

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Congratulations on your acceptance to Marist College! The Center for Multicultural Affairs welcomes you to the Marist community. We look forward to your arrival and to assisting you throughout your future academic career.

Each semester, Marist College schedules an orientation program specially designed for new international students to complement the Welcome Week program offered for all new students through the Office of First Year Programs and Leadership Development.

*All international students are required to attend.*

This informative program will take place from Tuesday through Friday, 26-29 August 2014. Please make arrangements to arrive in the USA **before** Tuesday, 26 August 2014, in order to participate in the program which begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. in Library Suite 337.

Please contact Karen Tomkins-Tinch <Karen.Tomkins-Tinch@Marist.edu>, Coordinator of International Student Programs, before 15 August 2014, to confirm your attendance at the Marist College International Orientation Program. In your e-mail, please include:

1. Your full name
2. Your home country
3. An e-mail address at which we may contact you
4. Your status (either undergraduate or graduate)
5. If parents or other family members will be accompanying you (Please note: Parents are cordially invited to attend the general information sessions and banquet on Tuesday.)
6. If you are an undergraduate planning to live in campus housing during the academic year, please indicate this in your e-mail. You may check into housing on 25 August 2014. If you will be checking into housing on 25 August 2014, please indicate this in your e-mail so that we may have a room available for you. Some students elect to stay in a local hotel with their families for the first night of orientation. This is an acceptable option.

### ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The Marist College International Orientation Program is a four-day, intensive workshop before classes start, with an additional five-session American Culture and Language Seminar during the semester. This seminar will enable you to understand the academic practices and policies vital to success at college in the United States. It will also provide you with a better understanding of American cultural practices. Open discussion is encouraged in the seminar. Both the orientation workshop and seminar are mandatory for all international students. During orientation, all students will take an English language proficiency diagnostic assessment for class placement and diagnostic purposes.

There will be an additional charge of \$130 USD for the orientation program (this includes both the intensive workshop and the additional five-session seminar).

### HELPFUL INFORMATION

The Center for Multicultural Affairs understands the initial hurdles a visitor can encounter in a new country and would like to provide information to help facilitate your arrival at Marist. Based upon our experience, international students often need help in the following areas:

- Information about transportation from John F. Kennedy (JFK) and other area airports
- Housing accommodations
- Information about the academic and financial requirements of Marist College
- Health insurance
- Employment information

## TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT

- The least expensive way to get from JFK airport (and from other area airports) to Marist College is to take a shuttle bus run by New York Airport Service, [www.NYCAIRPORTER.com](http://www.NYCAIRPORTER.com), telephone: (718) 777-5111 (cost: approximately \$15 USD) from the airport to Grand Central Railroad Terminal on 42nd Street in Manhattan in downtown New York City.
- For Metro-North train schedules and information: [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info)
- In the main lobby of Grand Central Terminal, you may purchase a ticket to Poughkeepsie on the Hudson River rail line (cost: approximately \$27 USD).
- Upon arrival in Poughkeepsie, you may take a taxi (cost: approximately \$6 USD) for the short ride to Marist College.
- Please ask the driver to take you directly to Donnelly Hall where you will check in with the Security Office. A security officer will inform the Center for Multicultural Affairs (campus ext. 3204) of your arrival.

### Alternatives:

- You may also take a taxi from JFK airport to Grand Central Terminal, although it will be more expensive than taking the airport shuttle bus.
- A taxi ride directly from JFK airport to Marist College is also possible; however, it will cost approximately \$300 USD or more.
- Another convenient but more expensive option is to hire a car and driver through a car service to take you directly from JFK airport to Marist College. If you coordinate your arrival with other students who are coming to Marist on the same day, you can divide the cost making it more affordable. Examples of such car services are: Expression Limousine Service, [www.expressionlimo.com](http://www.expressionlimo.com); Mid-Hudson Limousine Service, [www.midhudsonlimo.com](http://www.midhudsonlimo.com); or contact Mahogany Ridge Northeast Limousine at [www.mahridge.com](http://www.mahridge.com) or (845) 724-4403.

## DIRECTIONS TO MARIST COLLEGE FROM THE NEW YORK CITY AREA (BY CAR)

For detailed information about driving, please check the Marist College Visitor's Center at [www.marist.edu/about/visit.html](http://www.marist.edu/about/visit.html)

### General Directions:

Take Route 87 (NY State Thruway) North to exit 18. Go East on Route 299 to Route 9-W. Make a right on Route 9-W South to the Mid-Hudson Bridge. Cross the bridge and take the first exit to Route 9 North. Drive approximately two miles; Marist College is on the left.

OR

Take Route 684 North to Interstate 84. Go East on 84 to exit 13. Take Route 9 North approximately 14 miles; Marist College is on the left.

## POUGHKEEPSIE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS CLOSEST TO MARIST COLLEGE

Holiday Inn Express - (approximately 10 minutes by taxi from the Marist campus)

341 South Road (Route 9)

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Tel: 001-845-473-1151, Fax: 001-845-485-8127

<http://www.poughkeepsiehi.com/root/>

Residence Inn - (approximately 10 minutes by taxi from the Marist campus)

2525 South Road (Route 9)

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Tel: 001-845-463-4343, Fax: 001-845-463-4344

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pouri-residence-inn-poughkeepsie/>

Courtyard Marriott - (approximately 10 minutes by taxi from the Marist campus)

2641 South Road (Route 9)

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Tel: 001-845-485-6336, Fax: 001-845-485-6514

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pouch-courtyard-poughkeepsie/>

NOTE: There are many other hotels in the area. These are just the closest to Marist College. For more information about lodging in the area check the Dutchess County Tourism site at <http://www.dutchesstourism.com>

## HOUSING

Undergraduate international students are usually housed on campus. Housing assignments are made by the Marist College Housing Office. You will be notified of your on-campus housing assignment during the summer prior to your arrival at orientation.

We strongly encourage undergraduates to live on campus if possible.

NOTE: Marist College does NOT provide bed linens or towels for students. Students must provide their own. We encourage students to order their bedding prior to arrival at orientation. Orders will be delivered to the Marist Post Office and should be here when you arrive. One way to order linens can be found on the Marist College Web site under “Current Students” on the Housing and Residential Life Web page under “Services” and “Residence Hall Linens,” <http://www.rhl.org/mar>

If you are considering living off campus, please read all of the information and links on the Marist College off-campus housing page at [www.marist.edu/housing/offcampus](http://www.marist.edu/housing/offcampus)

Off-campus apartments with one bedroom may be rented beginning at approximately \$1,500 USD per month. A two-bedroom apartment can be rented for approximately \$1,800 USD. A single-bedroom apartment may be shared by two students and a two-bedroom apartment by four. Of course, you may choose to stay in a single-bedroom apartment by yourself or rent an apartment in a higher price range. Most students share apartments. It is up to you to contact your fellow students regarding their willingness to share living accommodations. As a rule, apartments are leased for one year. Landlords usually demand one month's rent in advance and require an additional month's rent as a security deposit. In order to secure housing, please be prepared to bring enough funds to cover the estimated costs. Usually, apartments are not furnished. You may need to purchase essentials (bed, dresser, desk) upon your arrival. Many students have been able to obtain second-hand furniture at reasonable rates. Please plan your finances accordingly.

Apartments within walking distance are very limited. If you elect to live off campus, you may need a car.

## REGISTRATION FOR COURSES

Incoming freshmen and transfer students will receive a complete course plan prior to the start of classes. You will receive guidance about course schedules during orientation.

## COURSE LOAD AND TUITION COSTS

In accordance with requirements for your student visa, you must enroll at Marist for a full-time course load. The academic year consists of the fall and spring semesters. A limited number of courses are also offered during the summer and January intercessions. Full-time study consists of 12 to 16 credit hours of coursework (four to five courses) each semester for undergraduate students.

Undergraduate tuition for the 2014-2015 academic year is \$16,000 USD per semester. Please check the Marist College Web site for more detailed information about fees and full cost of attendance at [www.marist.edu/financialaid](http://www.marist.edu/financialaid)

Undergraduate tuition and fees are due in early August. Please note that you are expected to pay your semester bill (tuition, fees, medical insurance, and orientation) in full before the start of classes. You will also want to have money readily available for books (which can cost as much as \$200 USD per course) and other living expenses.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

International students are required to have medical insurance. A medical accident and sickness policy is offered through Marist College at an annual cost of approximately \$1,410 USD. All international students are expected to purchase this policy.

Please see [www.marist.edu/healthservices/insuranceinfo](http://www.marist.edu/healthservices/insuranceinfo) for medical insurance policy details.

International students also have full access to the Marist College Health Services clinic on campus.

## **CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT**

International students are eligible to work on campus.

Please note that although opportunities exist for on-campus employment, they are quite competitive and ***may not be available during your first semester***. Please plan your finances accordingly. Do not rely on campus employment.

If employed, you will be paid for the work that you perform on a bi-weekly basis. International students are limited to a maximum of 20 hours per week of campus employment during the academic year. Students may work up to 40 hours during the summer and during semester breaks. According to United States Department of Homeland Security regulations, off-campus employment is not permitted for international students on F-1 visas unless it is through an approved academic internship program. All tuition and fees need to be paid in full when registering, even if you are receiving student employment consideration.

## **CLIMATE**

The weather in Poughkeepsie varies a great deal. During the summer, temperatures may go above 90° Fahrenheit (33°Celsius); and during the winter, they often go well below the freezing point, 32°F (0°C). You will need warm clothing (boots, hats, gloves, and a heavy coat) for the winter because Poughkeepsie can get snow and ice from November through March. During the fall and spring, the weather is generally very pleasant.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

We hope that this information will assist you in your preparation. The orientation program will provide you with answers to your questions and will assist you in your transition to a new and exciting academic experience.

Helpful information for students new to Marist College and the United States can be found in our International Student Handbook on the Marist Web site at [www.marist.edu/academics/multicultural/pdfs/internationalstudenthandbook2010.pdf](http://www.marist.edu/academics/multicultural/pdfs/internationalstudenthandbook2010.pdf). The Center for Multicultural Affairs will be here to assist you throughout your years at Marist College. We look forward to seeing you at international student orientation.

**AGAIN, THE CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS WELCOMES YOU TO MARIST COLLEGE !**

## **CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS**

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION**

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