

Dear incoming CDP student,

Welcome to Clark University's Community Development and Planning (CDP) program in the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment (IDCE). We are delighted you will be joining us at the end of August. In light of your transition to Clark, we've enclosed several items that may be of interest to you. Please also know that a lot of information is already available to you online at www.clarku.edu/departments/idce/admAdmitted.cfm.

If you haven't already, it's time to start thinking about housing arrangements for the fall. You should plan on arriving early, perhaps during the second week of August or before, to secure housing. Some students have already visited campus and toured the surrounding area looking for apartments or made arrangements to stay in University-owned graduate housing. Graduate students usually share an apartment with two or three other students to reduce residential costs. During the summer months, the Residential Life & Housing Office will have updated apartment or roommate listings. In the past, students have been able to locate accommodations for about \$400+ a month (shared apartment), although it usually takes several days and a little energy to find the best arrangement. If you are interested in University-owned graduate student housing (11-month contract), or wish to receive their lists of apartments advertised by local landlords, you should contact the Housing Office directly at 508-793-7453 or online at www.clarku.edu/offices/housing.

If you need an I-20 form to obtain a U.S. visa, please return the appropriate international student information form to Paula Hall, c/o the IDCE Office. This form was previously sent to international students in the packet with your appointment letter.

We encourage you to think ahead about your courses and possible research topics and to consider possible sources of fieldwork, internship opportunities, and funding. We will also help you with this when you arrive, but it's a good idea to get a head start. Many grant applications are due in mid-fall for work to be carried out the following academic year. It is necessary to think about the application process during your first semester in the MA program, should you wish to carry out fieldwork or internships while a student in IDCE.

You might also be interested to know a little about Worcester, hometown to Clark. Worcester was one of the centers of the U.S. Industrial Revolution, and as such, has a fascinating development-environment history. It also has an ethnically diverse population: on the streets you can hear Spanish, Vietnamese, Bulgarian, Polish, and many other languages. For many reasons, IDCE is fortunate to have Worcester as a context to study many interesting socio-economic and environmental issues.

In Worcester, there are many active community-based organizations that are eager for graduate student interns and research assistants. Current IDCE students are working on projects related to immigrant health access, gang violence, employment programs targeted at at-risk youth, smoking and alcohol abuse prevention, and much more.

As a way to prepare for Fall 2009 CDP courses and research, you might want to take a look at several of the following books:

- *The City and the Grassroots* by Manuel Castells (1983)
- *Cities in Civilization, Culture, Innovation, and Urban Order* by Peter Hall (1999)
- *Moment of Grace: The American City in the 1950s* by Michael Johns (2003)
- *The Sexual Citizen: Queer Politics and Beyond* by David Bell and Jon Binnie (2000)
- *Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth* by Dolores Hayden (2004)
- *Rules for Radicals* by Saul Alinsky (1971).

IDCE staff will be in the office during most of the summer. I will also be available via email: lross@clarku.edu. In the meantime, don't hesitate to call or write if we can provide additional information.

We look forward to seeing you in August.

Best wishes for a lively and productive year at IDCE.

Sincerely,

Laurie Ross
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Coordinator of the Community Development and Planning Graduate Program
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