



October 17, 2008

To Graduate Students:

Members of the Brown community understandably have concerns about the potential and real impacts that the crisis of the financial markets will have not only on the United States and the world, but on individuals and families. President Simmons recently sent a community-wide message regarding the impact of the current climate on the University. (The message is available at <http://www.brown.edu/Administration/President/letters/2008-2009/2008-financial.html>.) We write today to underscore that the research and training mission of the University remains a high priority, and you are important in that valuable work.

We also want to highlight educational support and other services at Brown that may be helpful to you.

Planning and Counseling

If the economic situation is very directly affecting you and your family, and you would like to talk to someone about the ways that it may impact your educational plans, you can talk to the deans in the Graduate School or in the Office of Student Life.

- In the Office of Student Life, there is a dean of the day available every day from 8:30-5. If you identify yourself as a graduate student, you will be referred to Carla Hansen, if she is available.
- The Dean of the Graduate School has open office hours every Monday from 1 to 2:30 p.m., and she and associate deans are available, by appointment.
- The Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Division of Biology and Medicine, is available by appointment. Please call 863-3281 or send email to Nancy_Thompson@brown.edu.

For those who may be worried about how financial markets are affecting job prospects, the Graduate School, the Career Development Center and your program faculty can assist with your planning. Please note that research funding and job opportunities are invariably cyclic. Many of your advisors have first-hand experience with fluctuations, and will be available to work with you to navigate this challenge.

The Career Development Center, located at 167 Angell Street, has open hours for graduate students every Thursday from 2 to 3 p.m. and graduate students can arrange for 30-minute appointment with a counselor at other times by calling 863-3326. The Center will continue to co-sponsor workshops throughout the year. Upcoming sessions at the Center include:

- How to Find the Right Post-doc for Life/Physical Sciences, Monday, October 27, 4 p.m.
- Conference and Campus Interviews for Humanities/Social Sciences, October 30, 4 p.m.
- Negotiating the Job Offer for Humanities/Social Sciences, November 11, 4 p.m.
- Negotiating the Post-doc Offer for Life/Physical Sciences, November 17, 6 p.m.

Psychological Services is available for personal support and is located in J. Walter Wilson Student Services Building. You can make an appointment by calling 863-3476. (Please note that students who have waived the health-services fee will be charged.)

If you would like to speak to one of the University Chaplains about your concerns, the Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life is located on the fourth floor of the J. Walter Wilson Student Services Building. Anyone in need of confidential assistance should contact call 863-2344 for an appointment.

For students whose financial status has changed significantly, you may consult with the Office of Financial Aid.

We often describe Brown as a community and it is. We stand ready to assist you during these challenging times.

We wish you the best in this fall semester.

Sheila Bonde, Dean of the Graduate School

Nancy Thompson, Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Division of Biology and Medicine

Margaret Klawunn, Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services

James Tilton, Director of Financial Aid