First-Year orientation is your formal introduction to Yale College. However, several optional pre-orientation programs that may interest you are described below.

**Registration for these programs begins on May 1, 2018.**

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**
- Financial aid for the preorientation programs is available.
- Students participating in Cultural Connections and the Orientation for International Students are housed temporarily in rooms on the Old Campus; they should not expect to have access to their term-time residence until the program ends.

### Cultural Connections

**August 18 – 23**

**Cultural Connections** (CC) introduces students to Yale's campus and cultural resources. The program explores the diversity of student experiences on the Yale campus, with emphasis on the experiences of students of color and on issues related to racial identity. However, CC is open to any first year student regardless of race or ethnicity. Activities include discussions with faculty members who have expertise in the fields of ethnicity, nationality, and race; panels on academic expectations by faculty; introductions to financial, social, and academic resources; presentations on campus life by students; group visits to local points of interest such as the Yale College cultural centers and the Mohegan powwow; and a shopping trip for all your suite needs. For more information, visit the [Cultural Connections Website](#) or call 203 432-2906.

- **Register for Cultural Connections** beginning May 1. (Deadline July 1, 2018)

### FOCUS

**August 18 – 23**

FOCUS on New Haven takes first-year, transfer, and Eli Whitney students on a 6-day exploration of the urban landscape that exists within and beyond the Yale campus. First-year and transfer students will make new friends as they get insider knowledge on all of the rewarding aspects of New Haven, from fun city-wide events to local art and architecture to community organizing efforts. Through a guest speaker series, guided discussion, and community service, FOCUS also encourages students to think about ways in which they can understand and have an impact on the city Yale calls home. For more information, go to [http://focus.yalecollege.yale.edu](http://focus.yalecollege.yale.edu).

- **Register for FOCUS** beginning May 1. (Deadline July 1, 2018)

### First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trips (FOOT)

**August 18-24 (six-day) or August 20-24 (four-day)**

On **First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trips** (FOOT), upperclass students lead first-year and transfer students on six-day and four-day backpacking trips in the mountains and hills of New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. FOOT is designed for students of all backgrounds and levels of hiking experience. Students form tight bonds of lasting friendships and create a close group that supports them throughout the years, in a wonderful wilderness setting. Participants meet at Yale on the day before departure, on August 10 for the six-day trips and on August 20 for the four-day trips, and are bused to their various destinations. For more information, visit the FOOT Website or e-mail the head student coordinators at [poobahs@gmail.com](mailto:poobahs@gmail.com) or the summer coordinators at [footsummercoordinators@gmail.com](mailto:footsummercoordinators@gmail.com).

- **Register for FOOT** beginning May 1. (Deadline July 1, 2018)

### Harvest

**August 19-24**

During Harvest, groups of first-year and transfer students spend five days farming and camping on family-owned sustainable farms throughout the Northeast, but primarily in Connecticut. They experience all aspects of farm life, from harvesting fruits to planting fall crops, with in-between time fills with cooking and games. Afternoons and evenings might find students cooling off in a pond, playing volleyball, or sharing s’mores around a campfire. A Harvest trip provides a unique opportunity for students to enjoy the outdoors, learn about sustainable agriculture in the Northeast, and make a close group of friends before the start of Yale. Harvest is designed for first-year and transfer students of all backgrounds; no farming experience is necessary. The program starts Sunday, August 20 and is run by the [Yale Sustainable Food Program](#). For more information, visit the Harvest website or email the student coordinators, Roger Lopez and Caroline Francisco at [moobahs@gmail.com](mailto:moobahs@gmail.com), or the staff coordinator, Austin Bryniarski, at [austin.bryniarski@yale.edu](mailto:austin.bryniarski@yale.edu).

- **Register for Harvest** beginning May 1. (Deadline July 1, 2018)
- **Harvest Medical Forms**
Orientation for International Students (OIS)

August 20-23

The Orientation for International Students (OIS) program is designed to ease international students’ transition to the United States by familiarizing them with academic and social life in Yale College. OIS introduces new students to the Yale campus and the city of New Haven, and includes discussions about academics, campus culture, extracurricular activities, financial aid and employment opportunities, and living in the U.S. There will also be time to set up bank accounts, get cell phones, and shop for those essential items not brought from home. Most importantly, OIS provides the occasion to get to know other students who have come from around the world to study at Yale. OIS is organized and led by Yale College student counselors. For more information and to register for the program, visit the OIS Web site or e-mail Ozan Say at the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS).

- **Register for OIS** beginning May 1. (Deadline July 1, 2018)