Get an earlier start to your Harvard experience.

While all first-year students participate in a week-long orientation before classes begin, our experience is that students who get an even earlier start in one of our pre-orientation programs feel especially well-prepared for the challenges of college life, and have a strong sense of connection to the Harvard community. I hope you will consider the programs described on these pages.

Over half the entering class typically participates in a pre-orientation program, and participants enthusiastically attest to their value. Below are quotes from students who participated last year:

“The amount of love and acceptance that surrounded me throughout the week made it feel not like I was leaving my home but rather that I was coming into a new one.”

“My leaders stood out in their ability to answer questions about the Harvard experience and generate an authentic bonding experience with students.”

“I learned not to give up and that we can connect with everyone in some way. The community around you can raise your morale and keep you going.”

Whatever you decide, we look forward to seeing you in August.

With all good wishes,
Thomas A. Dingman
Dean of Freshmen
**Fall Clean-Up**
Fall Clean-Up (FCU) is a week-long program run by Dorm Crew that employs 350 incoming first-years and 50 student leaders to clean the dorms and Houses for move-in. Students get to know the campus and Harvard Square while talking with their leaders about life at Harvard, classes, and the transition to college. In addition to earning their first paycheck at Harvard ($13.50/hr, 38 hours of work), participants leave FCU with a strong sense of community created from working closely with their peers. Meals and social events provide opportunities for students to get to know one another before move-in.

**First-Year Arts Program**
The First-Year Arts Program (FAP) is a week-long, multidisciplinary introduction to the arts at Harvard, bringing together 70 incoming first-year students and 16 upperclass proctors who are passionately involved in various aspects of art, enthusiastic to share their interests, and eager to learn about the experiences of their peers. Centered around workshops and master classes given by resident and visiting artists in drama, music, theater design, studio arts, film, dance, and creative writing, FAP culminates in the Pageant, a collaborative presentation of entirely original student work. No formal training required.

**First-Year International Program**
The First-Year International Program (FIP) is for international students and US residents who have lived and studied primarily overseas. In FIP, 35 upperclass leaders mentor 150 incoming freshmen, introducing them to Harvard and helping them adjust to life in the United States. Specifically, participants receive foundational information for a happy, successful start at Harvard, including sessions and discussions about American culture, immigration, and academics in the US and at Harvard. Participants are also able to set up a bank account and cell phone service. Through its emphasis on inclusion and belonging, FIP creates new friendships at the same time it cultivates the larger international community at Harvard. By invitation only.
Over half the entering class typically participates in a pre-orientation program, and participants enthusiastically attest to their value.

**First-Year Outdoor Program**
The First-Year Outdoor Program (FOP) is Harvard's largest and oldest pre-orientation program. 400+ participants explore New England's finest forests, mountains, and lakes in small groups. But FOP is not just a six-day outdoors trip; it is an opportunity to build a sense of community, reflect on your hopes for college, and enter with both confidence and a network of close friends. Trips are designed for all levels of experience and fitness, and are led by trained and experienced students. No outdoor experience required.

**First-Year Urban Program**
The First-Year Urban Program (FUP) catalyzes a commitment to public service and community advocacy; supports diversity, equity, and social justice work on campus; and introduces students to Boston and Cambridge. No participants divide into worksite groups led by 35 returning undergraduates to assist grassroots community organizations. Discussion groups reflect on issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and equity, as well as how to create social change. Workshops include sessions with alumni and community leaders who work with Harvard public service programs. FUP is an opportunity to build community amongst new and returning students!

**Our Newest Pre-Orientation Program!**
Join a vibrant community of 100 incoming first-year students and get a jump start on making the most of Harvard. Student leaders, faculty, and alumni will share vital information on navigating the transition from home to college life, including relationships with professors, the purpose of office hours, taking advantage of financial resources, and more. Bond with classmates and make connections with key campus leaders while experiencing fun and unique Boston traditions. All students are eligible to attend. Students who are the first-generation in their family to go to college, those from low- to modest-income backgrounds, and those whose high schools are typically under-represented in the Ivy League are encouraged to apply.
**Important details**
A detailed overview of each program is available at [fdo.fas.harvard.edu/pages/pre-orientation](fdo.fas.harvard.edu/pages/pre-orientation). Housing and meals are provided for all programs. Programs occur simultaneously; students typically participate in one program. Admitted students are encouraged to speak with program leaders, ask questions, and learn more during Visitas 2018!

**Cost and financial aid**
Some programs are free for participants, while others have fees. Significant financial aid is available for program frees, and is based on the student’s relative level of need. Cost should not be a barrier to participation! See program websites for specific costs.

**How to sign up**
Online registration is due by Thursday, May 10. Registration and qualification details vary for each program. Students may apply to more than one program, but must enroll in their selected program by June 13.

**Accommodation needs**
Students who require accommodation for disability status, medical conditions, or religious observance should notify the director of the program (and the Accessible Education Office) at the time of application.

**2018 program dates**
- FCU: August 20 - 26
- FAP: August 20 - 26
- FIP: August 23 - 26
- FOP: August 20 - 26
- FUP: August 21 - 26
- New Program: August 23 - 26