approved on a new I-20, you may drop the class.
- Keep your passport valid for six months in the future at all times.
 - Apply for an extension when needed at your nearest embassy office. Many embassies are in Atlanta, GA or Washington, D.C.
 - Some can apply by mail, others need to visit in person. Plan trips to embassies in the U.S. or at home during school breaks.
 - If you get a new passport, you may need to keep your old passport book if your student visa in that book is still valid. In that case, you will have two passport books.
- Obey all state and federal laws in the U.S. It's best if you find an American friend to help you navigate U.S. culture and laws since they are familiar with life here.
- Make regular progress each semester so that you can earn your degree and graduate by the date listed on your I-20.

Important Practice Note: *Common status violations are things you want to avoid. Do not do these.*

X Enrolling online or livestream instead of in a campus classroom. *Three credits of distance learning can count toward a full-time study load: check with both student life and the registrar for permission, first.*

X Sitting out a semester. *You must enroll every semester to maintain your visa status.*

X Dropping below a full course of study without first applying for a RCL authorization.

X Studying somewhere else without following proper SEVIS transferring procedure.

X Letting your I-20 expire.

X Failing to report an update within 10 days of the change.

Special Immigration Topics

What is “Duration of Status”?

- Your I-94 document should say that you are an F-1 student for “D/S” or Duration of Status.
- This means you may stay in the U.S. as long as you are studying full-time or are taking approved practical training, plus the grace period.
 - The grace period is 60 days if you complete your degree.
 - The grace period is 15 days if you withdraw before completing your degree.
 - The grace period is 0 days if you are asked to leave (disciplinary or status violation).
 - There is no work or study permitted during the grace period. You may use the time to make preparations to depart the U.S.

Visa and I-20

- Your F-1 status is determined by your I-20, not your visa.
- Your F-1 student visa is a key of entry into the country, and it needs to be valid only if you are traveling out of and into the U.S.
- You may stay in the U.S. after your visa expires if you have a valid I-20.
- A visa cannot be issued in the U.S. You will need to travel abroad to apply for a new visa if you desire. Talk to the DSO first, before traveling.
- Do not let your I-20 expire. After your I-20 expires, it cannot be changed or extended. You have to request changes or extensions before your I-20 expires.
- Report changes to your I-20 to the DSO within 10 days of the change. You may end up with several I-20s if you make changes. KEEP ALL I-20s.

Travel as an F-1 Student

- You need to meet with your DSO and have a travel consultation before you leave the U.S. to travel and return.
- Your DSO will check your documents and SEVIS record for validity and will sign page 2 of your I-20.
- Each travel signature is valid for one year. You will not be able to return to the U.S. without your DSO’s travel signature.
- Request your travel consultation before the school break. If you plan to apply for a new visa at home, your DSO will suggest a list of documents to take with you.

Work Authorization in the U.S.

There are three broad categories of work to consider on the F-1 student visa: volunteer, campus work, and off-campus work. Be aware that the U.S. Government severely restricts work permission for F-1 international students. All work off campus requires special permission. Do not participate in any off-campus work in the U.S. without first asking your DSO and securing authorization.

Important Practice Note: *Defining U.S. “work” (or employment) is important for immigration purposes. Employment is any exchange of services with any compensation in return. It is two-directional, meaning you are providing a service outward and you are receiving a benefit in return inward. U.S. work is any work performed in the United States. Compensation or payment is not limited only to money. Compensation can also include housing and meals, tuition scholarships, or any other significant type of gift. If you’re not sure if a situation might be U.S. employment, reach out to your DSO.*

Volunteer

Volunteer work is providing a service with no compensation in return. It is always one-directional because you provide a service but get nothing in return for your service. You may volunteer at any time.

- Common volunteer opportunities include community outreaches through the Center for Global Opportunities, singing in church choir, and other small ministries.
- Volunteer positions must always be unpaid; an organization cannot change a normally paid position to unpaid to make it volunteer.

Campus Work

Campus work is a privilege that comes with your visa. You may work on campus only if the work is paid by BJU. Campus work positions include those working in a service department on BJU campus, or for BJU Press, or for Aramark Dining Services.

- To work on campus, first apply for jobs through BJU or Aramark Human Resources, and wait for your job offer.
- You will need to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) after you secure your job offer.
- Obtain a letter from your DSO to help you get your SSN, and reach out to BJU Human Resources for the next step.
- Campus work is limited to 19 hours per week during the academic year, August – May. This includes all breaks. Do not exceed 19 working hours per week during the academic year.
- There’s no immigration work hour limit during the summer break, but your work department might have a limit.

Important Practice Note: *An example of work that is not paid by BJU is private tutoring; you may not tutor or accept payment for services from other students, even*

though tutoring may occur on campus. Because tutoring is not paid by BJU, it is an example of off-campus work that you may not engage in without special authorization from your DSO. Other examples of off-campus work include yard jobs, cleaning houses, online teaching, babysitting, elderly care, academic internships, and summer camp. Do not work off campus without authorization.

Off-Campus Work

You cannot work off campus without authorization. You must maintain your F-1 student visa status for one year first, before you may qualify for any off-campus work authorization. Your DSO can provide you with resources like fact sheets that outline how to qualify and steps to apply for work authorization, just ask.

Economic Hardship: this employment is a consideration only to students suffering tragic loss, such as the death of their financial guarantor or a natural disaster.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT): employment off campus to gain experience that is required for a course in your degree program. Your academic program must decide that this kind of work is required.

Optional Practical Training (OPT): employment off campus to gain experience that is directly related to your major of study on the I-20.

- 12 months of OPT is available with a bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degree.
- OPT may be taken pre-completion (before graduation) or post-completion (after graduation).
- Each OPT request requires your DSO's recommendation on a new I-20; an I-765 employment application to USCIS; and fee.
- An additional 24 month extension of OPT is available to graduates in approved STEM degree programs.
- Plan to attend an OPT workshop to get current information and advice to file.

Case Study #1

Bella kept a YouTube channel at home that earned income. Now that she's an F-1 student in the U.S., it's still earning. Can she keep the channel going and earn income? This is an example of off-campus employment, because it is not paid by BJU. If Bella adds any content or answers a comment while she is in the U.S., she is engaging in employment (providing a service and getting paid). Do not add any video content while in the U.S., and keep all passive income deposits in a bank account at home.

Case Study #2

Henry received an offer from an online teaching company seeking international students. They want to use Henry's multi-lingual skills to teach language lessons to students abroad. The students are not in the U.S., and payment is made directly from students to a bank account at home (not in the U.S.). Can he teach? This is an

example of off-campus employment, because it is not paid by BJU. The work is performed on U.S. soil. Capabilities to teach online do not change work restrictions in the U.S. F-1 international students may not work off campus without authorization.

Case Study #3

Natasha, a Counseling major, volunteered with her American roommate for a weekend of cleaning and grounds work at ABC Christian Camp. After the weekend, the camp surprised them both with \$100 for their help. Can they keep the money? This is an example of off-campus employment, not volunteer, because students were paid for work. Natasha needs to return the money. Although camps frequently invite volunteers, there can be no exchange of services and compensation. This work may be possible later on as a summer internship, if it is for class credit and CPT is approved on a new I-20.

Case Study #4

Jonathan desires to become a blood donor and sees that plasma donations pay a lot of money. Other international students assured him it was fine. At the local blood drive, he's given a t-shirt and an Amazon gift card for his donation. Can he donate blood? This is an example of off-campus employment because Jonathan will receive a significant gift for his donation. While the t-shirt may not be considered a significant gift, the gift card is payment. He may donate blood but cannot accept any form of compensation in return as an F-1 international student in the U.S.

Important Practice Note: *There are too many questions and situations considering possible visa violations and employment to answer them all here. You do not need to remember all the details all the time. What you do need to remember is that you have a DSO who wants you to succeed and who will be happy to discuss situations with you. Reach out to your DSO before you do anything questionable to get guidance.*

Your DSO

The main DSO on each campus is called the Principal Designated School Official (PDSO). The PDSO at Bob Jones University is:

Mr. Bryan Boudreau, MM, MS, PDSO

Coordinator for International Student Engagement

His office is in the Student Services Hub. You may reach him by e-mail at bboudrea@bju.edu. He has more than 20 years of experience professionally administrating BJU's international program and advising thousands of international students. He provides comprehensive immigration advising and related services to help international students reach their highest potential at BJU.

Where Do I Find My Classes?

Biblical worldview. Liberal arts and Bible foundation. Caring faculty and supportive community. These are all part of an academic experience that will strengthen your faith and prepare you for success. Our faculty members are knowledgeable and passionate about their fields, and they want to see you succeed in more than just academics. They take time outside the classroom to listen to, encourage, and pray with you because they are dedicated to seeing you grow as an individual—in your vocation and Christlikeness.

Registration

1. Go to Student Central and log in.
2. Look for "Register" under the BJU logo.
3. Click "Class (Campus and/or Remote) Registration" in the blue area below.
4. You should meet with your advisor before submitting your schedule.
5. Submit the Final Schedule.

Textbooks

BJU Textbooks in the Den is where you can get your textbooks. They offer Rent Used, Rent New, Buy Used, or Buy New options. If you rent a book, you must return it by a certain date.

Checksheet

Your Checksheet shows the classes, credits, and/or things you need to do to finish your degree program.

How can I find my checksheet?

1. Go to Student Central and log in.
2. Look for "Academics" under the BJU logo.
3. Click "Checksheet" in the blue area below.

Canvas LMS

BJU has selected the Canvas LMS as an educational tool to help students. This tool makes school life easier for students by allowing them to submit homework and check class requirements through Canvas. The To-do and Calendar features are the best ways to see your assignments. It's crucial to hand in assignments on time and to follow the submission instructions provided by your professor on Canvas. If your instructions differ from what's on Canvas, it's best to contact your professor for clarification. While asking friends for help is fine, the professor will have the correct information.

Core classes

Flexibility and adapting to changes are important for success in any job. In your studies, you'll take BJU Core courses in English, communication, and the arts. These classes will help you do well in different work settings and connect better with people you'll meet later. You'll also study the Bible, which will help you understand your beliefs and why you have them and be able to talk to others about Jesus Christ.

Main Core Classes

Pathway (Uni 101): This course helps new students become familiar with Bob Jones University's mission and culture, which is important for a positive college

experience. It aims to develop an understanding and appreciation for Christian liberal arts higher education and what makes BJU unique. The course also reinforces the principles that guide student life, helps students improve their academic abilities, and sets achievable goals. It encourages students to get involved in both academic and extracurricular activities and teaches them the importance of spiritual growth and discipline for long-term success. All freshmen must take this course during their first semester at the university.

Creation to New Creation: Exploring the Bible for Life (Bi 205): This course offers an overview of the Bible and its overarching message, starting with Creation and the Fall, reaching its peak with Christ's redemptive work, and concluding with the promise of a New Creation. It focuses on developing a deep understanding of the Bible, fluency in the Gospel message, and fostering a love for and trust in Scripture, spanning from Genesis to Revelation.

Hermeneutics: Interpreting the Bible for Life (Bi 209): This course examines principles and practices for reading, interpreting, and applying the Bible accurately. It emphasizes understanding and embracing the original intent of the ancient texts as authored by God and making relevant applications for contemporary life.

Composition & Rhetoric (En 102): This course introduces academic writing, focusing on making arguments, doing research, citing sources, and writing with style. It revolves around writing a paper using library resources. This course does not count towards any major or minor requirements.

Composition & Literature (En 103): This course teaches critical writing through literary analysis. It explores different types of literature and introduces basic concepts and terms used in literary criticism. It does not count toward any major or minor requirements.

Bible Doctrines (Th 350): This course delves into the Bible's teachings about Scripture, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and angels (including Satan). It focuses on applying these teachings to everyday Christian life, emphasizing practical applications.

Bible Doctrines (Th 360): This course explores biblical teachings about humanity, sin, salvation, the church, and eschatology. It emphasizes applying these teachings to daily Christian life, focusing on practical application. The course also addresses current doctrinal issues.

Ideas & Their Consequences (Ph 200): This course covers significant philosophical ideas from the ancient pre-Socratic philosophers to the 20th century. It focuses on selected concepts that remain relevant and influential in modern thought.

Fundamentals of Speech (Com 101): This course teaches the fundamental principles of public speaking, focusing on platform techniques and exploring various types of speeches.

Oral Comm for the Professions (Com 410): This course applies oral communication skills and principles to business and professional speaking scenarios. It covers skills needed for conferences, interviews, interpersonal communication, and presentations in professional settings.

Christianity & the Arts (FA 125): This course explores the aesthetic and ethical aspects of the arts and how they relate to everyday life. It emphasizes using a biblical perspective to assess and engage with the arts in today's culture while recognizing the objective qualities of Beauty, Truth, and Goodness. Through guest performances, lectures, readings, and attending various artistic events, students will have chances to apply and integrate what they learn from the course.

The Making of the Modern World (Hi 101): This course examines the process of

historical thinking through a biblical lens. It explores the forces and factors influencing our world today, including empire-building, revolutions, religious movements, philosophical and artistic achievements, and social and economic networks.

Foundations of Economics (SSE 200): This course combines key ideas from microeconomics (market structures, production factors, elasticity) and macroeconomics (economic systems, public policies like fiscal and monetary policy, supply and demand analysis of national income, inflation, and unemployment) with personal financial responsibility (credit, interest, banking, budgeting). It aims to deepen understanding of the economy and how individuals contribute as decision-makers within it.

Essential Science (Sc 200): This course provides a perspective on science from both biblical and conceptual angles, exploring significant topics such as cosmology, creation versus evolution, and environmental concerns.

Where are classrooms?

Most classes are held in the Alumni Building (AL), Mack Building, Fine Arts Building (FA), Science Building (SC), or specific lecture halls such as Stratton Hall (SH). When you check your schedule, you'll see a mix of English and numerical abbreviations. The English letters indicate the building you need to go to, while the number tells you both floor and room. Example: AL 210 – Alumni Building, second floor, room number 210.

Online Classes

Bob Jones University provides online courses for select classes. Students enrolled in online courses must maintain their progress by accessing course materials online. Opting for an online course during the regular semester incurs an extra fee of \$300 per class (subject to change). If you take an online class during summer vacation, an additional fee of \$450 per credit (subject to change).

Bridge to College English Program

Bridge to College English (BCE) is offered every fall semester at BJU and is tailored to support non-native English speakers in attaining success at the university. This program caters specifically to international students who may not meet the school's minimum English proficiency requirements.

Minimum Entry Requirements

	TOEFL iBT	TOEFL Essentials	IELTS	English 3 (E3PT)
Undergraduate	48 (section scores of 10)	5.5 (section scores of 5)	5.5 (section scores of 5.5)	58 (section scores of 10)
Graduate	62 (section scores of 15)	7.5 (section scores of 7)	6.0 (section scores of 6.0)	62 (section scores of 13)

Toward the end of the semester, your English proficiency will be assessed using the TOEFL, the IELTS, or the E3PT. Once you attain the required score, you will be eligible for admission into a degree program starting in the spring semester.

Who should I ask for help with class?

How Do I Get Involved in Student Life?

At BJU, our faith is not just a part of life; it's the core of who we are and what we do. Surrounded by fellow believers transformed by the Gospel, you'll be challenged to deepen your relationship with Christ both in and out of the classroom. College is about more than academics—it's about making friends, discovering passions, having deep conversations, making music, giving back to the community, and serving in ministry together. Step out of your comfort zone and get involved. Your success matters to us, which is why we offer first-year coaches, academic advisors, resident mentors, career services, and more to support you throughout your BJU journey and beyond.

Faith and Worship

Chapel

Chapel is a key component of the BJU experience. It's a time when the university community comes together to engage with God's Word through preaching and teaching. These sessions aim to challenge and inspire individuals to deepen their relationship with God and to serve Him wholeheartedly. Chapel convenes in Founder's Memorial Amphitheater at 11 a.m. It's a central part of our community's spiritual life and growth.

Disciple Group (DG)

Besides chapel, students have opportunities to come together for prayer and worship. If you are in the residence halls (Dorm), you'll have regular gatherings in discipleship groups (DG). These groups provide a space to pray together and explore the theme of the semester's chapel in greater depth. It's a chance for students to grow spiritually and build meaningful connections with their peers in a supportive community setting.

Local Church

The local church plays a central role in the student experience at BJU. New students are encouraged to commit to a church within their first semester at BJU, where they will attend regularly and serve faithfully. Resources for finding a church are available online and through the Church Attendance Canvas course. At the end of their first semester, parents are asked to confirm their student's church choice with the Student Life office. Students are expected to participate in all Sunday morning activities at their chosen church, as well as an additional worship service, midweek prayer meeting, or small group, as offered by the church. Weekly church attendance is recorded online to ensure accountability and participation in this important aspect of spiritual growth. Here's a list of churches that offer transportation from campus.

https://home.bju.edu/media/bju-home/documents/church_bus_schedule.pdf

Societies

At BJU, societies serve as platforms for cultivating Christ-centered relationships, each guided by its distinctive mission reflected in mottos, mascots, and theme verses. Under an officer system, students assume leadership roles such as president and vice president, organizing society activities and outreach endeavors. Societies actively engage in community service projects and campus outreach ministries, addressing needs while sharing the Gospel message. Through participation in societies, students develop meaningful connections, hone leadership skills, and foster a deep commitment to outreach and service.

Choosing your society

At the start of the academic year, you'll engage in Rush, a multi-day event filled with delicious food, during which societies extend a warm welcome and invite you to join their ranks. By the conclusion of Rush, you'll select and participate in induction ceremonies to meet your chosen society's members. While Rush is fun and food-filled, its primary purpose is to help you grasp the fundamental focus of each society. It provides an opportunity to meet officers and members and gain insight into society's character. A Rush Guide offers historical information about societies, suggested questions for members, details on sports and service records, and highlights a Society of the Year.

Sports

The society sports program at BJU encompasses both men's and women's societies. Students can try out sports in their society. Even if you don't actively participate in sports, you can still show your support by attending and cheering for your society team during their games and events. The society sports program fosters camaraderie, teamwork, and school spirit within the BJU community.

Men's Societies

Alpha Omega Delta

Lions
Navy and Gold
2 Timothy 1:7
Christ is All

Alpha Theta Pi

Razorbacks
Forest Green and Orange
Ephesians 6:16
Taking the Shield of Faith

Basilean

Eagles
Maroon and Gray
Isaiah 40:31
Royalty In Christ

Beta Gamma Delta

Patriots
Red, White and Blue
Philippians 3:13-14
Liberty in Christ

Bryan

Bears
Green, White and Black
Colossians 1:18
In All Things Christ

Chi Alpha Pi

Cavaliers
Navy and White
Proverbs 3:5-6
Christ Always Preeminent

Chi Epsilon Delta

Wolves
Dark Blue and Gray
Psalm 62:7-8
Christ is Power

Epsilon Zeta Chi

Tornadoes
Maroon and White
Colossians 1:10
To Me to Live is Christ

Kappa Sigma Chi

Knights
White, Black and Red
II Timothy 2:3-4
Good Soldiers of Christ

Lanier

Falcons
Green and Navy
Colossians 3:1
Seeking Things Above

Nu Delta Chi

Vikings
Gold and Royal Blue
Romans 8:37
We Are More Than Conquerors

Phi Beta Chi

Bulldogs
Blue and Orange
Colossians 1:18
The Word Reveals Christ

Phi Kappa Pi

Rams
Red, Black and White
Colossians 1:28
Making the Master Manifest

Pi Gamma Delta

Royals
Purple and Gold
Joshua 1:9
His Will, Our Desire

Pi Kappa Sigma

Cobras
Gold and Green
I Corinthians 16:13-14
He Must Increase, But I Must Decrease

Sigma Alpha Chi

Spartans
Scarlet and Navy
II Timothy 2:3
Soldiers Begin With Christ

Theta Kappa Chi

Stallions
Black and Red
I Corinthians 10:31
Omnia Ad Dei Gloriam

Women's Societies

Alpha Sigma Omicron

Ambassadors
Navy Blue and Maroon
II Corinthians 5:20
Always Serving Others

Beta Chi Omega

Bear Cubs
Navy Blue and Orange
Deuteronomy 30:20a
Becoming Like Christ Through
Obedience

Beta Epsilon Chi

Cardinals
Red and Blue
Galatians 2:20
Being Ever Christlike

Chi Kappa Delta

Dragons
Yellow and Green
Hebrews 12:1-2
Christ's Messengers to the World

Chi Theta Upsilon

Gators
Blue and Green
Prov. 3:26
Christ Our Confidence

Nu Alpha Phi

Flames
Scarlet and White
I John 1:7
Striving To Be Christlike And To
Live Life More Abundantly

Pi Delta Chi

Classics
Sky Blue and Navy
Romans 14:8
Always Serving Christ

Sigma Lambda Delta

Duskies
Purple and White
Matthew 6:33
Magnifying Christ

Tau Delta Chi

Kangaroos
White, Navy and Gold
Philippians 3:13b-14
Never Looking Back, Excellence
Our Goal

Theta Alpha Chi

Owls
Green and Royal Blue
Romans 8:38-39
God's Love Inseparable

Theta Delta Omicron

Tigers
Orange, White and Black
II Corinthians 2:14
Because I Have Spent Time With
You, I am Closer To Our God

Theta Mu Theta

Bandits
Hunter Green and Maroon
Galatians 6:14
See Only God

Theta Sigma Chi

Colts
Gray and Red
Philippians 3:10
Together Serving Christ

Tri Epsilon

Pirates
Teal and Black
Elevating Eternal Excellence

Zeta Tau Omega

Seagulls
Navy, Gold and Gray
II Corinthians 4:6
Zealous, True, Obedient

Zoe Aletheia

Wildcats
Black and White
John 14:6
Invest, Encourage, Edify

International Student Organization

The International Student Organization (ISO) is a vibrant platform for students from diverse backgrounds to connect, fostering understanding and camaraderie among global cultures. The ISO creates a dynamic space where students can learn, exchange, and celebrate cultural diversity through engaging events, interactive games, and flavorful home dinners. Regardless of background, all students are warmly encouraged to join the ISO, where they can broaden their global perspective, develop leadership qualities, and improve communication skills while forging meaningful friendships. As a welcoming community, the ISO nurtures personal and academic growth, embracing the richness of our world's diverse tapestry. Joining the ISO promises to be a rewarding and enriching experience for students seeking to explore and appreciate cultural differences in a supportive environment.

Outreach

Greenville offers a delightful living experience with its charming cafes, restaurants, and scenic spots like Falls Park, where residents enjoy biking or running along the Swamp Rabbit Trail. Community involvement is central here, highlighted through initiatives like the student-led Community Service Council (CSC). Through the CSC, students volunteer for various Greenville-area events and organize on-campus blood drives and park clean-ups, reflecting Christ's teachings of service and love. The Center for Global Opportunities (CGO) provides avenues for students to minister to people in nursing homes, prisons, and children's clubs, and through evangelism, fostering relationships and spreading the gospel in the Greenville area. These opportunities allow students to actively contribute to the community and reflect Christ's love through action and word.

Fine Arts

Fine arts play a significant role in the vibrant life at BJU. Whether it's music, art, or theatre, there's nearly always an event to appreciate and enjoy. Moreover, there are numerous opportunities to engage and develop your skills, regardless of whether you study fine arts. BJU offers a plethora of avenues for involvement and growth in the fine arts, providing students with rich experiences and the chance to explore their creative talents.

Traditions and Activities

Being part of the Bruin Nation entails belonging to a community, connecting both past and present. Enduring traditions such as Bible Conference and Bruin Daze reinforce our bonds with one another and unite us with those who have preceded us.

1. Picnics, Parties, & Outings offer students a much-needed respite from homework and exams. Activities like skating, skiing, movie nights, class parties, and picnics provide opportunities to unwind and enjoy quality time with friends, momentarily setting aside academic responsibilities.
2. Bruin Daze is an epic celebration that surprises when least expected. Featuring energetic pep rallies, intense competitions, breathtaking fireworks, and more, it's an event you simply experience firsthand.
3. During the spring semester, we dedicate several days to Bible Conference, where guest speakers deliver sermons centered around the conference theme and encourage us in our spiritual journeys with Christ.
4. We joyously celebrate Homecoming with our alumni and current students

each year, embracing class reunions, soccer games, delicious food, and various entertaining events.

5. Every December, the university collaborates with the community to sing Christmas carols and commemorate the birth of Christ. Together, we witness the magical transformation of our campus as thousands of sparkling lights illuminate the surroundings.

Holidays

These holidays hold cultural significance and are observed nationwide in various ways.

New Year's Day (January 1st): Americans welcome the New Year with family and friends, celebrating new beginnings.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (Third Monday of January): Honors the civil rights leader, encouraging reflection on racial equality and community service.

Memorial Day (Last Monday of May): Pays tribute to fallen US military personnel, also serving as the unofficial start of summer with outdoor gatherings.

Independence Day (July 4th): Celebrates the nation's independence with fireworks, parades, and outdoor festivities.

Labor Day (First Monday in September): Recognizes the contributions of American workers, marking the end of summer with outdoor activities.

Thanksgiving (Fourth Thursday of November): A day of gratitude with a traditional feast shared with family and friends.

Christmas Day (December 25th): Celebrates the birth of Jesus with festivities, decorations, and gatherings.

What should I know about Greenville, SC?

Greenville is a wonderful place with wonderful people. It's unique and innovative—a mix of small-town charm and big-city excitement. We're thankful to be part of a vibrant community gaining local and national recognition. Greenville is characterized by a humid subtropical climate which gives us hot and humid summers and mild winters. We get all four seasons, so you will need both warm-weather and cool-weather clothing.

Weather

	Low	High	Low	High
January	34°F	53°F	1°C	11°C
February	38°F	57°F	3°C	14°C
March	44°F	65°F	7°C	18°C
April	52°F	74°F	11°C	23°C
May	60°F	81°F	16°C	27°C
Jun	68°F	88°F	20°C	31°C
July	71°F	90°F	22°C	32°C
August	70°F	88°F	21°C	31°C
September	64°F	82°F	18°C	28°C
October	53°F	73°F	12°C	23°C

November 43°F	63°F	6°C	17°C
December 37°F	55°F	3°C	13°C

Downtown

Downtown Greenville is celebrated as one of the top destinations in the Upstate for shopping, dining, and entertainment. It has received many awards and accolades from national publications. Livability ranked it among the Top 10 Best Downtowns in the country, and The New York Times praised Greenville as "a national model for a pedestrian-friendly city center."

Augusta Road

The shopping district in Greenville offers a diverse mix of high-end specialty shops catering to various interests. Visitors can discover fine clothing boutiques, delightful flower shops, health food markets, and decorating resource centers alongside traditional hardware stores. Moreover, the district features many dining options, allowing visitors to savor various culinary delights while exploring the area's distinctive offerings.

Haywood Road

The area serves as a regional shopping hub, attracting visitors with its wide variety of merchants. Here, you can discover nationally recognized furniture, jewelry, home improvement stores, clothing outlets, and specialty retailers. Haywood Road features Haywood Mall, a prominent regional shopping destination with over 150 specialty shops and five major department stores: Belk, Dillard's, Macy's, J.C. Penney, and Sears. Additionally, the area provides various accommodation options, including famous hotels like Hilton, Courtyard by Marriott, and Hyatt Place, catering to the needs of both shoppers and travelers.

Magnolia Park

Magnolia Park is one of Greenville's top retail, dining, and entertainment destinations, featuring over 800,000 square feet of space. Highlighted attractions include the top-ranked Regal Cinema in North and South Carolina, Cabela's flagship store in the Southeast, Nordstrom's exclusive presence in the state, and the highest-performing Costco in South Carolina. In addition to these anchor stores, Magnolia Park offers a variety of restaurants and retailers, including newcomers to the state, such as Dave and Buster's, Yard House, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, and Firebirds Wood Fired Grill. With its diverse offerings, Magnolia Park is a preferred destination for residents and visitors, offering a vibrant shopping and leisure experience in Greenville.

Shops at Greenridge

The Shops at Greenridge, a \$64 million retail development located along Woodruff Road, offers a diverse selection of local and chain retailers. Anchored by stores like Ann Taylor Loft, Lowe's, Marshalls, PetSmart, Dick's Sporting Goods, Swoozie's, Foxfire, Ulta Salon and Cosmetics, Talbots, Barnes and Noble, Off Broadway Shoes, and J. Jill, it provides a comprehensive shopping experience. Developed by Charlotte-based Crosland Development, The Shops at Greenridge also feature a variety of dining options, including Panera Bread, P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Salsarita's, Brixx Wood Fired Pizza, Red Robin, Long Horn Steakhouse, making it a

popular destination for both residents and visitors in Greenville.

West End Market and Historic District

The West End Historic District, celebrated as the arts and entertainment hub of the city, centers around the West End Market and Falls Park on the Reedy. Exploring the West End involves browsing shops in the West End Market and nearby streets, enjoying cuisine at unique restaurants, and attending theater performances. This lively district captures Greenville's cultural diversity, providing visitors with a mix of shopping, dining, and artistic experiences within its historic ambiance.

List of International Restaurants

Country	Name of Place	Adress
Brazil	Bem Brasileiro	1791 Woodruff Rd SUITE G, Greenville, SC 29607
Cambodia	Yellow Ginger Asian Kitchen	2100 Poinsett Hwy, Greenville, SC 29609
China	Chun Chun Asian Cuisine	1099 E Butler Rd #101-A, Greenville, SC 29607
	Asia Pacific Restaurant & Supermarket	420 N Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville, SC 2960
Dominican Republic	Sacha's Café	598 Pendleton St, Greenville, SC 29601 1001 N Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville, SC 29607
Honduras	El Rincón Latino	1902 Easley Bridge Rd, Greenville, SC 29611
Jordan/ Mediterranean	The Pita House	495 S Pleasantburg Dr B, Greenville, SC 29607
India	Saffron Indian cuisine	1178 Woodruff Rd #16, Greenville, SC 29607
Korea	Bulgogi	2435 E North St Suite 1118-A, Greenville, SC 29615
	Korean BBQ	1170 Woodruff Rd, Greenville, SC 29607
	Corn Dogs by Mr. Cow	700 Haywood Rd Unit 2112, Greenville, SC 29607
	Volcano Korean BBQ and Hotpot	1145 Woodruff Rd, Greenville, SC 29607

Mexico	La Esperanza Super Panaderia	1152 N Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville, SC 29607
Peru	Golden Llama	2435 E North St #1110, Greenville, SC 29615
Spain	La Esperanza Super Panaderia	1152 N Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville, SC 29607
Thailand	Sirin Thai SC	1540 Wade Hampton Blvd, Greenville, SC 29609
	Tuk Tuk Thai and Vietnamese Kitchen	5010 Old Spartanburg Rd, Taylors, SC 29687
Uganda	Wakanda Lounge	620 Howell Rd #12, Greenville, SC 29615
Vietnam	Pho 99	1540D Wade Hampton Blvd, Greenville, SC 29609

Tips From International Students

How do you make friends and get used to a new place when you move to another country for school?

Open up yourself to new experiences and get out of your comfort zone by trying new things, attending campus events, and connecting with friends of friends. Don't hesitate to ask for help when needed and be willing to lend a hand to others. Engage in prayer meetings and social gatherings, introducing yourself to new people even if it feels awkward at first. Try to be outgoing, smiling, and cheerful while also being mindful of when to speak and listen. Consider expanding your social circle beyond your major and church, making intentional efforts to be more extroverted and observant of social cues in various situations. Get involved in community activities and volunteer opportunities, find a job, and pursue your hobbies actively. Remember to be polite, ask questions, and always wear a smile as you embrace new experiences and connections.

How do you balance homework, hanging out with friends, and doing other activities after school?

If you have come so far to study here, then homework and study are the primary tasks. Prioritize completing assignments on Sundays for the following week to alleviate weekday stress and ensure time for socializing, work, and other activities without homework looming over. Plan tasks around fixed activities and utilize smaller chunks of free time for cleaning or shorter assignments to avoid procrastination. Recognize that homework and work consume the most time, while extracurricular activities like sports leagues take a minor role, allowing ample time for reading and academic pursuits. Embrace prioritization and time management, evaluating the significance of friendships in your schedule.

What tips do you have for understanding people who speak a different language than you?

Be respectful and listen attentively from the beginning, practicing patience and effective communication with others, especially considering that English may not be the first language for many international students. Don't hesitate to ask for repetitions if needed and utilize tools like Google Translate in everyday situations. Take the time to familiarize yourself with slang and music preferences, as they often reflect people's thought processes. Embrace open-mindedness and cultural awareness, acknowledging the diverse backgrounds of individuals, particularly at BJU. Respect each person's perspective and engage in conversations without setting expectations, focusing on enjoying the present moment. Remember that context is crucial in conversations, and nonverbal cues provide valuable insights.

Have you ever had any problems while studying abroad, and how did you handle them?

Navigating the challenges of being an international student involves seeking support from roommates, friends, and teachers, who consistently offer invaluable assistance. Despite these sources of support, feelings of loneliness may arise due to the absence of close family. In such instances, spending time outside of the school environment, perhaps downtown, can alleviate this loneliness and provide a refreshing change of scenery. It's important to approach cultural differences gracefully, recognizing that not everyone has had the opportunity to travel and experience different perspectives. When faced with difficulties, reflecting on how Jesus would handle them can provide guidance and strength. Developing meaningful friendships can be challenging, requiring personal growth and self-awareness to bridge differences. In times of confusion or setback, seeking assistance and remaining resilient is crucial; whether getting lost on campus or navigating complex issues like medical insurance, reaching out for help is essential. Maintaining a positive attitude and perseverance will lead to overcoming obstacles and finding solutions.

What's one thing you wish you knew before moving to another country for school, and what advice would you give to someone who's about to do the same?

Considering the potential expenses and the need for independence, it's advisable not to bring too many personal belongings when moving to a new place. Working and earning your own money grants you the freedom to afford various experiences and purchases, lessening reliance on parental support. Visiting your home country may reveal changes that could make readjustment challenging; maintaining connections with people from your native land while integrating with others can provide balance. Cultural nuances, such as the casual nature of inquiries about one's well-being and the humor style in the US, may require adjustment. Embrace new experiences and challenges, understand that growth often accompanies adversity, and cherish the present moment while being open to opportunities outside your comfort zone. Avoid living someone else's life and focus on what suits you best while acknowledging personal achievements as steppingstones to greater potential. Remain grounded in faith and identity, recognize individual callings amidst the challenges of study and life, and perhaps indulge in some American memes for added cultural immersion.

BJU campus info

Founder's Memorial Amphitorium (FMA)

The Founder's Memorial Amphitheater, where the university gathers for chapel, seats 6,500 people. It's also utilized for Concerts, Opera & Drama Series events, and Bible Conference services.

Welcome Center

The Welcome Center serves as your one-stop location for information about BJU. Here, you can schedule a tour, ask questions, and get the most up-to-date information about campus life and events.

Student Center

The Student Center is home to The Den, Bruins Shop, Levinson Hall, The Hub, and the Welcome Center. Additionally, it houses executive offices, the Registrar's Office, Financial Services, Admissions, and Alumni Relations.

Alumni Building (AL)

The Alumni Building at Greenville houses various facilities, including classrooms, lecture halls, the Bellis Copy Center, and the Academic Resource Center. The Academic Resource Center offers students information, resources, and study aids to support their academic endeavors.

Mack Building (MB)

The Mack Building accommodates the School of Health Professions on the first floor and the library on the second floor.

Howell Memorial Science Building (SC)

The Howell Memorial Science Building is home to science lecture halls and modern laboratories for BJU's science programs.

Sargent Art Building (SA)

The Sargent Art Building accommodates art classrooms and features an exhibition hall for student and faculty art shows.

Gustafson Fine Arts Center (FA)

The Gustafson Fine Arts Center is home to the music, drama, and communication departments and classrooms. Additionally, it includes the Music Library, which boasts a collection of 15,000 volumes, 800 bound volumes of periodicals, scores, and sheet music, and over 6,000 archived recordings of classical and sacred pieces.

The Den

The Den is a favored spot for students and guests alike. Its loft-like ambiance provides an excellent environment for dining, studying, enjoying coffee, or simply unwinding. The Den features Chick-fil-A, Freshens, and Cuppa Jones, along with the Bruins Shop offering textbooks, Bibles, Christian living books, and BJU and Bruins apparel and merchandise.

Dining Common (DC)

The Dining Common provides flexible hours to accommodate your schedule and offers various delicious food options.

Post Office

The campus Post Office is a fully functioning post office and is the pick-up location for all packages.

Davis Field House (DFH)

The Davis Field House serves as the primary athletic facility at BJU and is home to Bruins basketball and volleyball teams. It features the women's fitness center, The Growl, a suspended running track, a swimming pool, men's and women's locker

rooms, and saunas.

Fremont Fitness Center (FFC)

The Fremont Fitness Center accommodates the men's fitness center and four racquetball courts.

War Memorial Chapel

The War Memorial Chapel hosts various campus events, including concerts and prayer meetings. Additionally, it houses a renowned collection of canvases painted by Benjamin West, depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments.

Grace Haight (GH)

Grace Haight accommodates the EXP Zone, featuring two engineering labs, two classrooms, and several project rooms.

Performance Hall (PH)

Performance Hall contains a small theater utilized for various student- and faculty-led productions held throughout the year.

Rodeheaver Auditorium (RA)

Rodeheaver Auditorium serves as the primary theater on campus and hosts various fine arts events.

Gazebo

The gazebo is a beautiful spot to relax and enjoy the weather and one of several outdoor concerts here throughout the year.

