Your Penn life begins at Forerunner!
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. After a very successful 2015 program, we are pleased to extend the same opportunity to you 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 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 Penn life begins here!

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 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. I am confident 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

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 we are conducting this program in China and India this year. 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 Ezekiel Emanuel and Penn Global Executive Director Amy Gadsden for their support in strengthening 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, Penn Rangoli, Penn India Association, Wharton China Association, 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, University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India, 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!

Rodolfo “Rudie” Altamirano, Ph.D.
Director, International Student and Scholar Services, Penn Global
Greetings from the Forerunner Coordinator

Dear Forerunner participants:

I would like to congratulate you on your acceptance to Penn! As one of the oldest Ivy League Schools, Penn offers many avenues to find what you like and what you are good at, and allows you to meet peers who will become your lifelong friends. The Forerunner program is designed to help you transition smoothly into Penn’s unique culture.

We are excited to have you join the 2016 Forerunner program, which was inaugurated last summer at Penn Wharton China Center. The program is led by the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) of Penn Global and made possible thanks to great collaborations among Penn’s different schools and centers, as well as with Penn student organizations. This year, we have expanded the Forerunner program to India and China. It is our sincere hope that you will meet new friends, develop leadership skills, get a taste of Penn’s classroom experience, and learn about the many resources available to help you succeed at Penn. Forerunner will be one of many unforgettable memories that you will experience at Penn.

We also want to congratulate the parents of all Forerunner participants for making a great decision to send your children to Penn. We are delighted to have the chance to meet with you in person, and answer any questions or concerns you may have before sending your precious children far away.

A magnificent Penn education starts here at Forerunner!

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

http://global.upenn.edu/forerunner
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 and India make up nearly half of all international students at Penn. The University values the many different contributions that these students provide to enrich the community.

Now in its second year, Forerunner 2016 will prepare new Penn students from China and India by introducing expectations of the classroom culture of an Ivy League university, growing 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/forerunner

See what last year’s Forerunner participants had to say:

“I enjoyed this experience. It is a great opportunity for me to know the alumni and friends on campus. Wish more and more students could benefit from programs of this kind.”

“My Forerunner Experience was an amazing one! Having met wonderful fellow incoming students, both undergraduate and graduate, and having heard advice from upperclassmen that had various academic and extracurricular backgrounds, I feel like I came out of Forerunner with more understanding of life at Penn and more friends whom I can meet with on Penn’s campus.”

Here is what parent participants had to say:

“It is such a needed program for the parents who feel anxious about their children’s upcoming overseas trip to Penn.”

“I came in with lots of questions and left with a peaceful mind.”
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
ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCED STUDY OF INDIA

The University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India (UPIASI) is the arm, in India, of Penn’s Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI). UPIASI has, over 1997-2016, undertaken over a dozen multi-year, internationally collaborative research projects in two broad clusters – Governance and International Relations – focused on contemporary India, some of which are continuing, besides being the partner in India for CASI projects.

115 scholars from India, the United States and third countries, mostly in Asia, have written a total of 180-plus articles (some co-authored) for UPIASI projects including 45 by the Director. These include scholars from Penn, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Chicago, Berkeley, University of Wisconsin, Madison, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Johns Hopkins, Indiana, UC San Diego, SUNY Albany, and others, besides Hebrew University, University of Warwick, Tsinghua University, Senshu University and other institutions, and from India, JNU, Delhi, Jamia, Hyderabad, Calcutta, Mumbai, Jadavpur, Pune, Kerala, and other universities, and Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Centre for Policy Research, IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore besides others.

The papers written have resulted in 10 edited volumes published by reputed publishers, 20 articles in refereed journals including 2 special issues of refereed journals, and 9 in other journals.

UPIASI has, over 1998-2016, organised 15 academic conferences with international participation.

The international refereed pan-social science journal on contemporary India, India Review, published by Routledge Journals, USA, is edited by the Director, out of UPIASI since 2008.

UPIASI is currently broadening its role from being a research centre to working with Penn Admissions, Penn Alumni Relations and Penn Global.
THANK YOU TO ALL FORERUNNER 2016 SPONSORS!

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

PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS

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 Centers 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.
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 the Board of Trustees, the University Council, and meet regularly with Penn’s President and Provost to advocate for student interests.

It is also the primary source of funding for graduate student governments, student groups, student-led initiatives, travel grants, research grants and stipends. It plans a variety of academic and social events, throughout the year, to keep students connected and engaged in life at Penn.

GAPSA welcomes all incoming international students to their new home at Penn and will take every step to help them make their experience enjoyable 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 Wharton China Summit 我们致力于将峰会构建成全美影响力最大的国家与海外精英们沟通的民间纽带，搭建海外菁英启发与就职的交流平台，连接中美两国的优秀学子和社会栋梁，帮助中国优质企业与海外优秀学子的对接，促成中美各行业企业家之间的对话。
我们希望通过峰会平台为构建中美新型大国关系做出贡献，促进两国人民之间个的交流和理解，构筑合作和信任，达成互赢和发展。
The Undergraduate Admissions Office welcomes the Class of 2020 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.


Penn’s College of Liberal and Professional Studies, a division within the School of Arts and Sciences, offers an unrivaled education in the arts and sciences to students seeking new opportunities in their lives. We connect Penn’s resources with the educational needs of audiences beyond the traditional undergraduate population. Our outstanding students—engaged, curious and driven—come to Penn from all over the world and from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. Through our programming and our community, we proudly embody the University of Pennsylvania’s mission to encourage lifelong learning relevant to a changing global society.
Rodolfo “Rudie” Altamirano - Dr. Rodolfo 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 has designed, 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.

Lily Zhang - Lily Zhang is the Senior Associate Director of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). She has over a decade of work experience in International Education in the 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. 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 helping students integrate into the Penn community and experience what Penn and Philadelphia have to offer. Ryan received a bachelor’s degree in Marketing with minors in Music Industry and Chinese Business from James Madison University and a bachelor’s in Spanish language from Virginia Commonwealth University.
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.

Meeta Kumar - Dr. Meeta Kumar is a psychologist and an experienced professional in the field of college mental health. She currently serves as the Director of Outreach and Prevention Services at the Counseling and Psychological Services as well as adjunct faculty at the University of Pennsylvania. She is responsible for coordination, development and delivery of university wide programs that support mental health and wellness of students. She works closely with all campus constituencies including faculty/staff, student groups and parents/families. She is a national presenter on an array of college mental health topics. She is adjunct faculty in the Asian American Studies department. She is originally from India and received her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania.

Sharon Smith - Sharon Smith, M.Ed. is currently the Executive Director of Student Intervention Services at the University of Pennsylvania. Sharon received her BA in Psychology from Pennsylvania State University and her Master’s in Counseling Psychology from Temple University. Sharon has worked at Penn for 27 years and has held various positions including, Director of New Student Orientation and the Pre-Freshman Program. Currently, as Executive Director, Sharon leads a multi-disciplinary team and oversees the coordination and the provision of support and advocacy services for students and/or families experiencing personal and or social crisis. In cases of University wide student emergencies, Sharon manages the process, convenes case conferences, and works with University offices to coordinate the delivery of services and follow-up. In addition, Sharon serves as a consultant for administrators and faculty from schools across the university regarding issues that affect academic performance, psychological and physical well-being of individual students.

Patricia Rea - Patricia Rea is the Associate Director for Admissions in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and is responsible for recruitment and admissions of one of the largest schools at Penn. She is also the program director of The Leadership Alliance for the Humanities and Social Science programs. She has been at Penn over 30 years and has helped many new students navigate through the graduate experience, from admissions, financial and graduation.
THANK YOU TO PARTICIPATING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The following Penn student organizations were fundamental in helping to shape the Forerunner program.

CSSAP
Chinese Students and Scholars Association at Penn

Wharton China Association

pennrangoli

Pi A
Penn India Association

gapsa
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
University of Pennsylvania
FORERUNNER SCHEDULE

Delhi: June 19, 2016
Beijing: June 26, 2016

9:30am – 10:00am | Registration and Welcome Coffee

10:00am – 10:15am | Welcome Remarks
Dr. Rudie Altamirano, Facilitators, and Student Leaders
Dr. Rudie Altamirano, Director of International Student and Scholar Services, welcomes and congratulates new students and parents to the Forerunner Pre-departure Leadership Program and to the University of Pennsylvania. A special video greeting from Penn Global leaders will also be presented.

10:20am – 10:35am | Icebreaker
Facilitators & Student Leaders

10:40am – 12:00pm | Preparing for Your Journey to the U.S. and Your Life at Penn
Facilitators & Student Leaders
This session will demonstrate different situations that you may encounter on your journey to Philadelphia and different aspects of life at Penn and in the U.S. that you may face. Student leaders will help act out these scenarios so that you can be prepared in many different situations!
There will be a time for Q&A as well as presentations by student organizations.

12:00pm – 1:00pm | Lunch and Breakout groups

Sponsored By:

PennGlobal International Student and Scholar Services
GAPSA
1:00pm – 1:30pm | **Penn Trivia**  
*Dr. 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!

1:35pm – 3:00pm | **Open Dialogue with Parents**  
*Facilitators & Student Leaders*

1:35pm – 3:00pm | **Experience a Penn Classroom**  
*Facilitators & Student Leaders*  
Group projects and teamwork are important aspects of the Penn classroom. Engage in your groups to develop solutions to specific case studies and gain and understanding of common challenges and opportunities for international students at Penn.

3:05pm – 3:45pm | **Penn Alumni Panel**  
*Facilitators & Penn Alumni*

3:45pm – 4:00pm | **Tea and Closing Remarks**  
*Dr. Rudie Altamirano & Lily Zhang*

Sponsored By:
FORERUNNER SCHEDULE
Mumbai: June 22, 2016

6:00pm – 6:40pm | **Registration and Refreshments**  
Facilitators & Student Leaders

6:45pm – 6:55pm | **Welcome Remarks & Introductions**  
Dr. Rudie Altamirano, Facilitators, Student Leaders, and video welcome remarks

7:00pm – 8:00pm | **Penn Student & Alumni Panel**

8:00pm – 8:30pm | **Penn Trivia**

8:30pm – 8:35pm | **Closing Remarks**  
Dr. Rudie Altamirano & Lily Zhang

8:30pm – 9:00pm | **Refreshments**
ISSS-Sponsored Programs

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

Adjust to Penn Today (APT) Workshops will introduce you to practical, academic and cultural aspects of Penn, Philadelphia, and the U.S.

Every year, new international and U.S. students, both undergraduate and graduate, are invited to be part of the Intercultural Leadership Program (ILP). Now in its 10th year, ILP has been designed to foster an intercultural community of leaders who are ready to learn more about communities different than their own and make a lasting impact at Penn and beyond. Learn more at: global.upenn.edu/isss/ilp

Penngagement International Experience Series

August 2016 – April 2017 at Perry World House

Penngagement International Experience Series provides a space for students to interact and learn how to face certain cultural, academic, and personal challenges. Facilitators from different campus offices focus on a topic and provide strategies and resources. Food and refreshments for all! Co-sponsored by Counseling and Psychological Services and GAPSA. Learn more at: global.upenn.edu/isss/isds
Welcome to Penn

International Student and Scholar Services
Penn Global
3701 Chestnut Street, Suite1W
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Phone: +1-215-898-4661
Email: isss@pobox.upenn.edu
Web: global.upenn.edu/iss