

# Second Circular

**From: Jacobus Verbaarschot, Graduate Program Director**  
**To: Entering Grad. Students**  
**Date: Summer, 2017**

I am looking forward to see you in Stony Brook soon. This is a follow-up to my email in June to remind you about a few important items you have to be prepared for.

- Participating in the orientation is required by the University. Teaching assistants also have to participate in all orientation activities related to teaching. See <http://graduate.physics.sunysb.edu/orientation/2017> for the dates and details, or check the Graduate School's WEB page. Note that the program is based on last year's program, and I will make changes as soon as they become available. The orientation starts at 8.30 am on Monday August 21.
- At this moment you should all be able to register for courses. If this is not the case please let me know as soon as possible, also if you already told me before. During the orientation we will discuss possible programs of study, but to see how the system works you could register for one course. Also if you do not yet have visa please let me know.
- If you want to take the Placement Exam, you should refresh your knowledge in the corresponding subject matter. Please refer to this page [http://graduate.physics.sunysb.edu/Physics\\_Courses.html](http://graduate.physics.sunysb.edu/Physics_Courses.html) to get an idea about the content of the courses. Our WEB page about the recent exam problems, <http://graduate.physics.sunysb.edu/comprehensive/> may be also helpful. A particular useful study guide is the book by Prof. Likharev available on <http://commons.library.stonybrook.edu/egp/>. The comprehensive and placement exam starts on Wednesday, August 23rd at 9 am.
- If you did graduate core course elsewhere, and you would like to substitute the core courses by advanced course, please bring all related material with you. Please let me know which of the four core courses you would like to get waived (Classical Mechanics, Quantum Mechanics, Electrodynamics, Statistical Mechanics).
- If you did an advanced laboratory course at home, and you wish to be exempted from our course, please bring all related material with you. See the "Courses, credits and exams" section of <http://graduate.physics.sunysb.edu/faq/index.html>
- Please bring the official copy of your final transcript, plus original GRE and TOEFL scores (except if you have already mailed it).
- There are other official papers that you must bring with you so there will be no delays in your health insurance or Employment Eligibility Verification. All Documents must be in English!
- **For health Insurance:**
  - Personal birth certificate or unexpired passport (Note: only birth certificates will be accepted for dependent children - if applicable.)
  - Original Social Security Card - (International students will be able to apply for and receive a card shortly after they arrive).
  - Proof of support/dependence for other children - if applicable.
  - Proof of disability (- if applicable.)
  - A legal marriage will be recognized for the purpose of providing spousal benefits, in one of the Graduate School Employee Health Insurance Plans, when the marriage has been performed in a specific jurisdiction. The student employees should contact Danielle Bray for further details.
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- **For employment verification** (i.e. for being paid as a TA) a typical international student uses the passport and the Social Security Card. International students will receive a card shortly after they arrive.
- Bring cash/credit card to buy food and other stuff.
- The Solar System, <http://it.stonybrook.edu/services/solar>, is used for housing, course registration and other matters. Send an email to Donald Sheehan at [donald.j.sheehan@stonybrook.edu](mailto:donald.j.sheehan@stonybrook.edu) if you do not know your number.
- Those who have still not received their I20 must be patient. We cannot do anything to speed up the process. Do not pay any fees or tuition until your visa have been approved. If necessary ask for an extension of the deadline.

Looking forward to see you here,

*Jac*

*Last updated 8/8/2017 by Jacobus Verbaarschot.*  
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