

# Successful Transition to Academic and Research Training (START) Guide

Welcome to Stony Brook University! We are thrilled that you have decided to join our graduate community, and look forward to the wonderful contributions you will surely make. We hope that the information and resources provided in the START Guide will help ease the transition to Stony Brook, and get your graduate education journey off to a smooth start.

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# PERSONAL

## Housing

Stony Brook does provide on-campus housing for graduate students, as well as resources for those wishing to live off-campus. On-campus housing and off-campus housing have different advantages and disadvantages, depending on students' preferences, priorities, and needs. The information below may help you identify the best housing option(s) for you and your family (if applicable).

### Campus Residences

The [Campus Residences website](#) contains important information. Please read the [Information for New Student Housing](#) page for important deadlines, the start of the room selection, deposit, priority deposit, moving period, etc.

- [Chapin Apartments](#)
- [Schomburg Apartments](#)

### Off-Campus Options

Stony Brook's [Commuter Student Services & Off Campus Living](#) offers information on renting off-campus, major apartment complexes in the Stony Brook area, how to find a roommate, and other campus resources. Additionally, new and continuing graduate students have reported success using the following websites to find off-campus housing:

- [Stony Brook Graduate Housing Group on Facebook](#)
- [Craigslist](#)

When thinking about moving off campus, there are several important points to consider. The list of questions below can assist in your search for a place to live:

- How much can I afford per month for rent?
- Is there a broker's fee? Is there a security deposit? These costs will add to the up-front cost of the apartment.
- Do I want a roommate?
- How will I get to school, work, etc., and how long will it take? This is especially important if you do not (or prefer not) to drive
- Can I afford the cost of utilities, food, gas, cable, etc.?
- Does my landlord have a good reputation/references?
- What is the neighborhood like (both during the day and at night)?
- Who will be responsible for damages, repairs, landscaping, etc.?

## Rental Prices

The options of off-campus housing are far more diverse than living on-campus, as are the prices and the potential problems. Rental prices in the area vary widely based on several factors, including, but not limited to, the landlord, location, space, etc. The price range can go from \$600 to \$1,500 per month, or more. Studios and apartments sometimes include utilities, but always check with the landlord. Additionally, most basement apartments only have one entrance and exit (depending on if you have access to the whole house), so please take your accommodation needs and safety into consideration when making your selection.

The rent is usually not your total cost to live. Check to see if your rental price includes utilities (electricity, heat, internet, and cable, if you want it) - keeping in mind that electricity and heating bills can vary based on usage and the season. If something in the apartment breaks, make sure the landlord is aware and able to deal with the problem to ensure you are in a safe living environment. Renter's insurance is highly recommended and normally costs \$10-\$20 per month (this cost may vary) and can replace many of your belongings in the event of theft, fire, or being lost.

## Location

Since Stony Brook is in a suburban area, public transportation is limited so it is important to know how you will be getting to and from campus. Commuting to school by train is a viable option for those living in Port Jefferson Village, Port Jefferson Station, Huntington, and St. James, due to their proximity to a Long Island Railroad (LIRR) station. Your options are much more open if you have a car, and there are many other towns around Stony Brook that have relatively cheap housing, including Centereach and Rocky Point, or in towns west of campus like Deer Park, Huntington Station, and Farmingdale. Your monthly transportation expenses will vary depending on your use of a personal vehicle or public transportation.

## Landlord-Tenant Communication

The landlord-tenant relationship will mainly be about business, but it doesn't hurt to be friendly in the process. That being said, do not sign a lease with anyone you feel uncomfortable with, or if you have either not seen the actual living space or read the contract. Before signing a contract to move in (the lease), find out exactly what utilities and extra costs you will be liable for. Check everything and take pictures on the day you move in before you put your items away. Note and report any broken or damaged areas or appliances. This will avoid you losing your deposit when leaving the apartment.

Some landlords can be temperamental: be wary of anyone who does not wish to make a rental contract, requests cash as a form of payment, or is not forthcoming with specifics about the living situation.

[Residential Tenants' Rights Guide \(PDF download\)](#) - Renter's have many rights and protections under New York State Law. Bookmark the Residential Tenants' Rights Guide to refer back to if/when needed.

## Best Practices for Off-Campus Housing:

- Visit the area during the night to see how safe it is, especially if you notice any suspicious actions during your visit
- Have a meal with your roommates or interview them as they are interviewing you. Ask questions. You will be living together, so it's ideal for you all to get along!
- Look at multiple places before making a final decision
- Be aware of who you are living with before you enter a living arrangement. It can be difficult to exit a lease before the contract is up.

## Public Transportation

The information provided below of various transportation services within and near campus, including campus shuttle, bike-sharing, Suffolk county and Long Island transportation services. We also provide information about personal vehicles and campus parking.

Please note that the [Campus Commuter Student Services & Off Campus Living](#) office offers support, programming, resources and outreach targeted towards students who live off-campus and can serve as a helpful resource before and during your time at Stony Brook.

## Information about University transportation resources

### Transportation services

[Transportation Services](#) provides a wide variety of transportation options. It operates a bus service all year long to make it easier to get from one side of campus to another, as well as to off-campus destinations.

### Transportation Fee

[Transportation Fee](#): A waiver for this fee was negotiated by the GSEU/RSEU student unions, therefore you should see your transportation and health insurance waivers posted once your hiring paperwork is completed. Please allow Human Resources up to two weeks after filing these forms with your department to see the waivers on your account.

### Campus Bus Service

- [Stony Brook University Shuttle](#) from Mobility & Parking Services (this website contains links to the shuttle service schedules)
- [Live Bus Tracker](#)

Wolf Ride Bike Share

- [Wolf Ride Bike Share](#) website
- [Maps of bike racks and bike paths](#)

Information about non-University transportation resources (buses, train, ferry, and air)

[SBU's Off Campus/Connecting Transportation Website](#)

- [Port Jefferson/SBU Shuttle](#)
- [Weekend Shopping \(PDF download\)](#)
- [Suffolk Transit Connection](#)
- [Suffolk County Transit Bus](#)
- [Long Island Railroad](#) (LIRR)
  - Many students commute to campus from locations around Long Island and New York City on the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR commuter train system). Conveniently, Stony Brook has its own station on the Port Jefferson line of the LIRR, with trains starting and ending in Manhattan's Penn Station and Grand Central Station. You can transfer at certain stops to go to the Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn or different parts of Queens and Long Island. The Stony Brook train station is on the campus's north side. You may consider driving (or taking an Uber/Lyft/Taxi) to the Ronkonkoma LIRR train station, a 15-20 minute drive from campus, for more train options and a slightly faster train line. It costs the same to take the train from Stony Brook or Ronkonkoma. You can buy tickets at kiosks around each station, from a teller at select stations, on the MTA eTix app, or on the train itself. Please remember that if you purchase a ticket on the train after boarding, you will pay more. So make sure you give yourself enough time to purchase a ticket before the train arrives.
  - Use the MTA LIRR TrainTime app to check the schedules on your phone or [MTA website](#) for more information.
  - Call (631) 231-LIRR for information. Use the LIRR to commute to Brookhaven Labs, Cold Spring Harbor Labs, JFK, and LaGuardia Airports and to visit NYC. If you take the train often, you can buy [monthly and/or 10-ride tickets](#) at slightly reduced prices.
- Ferry
  - The [Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Ferry](#) connects Port Jefferson to Bridgeport, Connecticut, from where you can take the Metro North or Amtrak Train to head up the northern East Coast. Depending on where you need to go, it can be faster and more direct than traveling through Long Island and New York City.
  - [Cross Sound Ferry](#) connects Orient Point, Long Island, New York, and New London, Connecticut.
- Air
  - The [Long Island MacArthur Airport](#) in Islip, NY (near Ronkonkoma) offers commercial flights. The area's major flight hubs are NYC international airports: [LaGuardia Airport](#) and [JFK International Airport](#). You can take the LIRR to the Jamaica station and connect to the AirTrain with stops at all of the JFK terminals. LaGuardia Airport has a shuttle bus

connection from the LIRR Woodside Station or the 71st Street-Roosevelt Ave Subway Stop in Queens, NY. Go to [mta.info](http://mta.info) to see routes and schedules. JFK is generally more convenient but check all area airports to get the best rates/time offerings.

## Accessible Transportation

- [Student Accessibility Support Center](#)
  - [Accessibility Transportation](#)
    - Standard Bus Service
    - Para-transit
    - Suffolk County Accessible Transportation
  - [Accessible Parking](#)
  - [Emergencies and Inclement Weather](#) for those who may require individualized assistance

## Personal Transportation

If you currently own a vehicle or are considering purchasing one, this section offers information about navigating the vehicle registration process, securing auto insurance coverage, exploring some options for purchasing a vehicle, and parking on campus.

### Vehicle Registration in New York:

- If you have a car, there are some to-do items. If you are not already a New York resident, be sure to go to the [New York State DMV](#) and change your driver's license and plates/registration to New York State. There are several [DMV offices in Suffolk County](#).
- To register a car in NY, you will need the following items:
  - Car Title (original)
    - If your car is financed, you may have to write to your bank to obtain the title. We suggest you start this process as soon as possible, as it can take several weeks.
  - Social Security Card
  - Other forms of identification
- Note: If your car is registered to your parents who reside out-of-state, you cannot be considered independent, and therefore will be charged the out-of-state tuition rate. As a result, the vehicle must be leased or registered in your name.

### Auto insurance

- You are required to have car insurance in New York State. Geico, Liberty Mutual, and All-State are just some of the popular insurance companies you can shop for the best prices (expect to pay between \$100-\$400/month on insurance, but price can vary).

## Purchasing a Car:

- Certified pre-owned car dealerships around campus that you may wish to research are located in St. James, Smithtown, Medford, Commack, and Centereach
- Car sales from rental companies like [Hertz](#) and [Enterprise](#)
- Sometimes, students who are graduating will sell their car - ask around your department and within your social networks

\*Disclaimer: Information provided above is a limited list of resources of where students can look for a car, but there are more resources available online. Please always check the legitimacy of the car company/dealership/owner and the car condition, and it is advised that you always consult other people not connected with the seller before making a decision. Additionally, Stony Brook University and the Center for Inclusive Education do not endorse any of the companies listed within this guide.

## Parking and Permits

- Visit SBU's [Mobility and Parking Services](#) to apply for a parking permit
- [Campus Parking Map](#)
- Please note that parking on campus is strictly enforced. Campus parking requires an appropriate parking permit and is separated by zones. Green zones are for commuters. Red Zones are for Faculty and Staff (as a PhD student and GA/TA/RA, you qualify for a Faculty/Staff permit). Residential Parking has multiple colors depending on the location of the parking lot.
- Be careful to park in designated areas:
  - Never park in a handicap spot, unless you have a legal Accessibility permit in your name.
  - Also note that you should not park in residential lots, unless you are, in fact, a campus resident and have the proper permit.
  - Parking tickets can add up quickly. Unpaid parking tickets will prevent you from registering and can delay your graduation or the issuance of your diploma.
- As a PhD student and TA, GA, or RA, you qualify for a [Faculty/Staff permit](#). You can also pay daily/hourly for the garage or paid meter lots. Note that you will be eligible for a Staff permit only after you have completed payroll paperwork, because your employee designation must be activated in the SOLAR system. It usually takes at least a week after submission of your paperwork to the Payroll department for this to be accomplished.
  - There is currently no charge for a Faculty/Staff or Resident parking permit, though you may choose to sign up to park in one of the paid lots, such as the Administration or HSC garages, or the Life Sciences "premium" lots. Students living in on-campus housing may obtain Resident parking permits. This may change after the Fall 2023 semester, as the University and labor unions are currently in negotiations over future parking fees.

## Grocery, Shopping, and Dining



Stony Brook campus is conveniently located near many grocery stores and shopping malls. There are also a number of options to choose from to eat on campus. Campus dining has curated a list of healthy dishes offered at the various dining options known as the “[Eat Well Menu](#)”. Below we provide information about the wide range of on-campus dining options as well as nearby grocery stores and restaurants.

## Grocery and Shopping around Stony Brook University

- [Stop & Shop](#) (Weekend Shopping Bus Route)
- [Target](#) (Weekend Shopping Bus Route)
- [Trader Joe's](#) (Weekend Shopping Bus Route)
- [Whole Food](#)
- [Walmart](#) (Weekend Shopping Bus Route)
- [ShopRite](#)
- [ALDI](#)
- [Costco](#)

## Ethnic Groceries

- [Oriental Grocery](#)
- [Stony Asian Mart](#)
- [Ideal Food Basket](#) (Port Jefferson Station, Farmingdale, and Old Westbury)
- [Fine Fare Supermarket](#) (379 Horseblock Road, Farmingville, NY)

## Farmer's Markets

Usually open in Spring and close in Fall/Winter. Check the market websites before heading out!

- [Three Village Farmers Market](#)
- [Port Jefferson Summer Farmers Market](#)

## Clothes/Home Improvement Shopping

- [Smith Haven Mall](#) (Weekend Shopping Bus Route)
- [Macy's](#)
- [Marshalls & HomeGoods](#)
- [Home Depot](#)
- [Lowe's](#)
- [Best Buy](#)
- [Burlington](#)

## Dining

### On-Campus Dining

- [Campus Dining Menu Directory](#)
- East Side Dining/Retail
- West Side Dining
- Jasmine

- Peet's Coffee
- Roth Quad
- Student Activities Center (SAC): Located in the center of campus, the SAC offers a cafeteria with a variety of options, plus a Dunkin Donuts!
  - Starbucks (Roth Quad, Administration Building)
  - [Food Trucks](#)

#### Off-Campus Dining: Some local favorites!

- Breakfast/Brunch:
  - [Brownstones Coffee](#)
  - [Crazy Beans](#)
  - [Toast Coffeehouse](#)
- Caribbean
  - [Caribbean Flavors](#)
  - [Bahama Breeze](#)
- Diners
  - [Setauket Village Diner Restaurant](#)
  - [Lake Grove Diner](#)
- Asian/East Asian/Southeast Asian:
  - [Curry Club at SaGhar](#): Indian
  - [New Golden Buffet](#): American, Chinese & Japanese
  - [Bambū](#): Vietnamese
  - [Ssambap Korean BBQ](#): Korean
  - [Green Tea](#): Chinese
  - [China Station](#): Chinese
  - [Saigon Casa](#): Vietnamese
  - [Súp Vietnamese Phở & Grill](#): Vietnamese
  - [eShin Noodle Bar](#): Japanese
  - [Ichi Sushi Ramen](#): Japanese
  - [Lemonleaf Grill](#): Thai
- Mediterranean
  - [Istanbul café](#): Mediterranean
  - [Yeros](#): Greek
  - [Carrabba's](#): Italian
- Southern/Creole
  - [Voodoo Crab of Centereach](#): Seafood
  - [Chico's Tex Mex](#): Tex Mex
- Bakery/Deli
  - [The Rolling Pin Bakery](#)
  - [Bankert's Bakery](#)
  - [Se-Port Delicatessen](#): Sandwiches (built for sharing!)

## Wolfie Wallet

- [Wolfie Wallet](#) is a campus prepaid debit account linked to your student ID card. It is a safe and convenient way to make food purchases from on and off-campus merchants, make purchases from campus stores and vending machines, mail packages in the residential mailroom, and utilize print and copy services. Wolfie Wallet is different from the Meal Plan. The list of on- and off-campus vendors that accept Wolfie Wallet can be found [here](#). Often, these vendors will give discounts for using Wolfie Wallet to pay!

# ACADEMIC

## Academics and Registration

To begin your journey at Stony Brook University, it is vital that you successfully complete the registration process to access various campus and academic resources. This section provides information about the administrative and academic systems and regulations that govern your academic life at Stony Brook.

The [Online Orientation for New Students](#) provides information and videos to walk you through important information regarding University policies and procedures.

- **SOLAR**
  - [SOLAR](#) is Stony Brook University's primary administrative system. Students use it to register for classes, print schedules, view and pay bills, view transcripts, update personal information, report student employment hours, and more. Log in using your SBU ID number (sent to you previously) and the initial SOLAR password is your date of birth in mmddyy format (i.e.: January 5, 1973 would be typed as 010573). You may change this password later.
  - [SB ALERT](#): Sign up for SB Alert to be in the loop about weather and campus emergencies. Sign up on SOLAR under SB Alert.
- **NetID**
  - [NET ID](#) The NetID and SOLAR ID are two different logins! Information regarding your NetID and NetID password is obtained by logging into SOLAR and clicking the NetID Maintenance link. This is where you find out what your NetID is and how to change your NetID password. Use your NetID to access BrightSpace, Library Databases, Email, etc.
- **DUO Security**
  - [DUO Security](#) Two-Steps Login is an authentication protocol to protect your access. After logging in the systems that require your NetID, you will be prompted to authorize access using a mobile device or landline office phone. Request an account [here](#) to get it started.
- **Stony Brook Email Account**
  - [Google Mail](#) is the preferred email system at Stony Brook University.
  - Your email address will be `firstname.last@stonybrook.edu`
- **ID Card**
  - [ID CARD](#) This multipurpose card serves as a campus ID and library card. More information is available [here](#). You will need to bring one form of government-issued photo ID.
  - Please take steps to safeguard your ID card, as you will be charged a fee (\$25) for a replacement. Further, your ID card will be programmed to grant you access to various buildings or facilities.
  - Tip: Use your ID for discounts at major retailers!
- **Campus Mail and US Post Office on Campus**

- Mail within the University is distributed through the campus mail system. To send campus mail, address it with the individual's name, department, and the 4-digit campus zip code. You can find this information on the [Mail Services Information](#) page. CIE Zipcode is 4422.
- **Graduate Bulletin**
  - The [Graduate Bulletin](#) is updated every semester and includes important information on academic policies and degree requirements. Each graduate degree has its own section of the Bulletin. After reviewing the program requirements, you may find it useful to scan the course listings of other graduate programs to see what elective courses may interest you. Graduate Bulletin Course Search, SOLAR Class Search or College Scheduler are helpful tools for searching for courses. Tutorials can be found [here](#).
- **Academic Levels**
  - Your [academic level](#) is determined by the number of graduate credits you have completed and the milestones that you have achieved. Each of you entering the Program will be classified as either a 'G3' or a 'G4.' These are classifications assigned by the Graduate School:
    - G3 - First year PhD graduate student who has completed less than 24 graduate credits.
    - G4 - Advanced PhD graduate student who has completed 24 or more graduate credits.
    - G5-Advanced student enrolled in a doctoral degree program that has been advanced to candidacy for the doctoral degree by Day 10 of a semester or term.
  - These classifications formerly dictated the number of credits for which a student must enroll, but they are now largely without meaning. All full-time graduate students enroll for 9 credits each Fall and Spring semester – no more, no less.
- **Registration and Deadlines**
  - After receiving guidance from your GPD, please register as soon as possible. Calendars and deadlines are posted on the Registrar's [Academic Calendars](#).
  - To avoid late registration charges (\$50), you must always be registered for at least one credit before the first day of classes.
  - The last day to drop a class, without incurring tuition liability, is the end of the first week of classes.
  - The FINAL DEADLINE to complete any registration changes, such as [adds](#), [swaps](#), [credit changes](#), and [drops](#) via [SOLAR](#), is 4:00 PM on Day 10 of classes (weekends and holidays are not counted).
    - If you are not registered as a full-time student (9 credits) by the end of Late Registration, you will lose your tuition and fees scholarships, as well as jeopardize your full-time student (and F-1 visa) status.
    - This is the last day to drop/withdraw from the university without a "W" (withdrawal) recorded via [SOLAR](#). Changes must be processed by 4:00 PM. Petition to the respective college/school required after this date.
  - Between Day 10 and Day 15 of classes, you may 'swap' courses of equal credit, but a petition to the Graduate School is required.
  - Generally, it is easier to add, rather than drop, classes, as long as you do so before the end of Late Registration.

- Late registration and tuition liability fees are your responsibility, so please make it a point to register early each year. Contact your GPD if you do not know which courses to take or your GPC if you encounter registration difficulties.
- You must be registered as a full-time student throughout your graduate studies to receive tuition scholarships and/or maintain F-1 visa status. You will register for 9 credits each semester. In addition, you must also register for zero (0) credits of Summer Research every year to continue your status as a full-time student. Please be very careful to register for the appropriate number of credits, as significant tuition liabilities will be incurred if you are under or over the proper load and/or miss the critical deadlines. Consult your GPD to obtain permission to register for any additional or alternative courses.
- Registration blocks
  - If you are 'blocked' from registration, first check your [SOLAR](#) messages and account balance. In most cases, you are prevented from registering if you owe any fees (e.g., parking tickets, international students' insurance fee), have not responded to a SOLAR message, or owe documents to the Graduate School. The GPC will work with you to iron out these difficulties, but please do not wait until the deadline to let them know that you need help.
- **Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA)**
  - [Courses and GPAs](#): The Graduate School requires all Stony Brook grad students to maintain a minimum 3.0 (B) GPA in graduate courses taken at Stony Brook.
  - [Academic Probation](#): If a student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 for grades earned in courses numbered 500 and above, the student will be placed on academic probation for one semester.
    - If the overall graduate average has been raised to 3.0 by the end of the semester following notice of probation, the student will automatically return to regular status.
    - A student on academic probation who fails to achieve a 3.0 cumulative GPA by the end of the second semester of probation will not be permitted to re-enroll without permission of the Graduate Program and the Graduate School.
  - Please make sure to check if there is additional requirement from your program on the [Graduate Bulletin](#).

## Tuition and Fees Scholarships

As a funded PhD student, you will receive a Graduate Tuition Scholarship (GTS) that will cover your entire tuition, as well as a broad-based fee scholarship that covers the majority of student fees. Read more about tuition, fees, and fellowships below.

- Doctoral students who are employed full-time as TAs, GAs, or RAs receive scholarships that cover their entire tuition. Employed doctoral students now also receive scholarships that cover all broad-based fees, listed [here](#). **Note that you must be registered as a full-time student by Day 10 of classes to receive your stipend and these scholarships.**
- **Fellowships**: There are several different types of Fellowships available to graduate students.
  - **National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes for Health (NIH) Fellowships**: Domestic students are also encouraged to apply for their own individual [NSF GRFP](#), [NIH F31](#) (Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research

- Service Award), or [NIH F30](#) (Ruth L. Kirschstein Individual Predoctoral NRSA for MD/PhD and other Dual Degree Fellowships) Fellowships; the latter are for MD/PhD candidates. Recipients of individual fellowships typically receive a bonus, above and beyond the standard stipend. Individual fellowships are also academic awards, as opposed to salaries. Recipients of these fellowships should consult the Internal Revenue Service website (and/or a tax professional) for information on taxation of fellowship stipends.
- **Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship:** Domestic students who identify as a member of an historically marginalized and/or under-represented background (race, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, socioeconomic, first generation, veteran status, etc.) may qualify for the [Turner Fellowship](#), funded by the State University of New York Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI). Candidates for this fellowship must be nominated by the department during the admissions process. The [Turner Dissertation Fellowship](#) is awarded to eligible graduate students who did not receive any Turner funding upon entering Stony Brook, and who have advanced to candidacy.
  - **Scholars in Biomedical Sciences (SBS):** The [‘Med into Grad’ program](#), enables Life Sciences PhD students to engage in translational medicine. This opportunity is available to both international and domestic students. Students in years two or three of graduate studies may apply for this competitive fellowship. The track aims to give graduate students an understanding of the presentation, progression, and treatment of diseases related to their area of research. SBS Fellows are teamed with a clinician and complete additional coursework during the fellowship year. Students in the program receive a stipend supplement and funds to facilitate some training-related expenses.
  - **Additional Fellowships:** The University provides information, resources, and assistance regarding [External Fellowships and Scholarships](#) and [Annual Graduate Student Awards](#). The [Center for Inclusive Education](#), for graduate students from under-represented groups, also offers assistance and funding opportunities.
  - Additionally, the University offers information and help in creating an [Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#). All students should consider composing an IDP early in their careers, and the Graduate Program Director (GPD) would be happy to assist.

## Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

The **Graduate Student Organization (GSO)** provides various resources and support for graduate students at Stony Brook University. It is beneficial to familiarize yourself with the GSO resources available to you.

- The [Graduate Student Organization](#) (GSO) is the graduate student government at Stony Brook University. It is incorporated in the State of New York as a nonprofit organization and is legally and structurally independent of the University administration. The GSO’s purpose is to identify and protect the rights of graduate students, advance their interests, provide a forum for public debate, and promote graduate student participation in University affairs. The GSO sponsors numerous activities, provides various services (tax and legal clinics, emergency loans, and more) and promotes interaction among grad students from various disciplines.
- **GSO Membership:** GSO consists of graduate students who are currently enrolled at Stony Brook University and paying the Student Activity Fee. All members of the GSO are eligible to

vote in officer elections, referenda, and other organization-wide ballots. The GSO has five officers: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Speaker. Any graduate student who satisfies the criteria as outlined in the [GSO Election Bylaws](#) is eligible to run for office and may serve on any GSO committee.

- The GSO provides various [Events and Funding Opportunities](#), including
  - Professional Development Reimbursement: The GSO also assists graduate students with the costs of travel related to their research, regardless of whether you will be presenting or not (the amount of reimbursement is different). The competitive Distinguished Travel Award will provide up to \$1,750 for attendance at prestigious conferences or symposia.
  - Departments, Clubs, and Organizations Funding
  - Travel Reimbursement
  - Recreational Reimbursement
  - Graduate Student Emergency Relief Fund

## Research Compliance and Safety

The University offers numerous safety training sessions throughout the year. You are responsible for your own safety and for learning which training is required for your specific research. Please speak with your Graduate Program Coordinator or Director if you are unsure what training is required for your graduate program. Your advisor may also require specific trainings to be completed (either before or during rotations/lab placement). More information, please visit the [Office of Research Compliance](#).

- Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory will offer their own safety training requirements. Please be sure to obtain the required training if relevant.



# EMPLOYMENT

## Appointment and Payroll

Graduate student employees at Stony Brook are appointed as Teaching Assistants (TA), Graduate Assistants (GA), Research Assistants (RA), or Fellows. Graduate Student employees have optional health insurance available to them, and are represented by graduate student unions. This section covers the payroll designations, appointment paperwork, time reporting, taxes, and other employment information for each of these roles.

For detailed information about fellowship funding, please schedule an appointment with the Program Manager of that fellowship.

- Human Resources [Student Employees - GA/TA/RA](#)
- Human Resources [New Employees Guide \(PDF download\)](#)
- HR Office: Located in the Administration Building, Level 3, Room 390

### Payroll Designations: TA, GA, RA, or Fellow

- As a graduate student, you will be appointed to the payroll as a [Teaching Assistant \(TA\)](#), [Graduate Assistant \(GA\)](#), [Research Assistant \(RA\)](#), or [Fellow](#). This distinction is important primarily because of the impact it has on your pay periods and health insurance enrollment. The reason for the difference between these classifications is the source of funding for your support.
- **Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Graduate Assistants (GAs)** are paid from funds provided by the NY State. The TA or GA designation means that your paychecks will arrive on Wednesdays, every two weeks (biweekly). As a GA or TA, you are a member of a collective bargaining unit (GSEU Union) which has negotiated certain benefits for you. Coverage is provided by the SUNY Student Employee Health Plan (NYSHIP).
- After your first year, it is quite likely you will be re-appointed as a **Research Assistant (RA)**, and it is likely this will be your payroll designation throughout your remaining graduate studies at Stony Brook unless you receive a Fellowship appointment. RAs are paid from research funds managed by Stony Brook University's Research Foundation and are represented by the RA Union. Your paychecks will be distributed on Fridays, every two weeks (biweekly). Insurance coverage for RAs is provided by Empire BlueCross.
- **NOTE:** When changing payroll status from State funds to Research to Fellowship or vice versa, it is necessary to complete new tax withholding forms, as well as new Health Insurance enrollment and Direct Deposit forms.

### Payroll Appointment Paperwork

- Appointment paperwork is time-critical to ensure your first paycheck is issued on time. The appointment paperwork is now electronic through [DocuSign](#) unless otherwise noted.
  - You will receive an email from the department via DocuSign. You can find DocuSign Paperwork Videos below:

- [GA/TA DocuSign Paperwork Video](#)
  - [RPA \(RF line\) DocuSign Paperwork Video](#)
- You may need to submit an [I-9 form](#), as well as forms of identification to HR, after submitting the appointment paperwork and HR or the Center for Inclusive Education will let you know if you need to.
  - US students: Valid passport OR valid driver's license plus Social Security card
  - Permanent Residents: Proof of permanent residency plus Social Security card
  - **To enroll in the employee health insurance program, a photocopy of your birth certificate or a copy of your passport is needed.**
- Note that **if you change your address**, it is important to **notify the GPC**, as well as **update your SOLAR account and RF Self-service** immediately. Updating is essential, since payroll, Visa and Immigration Services, and academic records are all tied to your SOLAR account.

## Payroll Direct Deposit

- **Human Resource [My Paycheck](#) webpage**
  - All graduate students are asked to set up direct deposit of payroll checks. You must provide your account number and bank electronic routing number, both of which are printed on your checks. Please provide a voided check or a direct-deposit letter from your bank in order to ensure these numbers are recorded properly.
- **Human Resource [Direct Deposit](#) page** (see instructions for setting up Direct Deposit for RF employees or State employees)
  - It often takes **two pay periods or more for the direct deposit to become active**, and if you change status (from RA to Fellow or vice versa), you must re-enroll in the Direct Deposit program. Also note that any changes to your Direct Deposit instructions must be filed with Human Resources at the Administration Building Room 390.
- For convenience, students without cars often choose to establish accounts at the [Island Federal Credit Union](#), which has branch offices in the Health Science Center as well as the basement of the Student Activity Center. However, any domestic financial institution will do.

## Pay Day and Time Reporting

- Research Foundation employees (Research Assistants and most Fellows) will receive their paychecks on Fridays, every two weeks. State employees (Teaching Assistants) will receive their checks on Wednesdays, every two weeks. Remember to **check your pay stub regularly**. Errors *can* occur, so the sooner you notice a discrepancy, the sooner we can resolve any issues or errors. Withholdings (especially for insurance) can sometimes be confusing, so please check with the GPC before becoming too concerned.
- To view your paycheck
  - RF employees go to [RF Employee Self-Service](#)
  - State employees go to NYS Payroll Online (SOLAR → Student Employment Service → NYS Payroll Online)
- Please remember that it is your responsibility to report your attendance every month on SOLAR if you are supported by **state funds**. You will receive email reminders.
  - SOLAR → For Employees → TA/GA Time Reporting

## Federal and State Income Taxes

- When completing your original appointment paperwork, you will complete both State and Federal tax withholding forms. You may make changes to your withholding instructions at any time, by visiting Human Resources, Administration Building, Room 390. Refer to the Human Resources [Tax Forms and Information](#) page for forms, tax changes for the current year, and information specifically for international students.
- All students filing taxes for the first time are strongly encouraged to attend the [Tax Clinics](#) sponsored by the Graduate Student Organization each year.
  - Each spring semester, the GSO holds a series of Tax Clinics serving both domestic and international students. As part of the clinics, students have the opportunity to sit with tax experts and receive specific advice in regards to their tax preparation.
- GSO also offers [Legal/Tax Clinics](#): If you are a graduate student with traffic violations or landlord problems, help is available to you. The GSO offers free private appointments with a legal professional to graduate students at Stony Brook who need basic legal advice. These clinics occur once a month and ad-hoc appointments are also available for emergency situations. To find out when the next legal clinic is taking place, please email [speaker@sbgso.org](mailto:speaker@sbgso.org).

## FAFSA and Financial Aid

- All domestic students are encouraged (but not required) to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) each year to ensure eligibility for any student loans and [federal financial aid](#) that may be needed. The [Office of Financial Aid](#) can assist and has numerous on-line resources to help with the process. You will need your tax return information to complete the FAFSA.

## Graduate Student Health Insurance and Benefits

- **'Required' Student Health Insurance and Health Insurance Waiver:** Stony Brook requires every student to have basic health insurance. All students are automatically enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) or International Student Health Insurance Plan (ISHIP) to ensure no one is overlooked. These plans are intended primarily for undergrads and provide limited coverage.
- IMSD scholars are eligible for health insurance. The grant covers the premiums for individual coverage. However, you must notify us upon acceptance of the need for coverage. Health insurance is only provided if requested. Family coverage is available at an additional out-of-pocket cost. If there are any changes to your circumstances, please contact CIE immediately.
- It is **important to waive** the mandatory health insurance on SOLAR every semester. Waiver requires proof of coverage.
- Please watch the Health Insurance video from the [Online Orientation for New Students](#) for more information about health insurance for TA, GA, RA, and Fellows.
- As a Graduate Student Research Assistant (RA), Teaching Assistant (TA), Graduate Assistant (GA) or Research Fellow, you are provided with **Graduate Student Health Insurance benefits**. There are some differences in the plans for State GAs/TAs versus the plan for Research Assistants and Fellows. It is important to attend to learn more about the insurance and how to use it, as well as how to enroll your spouse, dependents and/or domestic partner. Graduate student insurance includes dental and vision coverage, in addition to medical benefits. For

specific information, forms, premium rates, and other useful links, refer to the appropriate website indicated below.

- **RESEARCH Graduate Students:** Graduate students paid solely with Research funds (RAs and some Fellows) can find detailed information on their benefits on the Human Resource Services [RF Graduate Student](#) → [Fellows](#) website.
  - As an IMSD scholar, you will be appointed as Fellow (Non-wage paid scholar)
- **STATE Graduate Students:** Graduate student TAs and GAs (paid with State funds) can find detailed information on their benefits on the Human Resource Services [State Graduate Student](#) website. To view your Benefits Handbook, log on as a 'graduate student' at [NYSHIP online](#).

## Vacation Policy

- First-year laboratory rotations usually run from the first day of classes through May, please make sure to communicate your absence with your PI and GPD. Once in a lab, be sure to ask about lab etiquette regarding time off/holiday closings, and communicate as early as possible if you need to take time off.
- If you are an IMSD Scholar or Affiliate, you are required to attend program related workshops. If you are expected (or unexpected) to be absent, please communicate with the IMSD Program Manager.

## Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU)/Research Assistant Union

The GSEU and RA Union is a democratic organization run by and for graduate employees. There are also professional development funds available.

- The [Graduate Student Employee Union \(GSEU\)](#) is a labor union that represents all Graduate Employees working for the State of New York. Their sister union, the [Research Assistant Union](#), covers all Graduate Employees working for the Stony Brook Research Foundation.
- **Not sure which one you are?**
  - Here's an easy test:
    - State employees get paid on Wednesday, and RF employees get paid on Friday. Both GSEU and the RA union are part of Local 1104 of the Communications Workers of America. The local is headquartered in Farmingdale in nearby Nassau County.
    - As a Graduate Employee your working conditions, wages, health insurance, and other benefits are governed by our labor contract with the State. The unions work to ensure that we all have a voice on the job and that our labor is valued. A majority of instructional and research work at Stony Brook is performed by members of GSEU and RA union. The unions want to ensure you are not mistreated or overworked and that your work is properly valued, both in terms of compensation and respect.
- Both GSEU and RA Union have regular general membership meetings where they decide the direction of the union and members can raise thoughts, questions and concerns. Both GSEU and RA Union also have monthly meetings and regular social events, usually monthly.

- Only signed members can participate in the union. This includes voting on contracts. The GSEU has a contract vote in a few weeks and the contract covers the next 4 years. If you want a say in how the next 4 years of your work is organized, join GSEU and vote on the next contract. GSEU members also get exclusive benefits such as free drinks at union social events, paid training, and political education (meaning you get paid to attend), and other fringe benefits such as discounted pet insurance and discounts on telephone connections among other things.
- Both GSEU and RA Union also provide Professional Development Fund, in addition to the GSO reimbursement and/or department fund, for Union members.
  - [GSEU Professional Development Fund](#) supports job-related projects or activities to acquire skills and knowledge to develop professionally
  - [RA Professional Development Fund](#) for graduate students employed as Research Project Assistants by the Research Foundation to attend conferences

## OTHER

### Establishing New York State Residency

- All graduate students who are US citizens or permanent residents but not residents of New York State **must establish NY residency before the start of the Fall semester following their first year**. If you are not a New York State resident but **are eligible** to establish residency and have not completed this process by then, you will be charged for the difference between [in-state tuition and the out-of-state rate](#) (more than \$4,000 per semester). This extra charge will be your responsibility, since, beginning with your third semester, your tuition scholarship is calculated at the in-state tuition rate.
- Detailed information on [How to Apply for Residency](#) (including application deadlines), along with the Residency Application Form, is posted on the Student Financial Services website.
  - Application form can be found [here](#)
  - Deadline for Fall is **August 17th** (Always check the link above, in case the deadline changes!)
- To establish residency, you should register to vote (at a local post office) and obtain a New York State driver's license. If you own a car that is registered in your name, and you wish to use free Faculty/Staff parking, you will need to change to New York State registration and register your vehicle in NY State. Other documents that can be used to support your application for residency are a local bank account (with statements mailed to your local address) or a utility bill in your name, showing a local address.
- Students who wish to remain on their parents' health insurance policy may still establish residency, providing all other documents have a valid NY address.

# Child Care Resources and Childbirth Accommodation Program

## SBU Child Care Services

- Website: [Stony Brook University Child Care Services](#)
- Child Care Services: (631)632-6930
- The [Child Care Services](#) have an Infant and Toddler Program (8 weeks to 3 years) as well as a Preschool Program (3 years to 5 years)
- [Apply for Child Care](#)

## Childbirth Accommodation Policy

- Stony Brook University's Graduate School has established a special program (SB-CAP) for students who bear children during the course of their PhD studies. This enables pregnant and child-bearing Graduate School students to maintain full-time, registered student status and facilitate their return to full participation in class work, research, teaching, and clinical training.
- SB-CAP includes provisions for academic extensions, relief from regular teaching, research, or training duties and short-term financial support for students normally paid as Teaching Assistants, Graduate Assistants, or Research Assistants. Under this program, the Graduate School pays the student's stipend, so that the mentor's financial resources are not strained during the period the student is not in the lab.
- You can download the [Request for Childbirth Accommodation Approval Form](#). Additionally, there is more information listed on the [Graduate School Resources for Students with Children website](#) (*note that the form link on this website does not work as of May 2024*).
- [Parental Leave](#) is granted for a period of 12 weeks for RAs or one semester for State GAs and TAs.
- Please note that pregnant graduate students must inform their GPD and research mentors that they wish to take leave **by the 24th week of pregnancy**. Students must have the knowledge and consent of their advisor, program directors, and professors, as well as a doctor's note, to be eligible.

## Resources for Students with Children

- SBU Website: [Resources for Students with Children](#)
  - Student Emergency Support Fund
  - Breastfeeding Support
  - Child Care & Schools: including Stony Brook University Child Care
  - Family Housing/Campus Residences
  - Suffolk County Support Programs
  - Activities and Scholarships



# Supporting Resources (Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, General Concerns at Work or Academic)

## Health and Mental Health Services

- [Student Health Services](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#): Student Health & Counseling Center, Second Floor. CAPS provides confidential individual and group counseling. Call (631) 632-6720 to make an appointment.
  - If you are experiencing [an urgent mental health need](#) after hours, you can call the [CAPS Crisis Line](#) at (631) 632-6720.
- [Center for Prevention and Outreach \(CPO\)](#): CPO offers services to address your concerns about mental health, alcohol and other substances, healthy relationships and sexual violence. SB Union, Room 108. (631) 632-2748.
- [Student Accessibility Support Center \(SASC\)](#)
  - [SASC Center Sensory Space](#)
- [TimelyCare](#): TimelyCare provides 24/7 virtual access to medical and mental health services to all Stony Brook students, including distance learning students, right from your mobile device or computer. Whether you're under the weather, anxious, or overwhelmed, or just need to talk to someone, you will be able to talk to a licensed provider, either by a voice or video call, for free.
- [Leonard Krasner Psychological Center \(KPC\)](#): KPC is affiliated with the Stony Brook Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. The KPC is an outpatient mental health facility that has been serving the community. As a nonprofit training clinic for clinical psychologists, KPC provides psychological services based on the latest clinical and research advances.
- Resources for finding therapists under the university insurance: [Zocdoc](#) (you can specify location and enter your insurance program)

## General Support Services for Academic and Employment Issues

- [Student Support Team](#): The Student Support Team helps you navigate an issue or concern, including if you have an extended illness and are out of class for more than 5 days. If you don't know where to go, the Student Support Team is available to help you.
- [Ombuds Office](#): The Ombuds is an impartial and independent resource for any individual within the university community seeking assistance or information in pursuit of the resolution of a concern or problem related to their life or work at the university, including work and academic related concerns.
- [Graduate School Advocate](#): Similar to the [Ombuds Office](#), the Graduate Student Advocate (GSA) can help resolve problems students may encounter during their graduate studies at Stony Brook. In many situations, students may simply need more information or assistance finding and contacting the appropriate people within the University. We're here to help.
- [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#): The EAP at Stony Brook University is a confidential assessment, referral and consultation service available at no cost to faculty, staff, graduate employees, retirees and their dependents.

- **[Employee and Labor Relations](#)**: The Employee and Labor Relations Department provides assistance to the Stony Brook University and Research Foundation employee community in promoting a productive and positive work environment on campus, including advising supervisors regarding the development of solutions to address workspace issues and to resolve workplace conflict which recognizes both organizational and individual needs and objectives.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Services

- **[Office of Equity and Access](#)**: Report any concern or incident involving sexual misconduct, discrimination, or accessibility barrier. Administration Building Room 201.
- **[Justice for the Underserved in STEM \(JUST\)](#)**: JUST Committee is dedicated to educating graduate students, laboratory personnel, and faculty about diverse identities among people in STEM and how they intersect. The committee will work to promote an inclusive environment where individuals from all backgrounds are always welcome.
- **[Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Intercultural Initiatives \(DI3\)](#)**: DI3 sponsors and promotes initiatives, as well as, provides resources for addressing issues of equity and diversity in institutional structure, recruitment and retention, curriculum, community climate, and outreach and engagement.

## Financial Support Services

- **[CIE Emergency Support Award Fund](#)**: was established to aid doctoral students experiencing severe financial hardships. Eligible students faced with impending funding lapses may receive a **one-time stipend up to \$3,000 for the fall OR spring, or \$2500 for the summer**. Given the nature of these types of emergency awards, we will accept applications on a rolling basis, however only a few awards will be made annually.
- **[Hardship Fund](#)**: The Hardship Fund is a program available to assist eligible faculty, staff and students who are experiencing a personal financial emergency and who have exhausted all other avenues for obtaining assistance. The fund is not a loan. It is a grant of up to \$599 designed to address an event or catastrophe that is non-recurring, sudden, unexpected, and critical, such as: family crisis, acute illness, natural disaster, fire, etc.
- **[SBU Food Pantry](#)**: The Stony Brook University Food Pantry serves community members (students, staff and faculty) who are food insecure, or who are at risk of food insecurity. We are committed to being a reliable and stable supplemental food source while providing resources to overcome food insecurity.
- **[Student Support Team Student Emergency Support Fund](#)**: The Student Emergency Support Fund provides limited grant funding to matriculated Stony Brook undergraduate and graduate students who are experiencing an unexpected financial crisis that may be impacting your ability to continue on your academic journey. The fund is in place for students who have exhausted all financial aid resources, including available loans, to assist with educational needs (excluding tuition and housing).
- **[Graduate Student Emergency Relief Fund](#)**: This fund is provided to graduate students who have undergone a financial and/or medical emergency. Please contact Graduate Student Advocate and the International Student Advocate for more information.



## Campus Safety

- Stony Brook's [Good Samaritan policy](#) encourages students to call for help without fear of facing University sanctions.
- [Red Watch Band](#) is a bystander intervention program that teaches you how to intervene and save a life. [Sign up for training](#).
- [Red Book](#): Stony Brook University is committed to a safe campus community and respectful learning environment. Professional staff and faculty members are often the first to notice a student in distress. These guidelines are intended to provide resources to help you respond when you recognize a student in need.
- [Hazing](#) can happen in many shapes and forms, and not only through the use of alcohol or other drugs. It is any action taken or situation that endangers another person's psychological, emotional, or physical health, regardless of the person's willingness to participate, for the purpose of joining or maintaining membership with any organization, group, or team. Hazing is not tolerated at Stony Brook. If you see something, say something.
  - Stony Brook's Hazing Amnesty encourages students to report hazing incidents without fear of facing University sanctions in most instances. Report hazing incidents using the ["Report" form](#) on our Hazing Prevention website or contact University Police at (631) 632-3333 or 333 from a campus phone.
- Stony Brook is committed to **preventing sexual violence**. [Green Dot](#), a bystander intervention program, teaches you how to recognize risky or potentially violent situations. In addition, the [Survivor Advocate & Prevention Specialist](#) provides 24/7 confidential advocacy and support to students who experience sexual or interpersonal violence.
- Be mindful of your surroundings when traveling to, from, and around campus. When you are driving, biking, or walking, respect traffic regulations and avoid texting or talking on the phone. If there is ever a situation where you feel unsafe, call University Police at 333 from a campus phone or (631) 632-3333 from non-campus phones. Visit the [Campus Safety](#) page for more information.

## Professional and Career Development

- [Career Center](#)
  - The Career Center provides career coaching and support for students in masters and doctoral programs. They offer virtual and in-person programs, events, coaching sessions, and other opportunities.
  - [Handshake](#): Handshake is the only job posting site at Stony Brook University and serves as the Career Center's recruiting and career services platform for students, alumni and employers.
  - Join one or more of [Career Communities](#)
- [PhD Career Ladder Program](#)
  - The Stony Brook University PhD Career Ladder Program (PCLP) is a peer-led career mentoring program for grad students and postdocs pursuing any career pathway. PCLP was founded by graduate students in the MCB program. PCLP helps participants set aside a few hours each week to develop a framework for their job search. Biweekly meetings guide participants "up the ladder" of career exploration from self-assessment to career research and skill identification, to informational interviewing, to resume crafting.
- [Graduate Women in Science and Engineering \(GWISE\)](#)

- GWISE’s mission is to enhance the scientific, professional, and personal development of graduate women pursuing STEM degrees and provides a space for dialogue on issues unique to women in sciences.
- [External Fellowships and Scholarships](#)
  - External Scholarships and Fellowships Advising is responsible for managing the on-campus nomination process for nationally-competitive , merit-based awards, as well as offers extensive advising and support for student and postdoc applicants to these types of opportunities

## Social and Recreational Activities

### On Campus Activities

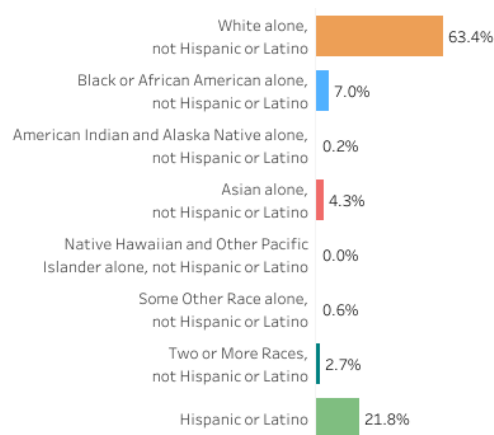
- [Campus Recreation and Wellness](#): Stony Brook offers recreational facilities in the form of a gym, the university pool, and many other activities and fitness classes.
- [Staller Center for the Arts](#): The Staller Center for the Arts offers a wide variety of world class performances from September through May and presents the Stony Brook Film Festival every July.
- [Student Engagement and Activities](#): The Department of Student Engagement & Activities is committed to elevating the student experience by fostering developmental, dynamic, and inclusive co-curricular experiences through engaging events, memorable traditions, and a community of recognized student organizations.
  - [Get Involved](#)
  - [SB Engage](#) and [CORQ app](#) connect students with opportunities, events, and organizations on campus

### Off Campus Activities

- [Beyond the Brook](#): An SBU resource with information needed to explore what Long Island and New York City has to offer socially, culturally, and recreationally

## Racial and Religious Demographics, Employee Salary Transparency

- [Stony Brook University Graduate Student Race and Ethnicity Demography](#)
  - Source: [SBU Fall Enrollment Dashboard](#)
  - (Tables attached below)
- [Census Reporter](#) - Stony Brook, NY
- Race and Ethnicity
  - [Stony Brook, NY \(Census 2021\)](#)
  - [Suffolk County, NY \(Census 2021\)](#)
  - [US Census](#): Suffolk County, NY (July 2022) - *see graph to the right*
    - [SeeThroughNY](#) (see also their [SeeThroughNY Payroll](#) link for information about payrolls)
- [Religious demographic](#) in Suffolk County, New York
  - Source: [Sperling’s BestPlaces](#)



- 72.6% of the people in Suffolk County are religious:
- 0.4% are Baptist
- 0.8% are Episcopalian
- 60.0% are Catholic
- 2.2% are Lutheran
- 1.7% are Methodist
- 0.8% are Pentecostal
- 1.0% are Presbyterian
- 0.2% are Church of Jesus Christ
- 2.2% are another Christian faith
- 1.4% are Judaism
- 0.4% are an eastern faith
- 1.3% are affiliated with Islam



**Stony Brook University Fall Headcount Enrollment by Any Indicated Race/Ethnicity, 1995-2022**  
**GRADUATE STUDENTS 1995-2008**

Individuals may appear in more than one category; the sum of categories will exceed the total in 2010 and later

Level / Race and Ethnicity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Graduate &amp; Professional Students (N)</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>6,049</b>	<b>6,062</b>	<b>6,368</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>6,667</b>	<b>7,209</b>	<b>7,765</b>	<b>8,272</b>	<b>7,827</b>	<b>7,724</b>	<b>7,675</b>	<b>7,828</b>	<b>8,070</b>
American Indian or Alaskan Native	13	17	16	18	19	15	15	19	19	16	17	19	19	12
Asian	1,066	1,034	1,128	1,144	1,146	1,233	1,326	1,410	1,463	1,445	1,467	1,529	1,618	1,594
Black or African American	273	265	275	299	317	354	359	389	492	456	452	436	437	425
Hispanic or Latino	266	272	277	278	295	307	327	351	387	358	377	417	431	489
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander														
White	4,315	4,153	4,116	4,332	4,289	4,323	4,453	4,861	5,006	4,715	4,499	4,292	4,280	4,422
Race/Ethnicity unknown	247	308	250	297	383	435	729	735	905	837	912	982	1,043	1,128
<b>Percent of Total</b>														
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	17.2	17.1	18.6	18.0	17.8	18.5	18.4	18.2	17.7	18.5	19.0	19.9	20.7	19.8
Black or African American	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.3
Hispanic or Latino	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.9	5.4	5.5	6.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
White	69.8	68.7	67.9	68.0	66.5	64.8	61.8	62.6	60.5	60.2	58.2	55.9	54.7	54.8
Race/Ethnicity unknown	4.0	5.1	4.1	4.7	5.9	6.5	10.1	9.5	10.9	10.7	11.8	12.8	13.3	14.0
<b>Percent with Known Race/Ethnicity</b>														
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Asian	18.0	18.0	19.4	18.8	18.9	19.8	20.5	20.1	19.9	20.7	21.5	22.8	23.8	23.0
Black or African American	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.5	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.1
Hispanic or Latino	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.5	6.2	6.4	7.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
White	72.7	72.3	70.8	71.4	70.7	69.4	68.7	69.1	68.0	67.5	66.0	64.1	63.1	63.7

**About these data:** Total headcount reflects official statistics reported to the U.S. Department of Education through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Race/ethnicity statistics differ from those reported to IPEDS. Prior to 2010 data for race/ethnicity categories were collected as a single question combining race and ethnicity. In 2010 and later, individuals were asked to report ethnicity (Hispanic/not Hispanic) separately from race, with the potential to indicate more than one race. These tables differ from statistics reported to IPEDS because they display counts of each race or ethnicity indicated by an individual without regard to visa or citizenship status; percentages will add to more than 100 percent in 2010 and later. Unlike statistics available through IPEDS, the reported race/ethnicity categories of international students are included in counts and percentages. Percent of total uses the total number of students as a denominator. Percent with known race/ethnicity remove students with unknown race/ethnicity from the denominator because changes in the population with unknown race/ethnicity can distort percentages; these statistics are recommended for comparison with data published by the U.S. Census. \* Data collection using two-part question begins; percentages total to over 100% in 2010 and later years.

**Stony Brook University Fall Headcount Enrollment by Any Indicated Race/Ethnicity, 1994-2021**  
**GRADUATE STUDENTS 2009-2022**

Individuals may appear in more than one category; the sum of categories will exceed the total in 2010 and later

Level / Race and Ethnicity	2009	2010*	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Graduate &amp; Professional Students (N)</b>	<b>8,297</b>	<b>8,237</b>	<b>8,135</b>	<b>8,109</b>	<b>8,151</b>	<b>8,127</b>	<b>8,441</b>	<b>8,708</b>	<b>8,625</b>	<b>8,734</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>8,772</b>	<b>8,609</b>	<b>8,201</b>
American Indian or Alaskan Native	17	25	26	35	43	46	49	62	69	67	68	56	58	55
Asian	1,782	2,027	2,096	2,218	2,319	2,381	2,491	2,503	2,575	2,558	2,672	2,440	2,136	2,037
Black or African American	446	460	402	397	461	509	533	563	578	613	623	633	605	577
Hispanic or Latino	470	552	476	475	550	630	611	638	689	798	808	898	860	772
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		4	5	7	6	8	9	13	15	19	19	23	14	21
White	4,555	4,383	3,988	3,668	4,016	4,010	4,189	4,301	4,250	4,406	4,517	4,656	4,087	3,641
Race/Ethnicity unknown	1,027	994	1,269	1,464	938	751	904	1,011	866	766	728	678	1,511	1,762
<b>Percent of Total</b>														
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7
Asian	21.5	24.6	25.8	27.4	28.5	29.3	29.5	28.7	29.9	29.3	30.0	27.8	24.8	24.8
Black or African American	5.4	5.6	4.9	4.9	5.7	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.0
Hispanic or Latino	5.7	6.7	5.9	5.9	6.7	7.8	7.2	7.3	8.0	9.1	9.1	10.2	10.0	9.4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
White	54.9	53.2	49.0	45.2	49.3	49.3	49.6	49.4	49.3	50.4	50.7	53.1	47.5	44.4
Race/Ethnicity unknown	12.4	12.1	15.6	18.1	11.5	9.2	10.7	11.6	10.0	8.8	8.2	7.7	17.6	21.5
<b>Percent with Known Race/Ethnicity</b>														
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9
Asian	24.5	28.0	30.5	33.4	32.2	32.3	33.1	32.5	33.2	32.1	32.7	30.1	30.1	31.6
Black or African American	6.1	6.4	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.9	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.8	8.5	9.0
Hispanic or Latino	6.5	7.6	6.9	7.1	7.6	8.5	8.1	8.3	8.9	10.0	9.9	11.1	12.1	12.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
White	62.7	60.5	58.1	55.2	55.7	54.4	55.6	55.9	54.8	55.3	55.2	57.5	57.6	56.5

**About these data:** Total headcount reflects official statistics reported to the U.S. Department of Education through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Race/ethnicity statistics differ from those reported to IPEDS. Prior to 2010 data for race/ethnicity categories were collected as a single question combining race and ethnicity. In 2010 and later, individuals were asked to report ethnicity (Hispanic/not Hispanic) separately from race, with the potential to indicate more than one race. These tables differ from statistics reported to IPEDS because they display counts of each race or ethnicity indicated by an individual without regard to visa or citizenship status; percentages will add to more than 100 percent in 2010 and later. Unlike statistics available through IPEDS, the reported race/ethnicity categories of international students are included in counts and percentages. **Percent of total** uses the total number of students as a denominator. **Percent with known race/ethnicity** remove students with unknown race/ethnicity from the denominator because changes in the population with unknown race/ethnicity can distort percentages; these statistics are recommended for comparison with data published by the U.S. Census. \* Data collection using two-part question begins; percentages total to over 100% in 2010 and later years.

 Source: SBU Data Warehouse, IRPE Student Extract Files  
 Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness - September 13, 2022

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## Places of Worship in and surrounding the University

- **Churches**

- St James Roman Catholic Church [429 NY-25A, Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733](#)
- Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church [33 Christian Ave. Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733](#)
- All Souls Episcopal Church [61 Main St, Stony Brook, NY 11790](#)
- Caroline Episcopal Church [1 Dyke Rd, Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733](#)
- Messiah Lutheran Church [465 Pond Path, Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733](#)
- Setauket United Methodist Church [160 Main St, Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733](#)
- Presbyterian Church-Setauket [5 Caroline Ave. Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733](#)
- Three Village Church [322 Main St, Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733](#)
- Stony Brook Christian Assembly [400 Nicolls Rd. Setauket- East Setauket, NY 11733](#)

- **Jewish Temples**

- Masonic Temple [312 Main St, Port Jefferson, NY 11777](#)
- Temple Isaiah [1404 Stony Brook Rd, Stony Brook, NY 11790](#)
- Temple Bet (Coram Jewish Center) [981 Old Town Rd, Coram, NY 11727](#)



- **Mosques**
  - Selden Masjid - IALI [10 Park Hill Dr, Selden, NY 11784](#)
  - Mevlana Mosque [366 Terryville Rd, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776](#)
  - Fatima Alzahraa Mosque / AMLI Masjid [55 Lake Shore Rd, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779](#)
  - Suffolk Islamic Center (Ronkonkoma Masjid) [232 Ronkonkoma Ave, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779](#)
- **Hindu Temple**
  - Hindu Temple and Cultural Center [600F Middle Country Rd, Selden, NY 11784](#)
- **Buddhist Temples**
  - Vajiradhammapadip Temple (Wat Vajiradhammapadip) [110 Rustic Rd, Centereach, NY 11720](#)
  - Chùa Từ Tâm [356 Terryville Rd, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776](#)

## **Monthly Budget and Spending Estimation**

- Based on the survey of the current scholars, the **average monthly budget** is between 1,600 - 1,800, but the range varies from 1,400 to 2,300 (and more). The estimated budget varies depending on the spending habits and financial circumstances.
- Below is a list of the spending priority (rank by priority)
  1. Housing and rent
  2. Food and grocery
  3. Transportation
  4. Health and medical expense
  5. Entertainment and recreation
  6. Equipment and supplies
  7. Prior loan
  8. Family responsibility
  9. Child care

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- The Genetics Graduate Program Students and Faculty who helped create its Student Guide, which helped shape the IMSD START Guide
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- IMSD Scholars who provided critical feedback on what to include in the START Guide
- Graduate Student Organization (GSO)
- IMSD Leadership: Dr. Peter Gergen (IMSD PI), Co-PIs Dr. Jennie Williams and Karian Wright, and Rosalia Davi (Program Manager)
- IMSD Steering Committee Members

## **Center for Inclusive Education Resources**

- The [Center for Inclusive Education](#) (CIE) has developed innovative [services and activities](#) to promote the success of scholars from historically marginalized and otherwise disadvantaged communities. These services and activities focus on providing scholars with academic and professional preparation, access to mentoring and advising, and the support of a vibrant community of researchers and academics to ensure that they successfully complete their education and training to ultimately become productive members of the academic and scientific workforce.
- CIE Library ([library cat link from Grace](#))
- Laptop Lending Program: The CIE offers a Laptop Lending program for CIE Scholars who may need a temporary laptop. Please email [CIE@stonybrook.edu](mailto:CIE@stonybrook.edu) for more information.
- The CIE's multipurpose space is open for CIE Scholars to visit or work in. Scholars are welcome to the coffee and snack station, along with two wellness carts: one with several types of arts and crafts supplies to help community members find grounding and relaxation, and the other holds a range of fidget toys, or stim tools, that are useful for sensory regulation and reducing anxiety.
- [Supplementary Funding](#)
  - [Conference travel support](#): The CIE is committed to fostering the professional development of its registered scholars by providing funds to support their attendance and participation as a presenter in professional conferences and meetings. Registered scholars can apply for up to \$1,500 per fiscal year (\$2,000 for IRACDA Scholars) which can be divided across a maximum of two conferences. More information about the application can be found on the [website](#).
  - [Emergency Support Award](#): The CIE Emergency Support Award was established to aid CIE Scholars experiencing severe financial hardships. Eligible students faced with impending funding lapses may receive a one-time stipend up to \$3,000. Given the nature of these types of emergency awards, we will accept applications on a rolling basis, however only a few awards will be made annually.
- [Community of Student Mentors Program](#): The Community of Student Mentors (CSM) Program is designed to create valuable peer mentoring relationships between CIE Scholars, to forge a path towards a successful career. The CSM Program provides underrepresented graduate scholars in **all disciplines** with the opportunity to create peer-to-peer mentoring relationships and incorporate them into their larger advisement plan.
- [Professional Development Resources](#): The CIE hosts various workshops and speaker series for the scholars to foster professional development and networking. This includes Practical Professional Series (collaboration with the Graduate School), Alumni Speaker Series, [Research Cafe Series](#), and Topic Based Lunches with Senior Administrators. **These events are open to all graduate students and postdocs at Stony Brook.**
- [Community Building Services and Activities](#): The CIE hosts various events throughout the year to foster the opportunities to support, network, and celebrate and to provide a vibrant platform for our community. This includes Graduate Recognition Events, Monthly Socials, and College Teaching Journal Club. Please visit the [CIE website](#) to see all upcoming events.

**First Year Course:** Summarized from 2022 IMSD Heads-Up Program

1. About the first-year course (chemistry, biochemistry, neuroscience)
  - a. The class size is usually about 50 - 70
  - b. Students may have different levels of familiarity with the topics, but the goal of those first-year courses is to try to achieve the middle ground
    - i. That is to say; if students who had taken the courses before or had a certain degree of understanding about the materials, it can be a bit boring at the beginning of the few weeks
    - ii. On the other hand, it can be challenging for students who do not have any background knowledge
2. Team taught: the course is taught by several professors for different topics, and they have different teaching styles
3. Participation
  - a. Asking questions and clarifications: do not be afraid to ask questions and to pause the class, it is totally fine and is good and important
    - i. Professors may not be aware of the language they use is not understood for students
  - b. Leave impression as you may want to work in their labs
4. Exam and Grading
  - a. Exam questions are from professors who teach that specific topic, that means the way they formulate exam questions is different (helpful to ask the professors directly and review past questions)
  - b. Mostly short answer questions
  - c. Important to review past exam questions
  - d. Grading mostly is based on exams
  - e. Grades are important for grant applications (e.g., NIH asks for transcripts), but the most important thing is you learn something
  - f. B- is fail: do not fail (it can happen)
5. Office hour
  - a. Encourage to stop by professors' office for questions, you can just knock on their door (or email for appointment), even it's not their scheduled office hour



## **Lab Rotations**

1. How to select the lab?
  - a. Principal Investigator (PI):
    - i. Mentoring style
    - ii. Their expectations for students
    - iii. You feel comfortable to go to them when you need help and when the experiments don't work
  - b. Lab members (graduate students, postdocs)
    - i. Ask about the schedule, culture/environment of the lab, availability of the PI, etc.
  - c. Research topics - current and future
  - d. Techniques that you want to learn
2. Spend time in the lab (e.g., study in the lab) and engage with graduate students and postdocs in the lab
  - a. Knowing the lab environment and knowing the people in the lab
  - b. Let them to get use to you being around