Frequently Asked Questions:

Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Q. When are the Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP) and Quaker Days?

A. MSP will be held on campus on Sunday and Monday, April 10-11. MSP allows admitted students from traditionally underrepresented groups to connect with one another and with our culturally-focused communities at Penn, then continue with broader Quaker Days programming from April 11-13.

Q. What will happen at MSP and Quaker Days?

MSP will showcase intellectual and social programming for students with an interest in exploring and celebrating cultural identity and diversity at Penn. It is a special chance to build community with a supportive network of students, faculty, and staff at Penn who are dedicated to the success of students from historically underrepresented backgrounds.

Our undergraduate schools and programs are hosting welcomes for their admitted students. You and your family may attend the session hosted by the school or program to which you have been admitted.
School and Program Welcome Sessions

Monday, April 11
10:00 a.m. School of Nursing and Nursing and Healthcare Management (NHCM)
11:00 a.m. Roy and Diana Vagelos Program in Life Sciences and Management (LSM)
11:30 a.m. Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology (M&T)
12:00 p.m. School of Engineering and Applied Science
12:30 p.m. Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research (VIPER)
1:30 p.m. Wharton School
2:00 p.m. College of Arts and Sciences

Tuesday, April 12
9:00 a.m. Huntsman Program in International Studies & Business

Other Monday programs include campus tours and interactive sessions with our cultural resource centers, campus hubs, and student organizations. The First Hurrah Welcome, led by Dean Eric Furda, will begin at 4:00 p.m. Simultaneously, parents and guests will be invited to a Proud Penn Parents Panel and Reception.

On Tuesday, students will have the opportunity to take part in a wide array of programming including faculty lectures, tours, open houses, student activity fairs and so much more. On Tuesday evening, enjoy a tour of Philly and The Last Hurrah celebration held in downtown Philadelphia.

Q. When should I plan to arrive for MSP and Quaker Days?

A. On-site check-in will open at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 10 in Houston Hall. Optional programming will begin at 11:00 a.m. Formal activities will begin at 1:30 p.m. and continue throughout the day and into Monday, leading into Quaker Days.

Q. When do the Quaker Days events end?

A. The last official event, The Last Hurrah, will take place on Tuesday evening and run until approximately 9:00 p.m. Smaller student-run social events will take place after The Last Hurrah. Hosting is available Tuesday evening, but you should not feel obligated to stay an additional night on campus if you need to return home. Otherwise, enjoy yourself and spend another evening on campus! Wednesday, April 13 is check-out day. No official Quaker Days programming will be offered on Wednesday and check out will close at noon.

Q. I am unable to stay for the full duration of MSP and Quaker Days, may I still come?

A. We hope that you can stay for the full duration of MSP and Quaker Days. We understand that for some, previous commitments and conflicts may limit your availability to participate in the full program. Please indicate your planned arrival and departure dates on the registration form.
Q. I am unable to attend MSP and Quaker Days on April 10-13. May I visit another time?

A. Absolutely! As a newly admitted student to Penn you are always welcome to visit campus. You may wish to participate in day hosting for admitted students available on April 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, 20. Space is limited. To register, please use the link in the Penn Applicant Portal. Please note that no overnight accommodations are available for admitted students outside of MSP and Quaker Days programming.

Q. I appreciate the offer to participate in MSP, but am really only interested in attending Quaker Days. Can I just register for Quaker Days, April 11-13?

A. Yes. You are welcome to attend any portion of the event. Feel free to register for Quaker Days only on the registration form.

Q. I am unable to attend MSP and Quaker Days. How else may I connect with Penn?

A. Students who are unable to join us on campus will have opportunities to connect with future classmates, current students, faculty, and of admissions office virtually. Virtual events will provide insight into Penn's extraordinary academic and social community. You will be able to get your questions answered, share your story, and imagine yourself on campus as a member of the Class of 2020. Visit virtual events at http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/admitted/virtualevents. Students may also join The Official Class of 2020 Facebook Group, or use #Penn20 across social media.

Q. I really want to come to MSP and Quaker Days, but can’t afford the expense. Are funds available to cover my travel costs?

A. Limited funds are available to cover the travel expenses for students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Students who will be sponsored to attend MSP and Quaker Days will be contacted directly by Penn Admissions.

WHO IS INVITED?

Q. Who is invited to attend MSP?

A. Regular Decision admitted students who are US citizens and permanent residents, and who identify as African American, Latino, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, or as members of traditionally underrepresented Asian and Pacific Islander backgrounds, and/or members of the LGBTQA community, are invited to participate in the Quaker Days Multicultural Scholars Program.

Q. Who is invited to attend Quaker Days?

A. All Regular Decision students admitted to the College, Penn Engineering, and Wharton are invited to Quaker Days. In addition, all students admitted to Nursing, Nursing and Healthcare Management, Huntsman, M&T, VIPER, and LSM are invited to Quaker Days.
Q. Is it essential for me to attend MSP?

A. The choice is yours. MSP will give you a chance to preview your future life at Penn as part of a diverse community. The days will be filled with academic, cultural, and social programming designed to provide a more intimate glimpse into undergraduate life as a Quaker. Students who cannot attend will have many opportunities to learn about Penn and connect with future Quakers online. Go #PENN20!

Q. My friend was admitted Early Decision to Penn. Why isn’t she invited to MSP and Quaker Days?

A. Students accepted to single-degree programs in the College, Penn Engineering, and Wharton through the Early Decision program were invited to attend ConnectED Quaker Day in February. Every student admitted to Penn is invited to attend one program.

REGISTRATION

Q. Do I need to register to attend MSP and Quaker Days?

A. Yes! To register, please use the link on the MSP and Quaker Days webpage. Please indicate which days you will be attending and your travel plans to get to campus. You are able to return to your registration form and update it at any time.

If you forget or misplace your login information, please send an email message to eapps@admissions.upenn.edu with your full name, Common App ID, date of birth and the email address you used to apply.

Q. What information will I need to register?

A. You will be asked information about your arrival and departure dates, specific travel plans, guest information and special needs. You will also be required to upload a current picture of yourself.

If you will be 18 years old by April 10, 2016 you must sign a Student Consent Form indicating your understanding of the rules and regulations. If you are under the age of 18 by April 10, 2016, permission to participate must be granted by your parent or guardian. Both you and your parent must sign consent forms acknowledging your understanding of the rules and regulations.

Q. May I register if I have not yet confirmed my travel plans?

A. Absolutely! If you know that you are able to attend MSP and Quaker Days but have not confirmed your travel plans, feel free to register.

Q. I received a likely admissions letter to Penn. May I register for MSP and Quaker Days?

A. As an applicant who received a likely letter, this means that with your continued academic success and good standing in your school, we intend to officially admit you to the Class of 2020 on March 31, 2016. Registration for MSP and Quaker Days opens on March 16, 2016 for likely admitted students, so
you can plan ahead to join in the fun and take advantage of more economical air and rail fares. Please note that only students officially admitted to Penn will be allowed to attend.

Q. Why do I need to submit a picture at registration? Are there any specifications for how the picture should look?

A. A picture is necessary so that our College Houses and Campus Security know who you are and can verify you as a MSP and Quaker Days participant. Please submit a current picture that is a clear head shot similar to a school photo or driver’s license. It does not need to be a professional photo but should provide a clear image of your face from the front. Non-distorted selfies are welcome. Remember that you will need to bring an official school ID or state-issued photo ID to Quaker Days.

Q. When does registration close for MSP and Quaker Days?

A. The Early Bird deadline to ensure your meal preference at MSP events is Monday, April 5 at noon. The last day to register for MSP and Quaker Days is Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. EDT, or when the program reaches capacity.

Q. I registered for MSP and Quaker Days, but do not yet have signed Permission and Consent forms.

A. If you are under 18 on April 10, 2016, you and a parent/guardian must sign Permission and Consent forms by Wednesday, April 6 in order to participate in MSP and Quaker Days. Forms may be signed electronically or a picture/image of the signed consent form may be uploaded on the registration site.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Q. Please tell me more about the overnight component of MSP and Quaker Days. May I stay overnight in a College House with a current Penn undergraduate?

A. Students residing in our College Houses across campus have volunteered to host admitted students participating in MSP and Quaker Days. We encourage you to take advantage of this insider’s opportunity to experience residential life at Penn! If you would like for us to arrange for you to stay with a current Penn undergraduate, please indicate so on your registration form.

You will be matched with a student host in advance of the program. Prior to your arrival, you will be e-mailed contact information for your host. Please keep an eye out for this important email message with subject line “Quaker Days Host Information” and be sure to share host contact information with your family.

All students participating in MSP and Quaker Days are expected to abide by campus rules governing student conduct. In addition, MSP and Quaker Days attendees are expected to return to assigned College House residences by 12:00 midnight. Accommodations in the College Houses are for admitted students only. No guests can or will be accommodated in the College Houses.
Q. I prefer to make my own housing arrangements or my friend has invited me to stay at his/her College House. Is this okay?

A. You are welcome to make your own housing arrangements on or off campus. If you have a friend who is a current student at Penn who agrees in advance to host you during your MSP and Quaker Days stay, you must include their name and contact information on the registration form. Please be advised that you will still need to check in upon arrival to receive credentials necessary for your stay.

Q. May I request to be housed in a specific College House?

A. Due to the anticipated high demand for housing during MSP and Quaker Days, and capacity restrictions in the College Houses, we are unable to accommodate requests to be housed in specific College Houses.

GUESTS

Q. Am I allowed to bring a guest(s) to MSP and Quaker Days?

A. Yes! We welcome you to bring a parent or guardian to accompany you to MSP and Quaker Days. Due to space limitations, you are allowed to bring up to two guests. You must provide your guest’s information when you register. Please note, applicants who are waitlisted or were denied admission to Penn are not permitted to register for Quaker Days or attend as guests. In addition, students previously invited to ConnectED Quaker Day are not allowed to register for MSP and Quaker Days or attend as guests.

Q. Will there be programming for parents and guests?

A. Absolutely! The core content of MSP and Quaker Days is geared towards students admitted to Penn, but there will be plenty of programming for parents and guests. On Sunday, April 10, optional programs will begin at 11:00 a.m. and a Parent’s Roundtable Reception will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday programs include academic sessions and cultural open houses of particular interest to parents and guardians. More specifically, we are hosting a Proud Penn Parent Panel on Monday beginning at 4:00 p.m. Campus administration will share insights on a broad range of topics important for new Quaker parents and guests, including student life, the first-year experience, and campus safety. A casual meet-and-greet reception will follow at 5:15 p.m. with opportunities to speak with members of the panel, staff from Admissions, Penn Parents, Penn Dining, and Penn Residential Services. This will allow parents who are dropping off their students to receive valuable information without needing to stay for the full duration of Quaker Days.

For parents and guests who choose to stay, we will host a Visit Philly program and a wide array of additional programming on Tuesday, April 12. Please be aware that due to space limitations some events will be open to students only.
Guests are also highly encouraged to explore our great city. Philadelphia offers many attractions from the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Here is a list of some of our favorite places and activities: Must-See Places & Local Phenomena.

Q. Where can my family stay during their visit?

A. Parents and guests are responsible for their own accommodations. For hotel suggestions, visit our website.

TRANSPORTATION

Q. How do I get to Philadelphia?

A. Penn’s campus can be reached by air, rail, bus or car. Conveniently located in University City, West Philadelphia, our campus has easy access to 30th Street Train Station (serviced by Amtrak, SEPTA, and NJ Transit), US I-76, and the Philadelphia International Airport. MSP and Quaker Days check-in will be located in Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA. Directions and Parking http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/visit/directions-and-parking.

Q. We will be driving to Penn. Where can we park our car?

A. Please see http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/visit/directions-and-parking for a list and map of parking garages on and around campus.

Q. I am arriving by airplane at the Philadelphia International Airport. How do I get to campus?

A. Transportation to the Penn Campus from the Philadelphia International Airport is convenient and easy. You may choose to take the SEPTA Regional Rail, a shuttle service or a taxi cab (see further information below).

Penn Quaker Days Hospitality Booth: On Sunday and Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT, Quaker Days volunteers sporting Red and Blue gear will be on hand in the airport baggage claim area to help direct you to transportation options. Also on Sunday and Monday, stop by our Penn Hospitality Booth, located in Terminal C near the US Airways Customer Service Center and across from baggage carousel G.

SEPTA Train: On Sunday and Monday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EDT, MSP and Quaker Days volunteers will escort groups of visitors on SEPTA Regional Rail from the airport to our on-site check-in location in Houston Hall on the Penn campus. After boarding the train, a conductor will ask you to purchase a ticket. The fare for the ride from Philadelphia International Airport to the University City station located on the Penn campus is $8.00 and must be paid in cash. After exiting the station, turn left and walk west on South Street. South Street becomes Spruce Street. Quaker Days check-in is located in Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street.
**Lady Liberty** provides airport shuttle service to and from the Philadelphia International Airport, with door-to-door shuttle service to our Quaker Days check-in located in Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street. (Stops for other passengers may be made along the way.) The charge is $10 per person plus tip. Ask for Lady Liberty at a Ground Transportation desk located in the Airport baggage area or you can reach them at (215) 724-8888.

**Taxi:** If you would prefer to take a cab to campus you are welcome to do so. The flat rate charge for a ride from the Airport to Center City or Penn campus is $28.50 (plus tip). Depending upon traffic, the metered charge can range from $29 and more (including 15% tip). The check-in location for Quaker Days is Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street.

**Q. I am arriving by train or bus at 30th Street Station. How do I get to campus?**

**A.** Once you arrive in Philadelphia, you may wish to confirm directions at the Information kiosk located in the center of 30th Street Station. Exit on the Market Street side of the station and walk west on Market Street through the Drexel University campus. At 34th Street, turn left and walk south towards the Penn campus. You will cross Chestnut Street and Walnut Street and when you get to Spruce Street, turn right at the corner and walk west. Houston Hall is located at 3417 Spruce Street. The walk is approximately 15 minutes.

If you would prefer to take a taxi to campus you are welcome to do so. Cab fare from 30th Street Station to Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street, is approximately $11.00 (including 15% tip).

Public transportation options are also available.

**Q. I am arriving by bus at the terminal located at 1001 Filbert Street. How do I get to campus?**

**A.** Public transportation options are available, but you may find it easiest to take a taxi to campus. The metered charge for a cab ride from Filbert Street to the Penn campus is approximately $15.00 (including 15% tip). On-site check-in is located at Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street.

**Q. I’m taking a SEPTA Green Line Trolley to campus. What’s the closest stop to Houston Hall?**

**A.** Get off at 37th and Spruce and walk east to Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street.

**Q. I’m taking SEPTA’s Market-Frankford subway to campus. What’s the closest stop to Houston Hall?**

**A.** Get off at 34th and Market and walk south to Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street.

**Q. What do I need to know about going home?**

**A.** Please note pertinent details as you arrive by air, train, bus, car, etc., so you are prepared to make the reverse trip on your own at the conclusion of your Quaker Days stay. For recommendations on how to return, please stop by the Quaker Days Command Center in Houston Hall.
**WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?**

Q. Will bedding and linens be provided for me?

A. You are responsible for bringing your own bedding. We highly recommend that you bring a sleeping bag and pillow as you will be staying in a dorm room with a current undergraduate and may be sleeping on a floor.

Q. How should I dress for MSP and Quaker Days?

A. High school attire is perfectly acceptable. April in Philadelphia can sometimes be chilly, so check the weather forecast in advance and bring a sweater and coat. Please also be mindful to wear comfortable shoes as we have many cobblestone walkways throughout campus, including the famed Locust Walk. And don’t forget, we’d love to see you in your Red and Blue attire! Go Quakers!

Q. What should I pack?

A. MSP and Quaker Days Checklist:

- personal identification with photo* (Ex: an official school or state issued photo ID)
  *without which you cannot stay overnight
- plane, train, bus tickets, as needed and travel details
- medical insurance card or information
- sleeping bag
- pillow
- towel, wash cloth, soap
- toiletries
- required medicines
- school clothing (including a coat, comfortable shoes, and your favorite Red and Blue attire!)
- cell phone and charger
- cash (for transportation, meals or snacks purchased outside of Quaker Days events and designated Penn Dining facilities, incidentals, and personal purchases)
- contact information for your student host

Please keep in mind that you will be staying in a dorm room with a current undergraduate and space will be limited. You will be expected to transport your own belongings, so please do not over-pack or bring an excess of items!

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I ARRIVE ON CAMPUS?**

Q. What happens at check-in and where is it located?

A. Check-in for MSP and Quaker Days takes place at Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street, and opens at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 10. Upon check-in, you will receive your MSP and Quaker Days program with campus map, Quaker Days Card to use for College House and dining access, Penn gear, and other helpful hints.
Q. When do I meet my host?

A. We suggest that you plan to meet your host in or around Houston Hall upon your arrival to campus. It is important that you communicate your travel plans and anticipated arrival to campus to your host. If your host is unavailable to meet you at your time of arrival, please schedule an alternate meeting time prior to 5:00 p.m. You will be able to store your belongings at Houston Hall until you are able to meet your host.

Q. What does my Quaker Days Card do?

A. The Quaker Days card grants you access to your College House, libraries, and dining facilities.

Q. During MSP and Quaker Days, what dining options including kosher and other food preferences, are available?

A. At the Quaker Days Command Center, you will receive information on Penn dining services. To access meals, you will be asked to swipe your Quaker Days Card. Food preference options such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and nut-free are accommodated at all dining halls. Kosher meals are served at the Falk Dining Commons in Hillel at Steinhardt Hall on 39th Street between Locust and Walnut. Please specify special needs on the registration form.

Your Quaker Days Card will be pre-loaded with funds to cover meals that are not otherwise provided during your MSP and Quaker Days stay. Be sure to spend your funds wisely! The funds are for your use only and are not to be shared with current undergraduates, guests or other MSP and Quaker Days participants.

Q. Will I be able to walk to Quaker Days events located on the Penn campus?

A. Yes! The Penn campus is very walkable. Our academic and administrative buildings, College Houses, dining facilities, and parking garages are within a 5 to 10 minute walk from Houston Hall. A campus map is available here.

Q. My parents and I have questions about my financial aid package. Is it possible to meet with a representative of Student Financial Services during Quaker Days?

A. Families with questions may stop by Student Financial Services on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT, or call 215-898-1988 to schedule an appointment with a Student Financial Services counselor in advance. Student Financial Services is located in the Franklin Building, Room 100, 3451 Walnut Street.

Q. What’s the best way to stay up to date on the schedule?

A. The Quaker Days App is your go-to source for the full list of Quaker Days events. It’s loaded with information about campus resources and communities, PDFs of handouts, biographies about Penn faculty and student groups hosting events, campus contact information, and more. If you’re looking for something during your time on campus, chances are it’s in the App!
Q. How do I download and access the Quaker Days App?

A. The Quaker Days App is free and available in early April by visiting http://www.admissions.upenn.edu/admitted/quakerdays/mobileapp, or searching “Quaker Days 2016” on your device’s App Store. You can access web browser friendly version of the App for computers at https://quakerdays2016.gatherdigital.com/. You will need to enter your email address and password “penn20” (all lowercase) to access the Quaker Day App’s content. Students, parents, and guardians should use the email from the Penn Application or the email provided during Quaker Days registration. Need help with the App? Don’t have a smart phone? Please visit us at the Quaker Days Command Center in Houston Hall.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MSP and QUAKER DAYS?

Q. If I have questions or need assistance before MSP and Quaker Days, what’s the best way to reach Penn?

A. If you have questions about MSP and Quaker Days please contact quakerdays@admissions.upenn.edu or call the Penn Admissions at 215-898-7507 (Monday through Friday only, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT).

Q. If I have questions or need assistance during MSP and Quaker Days, what’s the best way to reach Penn?

A. Quaker Days Hotline (April 10-13 only, 24 hours): 215-898-2973

Quaker Days Command Center (April 10-13 only):

Location: Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6306

- Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EDT
- Monday and Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EDT
- Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EDT

Emergencies: Penn Public Safety

Emergencies: Dial 511 from any campus phone, pick up a “Blue Light” phone located strategically across campus, or dial 215-573-3333 from any non-campus phone.

General Public Safety information: 215-898-7297

We did our best to anticipate many of the questions you might have. Please check back at this site for updates. If you have questions or require additional assistance, please reach out to us at quakerdays@admissions.upenn.edu, 215-898-7507 or (April 10-13 only) 215-898-2973.