STUDENTS SAY “. . .”

Academics

Baruch College consists of three schools, and although its School of Arts and Sciences and School of Public Affairs are both fine, it’s the Zicklin School of Business that garners nearly all the attention here (as well over three-quarters of the student body). Zicklin offers a “very demanding business-oriented program that provides a great education in an overcrowded environment” where “it’s very easy to get lost,” but just as easy for go-getters to access “unparalleled internships, career, and networking opportunities to major global companies’ headquarters.” Because New York City is a worldwide finance capital, Baruch’s connections and internships provide “a gateway to the world of finance,” and it is for this reason—as well as for the fact that “tuition is about one-fourth what it is at NYU,” making it “the best college value in New York City”—that students flock to Baruch. Students warn that you must be willing to “put 110 percent into your studies and take advantage of the NYC network and Starr Career Development Center” to reap all available benefits here. Those who make the effort will discover a career office that “works tirelessly to prepare its students for the working world. Not only do they offer workshops on how to make yourself an attractive candidate, they also offer counseling and even resume reviews to make sure your resume is perfect, as well as mock interviews that help you analyze your strengths and weaknesses as an interviewer.”

Life

Baruch has no campus, just a collection of six buildings scattered over four city blocks. Most of the action centers around the 17-story Newman Vertical Campus facility, which is “beautiful” but “does not offer a lot of things to do” between classes. Furthermore, the mostly residential area surrounding the school offers “few places you can hang out at, especially when you have huge breaks between classes.” Although the building is fairly new, “the escalators almost never work” and the elevators “are always as packed as the commute on the train.” Many here grumpily opt for the stairway. School-related extracurriculars are hampered by the lack of a “real campus” and by the fact that many students are commuters who work part-time. Some get involved in community service and/or major-related clubs and organizations, but anyone coming here for a traditional college experience will be sorely disappointed. However access to New York City, for most, more than compensates for this drawback.

Student Body

The “hard-working” student body at Baruch could well be “the most diverse university in the country.” It’s the sort of place where “You can eat samosas on Tuesday, mooncakes on Wednesday, and falafel on Thursdays for free because of all the cultural events that are held.” Students brag that “hundreds of countries are represented in our student body” and note that “The one common thread would be we are mostly business-oriented and have jobs/internships outside of school.” While students get along well in class, outside the classroom they can be “very cliquey.” One student explains, “If you know people from your high school, you stick with them; if you’re a foreign student you stick with others from your home country. Otherwise you get the cold shoulder.” Because “the school puts tremendous pressure on grades,” most students are “extremely stressed.”
THE PRINCETON REVIEW SAYS

Admissions
Very important factors considered include: Academic GPA, rigor of secondary school record, standardized test scores. Important factors considered include: Application essay, recommendation(s). Other factors considered include: Class rank, alumni/ae relation, character/personal qualities, extracurricular activities, interview, talent/ability, work experience. SAT or ACT required. TOEFL required of all international applicants. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. Academic units required: 4 English, 3 mathematics, 2 science (2 science labs), 2 foreign language, 4 social studies. Academic units recommended: 4 mathematics, 3 foreign language, 1 academic elective.

Financial Aid
Students should submit: FAFSA, state aid form. Regular filing deadline is 4/30. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after 1/1. Need-based scholarships/grants offered: Federal Pell, SEOG, state scholarships/grants, the school’s own gift aid, City merit scholarships. Loan aid offered: Direct Subsidized Stafford, Direct Unsubsidized Stafford, Direct PLUS, Federal Perkins. Applicants will be notified of awards on a rolling basis beginning 4/1. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available. Off-campus job opportunities are excellent.

The Inside Word
Baruch’s business school greatly upgrades the school’s profile in its hallmark academic field. Admissions have grown steadily more competitive since, especially for students seeking undergraduate business degrees. Today, Baruch receives nearly 10 applications for every slot in its freshman class. Your math scores on standardized tests count more heavily here than verbal scores.

THE SCHOOL SAYS “...”

From The Admissions Office
“Baruch College is in the heart of New York City. As an undergraduate, you will join a vibrant learning community of students and scholars in the middle of an exhilarating city full of possibilities. Baruch is a place where theory meets practice. You can network with city leaders; secure business, cultural, and non-profit internships; access the music, art, and business scene; and meet experts who visit our campus. You will take classes that bridge business, arts, science, and social policy, learning from professors who are among the best in their fields.

“Baruch offers 23 majors and 62 minors in three schools: the School of Public Affairs, the Weissman School of Arts and Science, and the Zicklin School of Business. Highly qualified undergraduates may apply to the Baruch College Honors program, which offers scholarships, small seminars and honors courses. Students may also study abroad through programs in 100 countries.

“Our seventeen-floor Newman Vertical Campus serves as the college’s hub. Here you will find the atmosphere and resources of a traditional college campus, but in a lively urban setting. Our classrooms have state-of-the-art technology, and our library was named the top college library in the nation. Baruch also has a simulated trading floor for students who are interested in Wall Street. You can also enjoy a three-level athletics and recreation complex, which features a 25-meter indoor pool as well as a performing arts complex.

“Baruch’s selective admission standards, strong academic programs, and top national honors make it an exceptional educational value.”