7:1 student-to-faculty ratio

100% of Brown faculty teach undergraduates

1,927 undergraduate courses offered per year

70% of classes have under 20 students

80 undergraduate concentrations

38 varsity division I sports teams

35% of classes have under 10 students

>300 student organizations
Study what you choose... and only what you choose

Brown is known for its academic excellence rooted in the Open Curriculum. Our students like to say that only Brown gives them the absolute freedom to study what they love, and only what they love. Brown has no required core curriculum or distribution requirements that students must complete in order to graduate. Our students are the architects of their own education. You'll sample courses in a wide range of subjects before immersing yourself in one of 80 academic concentrations.

This innovative approach to education often demands more of students than a curriculum with core requirements. A special kind of student chooses Brown – one who is intellectually curious, self-motivated and prepared for the academic rigor of charting their own path.

Experiences beyond the ordinary

Our students have exciting opportunities to collaborate on research, connect their learning with social impact and advance their knowledge with experiences beyond the classroom. Students have decoded the secrets of a manuscript from Timbuktu, synthesized compounds to fight tuberculosis and invented new musical instruments. Others have performed in dance studios in New York City and traveled to Paris to take part in a United Nations convention on climate change. Maybe you’ll unravel the politics of delivering water to desert regions ... or imagine a project no one has thought of yet.

Student-centered learning

Brown’s world-class faculty celebrate students as the center of academic life at Brown. Our faculty are making groundbreaking discoveries, advancing understanding of cultures and peoples around the globe and influencing national and international policy. These same faculty who are making a major impact in the world are the teachers you learn from in the classroom, in the laboratory and in the field.
Entrepreneurship is in our DNA. Students invented one of Brown’s defining features — our Open Curriculum. Proposed by a visionary group of undergraduates in 1969, Brown’s curriculum has evolved over the past five decades as a signature element of our culture. It supports deep exploration of a student’s chosen discipline or area of inquiry, while facilitating breadth of knowledge by encouraging exploration of an array of other fields.
At Brown, intellectual independence, social consciousness and a passion for making an impact are essential parts of the college experience.

A community of independent thinkers

Fueled by the academic rigor of the Open Curriculum, an exciting mix of voices, views and ideas at Brown prepares students to succeed in a complex and changing world. We challenge traditional thinking, and we embrace the value of listening and understanding the experiences of others as part of the learning experience. You’ll become part of a community where diversity of perspectives fuels creativity, discovery and innovation.

A community in service to others

Brown is a place where a sense of community grows out of a shared commitment toward “betterment” — the betterment of communities, the betterment of society and the betterment of humankind. Teaching and learning at Brown are anchored in the University’s mission, which carries a charge “to serve the community, the nation and the world.” We prepare you to put this commitment to work in whichever path you pursue — advancing solutions through technology and the sciences; innovating in business and industry; serving in the nonprofits and the public sector; confronting issues of public affairs; understanding the human condition and countless other ways.

A community making an impact

Brown students are creators, leaders and doers. They’re not satisfied with merely raising questions. Our students learn to confront, address and solve problems. They learn to understand cultures and the human experiences of people around the globe to someday tackle pressing societal questions. They contribute to innovation, entrepreneurship and groundbreaking research in many forms that improve lives. We prepare you to make a difference in the path you choose for life beyond Brown.
Explore

Joel Fortune
Class of 2018
Neuroscience and Public Health / Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME)

“The summer after my freshman year, I traveled to China to take a mini-course in traditional Chinese medicine. I would never have imagined that my life course would intersect with China at any point — but through Brown, I was able to explore a world and a set of traditions that would otherwise have remained completely unknown to me.”
Change the world

Imagine • Explore • Innovate

Do you want to discover new treatments and cures? understand the brain? create transformative art? advocate for social justice? sustain our planet? improve health or education? strengthen cross-cultural communication? invent game-changing technology?

It all begins at BROWN.
CONCENTRATION
Your academic concentration (what other universities call a major) is the focal point of your undergraduate experience — an in-depth study of one or more disciplines, a problem or theme, or a broad question. Brown offers 80 concentrations and also allows you to design your own!

GISP
Want to explore a topic outside the regular curriculum? Students and faculty can propose a Group Independent Study Project — a credit-bearing course for which students develop the syllabus and conduct all coursework — for approval by the College Curriculum Council.

MEIKLEJOHN
You are not alone! Brown empowers students to shape their own educational experiences — within a strong advising system that includes our Meiklejohn Advising Program, through which student-faculty teams provide academic advice and counseling to first-year students.

SHOPPING
Shopping takes on a whole new meaning at Brown. During shopping period (the first two weeks of every semester) you are welcome to sample as many classes as you like in a quest to develop the perfect mix of academic experiences.

UTRA
Want to dig deeper into an issue? Collaborate with a professor on teaching or research? You can apply — alone or with a team — for a Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, which provides stipends in support of innovative work during the semester or over the summer, on campus or anywhere in the world.
STUDENTS WHO WILL CHALLENGE YOU, support you, expand your worldview and become your friends for life. Brown students come from across the nation and around the world, and they bring with them not only their unique individual gifts and talents, but also an innate sense of curiosity and the confidence to create and navigate their own educational journeys.

MANY VOICES. Brown is a diverse, international university — the Class of 2020 hails from all 50 states and 83 nations. Students travel the world in more than 100 study abroad programs, and campus-wide projects offer abundant opportunities for national and international engagement. Brown is a place where individual differences are valued and celebrated, where vigorous and respectful debate is encouraged and where a multiplicity of perspectives is actively cultivated.

A VIBRANT AND STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT. Visit any research facility at Brown, and you will find teams of faculty, graduate students and undergraduates working and learning together. Wander through the Stephen Robert ’62 Campus Center and listen to the hum of dozens of student groups meeting, planning, learning, performing and playing. Step outside the campus boundaries and you will encounter students helping to craft public policy initiatives, translating for people who need health services and contributing in countless ways to the community, the city and the state.

The Brown experience extends beyond our College Hill campus on Providence’s historic East Side. We encourage students to experience all that Brown and Providence have to offer.

The BROWN experience prepares you for life.
Imagine

Victoria Lansing
Class of 2020
Classics and Classical Archaeology

“With Brown’s Open Curriculum, I was able to focus on the subjects I was most passionate about right away. My first semester, I took an upper-level Latin class on the Roman poet and philosopher Lucretius. The class challenged me more than any I’ve ever taken — but it opened up a whole new world to me and has already made me a better classicist.”
Brown is not just about attending college, it’s about experiencing life!

What’s better than immersing yourself in an academic experience of your own design, surrounded by people who will be your friends for life ... in an academic community that supports you, challenges you and gives you the compass to follow whatever course you imagine?

Be yourself.

Our culture is of one of respect and inclusivity. Brown students study together, play together, grow together and dream together — bonding for a lifetime.

Enjoy a mix of history and innovation.

Our campus invites you to celebrate the heritage of a university more than 250 years old ... while encountering innovation everywhere. Brown’s College Hill campus offers a classic New England college experience among brick quadrangles, scenic greens, soaring modern architecture and fully renovated, centuries-old structures. We also feature state of the art laboratories, world-class libraries, 24-hour study spaces, expansive fitness facilities and a full range of advising services essential for life and learning on campus.

Grow. Explore. Have fun!

Want art? Theater? Music? Sports? Providence offers a dazzling array of arts opportunities, public events and culinary experiences mere minutes from campus. Our home city — located between Boston and New York City — is about a 30-minute drive from beaches, hiking trails and other outdoor activities. Travel is easy via Providence’s downtown train station and T.F. Green Airport.
“There is a real emphasis at Brown on challenging your ideas and making space to engage in dialogue that reconciles the differences between people. As a residential minority peer counselor, I was able to put this value into action, facilitating conversations and building community among first-year students in my residence hall. Students at Brown represent an incredible diversity of perspectives, beliefs, ideas and experiences.”
BROWN is one of life’s greatest adventures
"I was able to combine and apply my interests in advocacy, engineering and the arts when I was awarded a summer grant from Brown to intern in the studio of AS220, a community arts collective in downtown Providence. Brown has taught me that you don’t need to choose between the many parts of yourself and has enabled me to fully embrace an interdisciplinary path as an engineering student."
Imagine life after BROWN

You’ll find Brown graduates in every corner of the world and in every profession. Our alumni/ae flourish as independent thinkers, active global citizens and entrepreneurs. They apply the skills they learn here — creativity, problem-solving, critical and analytical thinking, and compassion among them — to make a difference on a global scale or in their professions, schools and communities.

Our students become part of the Brown community as soon as they arrive on campus, and upon graduation they join an active worldwide network of alumni/ae. There’s a Brown Club in virtually every major city, fostering personal and professional connections for a lifetime.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS
FOR THE CLASS OF 2015

- 69% went directly to full-time work
- 20% attended graduate/professional school
- 8% chose travel/volunteer work/other

85% of Brown graduates who applied to medical school were admitted

22 MacArthur “Genius Grant” Awardees: Among current MacArthur Fellows who hold Brown undergraduate degrees are a neurologist, poet, marine biologist, author, doctor, playwright, ecologist, violinist, bioengineer, conservationist and civil rights activist!

16 Pulitzer Prizes have been awarded to Brown alumni/ae

94% of Brown graduates who applied to law school were admitted
If BROWN is for you, we’ll help you get here.

Our financial aid policies are designed to enrich our campus community by ensuring that students of talent and ambition who qualify for admission can come to Brown — regardless of their economic circumstances. We are committed to meeting 100% of demonstrated financial need for all eligible undergraduates as determined by Brown’s Office of Financial Aid.

We are “need-blind” when making admission decisions. Need-blind simply means we do not consider an applicant’s ability or inability to pay the cost of tuition when making admission decisions. This applies to U.S. citizens, and DACA and undocumented students who attend high school in the U.S.

Brown provides a financial aid calculator to help estimate your family’s eligibility for financial aid as you consider your college options and opportunities. For more details, visit financialaid.brown.edu.

Generous financial aid

$47,950
The average need-based award for students in the Class of 2020 who receive financial aid

64%
The percentage of students receiving financial aid who have no loans in their financial aid awards

34%
The percentage of undergraduate students receiving financial aid who have a $0 expected parent contribution from income

100%
The percentage of students’ determined financial need that is met by Brown’s Office of Financial Aid

41%
The percentage of the Class of 2020 receiving need-based scholarship or grant aid

$120.5M
The amount of need-based scholarship budgeted for the 2016-2017 year

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Come to campus ... and experience BROWN.
brown.edu/go/visit

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Brown’s distinctive approach to education demands that students take responsibility for their own intellectual and creative development. As a result, our graduates are prepared to thrive as independent, innovative leaders in a wide range of careers.

— President Christina Paxson