BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE
1913 — 2013
New International Student Online Orientation
www.bakersfieldcollege.edu
We Are...

- Enrollment 18,154
- Degree & Certificates 134
- Average Class Size 31
- # of student on F-1 visa 75
- Student Clubs 32
- # of Men's/Women's Sports 18
PURPOSE OF THE ONLINE ORIENTATION

- Provide important information such as:
  - International student Affairs Office (ISA) and how we can help you
  - What you should do before you arrive in the US
  - How to maintain your student status in the U.S.
  - What you should do before you enroll in classes
  - Essential information for an F-1 visa student
Bakersfield College International Student Affairs (ISA) is “a home away from home” for international students. ISA aims to support and empower international students to achieve their educational goals and develop personal growth through expert counseling and advising, intercultural programming, and on/off campus advocacy.
WHAT SERVICES ISA OFFERS?

- Admission to Bakersfield College as an F-1 visa holder
- Immigration document processing/advising F-1 students
- Provide personal Counseling/ academic advising
- Assist students with Comprehensive Educational Plan
- Coordinating workshops for student success
- Serving as a liaison for international students to the campus and community
- Special events and programs for international students
- Assist students with on-campus/ off campus employment process
- Assisting students in securing health insurance/ driver’s licenses/Soc Sec. etc.
- **Passport**: Must be valid for at least 6 months into the future

- **I-20**: Issued by colleges or schools that accepts you for studies and it is valid until the end date on the I-20. Make sure your information on the I-20 matches your passport information

- **Visa**: Issued by the U.S. Department of State/US Embassy or consulate in home country which is placed in your passport. This visa is called F-1 visa if you are a student

*If your visa expires, you must renew it in your home country before re-entering the U.S.*
A visa is your document that allows you to enter the US

The I-20 shows that you have been accepted on a campus

While in the U.S. Your visa can expire but I-20 can not

To be legal in the U.S. your I-20 has to be valid at all times

Your I-20 becomes invalid if you stop going to college

Your F-1 status has to be reinstated through SEVIS if you take less than 12 units in a semester
Study in the States (www.studyinthestates.dhs.gov) website, managed by the Department of Homeland Security, provides step-by-step information on studying in the U.S. and explains the regulations on maintaining F-1 status.
DOS: The Department of State – It overseas all US consulates and Embassies and responsible for issuing visas

DSO: Designated School Official-- An individual at BC authorized to represent you in the matters related to F-1 visa
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY VOCABULARY

- GHS: The Department of Homeland Security
- USCIS: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- CBP: Custom and Border Protection
- ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- SEVP: Student Exchange Visitor Program
- SEVIS: Student Exchange Visitor Information System (your SEVIS number is on your I-20)
I-94 FORM/CARD

- I-94 Issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- I-94 is the arrival Records for all visitors on any visa to the U.S.
- I-94 is used as evidence of legal entry into the U.S.
- If you lose it, it will cost $300 to replace it
- If you receive the I-94 paper format, it must be stamped as F1 D/S (Duration of Stay)
- Since 2013 it is has become electronic records and not paper records
- For more details regarding the process of obtaining your I-94 online, visit the CBP website at www.cbp.gov/i-94
Your status is a Non-immigrant

Non-immigrants students are admitted to the U.S. for the purpose of education and their permission is temporary till completion of education

Once Education has been completed, you have 60 days grace period to transfer/or return home
ALL ABOUT I-20

- If you are not able to complete your program by stated date on your I-20, you must ask for extension
- If you change your major, you will need a new I-20 and the information will be sent to the SEVIS
- If you change your address, SEVIS must be informed
HOW TO MAINTAIN F-1 STATUS

- Keep your I-20 up to date
- Maintain full course of study (Register for at least 12 units every semester)
- Keep your address up-to-date with the ISA and SEVIS
- Comply with all regulations of F-1 visa
- Obey travel rules
- Maintain a health insurance while in the U.S.
PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST (1)

- Get your passport and visa
- Arrange transportation to Bakersfield from LAX in time — Students are responsible for booking their own transportation from LAX to Bakersfield (from LAX to Bakersfield is about 2 hours drive)
- Arrive in time for in-person Orientation
- Arrange for housing and accommodations as soon as possible
- Plan for finances while in the U.S.
- Learn all about Bakersfield and California
Complete BC Online Admissions Application
(www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/admissions)

Request your BC ID# 990-----from our office(ISA), this number will be used in place of your social security when completing the application to BC during the admission process
PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST(3)

- Passport with US visa with the F-1 stamp
- I-20 A/B from Bakersfield College
- Proof of financial support
- SEVIS fee receipt
- If necessary, bring an international driver’s license
- An additional copy of your education in your country, translated in English, stamped and sealed
- A copy of your birth Certificate (optional)
Before you leave your home country:

- General Checklist
- Document Checklist
- Health Checklist
- BC general Admissions
- In-person Orientation
HEALTH CHECKLIST

- Get a medical examination & have your doctor fill out the health forms
- Have your eyes checked and if you need glasses get it in your country
- Dental check up and any necessary treatment.
- Bring any medication in its original package to last you at least 6 months with the prescription in English translation
- Translate your medical, immunization, and dental records into English to bring with you
- Purchase a health insurance to be used in the U.S.
PRE- ARRIVAL

• Communicate With the International Student Affairs Coordinator (Shohreh Rahman) your schedule of arrival to Bakersfield
• Make your Travel Plans and accommodations early in time
• If You Decide NOT to Attend BC, please let us know immediately

Packing Essentials:
Students in the U.S. tend to dress quite informally (Jeans, T-shirts, shorts, and sweatshirts) are all very acceptable to wear around the campus and in class. The weather in Bakersfield requires all 4 seasons clothing, Fall, winter, spring, and hot summers. Students have also found it useful and enjoyable to bring their national dress to wear on special occasions. Remember that you will be able to shop for clothing in the U.S. as well.
An Academic Year means: Fall and Spring Semester
Fall will be from Mid August to Mid December
Spring will be from Mid January to Mid May
All students MUST enroll in minimum 12 units for fall and 12 units for spring semester
Summer will be from June to August- Full time enrollment in the summer will be 7 units( for those admitted to the summer session and optional for others)
POST-ARRIVAL

Visit ISA to:

- Meet your counselor- bring your I-20 and passport
- Verify your arrival- Date and time- bring your I-94
- Inform our office of your new address in the U.S.
- Take BC Placement/ Assessment Test
- Attend F-1 in-person orientation
- Register for classes
- Pay for your classes within 10 days of registration
IN-PERSON ORIENTATION

- Attend a mandatory In-person F-1 Orientation

Orientation *(Mandatory)*
August 18 & 19, 2015
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Student Services SS#151
Lunch will be served for both dates
• If you change your major/degree/your status, the information must be reported to our office immediately.
If You Decide NOT to Attend BC, please let us know immediately!
QUESTIONS?

Contact International Student Affairs Coordinator & Counselor:

Name: Shohreh Rahman
Phone: (661) 395-4412
Email: Srahman@bakersfieldcollege.edu