

Study in Boston

studyinboston.org - Your Complete Guide for International Students

International Student Checklist

DOCUMENTS & PAPERWORK

- ☐ Passport (valid for entire duration of stay)
- ☐ Student visa (F-1/J-1)
- ☐ I-20 or DS-2019 form (keep printed copies)
- ☐ University acceptance letter
- ☐ Housing confirmation (lease, dorm assignment)
- ☐ Financial documents (bank statements, scholarship letters)
- ☐ Vaccination records (many schools require proof)
- ☐ Health insurance info (or plan to buy it)
- ☐ Driver's license (if you'll drive)
- ☐ Copy of birth certificate (sometimes useful)
- ☐ Copies of all important documents (keep digital scans!)

HOUSING & ARRIVAL

- ☐ Research neighborhoods near campus
- ☐ Arrange temporary stay if you can't move in immediately
- ☐ Schedule move-in dates with landlord or university
- ☐ Check what your dorm provides vs. what you must bring
- ☐ Know how to get from Logan Airport to your housing
- ☐ Plan how you'll carry luggage
- ☐ Research backup housing options in nearby cities

MONEY & BANKING

- ☐ Open a U.S. bank account ASAP
- ☐ Bring some U.S. cash (~\$100-200) for first few days
- ☐ Research bank fees for international students
- ☐ Consider getting a no-foreign-transaction-fee card
- ☐ Learn about credit scores if you plan to stay long-term
- ☐ Budget realistically for Boston's high cost of living
- ☐ Set up international money transfer methods

PHONE & INTERNET

- ☐ Check if your current phone works in the U.S.
- ☐ Research U.S. SIM cards and plans
- ☐ Consider pre-paid plans initially
- ☐ Bring unlocked phone if possible
- ☐ Set up Wi-Fi in your apartment if off-campus
- ☐ Download essential apps before arrival

TRANSPORTATION

- ☐ Download MBTA apps for subway/bus schedules
- ☐ Learn how the CharlieCard works for discounts
- ☐ Get comfortable with Google Maps for Boston routes
- ☐ Research student discounts for commuter rail
- ☐ Consider a bike if you're close to campus
- ☐ Research transportation to nearby cities

CLOTHING & WEATHER PREP

- ☐ Pack sweaters, coats, gloves, scarves
- ☐ Waterproof boots for snow/slush
- ☐ Umbrella for fall rain
- ☐ Summer clothes for warm/humid weather
- ☐ Check your school's dress norms
- ☐ Bring comfy walking shoes
- ☐ Research winter clothing stores for heavy-duty gear

SHOPPING & ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Bedsheets and pillows
- ☐ Towels and hangers
- ☐ Laundry supplies
- ☐ Basic kitchenware (if in apartment)
- ☐ Winter supplies (heating pads, humidifier)

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- ☐ Know what your health insurance covers
- ☐ Find nearest pharmacy
- ☐ Locate campus health services
- ☐ Learn emergency numbers (911)
- ☐ Prepare to handle culture shock & homesickness
- ☐ Look up counseling services at your school

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- ☐ Register for classes early
- ☐ Set up university email
- ☐ Check school portals for updates
- ☐ Know campus locations

- ☐ Understand academic calendar
- ☐ Research library systems and study spaces

WINTER PREPARATION (ESSENTIAL FOR BOSTON!)

- ☐ Heavy winter coat (waterproof, below-hip length)
- ☐ Thermal base layers
- ☐ Insulated, waterproof boots with good tread
- ☐ Warm hat that covers ears
- ☐ Insulated waterproof gloves
- ☐ Wool socks and scarf
- ☐ Research light therapy for seasonal depression

FINAL TIPS

- ☐ Create emergency contact list
- ☐ Set up international calling plan
- ☐ Research cultural events in Boston
- ☐ Plan budget for exploring New England
- ☐ Keep digital copies of documents in cloud storage
- ☐ Learn basic American customs and etiquette

Download more resources at studyinboston.org