Welcome to Goucher College!

We are so excited to have you here at Goucher College! Your time at Goucher will help shape you as a person, a scholar, and a community member. Our primary goal is helping you through your journey of getting a degree and we hope that you will have an enjoyable and successful time here.

The Center for Race, Equity and Identity is here to help make your experience at Goucher a pleasant and productive one. The mission of the office includes support for international students through their transition to the U.S., exploration of their identity, and navigation of U.S. culture. The associate director for international students also offers support with visa and immigration matters, tax and financial concerns, and understanding college rules and policies.

If you have any questions or concern about your time at Goucher College and within the U.S., you can always contact Karen Sykes, the associate director for international students, via email at karen.sykes@goucher.edu or by telephone at 410.337.6270.

Sincerely,

Karen Sykes
Associate Director for International Students
and Primary Designated School Official

The Center for Race, Equity and Identity, Athenaeum, 422
Baltimore, MD 21204
410.337.6270
karen.sykes@goucher.edu

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Appointments and walk-in advising available
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About Goucher College

Goucher College is a small, private, liberal arts college located in Towson, Maryland, just eight miles north of the heart of the city of Baltimore. A highlight of Goucher’s unique liberal arts curriculum is the requirement that all undergraduates must study abroad at least once before graduation, making the college the first in the nation to make such a bold move in globalized education. Goucher's academic philosophy is focused on 3Rs: relationships, resilience, and reflection, and coursework reflects the core values of a liberal arts education: proficiency in English composition and in a foreign language, solid foundations in history, abstract reasoning, scientific discovery and experimentation, problem-solving, social structures, and environmental sustainability. In addition to the core courses, students can go more in-depth with their knowledge through their major. (http://www.goucher.edu/academics/majors-minors-and-programs).

About Maryland and the City of Baltimore

“Maryland has been called ‘America in Miniature’ because so much is packed into its 10,460 square miles of land and water. You can find just about any kind of natural feature here, except a desert. That's because water is almost everywhere in Maryland. The ‘America in Miniature' title also applies to the role Maryland has played in our nation's history, from the founding of the United States to the present. And like our country, Maryland is home to ethnic groups of every origin.” (Maryland Office of Tourism, http://www.visitmaryland.org/info/maryland-facts#sthash) Visit the Maryland Office of Tourism for more information about places to go, things to do and events and festivals.

Baltimore is a major city in Maryland with a population of over 600,000 and is at the center of a metropolitan area of 1.5 million people. Fort McHenry, birthplace of the U.S. national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” sits at the mouth of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. Today, this harbor area offers shops, upscale crab shacks and attractions like the Civil War–era warship the USS Constellation and the National Aquarium, showcasing thousands of marine creatures. Towson is a northern suburb of Baltimore with approximately 50,000 people. There are restaurants and stores, a mall and theater all located within walking distance of the campus.
International Student Population at Goucher College
Fall Semester 2018

Nonimmigrant Visa Holders

F-1 undergraduate students on Goucher’s program 39
  Senior 7
  Junior 11
  Sophomore 6
  Freshman 13
  Exchange 2

F-1 graduate students on Goucher’s program 3
F-1 students pursuing OPT employment 3
Students on non-immigrant visas other than Goucher’s F-1 program 3
Total nonimmigrant population 48

Countries Represented by Nonimmigrants: 24

Bangladesh   Madagascar
Brazil       Mexico
China*       Morocco
Costa Rica   Mozambique
Ecuador      Russia
Ethiopia     Rwanda
Ghana        South Korea
Greece       Syria
Hong Kong    Tanzania
India        Turkey
Indonesia    United Kingdom
Jamaica      Vietnam*
Japan*       Zimbabwe

*The countries in bold represent the top three sending countries.

The cumulative GPA of degree-seeking students in F-1 status from the spring semester 2018: 3.33.
Involvement in student leadership: Resident Assistant (3), First Year Mentor (1), InterConnect (1), Athletes (8)
Historical Perspective

International Students at Goucher College

Immigrant Students and Dual Citizens

Permanent Residents and DACA/Undocumented: 25

Bangladesh  Eritrea  Myanmar
Brazil  Ethiopia  Nepal
Cameroon  Georgia  Pakistan
China  Ghana  Peru
Colombia  Honduras  Philippines
Cote d’Ivoire  Jamaica  Republic of the Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo  Kenya  South Korea
El Salvador  Liberia  Trinidad and Tobago

Dual citizens: 30

Australia  Germany  Marshall Islands
Belgium  Grenada  Netherlands
Brazil  India  New Zealand
Burkina Faso  Indonesia  Peru
Canada  Ireland  Romania
Cambodia  Israel  Russia
Colombia  Italy  Spain
Czech Republic  Jamaica  Sweden
Ethiopia  Japan  Turkey
France  Malaysia  United Kingdom
Center for Race Equity and Identity

Mission

Transform lives through the exploration of identities, community building and engagement, and knowledge creation through the lived experience.

Vision

We envision the Goucher community as mindful of our community principles, social justice mission multiple identities, including abilities, age, class, ethnicity, belief system, gender identity and expression, nationality, race, sex, and sexual orientation. Recognizing the intersections of identities and how that shapes lived experience and acknowledging that gaining a better understanding of enhances the communities that we are a part of and create communities that benefit from the value of differences.

In our personal, professional, and creative communities, we readily seek and accept opportunities for life-long learning, meaningful influence, and positions of trust, using our skills, talents, and means to create a more just and liberatory society.

Who We Serve

• Students of Color (Black, Latinx, Asian, Native/Indigenous and multiracial)
• First generation students and/or low-income students
• LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual) students
• International students
• Disabled students/students with disabilities

Guiding Principles for Our Work

• Holistic Learning
• Liberatory Praxis
• Community
• Knowledge is shared

Learning Outcomes

• Describe and articulate the multiple layers of their identity and are able to articulate how these identities shape their lived experience and institutional structures.
• Identify structures of power, privilege, immunity, and oppression.
• Identify, analyze, and articulate community and societal needs and issues
Orientation Programs

InterConnect
The new international student orientation program, InterConnect, is offered prior to the campus-wide orientation program. It generally begins the second or third week in August; your Form I-20 Program Start Date will indicate the date that you need to arrive in order to participate in InterConnect. This program is required for all students on F-1 visas, and highly recommended for those on other visas or coming to Goucher from living abroad.

Students will be assigned an InterConnect Mentor who will communicate with them prior to their arrival and through their first year on campus. During the InterConnect program in August, students will discuss such topics as: cultural and academic differences, health insurance, financial matters, immigration regulations, the American college classroom, campus resources, and other topics of interest with their mentor and with the larger group. There will also be an opportunity to take care of practical concerns such as shopping and opening a bank account.

The InterConnect Mentors will continue to connect with the new international students throughout the year. They will be meeting with students either as a group or individually on a regular basis to ensure that they are adjusting well to life in the U.S. and accessing needed resources.

First Year Experiences
This is the campus-wide orientation program. Students should hear from their FYE Mentor during the summer as well and be receiving details about the program. Students must attend both orientation programs, as the information will not be the same. Students will meet their academic advisor and learn about many campus resources through this program. Also, this is a great opportunity to get to know additional classmates!
Selected Campus Support Services

Office of Residential Life
410-337-6424
http://www.goucher.edu/student-life/living-on-campus

The Office of Residential Life is made up of caring professionals and student staff members that all work to provide a positive and productive living experience for all Goucher students.

Of particular interest to international students is the ability to apply through an online application to stay on campus during the Thanksgiving and Spring breaks for no additional charges. Students may apply to stay on campus during the majority of the winter break for approximately $350. Students are encouraged to find other accommodations for the time period from December 24 to January 2 most years (dates could be slightly different). Summer housing is also available for a total cost of approximately $1,200 for those who submit an application in advance. Students with serious concerns regarding accommodations, in terms of dates or cost, should schedule a meeting with Lindy Bobbit, Director of Residential Life.

There are community kitchens available in the residence halls, which you may want to use in order to make food from your home country.

Health Services
410-337-6050
http://www.goucher.edu/experience/staying-healthy/health-services/

Good health means being physically, emotionally, and socially vibrant. Goucher College Student Health Services (SHS) is organized to assist students in maintaining healthful well-being. To do so, they provide medical and emergency care throughout the academic year. In addition, they offer comprehensive educational services to maintain or improve your health.

Student Health Services is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and is closed on the weekends. Services will be available to students beginning on opening day in August through the end of May when the college is open. For most insurance plans, the Student Health Center will act as your
primary care physician. For urgent or after-hour situations, you should determine in advance, according to your health insurance policy coverage, where to go. You should check to see if one of the following locations would be acceptable:

**Towson Medical Center – Kaiser Permanente**  
Address: 1447 York Rd #100, Lutherville, MD 21093  
Phone: 410–339–5500

**Patient First – Towson**  
Address: 950 York Rd, Towson, MD 21204  
Phone: 410-372-6373

International students should get vaccinations and/or have medical tests prior to coming to U.S. If you take any prescriptions or other medications, get a letter from your physician in case you are questioned about the medication as you go through Customs; some countries have strict restrictions on bringing medication.

**Insurance**  
410-337-6022  
[http://www.goucher.edu/billing/goucher-health-insurance](http://www.goucher.edu/billing/goucher-health-insurance)

All full-time undergraduate, exchange, post-baccalaureate premedical and international graduate students are required to have health insurance coverage. Goucher College has contracted with United Healthcare to administer our policy through First Risk Advisors. Health insurance information should have been mailed to all full-time students in mid-July and include instructions on how to waive (or select) the insurance online. Any student who does not waive Goucher's health insurance by the September 30 deadline will be charged $2,481 on their tuition account. It is better to enroll as soon as you know that is the desired policy, as the proof of insurance card can then be printed and placed with your important papers or in your purse/wallet. To enroll or waive the insurance go to [www.firststudent.com](http://www.firststudent.com).

Dental insurance is not required but strongly recommended. You can add this option to the Goucher-negotiated policy or you can look at other options.

Students who have comparable health insurance coverage of their own may waive the Goucher health insurance online. In order to be considered “comparable coverage” the insurance must cover: In-patient care in the state of Maryland including room and board, hospital services and surgeon fees and Emergency room service in the state of Maryland. If you further questions about the waiver requirements or process, please contact the Billing Office.

There are some companies that have created products specifically for international students, and since most international students pursue their medical care in their home countries when possible, the rates may be better. Carefully look at the type and level of coverage, as well as acceptable locations for
treatment, before making a decision on which health insurance policy to purchase.

Some potential options include:
- HTH Worldwide: [https://www.hthstudents.com/](https://www.hthstudents.com/)
- International Medical Group: [https://www.imglobal.com/international-student-health-insurance](https://www.imglobal.com/international-student-health-insurance)
- International Student Insurance: [www.internationalstudentinsurance.com](http://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com)

After you have other insurance you will need:
- Your current health insurance plan ID card,
- Your health insurance brochure or plan description. There might be a few questions about your current plan.

Once you have completed the waiver form through [www.firststudent.com](http://www.firststudent.com), an email will automatically be sent notifying you of the waiver request decision. If you receive a:
- **Pending e-mail** – Your insurance information is being verified and you should receive a second e-mail within a few days.
- **Approval e-mail** – Your waiver was approved. You should print this e-mail and save it with your records.
- **Denial e-mail** – Your waiver was denied. If you would like them to look this over or if you answered a question incorrectly, please contact them.

Please note that the associate director for international students is not recommending any particular plan. Students need to consider their own individual circumstances when making such a decision. However, students do need to have a basic understanding of whatever policy they purchase and how to get additional questions answered. **It is wise to learn about health insurance in the U.S. BEFORE getting sick!**

Please note: The Health and Counseling fee ($264/semester) is not the Goucher health insurance charge. This is a mandatory fee for all full time undergraduate students. It provides a health and counseling center on campus for all students who seek medical treatment and/or counseling services.

**Counseling Services**
410-337-6050
[http://www.goucher.edu/experience/staying-healthy/counseling-services/](http://www.goucher.edu/experience/staying-healthy/counseling-services/)

Since emotional growth and personal well-being contribute significantly to a positive, holistic educational experience, Goucher College offers professional counseling services to all students within the Goucher community. As an international student, you may come from a culture environment where sharing emotional and psychological concerns with a counselor is not as acceptable as it is in the United States. Please consider taking advantage of this service as you may benefit from assistance in processing culture shock, relationship issues, or changes in you that may be difficult to explain to those who know you back home. Please visit the web site to learn how to schedule an appointment.
Religious and Spiritual Life at Goucher includes:

- Fostering religious and spiritual exploration as an important component of an excellent liberal arts education
- Encouraging deep engagement with particular religious traditions
- Promoting multi-faith appreciation, dialogue, and learning
- Providing religious resources, pastoral care, and support to individuals and groups in our campus community
- Participating with various campus constituencies to raise social justice issues and work for positive social change.

Haebler Memorial Chapel, Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Jewish Student Center and the Prayer and Meditation Room (Stimson, Wagner House, Room 103) are the primary locations for religious life at Goucher. The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life works closely with the Interfaith Club, which is a student organization that seeks to promote understanding and appreciation of all religions. The objective of the club is to engage Goucher students in interfaith dialogue and to create a better understanding of each other's religious beliefs.

Technology Information
410.337.6322
http://www.goucher.edu/information-technology

The Office of Information Technology supports the entire campus community in its use and application of technology in and out of the classroom. They can assist with such diverse issues as email login and change of passwords, to Canvas (the online program that supports classroom learning), to getting on the WiFi network.

Goucher understands the world of computing is becoming increasingly mobile and wants to ensure all of its students are ready for this reality by graduation. For this reason, Goucher asks students to bring a laptop to campus for classes, homework and research. Almost all students also bring an iPad, iPhone, or Android device to campus as well. Many textbooks are available in digital editions. Depending on their major, some students use an iPad as their primary device – it can be easier for reading, doing fieldwork, making videos, and taking notes. Of course, one can also do all of that with a laptop.

Goucher has a worked with Apple, Dell and Lenovo to determine models that meet our recommended requirements. Remember to go through the proper web sites so that you can take advantage of the
discounts.

- **Goucher Apple Store**
  (https://www.apple.com/retail/towsontowncenter/) is within walking distance of the campus to provide hardware repair if needed.

- **Goucher Dell Store**: https://www.dell.com/en-us/member/shop/delluniversity/ab/goucher?link_number=8384535&c=us&l=en&s=EEP&tfcid=8043839&cid=316360&lid=5993986&dgc=ms


In addition, you should be aware of other technological considerations:
- Students have 24/7 access to the computer lab that is located in the Athenaeum.
- Goucher provides Microsoft Office for free for students through Office 365.
- A printer is not required, as students can send their documents to one of the networked printers on campus. Students have a quota of 400 page of printer each semester.

**Academic Center for Excellence**

410-337-6529
http://www.goucher.edu/learn/academic-support-and-resources/ace/

The Academic Center for Excellence is a resource center that strives to support students in their effort to prepare for a life of inquiry, creativity, social responsibility and to develop a sense of personal and professional ethics and integrity. They provide students with opportunities to:

- Develop self-awareness and autonomy
- Develop positive habits of mind
- Take responsibility and ownership for their learning
- Develop resilience and coping skills
- Learn and use effective study strategies
- Enhance and apply critical and analytical thinking skills

There are many resources through which the center supports this mission. They offer study skills workshops and peer-led, content-based supplemental instruction sessions including math assistance. They offer relaxation and stress reduction skills through yoga, meditation and Reiki sessions and encourage students to develop a skill set on how to tap into their inner strengths as they navigate their way through the rigors of daily college life.

In addition to the support that this Center provides to all students, international students whose first language is not English may go through ACE in order to obtain additional time on examinations.
Writing Center
tutors, who are students and have been trained to help others, can assist writers with any piece of writing in any stage of the writing process. Each session is individually designed to help whatever the particular student needs. Specifically, they can help with:

- **Brainstorming**: for anything from finding a thesis to gathering ideas to outlining paragraphs, we are available to simply sit and talk to students who need to organize their thoughts about a given assignment.
- **Organization**: we can look at outlines and notes and help determine a way to coherently organize a given assignment.
- **Revision and Rewriting**: for that paper that did not do as well as anticipated, we can help make sense of a professor’s comments and problems, and offer suggestions on how to improve the paper.
- **Proofreading**: while we are not merely a proofreading service, we do teach writers to learn to identify mechanical and format errors in their work.
- **Fiction writing**: many of us are fiction and poetry writers ourselves, and it’s always interesting to see what other people are putting together. We can help with plot, form, dialogue, structure, or just read it over and respond like a workshop class would.

International students who have been educated in a different educational system, may benefit from discussing the expectations that professors have for their writing. Research papers in the U.S. are quite formulaic and direct, while allowing the student to showcase their critical thinking skills. Furthermore, expectations for honoring and citing the information and sources being included in the research project may be different in U.S. compared to how it is done in your home country.

In addition to writing, the peer tutors will also be providing speaking assistance. Non-native speakers of English can schedule time to rehearse for a class presentation or practice conversational skills.

Office of Public Safety

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In addition to writing, the peer tutors will also be providing speaking assistance. Non-native speakers of English can schedule time to rehearse for a class presentation or practice conversational skills.

Even in a community as quiet as Goucher’s, it's reassuring to know that the college has a complete range of services in place to keep the campus safe and secure — and can respond quickly and effectively if a problem should arise. On duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year, the Office of Public Safety works hard to provide security services that are as responsive as they are unintrusive, that emphasize the importance of community in preventing and responding to problems, and that devote as much time to reaching out to the community as to patrolling it.
Public Safety is involved with issues ranging from issuance of the OneCard, which provides students with building access, to developing alcohol, tobacco and other drug policies and determining violations to providing escort services after dark.

It is important to note that in the U.S., the police force does not have any military or political ties. In fact, police officers, in general, are expected to be “neutral” while in police uniform and are charged with the safety of the public.

In a Health or Safety Emergency
• If you are off-campus: Call 911.
• If you are on-campus: Call the Office of Public Safety (410-337-6112) from your cell phone or use the blue light phones located throughout campus to call Public Safety. Program the Public Safety number into your cell phone!

Goucher Help
Download the app called 911 Shield, then search for Goucher College. The app will allow you to connect to the Office of Public Safety and Public Safety will be able to locate you based on the GPS signal in your phone or through WiFi. Additional services include friend watch check-in service, safety escort requests, Collegetown shuttle routes and schedule, and iReport non-emergency safety and incident reports.

If you need to contact the associate director for international students for an urgent health or safety matter and the office is closed, call the Office of Public Safety and identify yourself as an international student.

Career Education Office
410.337.6191
https://www.goucher.edu/career-education-office/

The Career Education Office's mission is designed to help students and alumnae/i find and pursue career paths and passions that combine their values, interests, and skills. Some of the offices services include:
• Career exploration and interest inventories
• Internship opportunities and funding assistance
• Job search strategies and document review
• Interview preparation

The associate director for international students and Career Education Office work together to give F-1 students complete information about their unique situation.

Student Clubs
There are more than 60 active clubs and organizations here at Goucher. We encourage all students to
get involved with their fellow students and the entire Goucher Community. For more information, please visit http://events.goucher.edu/search/groups.

Of particular interest to international students might be the Goucher International Student Association (GISA), Asian Student Union (ASU), African Student Association (ASA), Hispanic Organization for Learning and Awareness (¡ Hola!), Interfaith Club and the Third Culture Kid group.

**Events**

Goucher Host several events for more information: http://events.goucher.edu/

**Community-Based Learning**

410.337.6518
http://www.goucher.edu/learn/beyond-the-classroom/community-based-learning/

Goucher has a number of weekly signature programs. Goucher College's Community-Based Learning program offers opportunities in 10 distinct areas.

- Animal Welfare
- Criminal Justice and Prison Education
- Community Organizing
- Empowering Ability
- Environmental Justice
- Food and Housing Security
- K-12 Education and Youth Development
- Neighborhood Development
- Health and Wellness/Mindfulness

There are many ways to get involved with Community-Based Learning and Social Justice programs.

- Join one of the signature programs that involves a regular commitment
- Engage in a one-time or periodic service event with our many local community partners;
- Apply to be on the Social Justice Committee, a body within Goucher Student Government;
- Take a Community-Based Learning course;
- Participate in a community-based internship;
- Apply to be a Student Leader for Civic Action, a student director for one of our weekly signature programs.

**Bias Education and Response Team**

The Bias Education and Response Team acts as Goucher’s “first response” team when dealing with reported bias incidents. Working closely with appropriate administrators, students, faculty, committees, organizations, and offices, BERT plays an educational role in fostering inclusive campus climates and supporting targeted individuals when bias and hate incidents occur. The team has broad membership to support and affirm Goucher’s educational mission and commitment toward “an education that prepares students within a broad, humane perspective for a life of inquiry, creativity, and critical and analytical thinking.”
BERT provides a simple tool for those who have experienced or observed incidents of bias. BERT serves as a hub for:

- Educating the campus community about the nature and impact of bias;
- Connecting students to resources for support;
- Collecting and tracking campus trends pertaining to climate; and
- Providing recommendations and advocacy towards institutional, cultural, and structural equity for marginalized and oppressed individuals and groups in our community.

## Off-Campus Resources

### Religion

Following are some off-campus ministries to give you an idea of some of the options. Some are within walking distance, but many would require transportation. Some of these facilities might have some suggestions with regard to transportation if you contact them directly. This is by no means a complete listing of the wide range of options offered in the Baltimore area. Please do your own research as to where you might feel most comfortable observing your religion. If you find a place to practice your faith that is not listed here, please share.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Imam Mahdi Islamic Education Center of Baltimore</th>
<th>Towson Presbyterian Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2406 Putty Hill Ave., Parkville, MD 21234</td>
<td>400 W Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>443-857-2080</td>
<td>410-823-6500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nepali Buddha Temple</th>
<th>Chinese Christian Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12231 Harford Rd, Glen Arm, MD 21057</td>
<td>1800 Cromwell Bridge Road, Parkville, MD 21234</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kadampa Meditation Center Maryland</th>
<th>Towson United Methodist Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900 E Northern Pkwy, Baltimore, MD 21212</td>
<td>501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286</td>
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<tr>
<td>410-243-3837</td>
<td>410-823-6511</td>
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<tr>
<th>Islamic Society of Baltimore Masjid Al-Rahmah</th>
<th>Trinity Episcopal Church</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6631 Johnnycake Road, Baltimore, MD 21244</td>
<td>120 Allegheny Avenue, Towson MD 21204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410-747-4869.</td>
<td>410-823-3588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JJ Spiritual Mission Hindu Temple of Maryland</th>
<th>Newman Center Towson University (Catholic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7710 Hawkins Creamery Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20882</td>
<td>7909 York Road, Towson, MD 21286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301-414-0144</td>
<td>410-828-0622</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bolton Street Synagogue</th>
<th>St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>212 W Cold Spring Ln, Baltimore, MD 21210</td>
<td>2504 Cub Hill Rd, Parkville, MD 21234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410-235-5354</td>
<td>(410) 661-1090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Banking
While there are a number of banks to choose from in the area, it is most convenient to open an account with SunTrust Bank. There is a full service location within walking distance and an ATM on campus.

Tuition payments can be made through an international wire transfer at a much lower cost through Flywire. The web site is www.flywire.com. Click on “I want to make a payment” and select Goucher. You can then confirm the receipt of payment through your online access to your account or by emailing billing@goucher.edu.

Cell Phones
There are many options available, and your choice will depend on your personal preferences in terms of the functionality and cost. You should familiarize yourself with the two major radio systems used in cell phones, GSM and CDMA. GSM is used more internationally, so if you brought an unlocked phone, you will likely need to select a service that operates on the AT&T or T-Mobile network. The “Cell Phone & Service Buying Guide” through Consumer Reports at https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/cell-phones-services/buying-guide provides a good overview of the issues that you need to consider such as operating system, provider, data and payment options.

Questions to ask when choosing a cell phone plan:
- Do I want a contract plan or prepaid plan?
- Do I need an SSN or initial deposit for the plan?
- How can I make international calls or texts or to a specific country?
- Can I use my current phone from my home country with this provider?
- Is there a student discount program?

Shopping
Towsontown Center (www.towsontowncenter.com)
825 Dulaney Valley Rd, Towson, MD 21204
410-494-8800
Towsontown Center is the local mall that has over 180 stores include such favorites as Aeropostale, Forever 21, and H&M. Students can obtain services such as haircuts and vision appointments there. Bank of America has a branch location in the mall and there are several cell phone vendors along with the Apple Store. There is a food court (fast food) and restaurants.

Towson Place
1238 Putty Hill Ave, Towson, MD 21286
Towson Place is a shopping area with a number of discount stores (Target, Walmart and Five Below), home goods stores (Bed, Bath & Beyond and Home Goods) and clothing stores (Marshalls, DSW and TJMaxx).
Savers
1925 E Joppa Rd., Parkville, MD 21234
410-663-7481

For students interested in saving money and being environmentally conscious, there is a thrift store full of previously owned clothing, coats, boots, books, and household goods.
## Groceries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Store Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trader Joe’s</strong></td>
<td>800 Kenilworth Drive</td>
<td>410-321-0276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safeway</strong></td>
<td>1017 York Road</td>
<td>410-296-2267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Fresh Market</strong></td>
<td>838 Dulaney Valley Road</td>
<td>410-494-4930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sprouts Farmers Market</strong></td>
<td>803 Goucher Boulevard</td>
<td>410-842-6010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Towson Market Mercadeo Latino</strong></td>
<td>714 York Rd</td>
<td>410-296-5940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A-Mart</strong></td>
<td>2025 E Joppa Road</td>
<td>410-882-8328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kemi African International Food Store</strong></td>
<td>7116 Darlington Drive</td>
<td>443-495-0127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mt. Everest Grocery</strong></td>
<td>Hillendale Shopping Center</td>
<td>410-321-0235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can also order spices and products that you might not find in local stores online through sites like World Market at [https://www.worldmarket.com/](https://www.worldmarket.com/).
## Restaurants
### Downtown Towson Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>China Wok</strong></td>
<td>Long menu of familiar Chinese dishes dispensed in a simple, counter-serve setting.</td>
<td>714 York Rd., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 321-8614</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kyodai Rotating Sushi Bar</strong></td>
<td>Conveyor belt sushi, sake &amp; other Japanese dishes served in an upbeat eatery with a large aquarium</td>
<td>1 W Pennsylvania Ave., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 339-7500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cafe Troia</strong></td>
<td>This genteel, family-owned fixture offers locally-sourced Italian fare &amp; wines, with a full bar.</td>
<td>31 Allegheny Ave., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 337-0133</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cunningham's</strong></td>
<td>Refined bar &amp; grill serving wood-fired meats, chilled seafood, pasta dishes &amp; flatbread pizzas</td>
<td>1 Olympic Pl., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 339-7730</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sushi Hana</strong></td>
<td>Branch of local chain serving a variety of sushi &amp; cooked Japanese fare in a bright, modern setting</td>
<td>6 E Pennsylvania Ave., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 823-0372</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Cheesecake Factory</strong></td>
<td>American chain restaurant offering sizable portions from a vast menu including signature cheesecake.</td>
<td>825 Dulaney Valley Rd., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 337-7411</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kathmandu Kitchen</strong></td>
<td>Indian-Nepalese fare &amp; lassi drinks go down in a relaxed setting with art-lined yellow walls.</td>
<td>22 Allegheny Ave., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 847-9595</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Melting Pot Restaurant</strong></td>
<td>Fondue restaurant chain offering heated pots of cheese, chocolate or broth for dipping &amp; cooking.</td>
<td>418 York Rd., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 821-6358</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Five Guys Burgers &amp; Fries</strong></td>
<td>Fast-food chain with made-to-order burgers, fries &amp; hot dogs, plus free peanuts while you wait.</td>
<td>936 York Rd., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 321-4963</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P.F. Chang's China Bistro</strong></td>
<td>Family-friendly chain offering creative takes on Chinese fare in a striking space Towson Town Center, 825 Dulaney Valley Rd #1161, Towson, MD 21204, (410) 372-5250</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bubba's Breakaway</strong></td>
<td>Local sandwich and chicken wing fast-food restaurant</td>
<td>905 York Rd., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 296-4080</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pasta Mista</strong></td>
<td>Storefront branch of an informal chain serving NY-style pizza, pasta, subs &amp; other Italian fare.</td>
<td>822 Dulaney Valley Rd., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 321-8855</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7 West Bistro Grille</strong></td>
<td>This upscale-casual hangout features a menu of Mediterranean tapas &amp; creative American dishes.</td>
<td>7 W Chesapeake Ave., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 337-9378</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mc Donald's</strong></td>
<td>Classic, long-running fast-food chain known for its burgers, fries &amp; shakes</td>
<td>934 York Rd., Baltimore, MD 21204, (410) 823-6760</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Sushi Too and Thai One On</strong></td>
<td>Japanese cuisine with a few Thai dishes as well.</td>
<td>10 W Pennsylvania Ave., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 825-0907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restaurant Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Phone Number</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Towson Best Chinese Restaurant</strong></td>
<td>No-frills storefront joint offering a full Chinese menu &amp; some Japanese items, including sushi.</td>
<td>527 York Rd., Baltimore, MD 21204, (410) 825-3770</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Burger King</strong></td>
<td>Well-known fast-food chain serving grilled burgers, fries &amp; shakes, plus breakfast.</td>
<td>Towson Center Mall, 825 Dulaney Valley Rd., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 821-1884</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Generation Hot Pot</strong></td>
<td>Hot pot is a large boiling hot broth and an array or raw ingredients that people can drop into the broth, and pull it out minutes later when they are fully cooked.</td>
<td>413 York Rd., Towson, MD 21204 667-308-2998</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kabob-Hut</strong></td>
<td>Serves kabobs and Middle Eastern dishes.</td>
<td>13 Allegheny Ave., Towson, MD 21204, (410) 821-8005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nando’s Peri Peri</strong></td>
<td>Afro-Portuguese chain restaurant serving flame-grilled chicken in spicy chilli sauce.</td>
<td>109 E Joppa Rd., Towson, MD 21286 (410) 832-1380</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pho Dat Thanh</strong></td>
<td>A Vietnamese restaurant known for their pho and other dishes.</td>
<td>510 York Rd. Towson, MD 21204, (410) 296-9118</td>
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</table>
## Towson Place Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chipotle Mexican Grill</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fast-food chain offering Mexican fare, including design-your-own burritos, tacos &amp; bowls.&lt;br&gt;801 Goucher Boulevard, Towson, MD 21286, (410) 296-1742</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Red Robin Gourmet Burgers</strong>&lt;br&gt;Order-at-the-counter chain for gourmet burgers &amp; boozy shakes, with other American comfort fare.&lt;br&gt;1238 Putty Hill Ave., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 823-4224</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Noodles &amp; Company</strong>&lt;br&gt;Counter-serve chain offering international noodle &amp; pasta dishes from mac 'n' cheese to pad Thai&lt;br&gt;825 Goucher Blvd., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 296-0778</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spice and Dice Thai Restaurant</strong>&lt;br&gt;Spicy Thai cooking &amp; weekly live jazz in quirky, multicolored digs attached to a comic-book store&lt;br&gt;1220 E Joppa Rd., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 494-8777</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sushi Ichiban</strong>&lt;br&gt;1238 Putty Hill Ave., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 828-8388</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Glory Days Grill</strong>&lt;br&gt;Branch of regional sports bar &amp; grill chain serving burgers, wings, hearty American fare &amp; drinks.&lt;br&gt;1220 E Joppa Rd., Towson, MD 21286, (443) 901-0270</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qdoba Mexican Grill</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mexican chain for counter-serve, custom burritos, tacos &amp; more, including health-oriented options&lt;br&gt;1255 E Joppa Rd., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 296-2787</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applebee's</strong>&lt;br&gt;Full-service chain bar &amp; grill providing hearty American eats in an informal setting.&lt;br&gt;8610 Lasalle Rd., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 296-7077</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Panera Bread</strong>&lt;br&gt;Counter-serve bakery/cafe chain serving sandwiches, salads &amp; more, known for its bread &amp; free WiFi.&lt;br&gt;1238 Putty Hill Ave., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 821-9111</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potbelly Sandwich Shop</strong>&lt;br&gt;Retro-style counter-serve chain known for made-to-order toasted sandwiches, salads &amp; baked goods.&lt;br&gt;8600 Lasalle Rd., Towson, MD 21286, (443) 632-0486</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gino's Burgers &amp; Chicken</strong>&lt;br&gt;Outpost of a local sit-down chain revamping fast-food favorites in a '50s-style space.&lt;br&gt;8600 Lasalle Rd #250C, Towson, MD 21286, (410) 583-0000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mo's Seafood</strong>&lt;br&gt;Classic fish, crab &amp; lobster dishes served in a modest setting with tables on a front patio&lt;br&gt;1528 E Joppa Rd., Towson, MD 21286, (410) 823-2200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Einstein Bros. Bagels</strong>&lt;br&gt;Counter-service chain offering egg sandwiches, soups, salads, baked goods &amp; a variety of bagels.&lt;br&gt;901 Goucher Blvd, Towson, MD 21286 (410) 825-0420</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subway</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chain restaurant offering quickly made subs.&lt;br&gt;1254 Putty Hill Ave, Towson, MD 21286 (410) 321-0008</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bob Evans</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chain restaurant known for American family-style meals.&lt;br&gt;1265 E Joppa Rd, Towson, MD 21286 (410) 494-0384</td>
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</table>
Keep in mind that it’s not just pizza that get delivered—you can get almost any food delivered to campus. Uber Eats, Grub Hub are some services that provide delivery; McDonald’s even delivers!
Ethnic Festivals in Baltimore

For an updated list of Baltimore-area ethnic festivals, please visit http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/foods/html/ethnic.html. Please note that there are many more festivals and communities in the broader Baltimore and Washington, D.C. area.

- **Festival Latino de Maryland**, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Aug. 5, 2018
- **AFRAM (African American) Festival**, Druid Hill Park, August 10-11, 2019
- **St. Gabriel's Italian Festival**, Baltimore, Aug. 17-18, 2019
- **41st Annual Korean Festival of Maryland**, Howard County Fair Grounds, September 15, 2018
- Polish Fall Festival, Holy Rosary Church, Sept. 22-23, 2019
- **St. Demetrios Greek Festival**, St. Demetrios Church, September 20-22, 2019
- **Ukrainian Festival**, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church Grounds, September 7-8, 2019
- **Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival**, Towson, Sept. 21, 2019
- **Das Best Oktoberfest**, Sept. 28, 2019
- **Russian Festival**, Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church, October 18-20, 2019
- **World of Montgomery Festival**, Montgomery College Rockville, October 2019
- **Maryland Irish Festival**, Maryland State Fairgrounds, November 8-10, 2019
- **Persian Festival** at Black Hill Regional Park, March 2020
- **Ratha-Yatra & Festival of India**, May 2020
- **Lithuanian Festival**, May 2019
- **Caribbean Festival**, May 2020
- **St. Anthony's Italian Festival**, June 2020
- **LatinoFest**, Patterson Park, June 2020
- **Filipino Festival**, June 2020
- **World Heritage Festival**, West Shore Park, July 2020

Transportation
No car? No worries!

Collegetown Shuttle
The Collegetown Shuttle is free service that is available to all Goucher students with valid Onecards. Riders are allowed to bring up to two guests. The shuttle runs Monday through Saturday, morning to midnight, ferrying students to stops at six Baltimore Collegetown Network institutions and destinations like:

- The Inner Harbor
- Towson Town Center Mall
- Belvedere Square, a boutique-style marketplace featuring food, shops and the historic Senator movie house.
Penn Station, a rail station that allows you to connect to the train to D.C. or New York City. Also, students can connect to the Charm City Circulator at this stop.

The shuttle also stops near public bus stops and light-rail stations, so you can get to other locations not yet on its schedule. For information check: http://baltimorecollegetown.org/shuttle/. Fall service will begin on August 26, 2019.

Maryland Transit Administration
Baltimore’s public transportation system includes local and express bus routes, the metro subway, the light rail and the MARC train system:

**Bus System**
The MTA operates over 60 bus routes comprised of CityLink, LocalLink, and Express BusLink lines throughout the Baltimore area. For individual bus routes and schedule information, call the MTA Transit Information Line at 410-539-5000 or 1-866-RIDE-MTA (743-3682), or visit https://www.mta.maryland.gov/schedule.

**Light RailLink**
Light RailLink trains operate 10 minutes peak/15 minutes off peak between Timonium and Linthicum and 20-30 minutes between Hunt Valley and Timonium, Linthicum and BWI Marshall Airport, and Linthicum and Cromwell Station/Glen Burnie. The Light RailLink Shuttle Train operates every 20-30 minutes between Penn Station and Camden Yards.

**Metro SubwayLink**
The Baltimore metro runs from Johns Hopkins Hospital, through Charles Center in Baltimore City and out to Owings Mills in Baltimore County. The 15.5-mile, 14-station Metro SubwayLink system operates every 8 minutes during rush hour, 10 minutes during the day, and 11 minutes evenings, Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. Unfortunately, the metro is not easily accessible from Goucher. For more information on the metro system, call MTA at 410-539-5000 or visit their web site at https://mta.maryland.gov/metro-subway

**MARC Train Service**
This commuter rail system includes service to Harford County, Maryland; Baltimore City; Washington D.C.; Brunswick, Maryland; Frederick, Maryland and Martinsburg, West Virginia. MARC Train Service operates Monday through Friday only. For more information, please visit http://mta.maryland.gov/marc-train

**Charm City Circulator**
The Charm City Circulator (CCC) offers a fleet of 30 free shuttles that travel four routes in Baltimore City. They encourage all Baltimore residents and visitors to use this service—not only is it free, it’s
A shuttle arrives every 10-15 minutes at the designated stops on each route. For more information, please visit [http://www.charmcitycirculator.com/](http://www.charmcitycirculator.com/).

**Zipcars**
Zipcars is a ride-sharing service that is supported by Goucher. It allows students over 18 years old with a valid driver’s license use a Zipcar parked in the Dorsey Lot. Applicants that possess a non-US based license need to submit a color copy of their driver’s license and passport. For more information, please visit [http://www.zipcar.com/](http://www.zipcar.com/).

**Uber and Lyft**
Both Uber and Lyft are apps that allow you to request a ride from one place to another by drivers who are affiliated with the organizations. Users can follow a taxi's journey on a digital map. And you can estimate the fare, pay for the taxi, leave your tip and get a receipt, all through the app. While we don’t officially recommend such services due to limited oversight of the drivers and vehicles, the reality is that many students use them as a less expensive alternative to getting around town.

**Safety and Protecting Yourself from Fraud**

**Street Precautions**
- Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you –especially if you are alone or it is dark.
- When possible, travel with a friend. There is safety in numbers.
- Stay in well-lighted areas as much as possible.
- Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys where someone could hide.
- Walk confidently and at a steady pace.
- Make eye contact with people when walking.
- Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street—continue walking.
- If you carry a purse, carry it securely between your arm and your body.

**Public Transportation**
- Try to avoid isolated bus stops.
- Stand away from the curb until the bus arrives.
- Don’t open your purse or wallet while boarding the bus—have your pass or money in your hand before boarding the bus.
- During off hours, ride as near to the bus operator as possible.
- Stay alert and be aware of the people around you.
- If someone bothers you, change seats and/or tell the driver.
- Carry your wallet inside your coat, or in a front pocket. A comb, placed horizontally in the fold of your wallet will alert you if someone tries to remove it from your pocket.
- Keep your handbag in front of you and hold it close to your body with both hands.
- Check your purse or wallet if someone is jostling, crowding or pushing you.
- If you see any suspicious activity, tell the driver.
Fraudulent Phone Calls and Emails
International students can be targeted by criminals for financial scams, through phone calls or emails. Oftentimes, the scammer may have a lot of personal information to confirm, such as name, address, phone number, date of birth, social security number, and I-94 number, and the subjects are told they are “blacklisted” by the government, or will be denied immigration requests, and risk deportation unless a large amount of money is immediately wired over. Please note that government officials would never contact you in such a manner. USCIS has issued some literature on avoiding scams, which you can read about at https://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams

Financial Resources
Funding is quite limited for international and other non-immigrant students once they have been admitted and arrive on campus. However, below are the sources of possible financial support that students can consider to help them complete their degree at Goucher:

- Apply to be a Resident Assistant, Orientation Leader or other on campus opportunity that involves a stipend.
- Apply to work on-campus in an hourly position. The best time to arrange on-campus employment is at the beginning of the fall semester through the Campus Job Fair. In addition to organizing the fair, the Career Development Office offers additional resources for seeking on-campus employment, just click on the link for “Locating Student Employment” at http://www.goucher.edu/career-development-office/for-students/general-resources.
- Get involved on campus and create academic work that is worthy of being nominated for one of the Goucher awards that include a monetary prize.
- Apply for summer research/work such as Educational Opportunity Program tutor that will cover the cost of summer housing.
- Although rare and competitive, look for scholarship opportunities and essay competitions that would award funds. See below.
- Apply for a loan with a U.S. cosigner, someone who is willing to be held responsible to pay back your loan if you are unable to do so. See below.
- F-1 students who have experienced an unexpected change in their financial situation could consider applying to the Immigration Service for economic hardship work permission after the first academic year in status. However, students should consider factors such as how off-campus employment could impact academic performance, the hours that they are available to work, and additional expenses such as the work permit application fee, clothing and transportation in order to secure and retain the job.
- Students with emergency situations or financial needs that were unexpected and beyond their control should speak with Karen Sykes, the International Student Advisor, for assistance.
Following are a list of web sites were created, in part, to assist international and non-immigrant students in locating scholarships, awards, and loans. Please let us know if you discover other helpful sites.

- **International Student**: A site created for international students with many resources such as international student scholarships and loans.
- **Student Competitions**: A database of competitions, some of which are for international students.
- **International Education Financial Aid (IEFA)**: A database of international student loans and scholarships.
- **Federal Student Aid**: Information about financial aid for non-citizens and undocumented students.
- **EduPass: Financial Aid for International Students**: A site that was created for international students with a section devoted to financial planning and resources.
- **The Scholarship Page**: A scholarship search engine.
- **FastWeb**: A scholarship search and application tool.
- **International Student Loan**: A site that provide information and access to student loans.
- **Financial Aid and Undocumented Students**: Questions and answers about federal financial aid eligibility for undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) students.