Getting Started

*Congratulations on your acceptance to Brown Leadership Institute!*

We created this welcome packet to help you prepare for your arrival and ensure an enriching and rewarding time here on campus. Please review this information carefully, and let us know if you have any questions.

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I. A Note to Parents, Guardians, and Students

Welcome to Brown Leadership Institute!

Attending a summer academic program at a college or university is a significant event for a high school student—and no less so for their parents. We are mindful that parents and students share in the excitement and exhilaration upon learning of the student’s acceptance into the program, but that in addition, many parents and students also have some anxieties. We hope that this For Accepted Students document communicates not only the excitement of the program but also addresses your concerns. And we are always happy to talk to parents, guardians, and students to answer any questions that you may not find an answer to within these pages.

Maturity and Independence

Independence is central to the Brown Pre-College experience, and for many students, this level of independence will be a new experience. They will need to find within themselves self-discipline to manage their time, set their priorities, and to be mindful of such things like eating balanced meals, getting enough sleep, and doing their own laundry—all without parental assistance. The Pre-College programs at Brown are a great opportunity for a bright, motivated young person to practice managing his or her daily life in a supportive environment.

This combination of rigorous academics and personal independence most certainly prepares pre-college students for the challenges of college life. Indeed, students and their parents have often said that the best part of the program was the personal growth that occurred. When pre-college students successfully complete a program at Brown, they emerge with renewed confidence that they will be able to make a successful adjustment to college life.

Supervision

Students will learn quickly how—and how necessary it is—to balance their academic responsibilities with responsible living in a community of like-minded students. They do so with the help of a team of carefully selected and trained staff, including professional Community Directors (CDs), graduate student Residence Directors (RDs), and undergraduate Leader Fellows, who also live in the residence halls. These skilled and caring live-in professionals help students learn how to balance the competing demands of an exceptionally rich and rewarding academic and social life and serve as a resource for everything from guiding students to resources around campus to aiding them in negotiating roommate conflicts. Our primary goal is to create a safe atmosphere which supports student success, and the residential staff’s emphasis on community-building and individual responsibility encourages students to develop the necessary skills and capacities in a way that is as enjoyable as it is rewarding.

Students, we are thrilled you have decided to attend the Brown Leadership Institute! We look
forward to engaging with you in a robust academic program balanced with activities, meeting new friends, and discovering your capabilities!

Parents and guardians, we are looking forward to having your child on our campus this summer, and thank you for allowing us that privilege! For local accommodation and activity information, visit our "Exploring Providence" page.

II. Next Steps
You will receive a personalized email outlining a checklist of items that need to be completed in order for you to attend the program. As you work through the steps, it is recommended that students and parents write down all usernames and passwords. Included in the checklist are account activation, bill payment, forms completion, and an online tutorial that reviews Brown’s values and policies.

Forms can now be submitted electronically through DocuSign, an electronic signature provider, where you can digitally fill out and sign our required forms and waivers. Forms include sections for both students and parents to complete.

Required Forms
• Pre-College Student Acceptance Form
• Medical Authorization Form
• Medical and Immunization History – Requires a medical provider’s signature
• Challenge Course Waiver

Additional Forms, if applicable
• Disability, Medical, and Dietary Services Request Form
• Dietary Concerns Form

III. What to Bring
Each student room provides typical college furniture. You will find in your room: a bed, desk and chair, dresser, wireless internet, pillow, and trash can. You will need to bring sheets for x-long twin bed (36 by 80 inches, approximately 6 inches thick) and a pillow case.

Students may find information about rentals of fans, refrigerators, microwaves, linens, and laundry services through the Brown Student Agencies website. Please visit the website in May for additional details.
Recommended items
Summer weather in Rhode Island can be quite variable, so check the forecast prior to your arrival and pack accordingly. Residential halls are not air-conditioned, but classrooms are often cool. In general, it is advisable to pack clothes that can be worn in layers and to bring comfortable shoes for walking around. Students tend to over pack, and a few versatile items are usually sufficient.

- Sheets for x-long twin bed (36 by 80 inches, approximately 6 inches thick) and a pillow case
- Lightweight blanket or throw
- Comfortable, weather-appropriate shoes
- Casual and comfortable clothing that can be layered
- Light weight jacket or sweatshirt
- Long pants (not capri) and close-toed shoes (sneakers, hiking shoes) for outdoor Challenge Course
- Raincoat and umbrella
- Large shoulder bag or backpack that can be used daily
- Swim suit if you want to participate in optional trip to beach
- One business casual outfit for Action Plan Closing Presentation
- Reusable water bottle
- Any prescribed medications in their original bottle and a copy of the prescription if a refill is needed
- Government-issued photo ID
- Toiletries
- Laptop (highly recommended) and charger
- Phone and charger
- Notebook or folder for notes and handouts
- Several pens or pencils

What not to bring
Students are prohibited from bringing illegal drugs, alcohol, and weapons of any sort, including pocket or Swiss army knives.

You may NOT bring pets, cooking devices, air conditioners, or motor vehicles to campus (except commuter students).
IV. Check In and Closing Event Details

When To Arrive
Students check in between 9:00am and 1:00pm on the Sunday before the program starts. Students will be directed to the check-in location where they will receive their residence hall room keys, Brown ID card, an orientation schedule, and campus map.

Although students should make every effort to plan their travel to Brown based on a Sunday arrival, procedures are in place to accommodate Saturday arrival for those students who are arriving from long distances and need to work around flight schedules. There is a $150 early arrival fee for students arriving on Saturday. Early arrival must be requested in advance of the program. If you meet the early arrival criteria due to long-distance travel, please complete the Early Arrival Request Form. As buildings are in use throughout the summer, the rooms for specific programs may not be available until Sunday at 9:00am; therefore, any approved early arrivals may be housed in a different building than the one students will be assigned to on Sunday.

Campus Tours for students and their families will be given at multiple times during the morning. Details will be provided on tour times during check-in.

Orientation
General Pre-College Orientation for students and their families is offered on Sunday after students check in. Parents should plan to depart campus by 2:45pm. An orientation for students only will take place at 3:00pm.

Mandatory Leadership Orientation is required for all Leadership Institute participants at 4:00pm on Sunday. Students will have additional mandatory programming after dinner.

Arrivals After 1:00pm.
Students should make every effort to arrive between 9:00am and 1:00pm on the Sunday before their classes begin. Students who arrive after 1:00pm must check in at the Office of Residential Life, Grad Center E, 42 Charlesfield Street, 3rd Floor, Room 302. Any student who arrives after 9:00pm will be housed in a temporary room for the evening until they officially check in at Grad E, 3rd Floor, Room 302 at 8:00am on Monday morning.

When To Depart From Campus
Students should leave campus after the Leadership Institute Closing Program and Action Plan presentations end, on the last day of class, at approximately 3:00pm on Friday, July 8, Friday, July 22, and Friday, August 5. Students must return their key and check out of the residence hall no later than 9:00pm. If long distance travel plans necessitate staying one more night, students may
remain until 9:00 am on Friday, July 9, Saturday, July 23, or Saturday August 6.

Students who remain in the residence for one more night will receive information about checking out of their room including where to return their room key prior to the end of their program. Students do not have to register for late departure online but must inform their Leader Fellow that they are staying late for one extra night.

Please plan travel arrangements to ensure student participation in the Closing Day Program and Action Plan presentations on the last day of class—this presentation is a required component of the Leadership Institute. The program will begin at 1:00 pm and end at approximately 3:00 pm.

**Leadership Closing Day Program and Action Plan Presentations**

We strongly encourage parents and family members to attend our Closing Day program if they are able to do so. This will be an opportunity for parents/family members to hear Action Plan presentations from the students and meet Leadership Institute faculty and staff.

**V. Housing and Meals**

**Housing**

Leadership Institute students will be housed in two residence halls which are situated next to one another. Students will be assigned a roommate. To provide a typical Brown University experience and due to the volume of residential students arriving each week, students are randomly assigned a roommate so that they can build friendships with new people. We are unable to honor roommate, suitemate, or same building requests.

**Curfew**

Students are required to check-in with their Leader Fellow every evening at 11:00 pm and remain on their floor unit for the evening. The residential staff will place a call to the parents of any student who is more than one minute late for curfew. The Department of Public Safety will be informed after an appropriate interval of time. Repeated and/or serious violations of the curfew could result in dismissal from the program.

Adhering to the curfew policy is the student’s responsibility. While residential staff will take reasonable measures to ensure that students adhere to the curfew, once a student has been verified as being within the residence halls at the designated time, it cannot be guaranteed that the student will not subsequently choose to leave the residence hall area.

Curfew hours for Pre-College students are:

- 11:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.
For more details, please read the Housing Policies section on our website.

Laundry
There are laundry facilities in the basements of all residence halls. You will need to supply your own detergent, softener, and bleach. All washers and dryers operate using Bear Bucks. To pay for laundry services, you must purchase a Bear Bucks Guest Card for $1.00 at any ValuePort machine. Money may be added to Bear Bucks cards so that you may use laundry machines, vending machines, and printers in the public computing clusters. Each washer and dryer costs $1.50 per load. It is advised to only add money in small increments, as unused funds are not refundable. ValuePort machines are conveniently located at the Rockefeller Library, Sciences Library, Sharpe Refectory lower level, Josiah’s, Stephen Robert ’62 Campus Center, Bookstore Lobby, Emery Woolley Hall, and at 222 Richmond Street. Alternatively, you can find out about professional laundry services through the Brown Student Agencies website.

Click to see map »

Overnight Leave
Once students arrive on campus, and need to leave overnight, they are required to notify their Leader Fellow at least two days in advance. Students must inform their parents/guardian that they will not be at Brown. The School of Professional Studies requires parental/guardian approval before permission is granted.

Parents/guardians should fax a signed copy of the Overnight Leave Form at least two days in advance to (401) 863–1331. Parents/guardians can also scan the signed form and email it to RD-oncall@brown.edu.

Meals and Snacks
Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in one of Brown’s dining halls daily. You may invite guests to enjoy a meal with you on a cash basis. Thayer Street offers numerous shops and restaurants, as well. If you have significant food allergies, please complete the Disability, Medical, & Dietary Request Form. Please indicate dietary preferences, including vegetarians and vegans, on the Dietary Concerns Form. The links to these forms can be found in your checklist email.

For additional information on Housing Policies, please visit the Pre-College Policies page.
VI. Contacting Pre-College Students
We know that you will want to be in touch with your child—and they with you—and we encourage you to talk to your son or daughter about when and how much to be in touch. It frequently happens that within hours of parents’ departure, the students are so immersed in the experience that their sense of time—of when they last spoke to their parents—is very different from their parents’ sense.

Telephone service is available in all rooms, but you must bring your own telephone and answering machine. Many students find that cell phones are a more convenient alternative. In addition, long distance calls can be made with a pre-paid calling card sold at the Brown Bookstore. Except in emergency situations, Pre-College staff cannot generally honor requests to track down a student; hence, our request that you arrange regular times to be in touch with your child.

Emergency Contact: Brown Department of Public Safety: (401) 863–3322.

VII. Program FAQs

How many students are there? What are they like?
Generally, there are about 120–140 students in each Leadership Institute session, which is comprised of 5 different courses. Most students are rising juniors and seniors who come from all over the world. The Leadership Institute attracts academically motivated and socially aware students who are interested in contributing to the betterment of their schools and communities.

Who are the Leader Fellows and what do they do?
Leader Fellows are undergraduate college students who serve both as teaching assistants and as resident advisors in the Leadership Institute. We have nine committed Leader Fellows, who will provide assistance and supervision to participants both within and outside of the classroom. Leader Fellows are a great resource, and in addition to providing academic and personal support, they are available to share insight and experience about the college experience. Additionally, they work closely with the Resident Director to develop social and educational programming specific to the Leadership Institute. We encourage students to actively seek out residential staff for advice, assistance, and mentorship.
**What is our schedule?**
The Leadership Institute program is an immersive experience, and its schedule differs from other Pre-College Programs.

**Monday – Friday**
9:00 – 11:30am: Class  
11:30am – 1:00pm: Lunch and free time  
1:00 – 3:00pm: Class  
3:30 – 5:30pm: Leadership development workshops, free time to study, or time to engage in recreational/educational activities  
5:30 – 7:00pm: Dinner and free time  
7:00 – 11:00pm: Community meetings, free time to study, or time to engage in recreational/educational activities  
**11:00pm:** Curfew

Exceptions to the schedule include the day on the Challenge Course and the last day of the program.

**Saturday & Sunday:** Free time for study, recreational and educational activities

**What leadership skills will I learn and practice?**
- Identification of different leadership styles and analysis of personal leadership style  
- Effective listening skills  
- Diversity awareness  
- Group problem solving and teamwork  
- Community development and engagement  
- Public speaking

**What is the Action Plan?**
We believe that students have the ability and responsibility to be engaged global citizens. The Action Plan is a capstone project, enabling students to apply what they’ve learned at Brown in their home communities.

We help our students define the issues that they are passionate about and construct a plan for addressing them. We work with them to set realistic goals, identify mentors and resource people, and anticipate challenges.

We encourage students to think about some topics before they come to Brown, but most students don’t actually know what their Action Plan will be until they start working on it in class.
Instructors and Leader Fellows will help students design an Action Plan that fits their interests and skills. Students will present their Action Plan on the last day of class to their peers and guests.

**What are some examples of Action Plans?**

- Developing a program, initiative, or educational campaign (climate change, media literacy, body image) in your school, church/mosque/synagogue, or neighborhood
- Collaborating with existing organizations or community groups that address a societal problem such as affordable housing, relationship violence, or college access
- Planning and implementing a fundraiser for an organization or cause
- Improving your own leadership skills or developing your own content knowledge around an issue of importance to you

Visit this page for examples of past Action Plans: [Action Plans](#)

**What should I expect for homework?**

Students will be expected to complete at least 1–2 hours of homework a night. This work may include readings, group projects, writing assignments, and oral presentations. Although a laptop is not required, it is highly recommended if available to you. There are computers available for use in libraries.

**How will I be evaluated?**

For the most part, students will participate in experiential learning together during the day with some reflective writing. Students will be required to present a short oral presentation related to their learning at the end of the program.

Students will receive a Course Performance Report, written by instructors and will also be asked to complete a course evaluation. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a Certificate of Completion. All completion materials, including the evaluation, will be sent 6 weeks after the program concludes. The certificate will be sent via US Mail, but other items will be sent electronically to the email we have on file.

**What is a “Challenge Course?”**

A Challenge Course, or low ropes course, is an outdoor experience that challenges groups to solve problems and work effectively together. It provides an opportunity for students to gain insight into their own leadership styles and to observe the ways in which groups work best. Experiential learning provides a “living laboratory” for students’ analysis and complements more academic discussions regarding leadership; it is a powerful teaching tool. Our course is located in Bristol, Rhode Island on Brown-owned property. We will travel by bus to this location. You are required to wear long pants (NOT capris) and close-toed shoes like sneakers or hiking shoes for this activity. We also recommend that you bring a rain jacket or inexpensive poncho.
Please make sure to pack a raincoat, long pants, and close-toed shoes (sneakers, hiking shoes) for this activity.

**Tick Awareness**

As with most outdoor locations in the Northeast, deer ticks that sometimes carry Lyme disease may be present at the site where the Challenge Course is held. We take a number of precautions while on the course, including: provision of permethrin-treated socks that students are required to wear, spraying students’ close-toed shoes with permethrin, and requiring students to check themselves carefully at the end of the day. Should a student find a tick on him/herself, we work closely with Brown Health Services to implement a protocol that may include tick removal and/or a preventative course of antibiotics. Although not required, some families may be interested in purchasing tick repellent clothing for this activity prior to the course or having their own clothing treated. Information can be found here: [http://www.tickencounter.org/prevention/tick_repellent_clothing](http://www.tickencounter.org/prevention/tick_repellent_clothing)

If your student experiences any flu-like symptoms, joint aches, or a bulls eye rash, upon their return home, you should contact your medical provider and inform him/her that your student has been in an area where there are deer ticks that sometimes carry Lyme disease. We have had hundreds of student participate without any problems, but we want you to know about deer ticks and tick-bite prevention should you be unfamiliar with this information.

**VIII. Contacting Brown University**

We hope this For Accepted Students document gives you a good idea of what Brown’s Leadership Institute holds for you. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us:

**Telephone:** (401) 863–7900  
**Email:** summer@brown.edu