2010-2011 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

2010 Fall Semester
Classes Begin Monday, August 30
Labor Day (Classes Held) Monday, September 6
Mid-Term Friday, October 15
Fall Break Monday, October 18-Tuesday, October 19
Classes Resume Wednesday, October 20
Thanksgiving Vacation Wednesday, Nov. 24- Sunday, Nov. 28
(Begins at the end of all classes on Tuesday, November 23)
Classes Resume Monday, November 29
Classes End Friday, December 10
Final Exams Monday, Dec. 13-Friday, Dec. 17
Last Day of Semester Friday, December 17
Commencement Saturday, December 18

2011 Interim
(Classes meet 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday)
Classes Begin Monday, January, 3
Classes End Thursday, January 20
Final Exams & Last Day of Term Friday, January 21

2011 Spring Semester
Classes Begin Monday, January 24
Mid-Term Friday, March 11
Spring Break Saturday, March 12-Sunday, March 20
(Begins at the end of all classes on Friday, March 11)
Classes Resume Monday, March 21
Good Friday-No Classes Friday, April 22
Classes Resume Monday, April 25
Last Day of Classes-Friday Class Schedule Monday, May 9
Reading Day Tuesday, May 10
Final Exams Wednesday, May 11-Tuesday, May 17
Semester Ends Friday, May 20
Commencement Sunday, May 22
Accelerated Degree Program Commencement Saturday, June 11
CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on your acceptance to Albright College! The International Student Office welcomes you to the Albright College community. You are embarking on a new journey and we are pleased to be able to assist you as you begin an important educational experience. While you are here, you will learn not only through your academic pursuits, but also from your relationships with U.S. American people and institutions. Your presence here and your sharing of ideas and cultural heritage will make a significant contribution to our community. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to learn about a new society and culture and to teach others about your own.

In order to take full advantage of all the opportunities that await you upon arrival, the International Student Office has planned an orientation program especially for international students. International Student Orientation precedes Albright College orientation for all new first year students and transfers. For your information, a tentative schedule is included. Please take time now to consider each of these sessions carefully and make plans to take advantage of the information provided. The orientation will be an opportunity not only to learn some basic information you will need, but an excellent way to meet new friends.

The following is a comprehensive list of items most students bring to college. We suggest that you use it as a checklist of things to buy once you get here. It is particularly important to purchase your appliances in the U.S.

**LINENS/TOILETRIES**
- Pillows
- Sit-up pillow
- Extra long twin sheets/pillowcases
- Blankets/comforter
- Curtains (blinds provided)
- Towels & Washcloths
- Dish towels
- Any rug
- Hand or vanity mirror
- Band-aids
- First-aid ointment
- Skin care lotion
- Aspirin
- Cold medication
- Tissues
- Sewing kit
- Umbrella/poncho
- Instant foods & beverages

**HOUSEWARES**
- Desk light & bulbs
- Extra light
- Flashlight & batteries
- Chair or bean bag
- Drying rack with tray
- Laundry bag/basket
- Detergent
- Bucket for shampoo, soap, etc.
- Soap dish (covered)
- Wastebasket (plastic)
- Wastebasket liners
- Coffee mug(s)
- Plastic tumbler(s)
- Dishes/bowls
- Silverware
- Drink container
- Can opener
- Pot scrubber
- Room decorations
- Ironing board
- Plastic utility trays for drawers/table tops
- Dust cloths
- Storage boxes
- Hangers

**SMALL APPLIANCES**
- IPOD/Alarm clock
- Camera
- Hair dryer
- Curling iron
- Shaver
- Telephone
- White-out
- Photo paper
- Piano or practice piano
- Day planner

**OFFICE SUPPLIES**
- Extension cord
- Locking ink pen
- Calculators
- Dictionary
- Reference books
- Stamp
- Address book
- Desk pad
- Pen/pens
- Post it notes
- Scotch tape
- Stapler
- Ruler
- Notebook
- Loose leaf paper
- Hole punch
- Paper cutter
- Rubber band
- Scissors
- Backpack
- White-out
- Photo paper
- Paper clip
- Day planner

**NO TOOLS**
- Drill
- Screwdrivers
- Wrenches
- Halogen lamp
- Latex gloves
- Peroxide
- Water
- Tide
- Kleenex
- Cleaning supplies
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Vaseline
- First aid kit
- Sun Visor
- Glasses
- Rain gear
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International Students at Albright

You are about to join a campus community that is culturally and ethnically rich! During the 2009-2010 academic year, 128 international students were enrolled at the College. In addition, 280 U.S. American students of color were enrolled. This student population represents the rich national diversity in the United States. U.S. American students with Asian, African and Latino heritage are well represented on campus.

International Student Orientation

August 24-25, 2010

Albright College plans a mandatory orientation program for all new international students. It is important that you arrange to arrive to Albright on or before Monday, August 23. International Student Orientation really begins by reading this pre-arrival newsletter from beginning to end. Once you arrive on campus, the International Student Orientation helps you get settled in your new environment and provide important information and services that aid in your adjustment to a new society and educational system. Here are some of the programs being offered during the Fall 2010 International Student Orientation:

- Welcome
- Campus Tours
- English Placement Testing
- Academic Advising
- Communication/Responsibilities
- Housing/Community Standards
- Classroom Etiquette
- Understanding Higher Education in the U.S.
- Staying Healthy and Safe
- Counseling Center
- Banking

Thursday, August 26–Sunday, August 29 New Student Orientation

Monday, August 30 Classes Begin

The International Student Office is one of Albright College administration. Student Services are responsible for providing a variety of services to students to facilitate their academic success. The International Student Office is responsible for coordination and administration of services for international students and many others of varied backgrounds and will be a very important source of information for you while you are a student at Albright. You are encouraged to contact the office as soon as you arrive at Albright and whenever you have questions about living and learning in the United States.

The International Student Office has maintained Albright’s official link with the USCIS, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Services, advising students, faculty and staff about immigration/visa problems, academic or personal such as adjustment to U.S. society and culture. Programs, including ongoing and short-term programs, are designed and conducted for all new international students from abroad, completing forms as required by law. The International Student Office provides advice and counsel to international students about immigration/visa problems, academic or personal such as adjustment to U.S. society and culture.

The office helps international students find information about U.S. American culture and each classroom.

Finally, the International Student Office serves as an advocate or spokesperson for international students to U.S. American and foreign government agencies, departments and the larger community. We will make the most of your stay in the United States open.

Contact information

Sally Stetler, Director of International Services
610-921-7616
Email address: ssstel@albright.edu

Nikki Detwiler, Student Services
610-921-7775
Email address: ndetwiler@albright.edu
Fax number 610-921-7792
ENTERING THE COUNTRY

Immigration Status
It is important to enter the United States in the proper immigration status. You do this by applying for the proper visa at the U.S. Consulate nearest to your hometown. Once you have arrived in the U.S., it can be difficult to change your immigration status. F-1 student is the most common immigration status for international students attending U.S. colleges and universities.

Important Documents

**Passport:** be sure to keep yours in a safe place. It is your most important document. While you are in the U.S., it is your responsibility to keep your passport valid at all times. Six months prior to the expiration date of your passport you should contact your consulate in Washington, D.C. or New York for instructions to extend the validity date. Remember: if your passport expires, you will be in the U.S. illegally and subject to deportation.

**Visa:** a visa to enter the United States, as a non-immigrant is a stamped or affixed entry on a page of the passport. It enables you to request the immigration officer at the port of entry to grant you admission to the United States under conditions specified for the type of visa you hold (F-1).

**Form I-94:** also referred to as the “Arrival/Departure Record.” This is the small white card that will be stapled into your passport after you pass through the port of entry into the United States. This card will show your immigration classification (F-1) and endorsements made by the immigration officer to indicate the place and date of your admission and the initial period of stay authorized. This card is the document that proves that you entered the country legally. It must be kept valid.

**Form I-20:** Once you are accepted at Albright, you receive the Form I-20 or Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status. This form is a very important document for you as an international student in the United States. When traveling, your I-20 must have a valid signature signed within the last six months. Keep your I-20 in a safe place with your passport.

Obtaining a Visa
In order to enter the country legally as a student in the U.S., you must apply for the F-1 visa at a U.S. consulate. In Taiwan application is made at the American Institute in Taiwan. A personal interview with the consular officer may or may not be required. As the visa applicant, you will be required to present a valid passport and Form I-20. In addition, be prepared to present proof of English-language proficiency and verification of financial support to establish that all the requirements for nonimmigrant status are met. More importantly, an applicant for an F-1 visa must be prepared to demonstrate that s/he has a residence in a foreign country that s/he has no intention of abandoning. Applicants must also submit passport photos as part of their visa application. Visa issuing procedures differ slightly from consulate to consulate. It may be wise to call the consulate to determine what supporting documentation is required to make a complete application. If the visa application is approved a visa stamp is placed in the applicant’s passport noting the period of validity and the name of the school whose Form I-20 the applicant used to obtain the visa. The Form I-20 will be returned to the applicant to be used for admission into the United States.

Entering the U.S.
When you arrive at the U.S. port of entry, you will present a passport, visa, evidence of financial support and the Form I-20 to the immigration official. Upon admitting the student to the U.S., the immigration official issues the student the Form I-94 showing the date and place of entry. You will be admitted to the U.S. for “duration of status,” noted as “D/S” on both the I-94 and the I-20 ID. Duration of status means the time during which you are pursuing and making normal progress toward completing a full course of study or engaging in authorized practical training.

SEVIS
Since September 11, 2001, The USCIS, formerly the INS, has been required to update its information reporting system to the new Student Exchange Visitors Information System or SEVIS. This new way of reporting to the USCIS requires all U.S. Schools, Colleges and Universities to input important information concerning international students directly into the USCIS computer. Once the student is in the U.S., it is the task of the institution’s DSO to assist students in remaining in status or USCIS compliant.

Getting to Albright

Students arriving at the Philadelphia airport should follow the “Ground Transportation” signs at the airport to arrange for transport to Albright College. The approximate cost for one-way transportation from the Philadelphia airport to Albright College is US$100.00 and takes about 90 minutes.

For transportation from the airport, you may choose to contact Michael’s Classic Limousine at 610-372-5410 or Andrew’s Transportation Service at 610-374-7955.

Once on campus, international students should report to the International Student Office in Selwyn Hall South, 1st Floor. Students should check in at the Public Safety Office. Please fax your travel plans and estimated time of arrival to Albright at 610-921-7659 so that we know when to expect you. Any travel questions or difficulties should be directed to the International Student Office at 610-921-7650.

Staying in the United States

The U.S. Department of State is not a medical facility. Your medical care is the responsibility of your health insurance. The consequences of not having health insurance can be devastating. To reduce the risk of not having health insurance, international students live in a dormitory and take advantage of the student health insurance plan. See the health insurance section for more information.

Higher Education

In the United States, the “highest level degree” is a Doctoral degree, which includes its corresponding master’s degree (M.A., M.S., M.D., J.D., etc.) and bachelor’s degree. A Ph.D. is a degree earned at a four-year technical institute, college or university. Ph.D.’s are earned in science, engineering, law and medicine. Ph.D. programs at public universities are generally affiliated with a specific university. Size varies from 1,000 to over 50,000 students. Fulbright scholars are great for international students because they usually have no immigration requirements. United Nations employees are also considered international students.