

# *Brown University-Tougaloo College Partnership*



**A Guide for Spending the Semester  
at Brown University**

**Office of the Brown-Tougaloo Partnership  
Brown University**



## **A Semester Exchange Program**

Welcome to the Brown University – Tougaloo College Partnership (BTP) and the Student Semester Exchange Program. Through this program enrolled students from Brown and Tougaloo have the opportunity to study at the partner campus for a semester. This booklet will help you plan your trip to the partner institution - it contains useful information and has been put together by students who have been to the partner campus.

### **History**

On May 18, 1964 – the tenth anniversary of the Supreme Court’s landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision – Brown University in Providence, RI, and Tougaloo College, a historically black college in Jackson, MS, developed a cooperative agreement. With the Civil Rights movement as a backdrop, the two institutions entered, somewhat uneasily at first, into a commitment that has continued as a unique collaborative venture, engaging the culture, academia, and histories of these distinctive institutions. To date, over 500 students and faculty have participated the BTP.

### **General Planning Information**

Contact the Brown-Tougaloo Partnership office at your home campus at least 4 months prior to your visit to discuss your interest in going to the partner campus (see contact information below). You will need to go over the application process, begin to select courses, plan for any independent research projects and identify any specific goals for your semester away. There are many unique opportunities at each campus, take the time to plan for a unique experience.

**Application Deadlines:** **February 1** or **October 1** for the following fall or spring semesters.

Contact information for the BTP Semester Exchange Program:

#### **Brown University**

Applications and general information

Maitrayee Bhattacharyya  
Assistant Dean for Diversity Programs  
Dean of the College Offices  
Campus Box 1828  
Providence, RI 02912-1828  
401-863-3488

[Maitrayee\\_Bhattacharyya@brown.edu](mailto:Maitrayee_Bhattacharyya@brown.edu)

#### **Tougaloo College**

Applications and general information

Professor Larry Ray  
Chair, Student and Faculty Exchanges  
Director, International Programs  
500 West County Line Road  
Tougaloo, MS 39174-9799  
601-977-6144

[lray@tougaloo.edu](mailto:lray@tougaloo.edu)

## **Travel Arrangements**

You are responsible for getting to the partner campus in time for orientation and registration. Please refer to the institutional websites for the start dates. In general, Brown begins the Fall semester in early September and the Spring semester at the beginning of January.



## **Getting to Brown University**

The T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, RI is the closest airport. Providence is also served by Amtrak and major bus companies. If you fly to Providence, you will need to secure transportation to the University either by taxi, shared van, or the University may be operating a special shuttle during the beginning of the semester. Please check Brown's website and with the BTP contact at Brown for additional information. While on campus, the most convenient way to travel is by foot – be prepared to walk in all types of weather. In addition, Brown operates a free shuttle service that unites various parts of the campus and offers free access to the public transportation system with a college i.d. (please see the Transportation webpage of Brown's website for up-to-date information).

## **Health and Illness**

Brown maintains a fully staffed infirmary on-campus. In the event of significant illness, please contact your Resident Advisory and the BTP representatives on both campuses so that we may assist you in finding appropriate care. Please also clarify your health insurance policies to make sure you have coverage should you need it.

Questions to consider when reviewing your health insurance needs:

When does the plan begin and end?

Will the plan cover hospitalization for accidents and illness both on and off campus?

Does the plan cover pre-existing conditions?

Is there a deductible? Is so, how much?

Is there a limit to the amount of coverage provided?

Do I have to pay cash up front and then reimburse the plan? If so, what if I do not have enough money?

What proof of coverage do I need to bring with me?

## **Emergency Assistance**

Be aware that unforeseen emergency situations may arise. Be sure that you have emergency contact information on your person (written down and in your cell phone) at all times, and that the BTP Coordinator has this information. If an emergency arises, we expect students to follow approved protocols at the visiting institution. At the conclusion of any emergency, please contact both BTP offices so they know that you are safe.

## Money Matters - At Brown

### Registration and fees

The Office of Financial Aid will work with you to finalize any financial aid that you will need. Every Tougaloo exchange student is guaranteed University Scholarship(s) in the amount of Tuition & Fees for the semester, regardless of need. Brown is committed to funding a student so that the student does not have to pay any more for a semester at Brown than they would pay for the semester at Tougaloo.

Tougaloo's Presidential Scholars, for instance, have their Tougaloo bill covered by one or more sources of grant funding. Those students, when they come to Brown, get their total direct costs met with University Scholarship (or University Scholarship with a combination with other grants, such as the Federal Pell Grant or Federal Supplemental Educational Grant, SEOG). It is your responsibility to make sure any financial aid package is complete before you arrive on campus. Please consult with the BTP Coordinator and the Office of Financial Aid at Brown if you have any questions.

### Spending Money

You will have the opportunity to open a checking account at a local bank. You will have housing and a meal plan so your expenses should be minimal, however, have enough money on hand for any emergencies. There are several banks and post offices near campus so you will not need to worry about having access to your funds or receiving money from home.



### Taking classes at Brown

Tougaloo students should have identified the courses they wish to take prior to arrival. You will **not** be able to register for courses until you arrive on campus. The BTP Coordinator will help you with this process. If you find a course that particularly interests you, discuss this with the Coordinator and you may be able to contact the professor to secure a spot in that particular course prior to your arrival on campus.

The course work is rigorous and it is not uncommon to have six (6) books and/or readings for each course along with a significant amount of writing. If you find that you are having trouble with any courses, we highly recommend that you seek help early in the semester. There is a “shopping” period at the beginning of each semester during which students may drop or add courses without penalty. If you suspect your course work will be too rigorous, utilize this time to reorganize your course load. The BTP also offers a network of support that includes graduate student mentors in addition to resources already on campus. For motivated students, we offer internship and research positions during your stay or in the summer contiguous to your exchange. (For internship or research opportunities contact the BTP representatives.)

### Staying in the loop

Brown students tend to use the internet, cell phones, and blogs to stay connected—much more so than at Tougaloo. Keep this in mind, and polish your internet skills before you come!



## Enjoying the Semester

Here are a few more tips from those of us who have been on the exchange:

- Free Metro Fare: With your Brown I.D- you can take the bus anywhere in Rhode Island for free!
- It would be helpful for you to locate a dormitory you may be interested in living in and contact campus housing to discuss your options. Talk to Tougaloo students currently at Brown to get their advice and then talk to the BTP Coordinator.
- The Friedman Science Library (SciLi) is a good place to study and sign-out DVD's
- Keep a journal
- Check out the calendar of events, attend a sporting event, and go hear lectures.

Taking coursework is only one opportunity available to students who participate in the exchange program. There are also other opportunities available to you as an exchange student. Here are a few examples:

- Become a mentor with the Swearer Center
- Join a student organization
- Become involved in the Providence Community
- Visit the Third World Center and see what opportunities are available for you to become involved with the students on campus
- Talk to professors and see if you can assist in some research while you are there
- Contact the BTP representative to obtain a graduate student mentor and/or the Curricular Resource Center (CRC) to obtain an undergraduate peer mentor.

While you are at Brown University be sure to take advantage of the many travel opportunities. Education of the mind occurs inside and outside of the class room. Here is a few places to keep in mind:

- Visit the RISD museum
- Take a train to New York, Boston, or Washington D.C
- Visit Newport, RI and tour the mansions
- Go to the Providence Place Mall
- Go to Roger Williams Zoo
- Visit the historical sites in Rhode Island and the Brown Mansion on campus

*“Enjoy yourself while at Brown University”*



# Arriving at Brown

**What to Pack** – In addition to your normal attire for the semester don't forget these items:

## **Clothing**

Waterproof Walking shoes  
Appropriate exercise clothing  
Formal wear for an occasional dinner  
Winter Boots  
Warm Clothing

## **Misc**

Watch  
Shower Shoes  
Laptop  
MP3 or iPod  
Journal  
Camera  
Umbrella

## **Medicines and Toiletries**

Prescription medicine  
Personal items  
Bedding and towels

## **Important telephone numbers**

### At Brown

BTP Coordinator – Dr. Bhattacharyya 863-6267  
Brown-Tougaloo Office- Beth McCurdy 863-9106  
Brown Police and Security 863-4111  
Health Services 863-3953  
Housing 863-3500  
Chaplain's Office 863-2344

