Submit your Final Transcript(s):
To matriculate into your graduate program, BGS must receive an official transcript directly from your school containing your final semester grades, graduation date, and the degree conferred. If your school has not already submitted an official transcript, you must arrange for it to be sent to bgs@pennmedicine.upenn.edu. If your program only sends paper copies, please email an unofficial copy with a note that an official copy is being sent to BGS, 160 BRB, 421 Curie Blvd., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6064.

Set up your PennKey:
PennKey is your user ID and password that allows access to University of Pennsylvania’s electronic services. Visit PennKey Support if are having difficulty accessing up your PennKey.

Your PennKey is required to receive your PennCard, student email, and submit your Payroll documents (see below).

Get Ready for your Stipend:
The deadline for submission of your payroll documentation to the BGS Finance Office is July 22, 2022. You will be paid on the last working day of every month. Your relocation award will be included in your first paycheck in August. The University expects all students to sign up for direct deposit of their stipend checks. Sign up in Workday@Penn after August 5, 2022 and follow the guidance for graduate students.

Visit Campus Express
Access a variety of services including housing, transportation and parking, dining, Penn ID (see PennCard below), and much more.

Get your PennCard:
Sign up for your PennCard via Campus Express and follow their instructions on how and where to pick it up.

Your PennCard is required to access all School of Medicine buildings.

Sign up for Student Health Insurance:
All full-time and dissertation status students are required to have acceptable health insurance coverage for both in-patient and outpatient medical care in the Philadelphia area and to provide information about their insurance coverage each year. As a condition of enrollment in the University, students subject to this requirement are required to actively enroll in the Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP) or request an insurance waiver online. Incoming students may sign up on July 1, 2022 for academic year 2022-2023.

The deadline to enroll for coverage is 8/31/2022.

OPTIONAL - Sign up for Dental Insurance:
Incoming students may begin signing up for the Penn Dental Plan on July 1, 2022. You must pay the full amount up front; however, students who sign up by September 23, 2022 will be eligible for 100% reimbursement (50% by the University and 50% by BGS).

Access and Check your Student E-mail Account:
Access your e-mail using the instructions that were sent to you. Your Penn e-mail is the main channel of communication between you, your grad group, and the school administration.

Comply with University Immunization Requirements:
The University of Pennsylvania requires all incoming students to be immunized against certain diseases and to submit this information before coming to campus. Student Health Services has additional information on immunization requirements and submission instructions.

Access Knowledge Link and Complete Penn Profiler
The Penn Profiler assessment assigns the most required University training in the Knowledge Link training platform.

Complete Laboratory Safety Training:
You are REQUIRED to complete the two-part Laboratory Safety Training. You will be assigned part one of this online training via Knowledge Link once you complete Penn Profiler. The second part module will be assigned after you complete part one.

Exceptions: GGEB students, former staff members, or PREP trainees who have already attended the “Introduction to Laboratory and Biological Safety” training at Penn. Training completed as part of SUIP does not meet this requirement.

Please Note: If your Lab Safety training is older than 1 year, visit Knowledge Link and take the “Laboratory Safety Update-EHRS” training. All lab workers using radioactive materials must also do their required training online at the above website.

Complete Online HIPAA Training:
All BGS students must do Online HIPAA Training via Knowledge Link, which takes 20-30 minutes. (Note that HIPAA training may not be assigned until later this summer.)

Student Registration & Financial Services “MUST DO”:
Visit the SRSF "Must Do” List to set-up Emergency Contact Information, Privacy Setting Options, and other requirements.

Visit the Graduate Student Center
Check out their extensive list of remote resources and activities. Make sure to sign up for their weekly newsletter to learn about upcoming programs and events!

Watch the Thrive at Penn videos:
The Provost’s Office has developed a series of videos for new graduate students

If you are a non-US Citizen:
Visit ISSS for instructions on mandatory immigration check-in AND the Onboarding Center for instructions on submitting your I9 documentation to be set up in Workday and receive a stipend.

Some of the information in this checklist may not apply to students who are not receiving a regular fully-funded BGS PhD fellowship, such as MS students, combined-degree students, transfer students, or students in the NIH-IGG program, or post-professional students.