Greetings from the Vice Provost for Global Initiatives

Greetings from Philadelphia! Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Pennsylvania! I am honored to welcome you to the Penn community, and to Forerunner 2015, Penn’s very first Forerunner program. As a participant in this inaugural program, you have the opportunity to learn about your new home at Penn and how to navigate the range of resources and opportunities offered by the University and by the city of Philadelphia.

Soon, you will embark on an incredible journey to Philadelphia, on the other side of the world. Take full advantage of this opportunity to meet others that will be making that same journey and connect with them. Again, congratulations and enjoy your Forerunner experience. Your life at Penn begins in Beijing!

Ezekiel Emanuel, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Global Initiatives

Greetings from the Executive Director of Penn Global

Congratulations on your acceptance into the University of Pennsylvania! Whether you are an undergraduate, graduate, or professional student, I know that your time at Penn will be enriching on both an academic and personal level.

I am delighted to welcome you to Penn’s very first Forerunner program! I hope you will take full advantage of this opportunity to get to know your peers, familiarize yourself with Penn’s many academic and extracurricular resources, and learn about the ways that you can become a student leader on Penn’s campus. It is our hope that you will leave this program feeling prepared and excited to begin your studies at Philadelphia in the fall.

Congratulations again on your outstanding achievements, and I look forward to welcoming you to Philadelphia in person in August.

Amy Gadsden, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Penn Global
Greetings from the Director of International Student and Scholar Services

来自宾夕法尼亚大学的亲切问候！

On behalf of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and Penn Global, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the participants of Penn’s Forerunner Program. This is a momentous occasion as this is the inaugural program. It is our hope that you will find this program to be beneficial and helpful to you. May all of you arrive at Penn with new knowledge and skills and ready to pursue a new chapter in your academic journey!

I would like to express my special gratitude to Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, Ezekiel Emanuel and Penn Global Executive Director Amy Gadsden for their support in launching the Forerunner Program. Their commitment to this project is a reflection of their passion and advocacy for international education. I would also like to thank my colleagues from Penn schools and offices, Pan-Asian American Community House, Chinese Student and Scholar Association at Penn, and Graduate and Professional Student Assembly for partnering with us to make this event successful.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Penn Global ISSS staff, Penn Wharton China Center staff, Penn colleagues, students, alumni and parents whose hard work and expertise has made the Forerunner planning process efficient and effective. We hope that you will gain new insights from our sessions and connect with new found friends. Have an excellent Forerunner experience, a safe journey to the United States and an enriching life at Penn!

通过领跑计划，你的宾夕法尼亚大学生活在开始在北京！

Rodolfo “Rudie” Altamirano, Ph.D.
鲁道夫·阿尔塔米拉诺博士
Director, International Student and Scholar Services
Penn Global
主任，国际学生和学者服务中心
Greetings from the Forerunner Coordinator

领跑计划，带领您扬帆启程！

As the Forerunner Coordinator, I would like to congratulate you on your acceptance to Penn! We are excited to have you participate in this inaugural Forerunner program in July 2015. This program is led by the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) of Penn Global, and is made possible thanks to great collaborations among Penn’s different schools and centers, as well as with student organizations such as the Chinese Student and Scholar Association at Penn (CSSAP) and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA). It is our sincere hope that you will meet new friends, develop leadership skills, get a taste of Penn’s classroom experience, and learn the many resources available to help you succeed at Penn. Forerunner will be one of many unforgettable memories that you will experience at Penn. A wonderful Penn education starts here at Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing!

尊敬的家长，恭喜您的孩子成功入学宾夕法尼亚大学，成为这所百年名校的一员！

领跑计划是我们为新录取的中国留学生准备的一个崭新的培训项目，同时我们也邀请您的参与。作为家长，您可能在兴奋之余，也有少许担心。通过领跑计划，您可以有机会和在校生和校友交流，并直接从校方的教职人员那里答疑解惑。让我们共同合作，帮助您的孩子开启人生的新篇章。他们的宾大教育体验从北京开始！

Lily Zhang, M.A.
Senior Associate Director,
International Student and Scholar Services
Penn Global
About Forerunner

As a host to over 6,000 international students, scholars and visiting faculty from all over the world, The University of Pennsylvania, also known as Penn, is truly a global university. Students from China make up roughly 30% of the international students at Penn, which is the largest international student population on campus. Penn values the many different contributions that these students provide to our community.

Forerunner 2015 is the first year that this program will prepare new Penn students from China by introducing expectations of the classroom culture of an Ivy League institution, grow their social network by meeting new students, and learn where to turn when they face challenges during their time at Penn. A primary goal of Forerunner is to empower students to become leaders and positively influence the experience of their peers on and off campus.

http://global.upenn.edu/issss/programs/forerunner
ABOUT PENN WHARTON CHINA CENTER

Penn Wharton China Center (PWCC) provides on-the-ground support for the growing numbers of programs and collaborations between Penn’s 12 schools and many academic, government, and business partners throughout China. As an outpost for a premier educational institution, PWCC will enable Penn and Wharton to:

• Facilitate Penn faculty and student research in China

• Facilitate two-way exchanges critical to the training of future global leaders at Penn’s Philadelphia campus and in China

• Broaden and deepen Penn students’ learning experiences in an increasingly interconnected global environment

• Enhance Penn connections to alumni and friends in China by providing professional, networking and knowledge resources on-site at the PWCC

• Leverage resources in China essential to understanding the global economic issues and markets

• Share Wharton’s relevance to and impact upon business practices in China and around the world

• Share Penn’s broad, deep scholarship and innovative ideas
THANK YOU TO ALL FORERUNNER SPONSORS!

Sponsors are Penn schools, centers and student organizations that provided financial contributions to host special events that facilitate the success of Forerunner.

Penn Global provides strategic direction for Penn’s global endeavors with a focus on efficient investment of university resources for global activities. Penn Global collaborates with Schools and Center across the University and seeks to catalyze cross-school collaborations to integrate knowledge that addresses key issues. Penn Global partners with leaders from Penn and around the world to develop innovative interdisciplinary global strategies, initiatives and programs.

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) of Penn Global provides core services to international students, visiting scholars, faculty and academic departments at the University of Pennsylvania. ISSS is dedicated to assisting all Penn international students and scholars by providing excellent support in immigration services as well as facilitating successful cultural, social, and academic integration into the Penn community.

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) is the official student government body for graduate and professional students at Penn, representing over 10,000 students across twelve graduate schools. GAPSA members engage in an ongoing dialogue with the leaders of the university, sit in on Board of Trustee and the University Council meetings, and also meet regularly with the Penn’s president and Provost to advocate for student interests. GAPSA is a premier funder of graduate student governments, student groups, student led initiatives, travel grants and research grants and stipends. GAPSA plans events both large and small to keep students connected and engaged in life at Penn. GAPSA welcomes the incoming Chinese International Students and we will take every step to make your experience here at Penn engaging and enriching.

The Graduate Student Center is the gathering place for the graduate student community at Penn. The Grad Center provides activities, resources, information, and a home base for all graduate and professional students at Penn.

Penn is an Ivy League research institution. The Graduate Division of Arts and Sciences, one of nine graduate schools, consists of 29 diverse academic departments.
in humanities, social sciences and natural sciences and we encourage interdisciplinary collaboration with all of our programs to emphasize the integration of knowledge across disciplines. We hope this day-long session will provide you with information on student life, and campus resources to help you make the transition to your new life at Penn.

Penn Law offers an unparalleled environment for the study of law in the United States. Our LLM program is over a century old and recognized as among the best in the world. As the boundaries of traditional legal practice and scholarship blur, a cross-disciplinary approach is critical to preparing law graduates who can navigate our increasingly complex world as leaders and influential decision-makers.

The Undergraduate Admissions Office welcomes the Class of 2019 from China to Penn. America’s first university and a member of the Ivy League, the University of Pennsylvania is an inclusive community where teaching and innovation extend across disciplines. Founded by Benjamin Franklin to push the frontiers of knowledge to benefit society, Penn combines integrated study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional education. Penn’s intellectually flexible and useful education is accessible to talented students of all backgrounds who are inspired to use their knowledge to make an impact on the world.

Operating in the context of an urban research university that supports a culture of inquiry, PennDesign attracts an international community of scholars, researchers, artists and practitioners eager to promote interdisciplinary thinking that expands the scope of art and design and increases its opportunity to make an outsized impact. From reigniting the link between ecology and urbanism, to exploring how generative design not only produces new forms of building but smarter behavior and better performance, PennDesign’s eight degree programs are committed to thought leadership that impacts policy and engages both locally and globally to advance a sustainable future.

At Penn GSE, your academic development will be framed by themes that permeate your graduate experience. As we support your educational journey, we promote these values: Wellness, Integrity, Inclusive Community, Leadership. Our close relationships with students, alumni and faculty enable us to make our students’ experiences fulfilling and meaningful.
The Office of Parent Outreach and Development/Penn Parents is the central resource for connecting undergraduate parents and families to the University. Through events, communications, volunteer opportunities and The Parents Fund, the Penn Parents team is committed to building relationships and creating avenues for parents to feel informed, connected and be uniquely involved in the life of the University and its advancement.


FORERUNNER FACILITATORS

Facilitators are representatives from Penn units that facilitate the sessions and/or activities of the Forerunner Program

Rodolfo “Rudie” Altamirano - Dr. Altamirano is the Director of International Student and Scholar Services at the University of Pennsylvania. His main responsibility is to provide overall leadership in determining and implementing organizational and campus-wide strategies including the delivery of quality services and programs to international students, scholars, faculty, staff, exchange visitors and community members. Dr. Altamirano has a doctoral degree in International Resource Development with a major in Cross-Cultural Communication. With the support of a high performing ISSS team, he has spearheaded high-level strategic initiatives for ISSS that resulted in streamlined business processes and efficient operations. He designed conceptualized, implemented, facilitated and coordinated very successful cross-cultural and academic programs. He has presented and conducted more than 300 immigration, cross-cultural communication and conflict resolution workshops, nationally and internationally, and has won accolades and awards for his presentations, including back to back “Best of Conference” Presentations. He enjoys experiencing different cultures and his quest for learning has taken him to beautiful places in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He and his wife have three beautiful daughters. He resides in Devon, Pennsylvania.

Lily Zhang - Lily Zhang is the Senior Associate Director of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). She has over twelve years work experience in International Education in Higher Education field. Her responsibilities include supervising the advising services team, overseeing the ISSS operational team, leading the IT systems implementation and enhancement, advising students and scholars in immigration, travel, personal and cultural adjustment related matters, and ensuring Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) compliance. She enjoys working and interacting with people with diverse backgrounds. In addition, she believes the beauty of higher education is integrating knowledge among different disciplines and building bridges across various cultures.

Ryan Villanueva - Ryan Villanueva is the Program Coordinator
for International Student and Scholar Services. Ryan develops and implements programs to help Penn international students adjust to their new environment and succeed in and out of the classroom. Ryan’s global travels have taken him from the southern tip of Chile to the western province of China. He enjoys the exchanging of perspectives and ideas across cultures and is dedicated to assisting students integrate into the Penn community and experience what Penn and Philadelphia have to offer. Ryan received a bachelor’s degree in Marketing and Music Industry from James Madison University and a bachelor’s in Spanish Language from Virginia Commonwealth University. He studied abroad in China in 2007.

Yuhong He - Dr. Yuhong He is an International Specialist and a Psychologist at Penn’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). She was born and grew up in China. She came to the U.S. to pursue advanced training in counseling psychology and thus has personal experiences of adjusting to U.S. culture and education system. She has worked extensively with international students through career counseling, psychotherapy, crisis intervention, consultation, outreach, mentoring, teaching, and research for over 10 years. At Penn, she is in charge of outreach and prevention programs to maintain and improve international students’ mental wellness at CAPS. She speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, and Hakka. The Division of the Vice Provost for University Life (“VPUL”) includes 32 departments dedicated to academic support, health and wellness, community engagement, career planning, leadership development, and more. As Penn’s foremost provider of student services and educational access, University Life impacts the life of every student through diverse academic, personal, professional, civic, and cultural experiences.

Kevin Pitt - Kevin Laurence Pitt is currently the Deputy Director of the Office of Student Conduct at the University of Pennsylvania where he oversees all misconduct matters, both academic and non-academic, for the university. Kevin has served in a variety of capacities in his 14 years of higher education experience where he has worked in student housing, fraternity and sorority life and student conduct. Kevin has a wide variety of experience working with international students who are accused of academic integrity violations. As a result, Kevin is committed to educating himself about cultural differences and ensuring international students are well-educated about the issue.

Sonya Gwak - Dr. Sonya Gwak is the Director of Student Affairs and Director of Graduate Admissions in Penn Engineering, overseeing all non-curricular student-related issues from recruitment to graduation. She was born in South Korea, grew up in Ghana, and came to Penn as a freshman and never left, earning all her degrees (B.A., M.S.Ed, and Ph.D.) from Penn. Having been an international student herself, she is keenly aware of the challenges that new students face as they navigate Penn, Philadelphia, and the U.S. She now calls Philadelphia her home.

President Xiaojun Liang, current students and alumni from Chinese Student and Scholar Association at Penn (CSSAP) will be assisting the facilitation of the Forerunner program. CSSAP is an independent, autonomous non-political organization founded by the Chinese students and scholars at the University of Pennsylvania. Our purpose is to improve the mutual understanding and friendship among CSSAP members, to protect members’ legal rights, to provide members with necessary services, and to contribute to cultural diversity of the Penn community.

Kevin WanXin Luan – Kevin is the former Vice Chair of International Affairs for GAPSA 2014-15. A periodontics resident and Masters student at the School of Dental Medicine, his current research involves laser dentistry for bone regeneration with Dr. Wada at the Center for Dental Lasers and Regeneration. Originally from Hei Long Jiang, China, he has since lived in London UK having studied for his dental degree at King’s College London.
10:00am – 10:30am | **Registration - Reception Area**  
At this time, students will be formed into their Forerunner groups.

10:30am – 10:45am | **Welcome Remarks - Plaza**  
**Rudie Altamirano**  
Dr. Rudie Altamirano, Director of International Student and Scholar Services, welcomes and congratulates new students and parents to the Forerunner Leadership Program, Penn Wharton China Center and to the University of Pennsylvania. Also, a special video message from Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, and Dr. Amy Gadsden, Executive Director of Penn Global, will be presented.

10:50am – 11:10am | **Icebreaker – “The Uninhabited Island” - Plaza**  
**Rudie Altamirano**  
This interactive session will engage students in a crucial decision-making experience.

11:15am – 11:45am | **Session: Life at Penn - Tiered Classroom**  
**Yuhong He & Sonya Gwak**  
This session will introduce students to their new community at Penn, the university structure, and the city of Philadelphia.

11:50am – 12:15pm | **Activity: Building Your Network - Tiered Classroom**  
**Lily Zhang & Ryan Villanueva**  
One of the challenges that you will face when you arrive to the U.S. is to build a new social network, and we will help you jump-start the process. This activity will help you to mingle with your peers, find your travel buddies, make housing arrangement, and more.

12:20pm – 1:10pm | **Lunch - Plaza**

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**FORERUNNER SCHEDULE**  
*(Please see Parent’s Schedule on page 14)*
1:10pm – 1:45pm | **Session: Academic Leadership in a Cross-cultural Setting - Tiered Classroom**

*Kevin Pitt & Rudie Altamirano*

This session will introduce you to essential ingredients that will make you a successful Penn student in the academic classroom and the university environment.

1:50pm – 2:10pm | **Activity: Experience a Penn Classroom - Tiered Classroom**

*Sonya Gwak*

Learn the nuts and bolts of a typical Penn classroom.

2:15pm – 2:50pm | **Session: Cross-cultural Engagement at Penn - Tiered Classroom**

*Rudie Altamirano & Yuhong He*

Penn is a large global community! To be successful, one has to be culturally prepared to interact with professors, classmates, administrators and friends from all cultural backgrounds. This session will provide critical tips on how to navigate this diverse experience.

2:55pm – 3:10pm | **Tea Break - Plaza**

Sponsored By:

3:15pm – 3:35pm | **Student Q&A: Survival Tips for Adjustment - Tiered Classroom**

*Yuhong He, Sonya Gwak & Ryan Villanueva*

Hear directly from current international students about how to adjust culturally, socially, and academically to your new environment.

3:40pm – 4:10pm | **Session: Appropriate Behavior at Penn and Beyond - Tiered Classroom**

*Sonya Gwak & Kevin Pitt*

This session will expose you to behavioral expectations related to your role as a student and member of the Penn community and how these connect to U.S. and Penn policies and regulations.
4:15pm – 4:35pm | **Activity: Applying for a US visa and Entering the US - Tiered Classroom**  
*Rudie Altamirano, Lily Zhang & Ryan Villanueva*  
Learn successful strategies through role plays on how to navigate the visa interview experience as well as the port of entry encounter when you enter the United States.

4:40pm – 4:55pm | **Tea Break - Plaza**

5:00pm – 5:20pm | **Alumni Panel: Maximize your Penn Education - Tiered Classroom**  
*Lily Zhang*  
Learn from Penn alumni about how to make the most of your experience at Penn and in the USA.

5:25pm – 5:55pm | **Activity: Penn Trivia - Plaza**  
*Rudie Altamirano*  
In this very exciting and fun game show, your knowledge about your new school will be tested. Learn facts about Penn, its history and how it evolved to become a great Ivy League university!

6:00pm – 7:00pm | **Reception and Closing Remarks - Plaza**

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**Sponsored By:**

![Penn Social Policy & Practice](image)

![Penn GSE Graduate School of Education](image)

![PennDesign](image)

![PennGlobal International Student and Scholar Services](image)

![gapsa](image)
10:00am–10:30am | **Registration - Reception Area**
Parents and guardians will be provided with separate program activities after the Welcome Remarks

10:30am–10:45am | **Welcome Remarks - Plaza**
*Rudie Altamirano*
Dr. Rudie Altamirano, Director of International Student and Scholar Services, welcomes and congratulates new students and parents to the Forerunner Leadership Program, Penn Wharton China Center and to the University of Pennsylvania. Also, a special video message from Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, and Dr. Amy Gadsden, Executive Director of Penn Global, will be presented.

10:50am–11:10am | **Icebreaker – Introductions - Flat Classroom**
*Yuhong He & Lily Zhang*
This interactive session will enable parents to get to know each other and will also provide an overview of the parent sessions.

11:15am–11:45am | **Activity: Discussion – Excitement and Concerns of Sending Your Child to the US - Flat Classroom**
*Lily Zhang*
Sending your children across the globe may present a lot of unknowns. Bring your questions and concerns and leave with a peaceful mind.

11:50am–12:15pm | **Session: Practical Matters - Flat Classroom**
*Yuhong He*
Do you want to know the best way to help and support your children from home? Find out a few practical tips from a Penn professional.

12:20pm – 1:10pm | **Lunch - Plaza**

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Penn Law
University of Pennsylvania Law School

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Sponsored By:
Penn Center at PENN

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Penn Arts & Sciences
PARENT SESSIONS CONTINUED

1:10pm – 1:45pm | Resources for Parents - Flat Classroom
   Lily Zhang & Yuhong He
   Through this session, we will explain how Penn is committed to building relationships and creating avenues for parents to feel informed, stay connected, and get involved.

1:50pm – 2:10pm | Q&A Parent Panel - Flat Classroom
   Rudie Altamirano & Lily Zhang
   Hear directly from a current Penn Parent about how to best support your child.

2:15pm – 2:50pm | Q&A Chinese Student Panel - Flat Classroom
   Lily Zhang
   Hear directly from current Penn Chinese students about what they need from parents.

2:55pm – 3:10pm | Tea Break - Plaza

3:15pm – 5:45pm | Parents Free Time

6:00pm – 7:00pm | Reception and Closing Remarks - Plaza

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