Dear New International Undergraduate,

Congratulations and welcome to Dartmouth! You probably have dozens of questions floating around in your head about what the next four years will be like at Dartmouth and in the US. While I can’t provide any certain answers, I can offer you a wonderful way to make your transition to Dartmouth as smooth and comfortable as possible. Your DOC Trip will provide you with an opportunity to meet other new students and talk to your two upperclassmen leaders about absolutely anything. Additionally, you’ll get a glimpse of the beautiful area surrounding our school. Every year, most international students participate in First-Year Trips, and we hope you will join us this year.

As an international student, if you decide to do a DOC Trip, you MUST sign up for a DOC Trip in Section B, or C so that you arrive back in time for the start of International Student Orientation. This gives you two arrival dates: August 22nd or 23rd, as we ask you to arrive in Hanover the day before your trip begins so you have time to rest and prepare for your trip. This means if you are on section B you should arrive on August 22nd. If you are on section C, you should arrive on August 23rd. For international students doing a DOC Trip (and going on sections B or C), there will be a Boston Logan International Airport “meet and greet” service conducted by two International Student Mentors on August 22nd and 23rd. You must complete the International Student Programs office “Arrival Form” regardless of your travel plans and arrival date:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG1RZTg3NmxD0xwT0ROTkhJSkhRNmc6MQ

Additional International Student Mentors will meet and welcome you when arrive in Hanover. If you participate in a DOC Trip, you will be able to move into your residence hall as early as August 27th, regardless of the date of your DOC Trip. If you decide not to do a DOC Trip, you may arrive on campus no earlier than August 29th.

Any questions you have about dates for events other than First Year Trips should be directed to Steve Silver, Director of International Student Programs, within the Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL) at 603-646-2331 (stephen.m.silver@dartmouth.edu). Please contact him if you have ANY questions at all, whether its about your schedule or what to do with your passport to what kind of food you will eat!

To register for DOC Trips, please visit our website (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~doc/firstyeartrips/incomingstudents/registration/), read the instructions, fill out the online registration form, and then print, fill out and either scan and email, or mail the signatures form found online (fax is available, but not preferred). If you would prefer a paper copy of the instructions, registration form and signature form, please feel free to call us (as soon as possible) and we will mail you copies.

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 (603.646.3996 or doc.trips@dartmouth.edu). We look forward to welcoming you to Dartmouth during DOC Trips this fall! Students from all over have shared their experiences with Trips online on our new blog http://docfirstyeartrips.wordpress.com/, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter! (@DOCTrips). Still have questions about Trips? Join us for a LIVE video Q&A with current students on Thursday, June 7th at 8 pm Eastern (EST). No cameras are necessary, parents are welcome. (http://docfirstyeartrips.wordpress.com/live-video-chat/). I cannot wait to meet you in August…

Emily Mason–Osann ’11
Trips Director 2012
Sharang Biswas '12
United Arab Emirates

So I was born in India, ethnically from the Bengal region, legally from New Delhi, living in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, and was looking ahead to spending four years in Hanover, New Hampshire, USA. I had *never* seen snow in my life, *never* been to the States, and *never* got a chance to visit Dartmouth. I had no idea what to expect. Basically I was in the same situation as you might be..

Apart from the occasional desert safari, I'd never left the big city. Nonetheless, I decided to run headlong into a DOC trip: my first-ever forray into the wilderness—wilderness meaning the Dartmouth Organic Farm, but that's besides the point. The point is that now that you're in university, it's a whole new world. And to make the best of it, YOU have to take charge. You have to take risks, try new things and introduce yourself to people. No-one will hold your hand and say "Now this is what your course schedule looks like! Here you go!." But equally, no-one is going to say "Now young woman, don't hang out with those boys past 6:00 PM, it gets dark!"

Regardless, DOC Trips is an incredible opportunity to meet new people and be welcomed to this place unlike any other. You have amazing opportunities ahead of you, DOC trips being the first of many. If you love outdoor stuff, good for you, and go for it! If you don't know what a real tree looks like, try it out!

You'll meet a group of wonderful people, learn a bunch of new things and learn what being at Dartmouth is like. The worst that can happen is a few blisters. And not even, if you're like me you'll stay at the Organic Farm or in a cabin. You've been handed your plate of green eggs and ham. Will you eat them, Sam—I-am? Welcome to Dartmouth.

Jose Ordonez '13
Ecuador

My DOC First Year trip was by far one of my best experiences at Dartmouth. Coming as an international student, I didn’t know what to expect or how well I was going to be able to adapt to this new community. Well, Trips answered those questions for me! In this 5 day experience, I met amazing people who have shaped my experience at Dartmouth so far, and who made me feel welcome from day 1. Trips is the perfect way to start your college experience as an international student, and I guarantee you won’t regret a single second – or mile – of it!

Mbumbijazo U. Katjivena ‘12
Namibia

As I look back on my first year at Dartmouth 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 careless 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.