

**Subject:** Spring 2021 Return to Campus

**Date:** Friday, January 22, 2021 at 4:46:57 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School

**To:**

# Yale

## Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

*A Message from Dean Cooley*

**Copied to:** Chairs, DGSs, Registrars

**In this message:** Spring 2021 requirements and resources

January 22, 2021

Dear graduate students,

I hope you have had an opportunity to rest and restore your energies as we begin a new semester, hopefully the last we will experience during a pandemic. While it's true that we will need to maintain our social distancing, mask wearing and other virus protection measures as much as ever, we have good reason to be optimistic about the coming year.

The Spring 2021 term begins on February 1, but please note there will be no in-person classes until February 15. As you make your way back to campus or otherwise resume your research, please refer to these [spring semester requirements](#), including signing the Spring 2021 Community Compact, and plan accordingly.

[This helpful chart](#) will give you an overview of your access to campus resources and requirements based on your Learning Location (as identified in the Banner student information system).

Wherever you reside, all students will have access to emergency healthcare, telemedicine and prescription drug delivery options. If you have questions or if special needs arise, please contact Dean di Bonaventura at [allegra.dibonaventura@yale.edu](mailto:allegra.dibonaventura@yale.edu).

### COVID-19 testing by residence

Please note that in addition to on-arrival testing, there are additional testing requirements for students living on campus:

- If you live in Helen Hadley Hall and Harkness Hall, you will continue to be required to test twice weekly.
- If you reside on campus in dormitories including Baker Hall, 254 Prospect, and 272 Elm, you will need to test weekly.
- Yale School of Nursing students will need to test once weekly.

I encourage you to be tested as often as you wish, with or without symptoms, in addition to the University's requirements. Testing is easy and available to you anytime by calling the Campus COVID Resource Line at 203-432-6604. Should you test positive for COVID, please cooperate with the contact tracing team and follow the guidelines from Yale Health about when to return to campus.

## Childcare

If you have children, we know you may be feeling a great deal of additional pressure these days. To help, we've increased the number of crisis care days to 40 (previously 25). For more information about childcare resources available to you, please visit the University's [COVID-19 Childcare Resources page](#) or contact our Health and Safety Leaders (HSLs) at [gsas.safetyteam@yale.edu](mailto:gsas.safetyteam@yale.edu).

## Current travel policy

Please see the [University's guidance](#) for arriving at/returning to Yale from anywhere outside Connecticut for any duration of time (more than 24 hours).

The University continues to strongly discourage travel for the duration of the pandemic. Please refer to the University's travel guidelines for more information, and for urgent or exceptional cases, please contact the GSAS health and safety leaders at [gsas.safetyteam@yale.edu](mailto:gsas.safetyteam@yale.edu).

## International students

All first-year international students, whether starting their first or second term in February, must include a class with an in-person component in their schedules. Please consult with your DGS about the classes in your program that meet this requirement.

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) has updated its FAQs for [current/continuing students](#) and for [students arriving for the Spring 2020 semester for the first time](#).

Please note that if you are coming to Yale from abroad, there are new CDC travel requirements.

## Working with me for change

GSAS's rapid response to student needs during the crises of the last 11 months simply couldn't have occurred without your help. I work closely with the [Graduate Student Assembly](#) and rely upon you to provide me with the information I need to support you. The best way to ensure your concern reaches my attention is by getting in touch with GSA leadership or your [departmental GSA representative](#). You can also contact us in the Graduate School using the [Ask the Dean](#) form. I am always grateful for your input and look forward to working together with you this semester.

With best wishes for your health and success in the coming year,  
Lynn Cooley

Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics

Professor of Cell Biology and of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

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