The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is host to Harvard’s largest population of international students. Inside are selected resources designed to support this diverse community and smooth the transition to Harvard.

For more information, visit the GSAS website at [gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/resources_for_international_students.php](http://gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/resources_for_international_students.php)
Building Academic Strength

**The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning**
GSAS partners with the Bok Center to offer courses, workshops, and individual consultations to help PhD students improve their communication and teaching skills, particularly as they prepare to serve as teaching fellows.
To learn more, visit [bokcenter.harvard.edu](https://bokcenter.harvard.edu).

**English Language Program**
Select PhD students are invited to participate in the English Language Program (ELP) 2015, an intensive, three-week language program during August that focuses on academics and culture in the United States. Participants work directly with skilled instructors from the Bok Center to improve their language skills immediately before the start of more rigorous studies in the fall term. The program offers close interaction with fellow incoming students and GSAS faculty to familiarize students with the American classroom. There is no cost to participants, and housing is guaranteed in a GSAS residence hall.
To learn more, visit [gsas.harvard.edu/prospective_students/english_language_program.php](https://gsas.harvard.edu/prospective_students/english_language_program.php).

**Oral English Language Proficiency**
PhD students who are non-native English speakers and who have received an undergraduate degree from a non-English speaking institution must meet a minimum level of oral English language proficiency before they will be permitted to serve as teaching fellows. Incoming students will be reviewed for oral proficiency prior to arrival and, potentially, screened during their first semester of study. Students who do not meet the oral English language requirement work closely with the Bok Center to improve their language skills in the Professional Communication Program for International Teachers and Scholars, which includes Classroom Communication Skills courses, and various seminars and workshops for International Teaching Fellows.
To learn more about this requirement, visit [gsas.harvard.edu/degree-requirements/oral-english-language-requirement.php](https://gsas.harvard.edu/degree-requirements/oral-english-language-requirement.php).

**The Bureau of Study Counsel**
Throughout the year “The Bureau” offers reading strategy courses to help students learn to read more purposefully and selectively, with greater speed and comprehension. Additionally, Counseling for Academic and Personal Development provides an opportunity to talk informally with a counselor about how to develop skills and approaches to academics to learn most effectively. The Bureau’s ESL Peer Consulting program offers the opportunity to practice conversational English with a fellow student.
To learn more visit [bsc.harvard.edu](https://bsc.harvard.edu).

**A Community of Scholars**

**GSAS Residence Halls and Resident Advisors**
GSAS Residence Halls feature a large international student population and many resident advisors (RAs) originate from outside the US. RAs plan ongoing and frequent activities for international students in the residence halls such as sessions on “small talk,” “speaking in public,” and “coming to America.” We encourage international students to consider finding accommodation in GSAS Residence Halls during their first few years of study.
To learn more visit [gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/gsas_residence_halls.php](https://gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/gsas_residence_halls.php).

**Dudley House (the GSAS Graduate Student Center)**
Numerous activities are offered at Dudley House for students, including faculty talks, social events, language tables, sports, and musical ensembles. International students are active members of Dudley House because they are able to meet students from around the world and work on their English-language skills in informal settings.
To learn more about offerings at Dudley House, visit the website and sign up for the monthly mailing list at [dudley.harvard.edu](https://dudley.harvard.edu).

**GSAS Host Student Program**
Every year, Dudley House sponsors the annual Host Student Program to welcome incoming international students. The program matches an incoming student with a current graduate student who offers friendship and guidance to ease the transition to life in the US and to graduate studies at Harvard.
To learn more visit [gsas.harvard.edu/prospective_students/host_student_program.php](https://gsas.harvard.edu/prospective_students/host_student_program.php).

**SEVIS Fee Reimbursement**
Entering full-time AM and PhD candidates who have not previously enrolled in a US institution at any level will be reimbursed during the fall term for the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee ($200 for F1 visas; $180 for J1Visas) they pay during the visa interview process.