Welcome to Brown!

We have heard so much about you, and we are incredibly excited to meet you all! Before we greet you on campus with a barrage of tours, credit info sessions, and translations of Brown jargon (which you’ll become wholly familiar with soon enough!), we hope you’ll take a moment to congratulate yourselves. Pat yourself on the back not solely for your acceptance to Brown, but also for your courageous decision to leave your former institution. Whether you’re embarking on this new journey as a sophomore, junior, or point-fiver (more lingo…give it time), we acknowledge the difficult decision you have made and commend you for it. Plenty of students recognize that their current college may no longer present the best fit for their goals, but few make the brave decision to seek something new. The hard part is over and you’ve made the right decision – trust us, we’ve been there before – so welcome!

As your Transfer Counselors and Transfer Coordinators, we aim to make your transition to Brown as comfortable as possible. We thus encourage you to take advantage of every resource we can provide, from academic and credit advising, to social and emotional support. Your three-day orientation is an excellent start and will be packed with information, social events, and connections to advisors. Each program is designed to ease your assimilation into the campus community and foster your success at Brown. Orientation is the perfect time to become acquainted with your transfer class, an exceptional group among the many amazing people you will meet at Brown. Get to know them, for despite your varying reasons for coming to Brown, you all share a unique motivation that has you united here. We are a strong and close-knit network within the greater campus community, and you may find it comforting to know that hundreds of students began at other schools before finding their home here on College Hill.

We lastly wish to again stress our excitement to meet you all, and our hopes that your experiences at Brown will be as wonderful as ours have been. Your Transfer Counselors will be contacting you prior to your arrival on campus, and they want nothing more than to guide you through your transfer process just as they were guided through their own. Keep a lookout for emails you receive that may include important dates and information, as well as invites to Facebook groups and events. Please do NOT hesitate to contact us before the start of term, to ask any questions that may come to you or just simply to say hello! Introduce yourselves, we’d love to get to know you. And keep in mind: any excitement, apprehension, or confusion you’re feeling now has been felt before, and we’re here to help you through it. We can’t wait to hear from you!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Justin and Remy
Your Transfer Counselor Coordinators

Please email us anytime at:
Justin_Wang@Brown.edu or Remy_Ravitzka@Brown.edu
Haley Adams

HOMETOWN: Milwaukee, WI
CLASS: 2015
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Duke University
TRANSFERRED: Spring 2013
CONCENTRATION: Economics

About me: Some of my hobbies include driving with the windows down, cheering for the Green Bay Packers, and impressing people with my endless supply of trivia. My dream is to one day open a food truck that serves gourmet s’mores (contact me if you’re interested in investing). I went to Duke my freshman year and although I certainly miss the weather, I’m so glad I made the decision to transfer to Brown. Studying abroad in Granada, Spain during the fall of my sophomore year was a great way to transition to Brown, but even my mini Eurotrip can’t compare to the adventures I’ve had here in Providence. At Brown, I’m learning to appreciate the academic and extracurricular freedom given to us by the University; my only regret is that I only have five semesters to take advantage of it. I’ve learned so much about myself and my goals at Brown, and I am so excited for all of you to have your own Brown experience. If you have any questions about the transfer journey or just want to talk, hit me up — I’d love to hear from you!
Taylor Casey

HOMETOWN: Annapolis, MD
CLASS: 2016.5
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Hamilton College
TRANSFERRED: Spring 2014
CONCENTRATION: Economics and East Asian Studies

Also familiar with: Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Study Abroad, Scholarships/Grants.

Interests: Academically, I’m interested in Chinese language and culture, more specifically in how the rise of China as a global power will affect the world economy. Outside the classroom, I’m a member of the Brown Daily Herald Sales staff, love playing and watching sports (go Baltimore!), binge watching House of Cards, singing a cappella, or trying some of Providence’s less well known (but just as tasty) restaurants.

About me: I grew up in Connecticut but have lived the past few years in Maryland. Also, I’m a big travel buff who’s been to every continent except Australia. Oddly enough, I still haven’t gone to Canada! I transferred this past spring and with that experience fresh in my mind I feel that I am in a great position to help the next batch of transfer students find their way on College Hill. In the fall before I transferred I took a semester off from school and would love to share my experience with others. Definitely reach out to me if you have any questions about my specific transfer experience or the process in general!
Kevin Chen

HOMETOWN: Shrewsbury, MA
CLASS: 2015
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: New York University
TRANSFERRED: Fall 2013
CONCENTRATION: Environmental Studies

Also familiar with: Environmental groups (emPOWER, RISCC, EcoReps), Brown University Orchestra, Brown Outdoor Leadership Training (BOLT) Program, campus safety

Interests: I am interested in understanding the role of public policy as it relates to environmental issues. Accordingly, I spend much of my time outside of the classroom working with the various environmental groups on campus. These include the Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition, which advocates for state legislation on climate change; EcoReps, which tries to bring environmentally minded behaviors to campus; and the Earth Week Steering Committee, which develops a vision for and plans events for Brown Earth Week.

About me: Born in Upstate New York and raised in Massachusetts, my main hobbies are mostly music-related: I started violin at the age of seven, picked up my first guitar in sixth grade, and have been playing in various ensembles ever since high school. Currently, I play viola with the Brown University Orchestra and make an effort to jam with friends on the Main Green as often as possible. My other hobbies include attending improv shows, trying new foods (grasshopper tacos, anyone?), and reading Calvin and Hobbes. Prior to transferring from NYU, I studied abroad in Berlin to learn about the city’s environmental initiatives and became fascinated by its rich culture and relaxed pace. My acceptance to Brown therefore came in the midst of some of the most exciting months of my life, and I transferred fully aware that I would be leaving many good friends from NYU. At the same time, I felt immediately welcome at Brown and quickly knew that my decision was the right one. Please feel free to contact me via cell, text, email, Facebook, Facetime, or even snail mail with any questions, or if you just want to say ‘hi’ — I’m always happy to make new friends!
Frank Chung

HOMETOWN: Newton, MA
CLASS: 2014.5
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Case Western Reserve University
TRANSFERRED: Spring 2013
CONCENTRATION: Chemistry

Also familiar with: Biochemistry, Physics, Premed, EMS, Algebra in Motion, Health Leads, Research, Materials Science

About me: I grew up and spent almost the entirety of my life in the Boston area. I listen to all types of music and play all sorts of videogames, though recently I have been on a binge of obscure niche indie games. Currently at Brown, I am involved in a number of organizations such as Health Leads, EMS, Algebra in Motion, and ChemDUG. Additionally, I am very involved with research at Brown and am familiar with much of the research landscape at Brown from reaching out to investigators to obtaining funding for research. My field of study is chemistry and my research pertains to two-dimensional layered nanomaterials. While transferring is an intimidating process, it can also be incredibly exciting. Transferring to Brown has been the one of the best decisions I have made. Feel free to reach out to me to discuss any concerns or questions (e.g. you want to get a head start on finding research, want someone to play videogames with).
David Chy

HOMETOWN: Cranston, RI
CLASS: 2015.5
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Community College of Rhode Island
TRANSFERRED: Fall 2013
CONCENTRATION: Political Science

Also familiar with: Economics, BEO, and International Relations

Interests: Academically, I am interested in international and comparative politics, particularly regarding contemporary affairs. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy running, hiking/camping, exploring new music, and watching Netflix (House of Cards and The Office).

About me: As a native Rhode Islander, I can tell you a lot about life in Rhode Island outside College Hill. I transferred from community college and found, at Brown, the most open and welcoming community around. It offers freedom like nowhere else—if you want something, you can make it happen. Please do not hesitate to call, text, email, or Facebook me if you have any questions or if you just want to chat!
Emma Currier

HOMETOWN: Bedford, MA
CLASS: 2016
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Trinity College
TRANSFERRED: Spring 2014
CONCENTRATION: I am concentrating in Economics and am hoping to double concentrate in Public Health as well.

Also familiar with: Public Policy, Political Science, Brown Daily Herald, Women in Business, Kappa Alpha Theta.

Interests: Academically, I am interested in data-driven decision making applied toward a social need. How I am exactly I plan to do that, I am still figuring out. Outside of the classroom and library, you can find me exploring music, everything from Drake to Hozier, walking my dogs (I have a bloodhound and papillon), watching all varieties of British tv, and cooking late night snacks.

About me: I truly believe that Boston is the best city in the world, but love exploring others. One of my best summers so far was traveling around India and spending a month working at a school, but I'm hoping to have a more practical summer this year with an internship. I transferred to Brown in the spring of my sophomore year because, honestly, I was unsure about the transfer process and wanted to give my previous school, Trinity College, another semester in the fall. I ended up deciding to go through with transferring, and coming to Brown was the best choice I could have made. I know how nerve-wracking transferring can be, so please do not hesitate to call, text, email or contact me in any way with any questions!
Wilson Cusack

HOMETOWN: Grand Rapids, MI
CLASS: 2016
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: The King’s College
TRANSFERRED: fall 2013
CONCENTRATION: Computer Science, RISD

Also familiar with: taking a gap year, switching majors, generally being confused about what to do with my life, RISD, intramurals, religion at Brown, international development.

Interests: I play intramural soccer, am part of Brown Christian Fellowship, help organize hack@brown, and otherwise spend a lot of time getting really excited about a project or idea for a couple of weeks (like internetyesterday.com, can’t believe this hasn’t gone viral yet) and then move on to something new.

About me: I’m originally from Grand Rapids, MI (if you see anyone on campus smiling or talking to strangers, there’s a solid chance they’re from the midwest). After high school, I lived and worked in Guatemala for three months and India for five months. I studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at my old school, applied to Brown under BEO, thought I would study Applied Math once I arrived, and now am studying CS, so I am well familiar with the process of shifting interests and direction. Last summer, I worked in Ethiopia with a company that is building commodity exchanges around Africa, and I’m mainly interested in technology in frontier markets (to be vague). I’d love to talk, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns whatsoever.
Ben Ferleger

HOMETOWN: Pittsburgh, PA
CLASS: 2015.5
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Wake Forest University
TRANSFERRED: Spring 2013
CONCENTRATION: Biomedical Engineering

Also familiar with: Physics, Literary Arts and Neuroscience Departments, emPOWER, Pre-Med track, study abroad, RISD classes

Interests: Academically, I’m interested in brain-computer interfaces and integrating robotics and neuroscience to help restore lost function to the disabled. Less academically, I listen to way too much EDM and folk music, read way more than I have time for, and sit around outside for way longer than I should.

About me: I love mountain biking, snowboarding and climbing when I can get away from the city and running, road cycling and writing when I can’t. I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, and I have a serious attachment to the Penguins (and will spend the rest of my life pretending last season didn’t happen) and ice hockey in general. I love being new places and finding myself in new situations, and I’ve technically gone to five different universities — as of high school graduation I was headed to Tulane, where I briefly attended summer session until I was accepted off the waitlist at Wake Forest in July 2011, went to Beijing University for summer of 2012, the University of Edinburgh that fall and then ended up at some school in Providence — so I’m very, very familiar with being at a new college. Please feel free to call, Facebook or email me if you ever need anything or just want to talk!
Miranda Friel

HOMETOWN: Sacramento, CA  
CLASS: 2015.5  
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Oberlin College  
TRANSFERRED: Spring  
CONCENTRATION: TAPS, VISA, Brown-RISD

Also familiar with: VISA/the Visual Arts

About me: I'm a recent transplant from Oberlin College's Department of Theater and Dance. At Brown, I am pursuing a degree in Theater with an emphasis in Performance Studies. In my free time, I enjoy involving myself in as many aspects as Brown theater as possible, whether it be serving as a board member on Brown's student-department organization Sock and Buskin, working as a Technical Assistant for department productions, designing and creating props for organizations like Shakespeare on the Green and Production Workshop and, occasionally, acting. Although firmly rooted in life at Brown, I spend as much time at RISD as the relatively flexible Brown curriculum allows, where I have studied in the Illustration department, and hope to pursue a class or two in Interior Architecture, Sculpture, or Furniture. When I grow up, I hope to be either a theatrical Scenic Designer or a wizard.
Stephanie (Stef) Hayes

HOME TOWN: Sydney, Australia
CLASS: 2015
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Sydney University
TRANSFERRED: Fall 2012
CONCENTRATION: English (non-fiction track). I’ve also taken a few psych classes so might be helpful in that regard.

Also familiar with: Independent studies, intramural sport, literary publications on campus...

Interests: Running, reading, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, cooking, lamenting the fact that Emma Watson and I have yet to cross paths.

About me: As a twin, my exciting anecdotes are actually about someone else. That being say, I’m a Sydney girl who loves sunshine, sarcasm, sport, and writing. While I’m still struggling to adapt to the brutal New England weather, Brown is the greatest move I’ve ever made (frightening, definitely, but super rewarding). If you have any questions about being a transfer student/international student, can’t find a building, can’t grasp “shopping period,” don’t understand the random acronyms people keep pulling out, or just want someone to talk to, please hit me up!
Victoria Leonard

HOMETOWN: Narrangansett, RI
CLASS: 2015
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Boston College
TRANSFERRED: Spring
CONCENTRATION: Religious Studies and Political Science

Also familiar with: Public Policy and American Institutions, Development Studies, International Relations, Club Sports, Yoga and Mindfulness, Meditation, International Health and Social Justice Clubs, BOLT, Generation Citizen, Sustainability, Grants, Advising

Interests: Academically I am really into religion, specifically how religion shapes policy and international development. I also focus on global health policy and American politics. Also, I love learning about ethics, ecofeminism, law, peacebuilding, etymology, international health, and pretty much anything else. Honestly I get excited about anything, as along as whoever is talking about it is pumped! I also enjoy taking photos with disposable cameras, singing in choirs or along with Beyoncé (preferable), working on my handstand, seeking out good vibes and workspaces, working for Partners in Health, cooking, watching Jeopardy, reading the Projo and Aljazeera, snuggling with my pup, hiking, meditating, doing anything on a beach, trying to make Walt Whitman proud, playing tennis and squash, farming, and swimming in the ocean (#1 favorite activity). I am deeply appreciative of the Yoga and Mindfulness Community (YAM) and the Newport Folk Festival.

About me: Above all though, I love exploring the world—the Ocean State and beyond! I transferred to Brown in Spring 2013 after studying abroad in Edinburgh in the fall. While it was seriously awesome to fly around Europe for a few months, it was even better arriving at Brown. I cannot emphasize enough how happy I am that I transferred. Best decision of my life...seriously. I have met crazy smart and engaged people with such cool stories and goals. The Brunonians are making it happen—right now! For me, being a transfer was scariest before I arrived on campus—but once I got here, I was so supported and welcomed that I felt ready to dive into life on College Hill. I really want to do everything and anything I can to make this transition smooth and easy! Give me a call, text, email, message, snap, letter, telegram—let’s chat!
Renata Martin

HOMETOWN: Newark, NJ
CLASS: 2014.5
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Essex County College
TRANSFERRED: Fall 2012
CONCENTRATION: Biology

Also familiar with: Pre-medicine track, research, clubs, sports, jobs on campus

Interests: Academically, I am interested in the sciences and in pursuing a medical education. Outside of the classroom, I am very involved with the Swearer Center. I work as an Access Scholar for Brown's National College Advising Corps and I also do a lot of work on my own with undocumented students and community college students. I am currently training to run a marathon in May to raise funds for scholarships for undocumented students in Rhode Island and I’ve raised almost $1,000. Community service is a big passion of mine and I also work a second job as a campus representative with Kaplan Test Prep Company.

About me: Outside of the classroom, I am very involved with the Swearer Center. I work as an Access Scholar for Brown's National College Advising Corps and I also do a lot of work on my own with undocumented students and community college students. I am currently training to run a marathon in May to raise funds for scholarships for undocumented students in Rhode Island and I’ve raised almost $1,000. Community service is a big passion of mine and I also work a second job as a campus representative with Kaplan Test Prep Company. Outside of running and work, you can see me playing at open mice on campus and shows. I love singing, songwriting, and playing guitar. You can see me on the main green jamming with other Brown musicians and songwriting. I love Brown and how I can study my many passions here. This semester, for example, I am taking a music improv. class, an education class where I work with high school students, a science class, and doing research in a lab. This is why I chose Brown- I never have to limit myself to one thing. I can pursue all passions at once and still work towards my goal of becoming a physician. Please feel free to call, text, email, google hangout, or Facebook me if you’d like! I love to talk and would love to meet you!
Shierly Mondianti

HOMETOWN: Jakarta, Indonesia
CLASS: 2015.5
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: North Seattle Community College
TRANSFERRED: Fall 2013
CONCENTRATION: Political Science and Gender and Sexuality Studies

Also familiar with: International Relations, History, Anthropology, and East-Asian Studies tracks, Sarah Doyle Women's Center, Student Activities Office, Student Groups and Organizations, Bruin Club Admissions Blog

Interests: Academic - I enjoy learning about politics in Asia. I focus on the East-Asia and South-East Asia region as a means of grounding my study in political science. For my gender studies concentration, I am pursuing the study of power and intersections of race, gender, religion, sexuality. I am specifically interested in the lives of minority groups in post-colonial societies. General - Card games (Bridge, Poker, Blackjack), NBA, Classical music (I play the violin!), Greek Mythology, Rare books, Cooking shows, Yelping.

About me: The name is Shierly! (Pronounced as “Shirley” as in “Shirley Temple!) I am originally born in Jakarta, Indonesia, but have spent a lot of time in Singapore, Seattle, WA (and recently, Atlanta, GA). As you can see I have a variety of interests! I am fairly easy to talk to, slightly quirky but I do have a sense of humor if you give me a chance! Whenever I am back in Jakarta, you will typically see me in three different states—1) watching the history / national geographic channel, 2) out shopping and devouring mouth-watering food not available in the US, 3) reading, reading, reading. When I am at Brown, I am most likely walking at a pace way too fast and going to my next class/meeting/work! But! I love saying ‘Hi’ so if I’m not staring, say ‘Hey Shierly’ and I will definitely shoot you a smile and an excited ‘Heyyy!’ I am here for all of you. If you want to talk about anything and everything just send me an email/facebook, I check both of them too often for my own good!
Remy Ravitzka

HOMETOWN: Brooklyn, NY
CLASS: 2015.5
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Union College
TRANSFERRED: Spring 2014
CONCENTRATION: Philosophy. I am also familiar with the pre-medicine track, as well as departments, classes, professors, and resources in physics and philosophy, political science, and public health.

Also familiar with: Pre-Medicine track, Political Science and Public Health Departments, the RIUDL (Rhode Island Urban Debate League – it’s pretty awesome), and both WBRU and BSR radio stations.

Interests: Academically, I am interested in a wide range of subjects, from politics, ethics, and education, to studio art and public health. My plan is to ideally combine several of these fields and pursue policy in either healthcare or education, where I can employ ethics to inspire great change (see, a degree in philosophy can take you anywhere!)

About me: Although I was born and raised in New York City, I spent six summers living with my dad in Vermont and have an admitted fondness for hiking, dairy farms, and walking around barefoot. I spend the majority of my free time enjoying the best aspects of my two beloved homes, including hiking, rock climbing, food trucks, outdoor summer concerts, the subway, fall foliage, and 24-hour diners. On campus, you’ll find me binge-watching Archer or Parks and Rec, attempting (and failing) to get a spot on every Outing Club trip, purchasing unhealthy amounts of brie cheese, and making expertly creative sandwiches at the blue room (contrary to popular belief, mozzarella and jam make a delicious combination). Trust me, I’ve had the very same worries and experiences you’re having now and I would love to ease them! I’m incredibly outgoing so please feel no hesitation in contacting me by email, facebook, or text (as I am typically glued to my phone), even if just to chat. Get ready for the amazing experience ahead of you!
Katherine Risi

HOMETOWN: Burlington, VT
CLASS: 2016.5
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Tulane University
TRANSFERRED: Spring, 2014
CONCENTRATION: Education Studies

Also familiar with: the Public Health Department, the Swearer Center, Generation Citizen, the Brown Daily Herald

Interests: Academically, I’m interested in education policy and social entrepreneurship. Outside of the (Brown) classroom, you can find me volunteering in local high schools, exploring all the restaurants in Providence, or drinking way to much coffee.

About me: I’m a native Vermonter and I love the outdoors- hiking, swimming, camping- you name it. While I miss New Orleans, transferring to Brown was one of the best choices I’ve ever made and I couldn’t be happier with my decision. It’s scary to start over at a new school but the Brown community is so friendly and welcoming that I felt at home right away. If you have any questions at all (or just want to chat) feel free to call, text, email or Facebook me!
Summerset Thompson

HOMETOWN: Rancho Santa Fe, CA
CLASS: 2016
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: University of Southern California
TRANSFERRED: Spring 2014
CONCENTRATION: History

Also familiar with: Health Leads, Women in Business, Ivy Council, Post-, Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, CASARA (Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Relationship Abuse), Sarah Doyle Women's Center, Active Minds

Interests: I have a wide variety of interests, but since arriving to Brown, I have decided to focus on modern European history. I am also passionate about healthcare, education, and women's studies

About me: First off, let me say how happy I am to welcome you all to Brown! I grew up in San Diego and transferred from USC in Los Angeles, and I can honestly say that it was the best and most rewarding decision. In my free time, I love to drink tea, read, exercise, and relax with friends. I don't watch much TV, but I recently started Scandal; like everyone else, I'm hooked. During the fall of 2013, I studied abroad through Brown's mid-year transfer program in Granada, Spain. I had an incredible experience, and my transition in the spring felt seamless. From Journalism to Neuroscience to Anthropology, I have researched and entertained nearly every concentration in the book, so I can be of assistance to anyone who still feels unsure about what they would like to study at Brown. Feel free to reach out at anytime and add me on Facebook. I would love to meet all of you and talk about transferring, Brown, or life in general!
Justin Wang

HOMETOWN: Jericho, NY
CLASS: 2015
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: George Washington University
TRANSFERRED: Fall 2012
CONCENTRATION: Biology, Biochemistry

Also familiar with: Pre-Medicine Track and Undergraduate TA positions

Interests: Academically, I am really interested in the development of vaccines and cancer treatments. When my head isn’t swimming with schoolwork, I love to practice my martial arts, roaming around camps, watching soccer, eating multiple meals, and waiting for the newest Sherlock, Elementary or Suits!

About me: I was born in New York and raised just outside the city, yet I still find new things every day. I transferred in the Fall and love helping Spring and Fall transfers get settled in. While it usually takes me a while to get used to a new place, I’m so glad that I chose to transfer to Brown and there isn’t a day that goes by that I ever regret doing so. I’m glad to be of use to anyone do don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions!
Francesca Whitehead

HOMETOWN: Hong Kong
CLASS: 2016
PREVIOUS SCHOOL: Oxford University
TRANSFERRED: Fall 2013
CONCENTRATION: Economics

Also familiar with: Pre-law/ law in UK, Applied mathematics, Writing centre, College Sports

About me: I grew up in Hong Kong then went to a boarding school in England before switching to Brown, which has made for a remarkable mix of interests. Academically, I am interested in the economic development of China but in particular how the role of women and the environment will grow within this developing economic giant. I enjoy a huge hobbies ranging from piano and ballet to camping, sailing and skiing. I like to keep myself busy and will try almost anything at least once (including weird food). I love to travel and am always saving up for the next big adventure, and coming to Brown was just that. Before transferring to Brown I had never stepped foot onto US soil, so this has been one amazing plunge into the unknown. But I have loved every second of it and know it was the best decision I ever made. I have many other crazy stories to tell from my escapades such as when I got altitude sickness near the summit of Mount Blanc, or seeing a tiger shark in the Great Barrier Reef (terrifying), or singing in St Mark's Basilica with a choir, or being attacked by swans whilst canoeing down the Thames etc. I like exchanging all types of stories so feel free to contact me whenever to chat or ask any questions!