Welcome new students - and welcome back to all of our returning students! Whether this is your first or final semester at Bergen, I am so pleased that you have decided to study at Bergen Community College.

I hope that you will consider the International Student Center your "home away from home." The staff in the ISC is here to help you with everything from academic advisement and immigration counseling to adjusting to life in the USA. The ISC staff can also help better connect you to the College by referring you to different offices on campus like the Transfer and Career Center, the Tutoring Center, Personal Counseling and Student Life. All you have to do is stop by the ISC or attend one of the great workshops we have coming up.

Bergen is a great place to be - there is so much to experience here and I hope that you will take advantage of it all. If you have a suggestion for the office or an idea you’d like to share, please feel free to let me know. The ISC is here to help you succeed and we are eager to hear your thoughts. Remember, this is your time, make the most of it! Enjoy the semester.

Best,
Kate Plessing-Brunetto

Important Message from Health Services

If it is an emergency, always go to the emergency room at the nearest hospital, but if you’re simply not feeling well, and would like to see a medical professional, the BCC Nurses’ Office suggests that you go to one of the offices with the Valley Health Medical Group.

In the event that your health will prevent you from attending your classes, please contact the ISC IMMEDIATELY!

Also, if you have not submitted your Immunization Form, this needs to be given to Health Services in HS-100. Any student that needs to still get their immunization shots can visit Health Services or the ISC to get information on locations that provide these services.

IMPORTANT: On July 5, 2013, Governor Chris Christie signed into law a bill that no longer mandates full-time students in institutions of higher education in the State of New Jersey to carry health insurance. Students will not be billed for health insurance. The ISC strongly recommends that students enroll in a health insurance plan. Check out the ISC page for a listing of health insurance providers.

Changed your address? Know when you need to update the ISC!

Moving or have a new e-mail address?
USCIS/DHS (United States Customs & Immigration Service/Department of Homeland Security) requires all F-1 students to notify the ISC of ANY home address changes within 10 DAYS of the move. In fact, if you have ANY contact information changes, like change of e-mail, or phone number, let us know! To notify the ISC, simply visit us in C-102, fill out the F-1 Change of Data Form, and we will change the information. This form is also available online at www.bergen.edu/isc/forms.
Where did that white card go? The I-94 is now electronic! This procedural change was announced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) back in April. Customs & Board Protection (CBP) will no longer issue the I-94 “white card” in paper format. CBP will still be issuing an admission stamp in the passport for those who enter the U.S. by air or sea.

Link to print out the electronic I-94: [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94)

IMPORTANT!!! Message from USCIS re scams:
In recent weeks, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) learned of a new telephone scam targeting USCIS applicants and petitioners. Scammers are using a technique called “Caller ID spoofing” to display a misleading or inaccurate phone number in a recipient’s Caller ID. The scammer poses as a USCIS official and requests personal information (such as Social Security number, passport number, or A-number), identifies supposed issues in the recipient’s immigration records, and asks for payment to correct these records.

If you receive a call like that, USCIS urges you to say “No, thank you” and hang up immediately.

USCIS never asks for any form of payment or personal information over the phone. Do not give payment or personal information over the phone to anyone who claims to be a USCIS official. In general, we encourage you to protect your personal information and not to provide details about your immigration application in any public area.

If you have been a victim of this telephone scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/](https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/), or report it to an appropriate state authority. (Visit [www.uscis.gov/avoidscams](http://www.uscis.gov/avoidscams) for information on where to report scams in your state.)

If you have a question about your immigration record, please call the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283, or make an InfoPass appointment by visiting our website at [http://infopass.uscis.gov/](http://infopass.uscis.gov/).

I-20 Extension—check your I-20 program end date and if you will still require additional time to complete your degree, you will need to complete the [I-20 Extension Packet](http://infopass.uscis.gov/).

**Immigration News Cont.**

- Diversity Lottery—DV 2015 has been announced. Visit Diversity Visa (DV) Program at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1322.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1322.html)

More information:

- [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1318.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1318.html)

**Academic Reminders**

**ALP Students**

The speech (SPE) courses are required for the ALP. Students may be exempt. If you don’t know if you are exempt, please visit your International Student Counselors today!

**Tutoring**

Don’t wait until the last moment to seek out help—begin now! Tutoring is free to all BCC students. Make the most out of the resources that are available to you.

**American Language Program (ALP)**

- [English Language Resource Center](http://infopass.uscis.gov/) in Ender Hall (E-156)
- [Intercultural Conversation Partners](http://infopass.uscis.gov/) program meets in the Cerullo Learning Assistance Center in the Pitkin Education Center (L-125).

**College Level**

- [Cerullo Learning Assistance Center](http://infopass.uscis.gov/) in the Pitkin Education Center (L-125)
- [Math Walk-in Center](http://infopass.uscis.gov/) is located in the Pitkin Education Center (A-113)

**E Grades**

Failure to attend classes and/or submit assignments may result in an E grade. An E grade is an unofficial withdrawal. F-1 students who earn a grade of E may end up losing their F-1 status.
ISA CLUB
Meets Thursdays, 12:00 pm—1:00 pm
International Student Center (C-102)

International Student Association

The ISA will be riding west and will have an opportunity to experience the ‘old west’. There will be shows, live demonstrations and you’ll be able to participate in some of the activities offered!

Seats are limited and are first come, first serve basis. The cost to participate is $10 for students. Any student that is interested should visit the ISC in C-102.

We hope to see you there partner!

Snow Days or Bad Weather
Towards the tail end of the semester, there may be a chance for snow. If the weather is very bad (a lot of snow), the school will close.
To find out if BCC is closed, visit: www.bergen.edu, call (201) 447-7100, or visit: http://www.1010wins.com to sign up for e-mail notification of college closings. You can also listen to WCBS/880, WOR/710, and WVNJ1160 on the radio or tune in to channel 12NJ on Cablevision TV.

Want to save money with NJTransit???

Bergen community college students can receive a 25% discount. Students must be full-time (12 credits minimum).

Visit: https://go.bergen.edu/NJTransit/

Find us on Facebook

Stay connected to the International Student Center via Facebook! Be sure to ‘Like’ us—International Student Center at Bergen Community College. We will keep you posted on upcoming events, workshops, scholarship opportunities and much more!

A huge thank you to the I-Team for helping with orientation and assisting the new F-1 students. Orientation would not be as successful without your help!
On behalf of all of us at International Student Association (ISA), we would like to welcome everyone to our very unique, diverse and creative club. We would be thrilled to have you with us. As a part of the growing International student body in Bergen Community College, it is our pleasure to invite everyone who is interested to explore the world without boundaries. This extraordinary club will help you to meet new people from all over the world and acquire an unforgettable experience. We strongly believe that you will find the activities of the ISA innovative and a reflection of the shared interests and needs of its members. There are a multitude of opportunities for becoming involved in the ISA as a member and a leader and we hope that you will encourage your friends and fellow classmates to take an active interest in the ISA as well.

Again, everyone who is interested to join us is always welcome and we look forward to seeing you soon at our meetings and events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at bergen.isa@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Erlan Nyssanov

President: Erlan Nyssanov—I was born on April 10th, 1994 in the country called Kazakhstan. I’m a second year student at Bergen Community College. So far, it’s been a pleasant experience here. Currently, I’m majoring in business and management. I’m a huge fan of sports which is one of the most important components in my life. I’m into soccer, basketball and boxing. Sports help me to cope with the pressure and stress. Additionally, it helps me to maintain a healthy lifestyle. In life, I’m very sociable, outgoing, energetic and optimistic person. I think that we all should enjoy life and get the most out of it. There are plenty of obstacles and negatives in this life but we have to keep it up and move forward in order to achieve our ultimate goals. I truly believe that nothing is impossible and of my favorite quotes say, “Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is a Mystery, Today is a Gift, that’s why it’s called Present.”
**Vice President:** Hi! My name is Sanah Peerbhai. I am originally from Lesotho (Southern Africa) and I have lived in South Africa, India, and the United Arab Emirates throughout my life. When I moved to the United States three years ago, I have attended Parsons The New School for Design before Bergen, and took some classes at Harvard University. While living in other countries, I have learnt a lot about other cultures and traditions. As a Vice President of International Student Association (ISA), I would like to welcome all international students and all those who would like to learn about other cultures to join ISA for a true "international" exposure.

**Treasurer:** Hello everyone, My name is Zeina Nofal. I am a Palestinian that was born and raised in New Jersey. I am a student in Bergen Community College majoring in International Justice Studies. In many ways I have doubted myself, especially when it came to challenging myself and learning in school. Entering Bergen Community College was one of the best decisions I have made. I have come such a long way, as I opened up a lot more to myself and others. I learned and accomplished many goals that I have set for myself. What I liked about Bergen was it has so much diversity. I enjoyed meeting many people from different cultures. These are one of the reasons why I decided to work in the International Student Center. In addition, I am now the treasurer of the ISA club. Working and being part of the ISA is definitely something I will never forget because the experience was something that helped me grow and connect with Bergen. Seeing how many students from abroad want to come and study here in the U.S. was fascinating. There are many people from different cultures wanting to come and change their futures by getting a good education. What I enjoy doing is helping out students. I would want the best for everyone and give them the help they need as much as I needed when I first started in Bergen. Overall I have succeeded and gained a lot of experience within my years of Bergen. I look forward to taking what I learned from Bergen and gaining more success in the future. Best of luck to everyone!

**Secretary:** Hello everyone! My name is Johana Ortega. I was born in Ecuador and I lived in Spain for nine years. I have been living in the United States four years now. I am currently working to earn my associate degree in Business Administration. I am the secretary of the International Student Association and I also work in the International Student Center. It is great for me to be part of this student association. This association is the perfect place where you are going to feel good and can meet other international students and feel welcome.

In the International Student Association you are going to find people with different cultures and traditions, but you also are going to find people friendly who are going through the same way as you.

Once again, come, share and enjoy new experiences with us!