
MONTHLY EXPENSES

With the dollar rate skyrocketing , it is very important for students to spend each penny wisely. This document should help you in estimating your monthly expenditure.

BOSTON ISA's Monthly Matrix

Utility	Expense (All expenses are for a single person per month)
Apartment Rent	\$400 - \$550
Heat/ Hot Water/ AC	\$40 - \$60
Electricity	\$5 - \$15
Internet	\$10 - \$15
Mobile Phone connection	\$35 - \$70
Grocery/Food	\$125 - \$175
Total Expense	\$525 - \$740 (Approximated)

Apartment Rent:

The nearer you stay to the University, more will the rent be but you will cut down on expenditure for travel. The areas which are near to NEU are Columbus Avenue, Hemenway Street, Saint Alphonsus Street, Clearway Street, Boylston Street and Parker Street. However, there are students who stay far from the University and travel daily (~20-30 min travel). These areas are South Huntington Avenue, Mission Park, and Mission Hill.

Heat/ Hot Water/ AC:

These utilities are apartment specific. Usually decent apartments provide all these three facilities with the charge included in the rent itself. Please note that these charges are totally different from the electricity charges which you will have to pay in any case. However few old apartments even charge a separate fee for these facilities other than the electricity that these equipments would consume. We advise that you take houses which have these facilities included in the rent itself.

Electricity:

Electricity bill could come up to approximately \$40 - 80 per month for a 2 bedroom apartment which gets split amongst roommates.

Internet:

[Comcast](#) and [RCN](#) are the 2 major Internet Service Providers in Boston area. They charge around \$50 per month for a 50 Mbps internet connection. This amount again gets split amongst roommates. However there are cheaper plans as well amounting to \$30/month.

Mobile Phone connection:

You can get postpaid cards from cellular network providers such as [T-Mobile](#), [AT&T](#), [Verizon](#), and [MetroPCS](#) for \$30-\$50 which includes calling minutes + data services (\$20 - \$40). You can also become part of a family plan which allows you to share the minutes of the plan. Most students use either [AT&T](#) or [T-Mobile](#). Both the wireless carriers have excellent coverage throughout US at reasonable rates. Indian calling cards or apps like Fring, Raza are available and may add up to another additional \$10-\$15 per month depending upon usage and service.

Grocery/Food:

Grocery Expense is totally subject to your personal use or rather upon what the apartment buys collectively. On an average a household (2BR or 3BR) may spend upto \$400 - \$750 in total on food.

Commute:

This is an optional expense. However it becomes a mandate if you live far away from the university or plan exploring the city in your free time. A single ride in the [MBTA](#) will cost you \$1.75 - \$2.50. However you can avail an all access weekly pass that costs \$18/week. Also MBTA provides with a monthly plan that costs \$70/month. However the monthly pass is only available from the first of a month to the first day of the subsequent month. Northeastern University provides 11% discount on the semester passes.

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