

WELCOME TO YALE!

Welcome to Yale University and New Haven! With more than 3,500 international students and scholars from over 110 countries, as well as students, faculty and staff from all 50 U.S. states, we know you will find Yale to be a diverse and stimulating community. We look forward to getting to know you and discovering the special talents and contributions you bring to this institution.

Yale is a large and complex institution. Discovering Yale's resources and learning about its traditions, while exciting, can be an overwhelming experience for any new student or scholar. This book has been prepared to help with many of the practical matters you must address now that you have arrived in New Haven, as well as to introduce you to the richness of the Yale and New Haven communities. In addition, the *Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)* offers various programs and activities throughout the year, designed to make your transition to the University easier and your stay here productive and enjoyable.

Located in the *International Center for Yale Students & Scholars*, the OISS is your office. We hope that you will feel comfortable coming to visit us with any concern that you may have. At OISS you will find advisors who are experts in immigration regulations and conversant in the resources found at Yale and in New Haven. We can direct you to resources that will help you solve problems, such as getting a driver's license, understanding your lease, and finding an opportunity to practice your English. You will find a staff that has traveled a great deal, lived in different parts of the world and the U.S., and understands what it is like to move halfway around the world to a totally new culture and environment. We understand the dynamics of "culture shock." In addition, we're good listeners, so if you just need someone to talk to, stop by OISS.

You are also welcome to use the computer kiosks in the International Center to check your email, search the internet or browse through our resource center, which has information about Yale, New Haven and Connecticut. We encourage you to read this handbook and keep it for future reference. You will also want to be familiar with other important Yale reference materials, including the *Living in New Haven Website* www.yale.edu/livingnh, the *Yale Bulletin and Calendar* and the *Yale Daily News*, as well as the web sites and publications of your school and department. If your spouse, partner or children have come to New Haven with you, our office provides assistance and advice, and be sure to encourage them to join *ISPY, International Spouses and Partners at Yale*, which provides opportunities for friendship, fun and support.

OISS will also be in contact with you throughout your stay at Yale through the *OISS-L listserv*. We use this listserv to send you important information about workshops, special programs, and changes in immigration regulations and procedures. Please read the messages, all of which will bear the title *OISS Announcements*, and are generally sent weekly on Wednesday afternoons during the academic year. You will also find *OISS Announcements* and other helpful information on the OISS web site at www.oiss.yale.edu

We welcome your comments about this handbook and about OISS programs and services in general, so please keep in touch.

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