

Dear new International Undergraduate,

Congratulations and welcome to Dartmouth! You probably have dozens of questions swimming around in your head about what the next few years will be like. While I can't provide any certain answers, I can offer you a wonderful way to make your transition to Dartmouth smooth and pleasant. Your DOC Trip will provide you with an opportunity to meet other students and talk to your two upperclassmen leaders about absolutely anything! Additionally, you'll get a glimpse of the beautiful area surrounding our school. In 2008, 96% of international students participated in First-Year Trips, and we hope you'll help us hit a similar mark this year!

As an international student, you **MUST** sign up for a DOC Trip in **Section G or H** so that you arrive back in time for the start of International Student Orientation, which begins on Sunday, September 13 at 5pm. For international students going on a DOC Trip, there will be a Boston Logan International Airport "meet and greet" service conducted by two International Student Mentors on September 7th and 8th. If you participate in the DOC Trip, you will be able to move into your residence hall as early as September 7th, regardless of the date of your DOC Trip. Any questions you have about these programs should be directed to Steve Silver in the International Student Programs Office within the Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL) at 603-646-2331. If you have questions that relate to your immigration status, I urge you to contact Marcia Calloway, Associate Director at the Office of Visa and Immigration Services, at 603-646-3474.

In the meantime, I've included three recollections about DOC Trips from international students at Dartmouth. Feel free to contact the Trips office with any questions or concerns you might have. Hope to see you all in September!

Scott Limbird '09
Trips Director 2009

Velizara Passajova '10
Bulgaria

I arrived in Hanover expecting a light but serious atmosphere when in actuality, Trips was probably the most organized fun I have ever had in my life. After attending an International Camp in Denmark when I was 16, I did not think I would ever feel the spirit of care, creativity, fun, and enthusiasm that characterized my two months with girls from 42 different countries. Still, in Trips I found this spirit not only in the wonderful Upperclassmen involved in the process, but also in the Trippees themselves who were given an opportunity to initiate contacts and become leaders in shaping their own Dartmouth reality. DOC Trips really brings a diverse group of people together and is the basis of unexpected and important friendships.

At no other time at Dartmouth have I felt the same ease of communication and the same openness in such a huge group of individuals. Trips inspired me by giving direction and meaning to my Dartmouth career. Trips defined the way I began connecting with people on this campus, which allowed me to quickly find friends. Trips, my most unforgettable memory of my time at Dartmouth, was perfectly balanced between a fun atmosphere and an opportunity to learn about serious issues like wilderness survival. Most importantly, it was also an opportunity to ask classmates serious questions and really get to know them.

Mbumbijazo U. Katjivena '12
Namibia

I have nearly completed my first year at Dartmouth, and as I reflect upon it, I undoubtedly conclude that the highlight was my freshman trips. This is due to several reasons.

Coming to Dartmouth, I had a cocktail of feelings ranging from intimidation to homesickness. Participating in the DOC trips allowed me to meet new friends in an isolated and relaxed setting, which in turn helped overcome these feelings. Besides making long-lasting friends, I simply had fun. We learned some ridiculous, but hilarious dances that have become part of the school tradition. We also played a lot of games that created a carefree and welcoming atmosphere that spilled over to the rest of our orientation.

I should say, I now find it hard to imagine how my time here at Dartmouth would have played out had I not gone on the DOC trips. I am glad I went on a DOC trip, and I am sure you will be too.

Jan Gromadzki '10
Switzerland

As an international student who had never lived in the United States before coming to Dartmouth, I was terrified of how I would fit in with all the new incoming students. I was definitely excited for Dartmouth, so I wanted to make sure I would start my experience off in the right way, by going on a DOC trip!

I was not disappointed. My DOC trip was one of the most amazing and helpful transitions for me into the Dartmouth community. Not only did it involve a whole mix of freshmen from all kinds of places, but it also introduced me to the beautiful surroundings of New Hampshire. You get to bond with your classmates very quickly while eating delicious food, playing games and learning about the many Dartmouth traditions! What more can you ask for?

Three years after my DOC trip, I am still close friends with my "trippees" and have also been a trip leader for Trips and greatly enjoyed it. I can easily attest that DOC Trips is one of the Dartmouth traditions which makes this place so special.

It is definitely a MUST for all freshmen!