Welcome New International Students!

On behalf of the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), congratulations on your acceptance to Boston College! As an international student at Boston College, you are joining a community of more than 2,200 international students, scholars and their family members from more than 90 countries around the world. We hope that you will find Boston College a welcoming place and your home away from home. This guide has some of the basic information you will need as you prepare for your time at BC. PLEASE BRING THIS GUIDE TO THE U.S. to use as a resource until you are given additional information at International Orientation.

OISS International Student Orientation 2017

We will post the exact schedule on our website during the summer. OISS International Orientation is MANDATORY for Freshmen and Exchange students. The orientation is designed to supplement your other orientations and to give you useful information specific to international students. The orientation will also provide you with the opportunity to meet other international students from different programs. Orientation is free of charge and some meals will be provided.

Undergraduate and Exchange Students*: August 22nd (afternoon)-24th
*Master of Law (LL.M) exchange should follow all instructions for graduate students

Graduate Students: August 23rd
(Graduate students may also attend the Graduate Student Orientation on the 24th. Please see www.bc.edu/gsc for more details.)

Please respond online if you will attend International Orientation at www.bc.edu/oiss by Friday, August 4th. We understand that some graduate students will have conflicts. You do not have to participate in all days and or sessions.

Required English writing assessment for ALL non-native English speaking Freshmen: Freshmen attending Session 7 of Freshmen Orientation should check in on Sunday August 20th and take the mandatory English Placement Test from 11am-12pm in Cushing 001. For more information about the English Writing Assessment, please contact the Director of English Language Learning at lynne.anderson@bc.edu.

What is an “IA”? Undergraduate and Exchange Students will be matched with an International Assistant (IA). IAs are international and U.S. upperclassmen who serve as mentors to new international students. They will serve as a support network while you adjust to Boston College & life in the U.S. and will organize social activities throughout the year. Your IA will be in contact with you prior to your arrival.

Inside this guide:

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Applying for a Visa

We recommend that you schedule an appointment at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate as soon as possible. The website of your particular Consulate or Embassy can be found at [www.usembassy.gov/](http://www.usembassy.gov/) Select the city and country where you will apply for a student visa (“non-immigrant” section) to learn what the procedures are for your particular consulate. You can also find information regarding your visa application at the U.S. Department of State website: [http://travel.state.gov/](http://travel.state.gov/)

Required Documents:
- Certificate of Eligibility: I-20 or DS-2019 form
- Passport valid for at least 6 months into the future
- Form DS-160
- Proof of admission to the U.S. university
- One 2 x 2 inch photo: [https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/photos/photo-examples.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/photos/photo-examples.html)
- Receipt for visa processing fee
- Evidence of ties to your home country
- Evidence of financial support
- Evidence of sufficient knowledge of English during interview
- May require evidence of academic credentials qualifying you for admission (such as TOEFL, transcripts from previous schools, etc.). Originals not required.
- Proof SEVIS fee payment (See details below.)

Requirements can change frequently. Be sure to check with your consulate or embassy for details.

SEVIS Fee Payment Required
All NEW students and exchange visitors are required to pay a SEVIS fee ($180 for J-1 visa holders and $200 for F-1 visa holders) to the Department of Homeland Security PRIOR to applying for the J or F visa. You will need to bring proof of payment with you to your visa interview. Proof of payment can include an internet receipt, Western Union Receipt, or mailed receipt. Canadian students will be required to show receipt of payment at the port of entry. This fee is in addition to any other visa fees you will be required to pay.

- **Payment by internet:** It is strongly recommended that you pay the fee over the internet by credit card so that you can immediately print the receipt needed for your visa appointment. Payment by credit card can be done at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com). The fee must be paid at least 3 business days in advance of your appointment at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate and presented at your visa interview.
- **Payment in local currency using Western Union Quick Pay:** As of April 15, 2014 students are required to fill out Form I-901 at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) prior to visiting Western Union. The instructions can be found on SEVP website at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com).
- **Payment by mail:** (NOT recommended) If you must complete the form by mail you can download the PDF form at: [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com) The form must be completed and mailed to the U.S. address indicated on the instructions. You will have to wait for a receipt to be mailed to you by airmail. Courier service is provided at an additional fee. Please contact our office if you are unable to download the form or do not have computer access.

Note: The following students and scholars DO NOT have to pay the SEVIS fee:
- Dependents (spouses and children)
- Continuing students
- F-1 students transferring between schools/OPT (Line #3 on your I-20 should state “transfer pending”)
- J-1 exchange visitors transferring between programs in the same exchange visitor category
Tips for a Successful Visa Interview

1. **TIES TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY.** Under U.S. law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas, such as student visas, are viewed as intending immigrants until they can convince the consular officer that they are not. You must therefore be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the United States. "Ties" to your home country are the things that bind you to your home town, homeland, or current place of residence, such as a job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc.

2. **ENGLISH.** Anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language. One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview, but do NOT prepare speeches!

3. **SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.** Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family.

4. **KNOW THE PROGRAM AND HOW IT FITS YOUR CAREER PLANS.** If you are not able to articulate the reasons you will study in a particular program in the United States, you may not succeed in convincing the consular officer that you are indeed planning to study, rather than to immigrate. You should also be able to explain how studying in the U.S. relates to your future professional career when you return home.

5. **BE BRIEF.** Because of the volume of applications received, all consular officers are under considerable time pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. They must make a decision, for the most part, on the impressions they form during the first minute of the interview. Keep your answers to the officer's questions short and to the point.

6. **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.** It should be immediately clear to the consular officer what written documents you are presenting and what they signify. Lengthy written explanations cannot be quickly read or evaluated. Remember that you will have 2-3 minutes of interview time, if you're lucky.

7. **NOT ALL COUNTRIES ARE EQUAL.** Applicants from countries suffering economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the U.S. as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas. Statistically, applicants from those countries are more likely to be intending immigrants. They are also more likely to be asked about job opportunities at home after their study in the U.S.

8. **EMPLOYMENT.** Your main purpose in coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation. While many students do work off-campus during their studies, such employment is incidental to their main purpose of completing their U.S. education. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program.

9. **DEPENDENTS REMAINING AT HOME.** If your spouse and children are remaining behind in your country, be prepared to address how they will support themselves in your absence.

10. **MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.** Do not engage the consular officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring in order to overcome the refusal, and try to get the reason you were denied in writing.

(Credit for this information is given to Gerald A. Wunsch, Esq., and the U.S. Department of State.)
**Common Visa and Immigration Questions**

**How far in advance can I apply for my F or J visa?**
You cannot be issued a visa more than 120 days prior to the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.

**When can I come to the United States?**
You cannot enter the United States more than 30 days prior to the start date on your I-20 or DS-2019 form. If you try to enter any earlier, you could be refused entry at the border. If you have transferred your immigration form from another school in the U.S. and have a “transfer pending I-20,” you are not subject to the 30 day rule.

**Do I need a visa if I am a Canadian Citizen?**
Citizens of Canada are NOT required to obtain a U.S. visa to enter the United States. However, a U.S. Immigration official will inspect your papers upon entry. You must have proof of Canadian citizenship, your Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019 form), proof of SEVIS fee payment and proof of finances. Make sure your documents are marked F-1 or J-1 D/S upon entering (especially if you are driving into the U.S.)!

**What if I have received an I-20 or DS-2019 form from another school?**
Do NOT enter the United States using a college or university’s I-20 or DS-2019 form if you do not intend to enroll at that school. If you have been admitted to more than one school, you MUST enter the U.S. using the I-20 for the school you plan to attend.

**What if I am unable to attend BC or decide to attend another school?**
You MUST inform your BC admissions office and the OISS immediately so that your SEVIS form can be cancelled. You CANNOT enter on your BC immigration form if you plan to go to another school!

**What if I am in the U.S. in a status other than F-1 or J-1?**
Please contact the OISS immediately to discuss your current status. Those in B-1/B-2 status cannot start classes until their change of status to F-1 student or J-1 exchange visitor is approved.

**What if I am going to another school in the U.S. before I come to BC?**
You should only obtain an I-20 from the FIRST school you will attend. When you are done with your program at the first school, you will need to have your SEVIS I-20 record transferred to BC. If you have received an I-20 or DS-2019 form from BC and will be attending another school first, please notify the OISS immediately.

**What if I recently attended another school in the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status? This includes Practical Training (F-1) and Academic Training (J-1).**
Your SEVIS record must be electronically transferred in the SEVIS system from your previous school to BC, within 60 days of your program completion date. We do not use a transfer form; instead, please complete the transfer information on the DCF (Declaration and Certification of Finances), which shows your proof of funding. Please don’t forget to tell your school advisor to transfer your SEVIS record within 60 days of completing your most recent program of studies! If you are currently on OPT, you will need to decide when you would like to stop working, which will be your SEVIS release date.

**Can I enter the U.S. using my tourist visa or tourist waiver?**
NO!!! You will have to leave the country and re-enter in the appropriate status. You will not be allowed to study until you re-enter in the correct status.

**What do I have to do with my immigration documents when I arrive at Boston College?**
You must come to the OISS with all of your immigration documents within 3 weeks of the start of your classes. This is an immigration requirement! Please bring your passport and I-20 form.
Arriving in the U.S.

Documents Needed to Enter the U.S.:

(Don’t pack these in your checked baggage!)

1. Passport with F or J visa stamp (Canadians are exempt from visa requirement)
2. Form I-20 or Form DS-2019
3. Evidence of financial resources

If you arrive to the U.S. by plane:
At the U.S. border, the Immigration Inspector will review the visa in your passport (Canadians are exempt) and your I-20 or DS-2019. The border official should:

- Inspect your original I-20 or DS-2019 and F-1 visa (F-2 for dependents) or J-1 visa (or J-2 for dependents).
- Stamp your passport with the date and F-1 (F-2 for dependents) or J-1 (or J-2 for dependents) and D/S for “duration of status.”

***If the border official forgets to write F-1/J-1 or D/S, politely remind them.

Note: Upon entry, an electronic I-94 record will be created for you. The I-94 is a record of your immigration status (F-1 or J-1). You will want to have a copy for your records. Please visit following website to print out your I-94 record: www.cbp.gov/I94.

If you enter the U.S. through a land/driving border:
You may receive an I-94 card with the stamp F-1 (F-2 for dependents) or J-1 (or J-2 for dependents) and D/S for “duration of status.” The I-94 card is a small white card placed into your passport by the border official, but not always stapled. This card determines your immigration status in the U.S. and costs $330 to replace! Be very careful with this document!

Required OISS Immigration Check-in — This is an immigration requirement! You MUST come to the OISS with your immigration documents NO LATER than Friday, September 8, 2017. Please bring your passport and your I-20 or DS-2019 form.

Getting to Boston College from Boston Logan Airport:

Logan International Airport is the closest airport to Boston College. The most common types of transportation used from the airport are taxis, hotel shuttle and by the public transportation system called the “T.”

Taxi: Taxis can be found at the ground transportation area outside each terminal. Fare to downtown Boston will be about $35 and to Boston College about $50 depending on traffic and the time of day. For good service, it is customary to tip about 15% in addition to the fare. (Note: Uber cannot pick up at the airport.)

Public Transportation: Also known as the “T” (See page 6 for more detailed information). Take the free airport shuttle to the MBTA subway station. From the subway station, take the Blue Line from Airport Station inbound to Government Center. From Government Center take the Boston College Green Line outbound train, i.e. Line B to Boston College. Stay on the train to the end of the line. For a faster route, you can pay $5 for a Logan Express bus from the airport to Hynes Convention Center. (This will skip the shuttle bus and ride on the blue line.) At Hynes, take Green Line B to Boston College Station. It will cost $2.75 for a one way trip on the “T.” Your ticket must be purchased at the pay stations before you enter the train. For more info: www.mbta.com.

Shared Vans and Hotel Shuttles: Many van companies offer shared van service to area hotels (See the hotel’s website for details). Although it may take you a little bit longer to arrive at your destination, it is typically much cheaper, especially if you are traveling on your own (around $15-20 per person). If you are staying in a hotel, call the hotel first to see if they provide a free shuttle or if there is a shuttle company that they recommend.
Transportation

Getting Around:

Public Transportation: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com)
To ride the subway, also known as the “T,” you can use a “Charlie Card,” a rechargeable card you can add money to and receive a discount for each ride ($2.10 instead of $2.75 with cash or regular ticket). You can get a Charlie Card at the Boston College station and in the major stations (Downtown Crossing, North Station, and South Station) and many Boston convenience stores. Money can be added to the Charlie Cards at most underground stations or online. Regular monthly passes can be purchased online through the MBTA or at local locations listed on the MBTA website. BC offers an 11% discount if you purchase a monthly T pass if you purchase for the fall semester. Deadline is usually in early August: [http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/mbta.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/mbta.html)

Parking at BC  [www.bc.edu/transportation](http://www.bc.edu/transportation)
Parking on campus is by permit only and is limited. Please visit the Transportation website for more information.

Eagle Transportation—BC Safety Escort Service  [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/bcpd/services1/eagle-escort.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/bcpd/services1/eagle-escort.html)
BC offers van and walking safety escorts to on-campus and off-campus locations from 7PM - 2AM for those with safety concerns. Call 617-552-8888 for service. Eagle Escort is available when classes are in session.

Drivers License and Massachusetts Liquor ID  [www.state.ma.us/rmv](http://www.state.ma.us/rmv)
Please consult the OISS upon arrival if you plan on applying for a driver’s license or a Massachusetts Liquor ID if you are over 21.

BC Shuttle Service:  [www.bc.edu/transportation](http://www.bc.edu/transportation)  Schedules and routes listed below.
BC offers free shuttle service to the Newton Campus and to the surrounding Brighton area including Commonwealth Avenue and Cleveland Circle. Many students choose to live close to the shuttle for convenience. Note: The shuttle bus has a limited schedule in the summer before classes begin. Please visit the transportation website for details.
Housing

Office of Residential Life at Boston College  www.bc.edu/reslife
Open Monday through Friday 9AM-5PM (BC offices close at 3PM on Fridays, May 26th-August 11th). For additional weekend hours at the end of August, visit the office’s website.
Maloney Hall, Suite 413, 617-552-3075  Email: reslife@bc.edu

On-Campus Housing:  http://www.bc.edu/offices/reslife/lifeinhalls.html
Because of the shortage of on-campus housing at Boston College, on-campus housing is unfortunately not available for graduate students during the academic year. Please contact the Off-Campus Housing office for assistance finding a place to live.

Off-Campus Housing:  http://www.bc.edu/offices/reslife/offcampus.html
Boston College has an office dedicated to helping students find housing off-campus located in the Office of Residential Life. Their website has many tools and resources including the following:

- Online search tool for finding apartments and roommates. If you do not have your BC username and ID yet, you can register for a guest account.
- A page specifically for International Students and Scholars! The website includes helpful information about how leases work in the U.S., a dictionary of terms and warning about potential internet fraud. Never give financial information before meeting in person when you arrive! http://www.bc.edu/offices/reslife/offcampus/international.html
- A list of hotels and short-term accommodation– Go to resources and hotels at the bottom of the resource page.
- City and neighborhood information, sample forms and documents.
- A blog with lots of useful and some fun information.

International Student Housing Advisors: Two graduate international students serving as housing advisors will be available in the Off-Campus Housing office in August.

Common Utility Companies:
Gas/Electric
Eversource (Electric)
1-800-592-2000  www.eversource.com

National Grid (Gas)
1-800 233-5325  www.nationalgridus.com

Internet, home phone and cable:
AT&T Broadband (VOIP, Internet, wireless)
1-800-222-0300  www.att.com

Verizon (phone, internet, TV)
1-800-870-9999  www.verizon.com

Comcast (high speed Internet and digital cable)
888-633-4266  www.comcast.com

RCN (telephone, cable TV and high speed Internet)
1-800-746-4726  www.rcn.com

Housing Vocabulary:

- Landlord: The person who owns and/or rents you the property.
- Tenant: You, the person who stays and uses the property.
- Rent: What you pay, usually monthly, to live in a property.
- Lease: Your agreement with the landlord. If you rent from the renter, it’s called a sublease.
- Security Deposit: Upfront payment that you get back when you move out unless you damage the property.
- Credit History: When you own credit cards and borrow money in the U.S, you have a credit history.
- Social Security Number: A number ID given to U.S. citizen, residents and temporary workers.
- Normal Wear & Tear: What things look like after being used, but not damaged. You will pay a fee and/or lose your deposit if any rented property/item is damaged beyond normal wear & tear. So take pictures and document everything before you move in!
Health Care and Employment

Staying Healthy: Health Insurance and Health Care

Health Insurance Information  [www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/]
All international students are automatically enrolled in the Boston College Student Injury and Sickness Insurance Plan under Blue Cross Blue Shield. You are covered under the policy beginning on August 7th.

Getting Your Insurance Card  [www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/]
Insurance cards will be mailed to your on-campus or local (U.S.) address in September. Make sure you have updated your LOCAL address in Agora if you live off-campus!

What if I need to go to the doctor before the card arrives? Go to the BC Health Services website and find the contact information under “2017–2018 Medical Insurance.” You can find a participating doctor on the website and print out the contact information to give to the doctor’s office.

Waiving Your Health Insurance  [www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/]
International students are NOT allowed to waive their BC health insurance.

Immunization Requirements  [http://www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/forms/immunization/]
Contact: uhs@bc.edu or 617-552-3225. Due by the start of classes.

Why am I frequently asked for a Social Security Number?

- SSNs are ONLY given for employment purposes—you cannot apply for a number unless you have secured a job and have obtained a work permission letter from the OISS.
- Although many institutions (landlords, banks, cell phone companies, etc.) will ask for a SSN, by law you are not required to have one. Tell them that you are not eligible.
- Note: The identification number given to you by BC (usually beginning with a “9”) is NOT a Social Security Number. It should not be given out to anyone!
- For more information, visit [www.ssa.gov]

Working in the U.S.

On–Campus Employment:
Jobs are posted on the Student Services website at  [www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/]
All international students MUST receive permission from OISS before beginning any work on-campus. You are eligible to work up to 20 hours per week while school is in session and full-time during breaks.

Am I eligible to work on campus?

Undergraduate Students: If you are transferring from another U.S. university or are an exchange student, you may be eligible to begin working your first semester. All incoming freshmen will NOT be eligible to work until second semester.

Graduate Students: If you have an assistantship or have attended a U.S. university prior to BC, then you are eligible to begin working your first semester. If not, you will need a letter from your academic department stating that you are capable of working in addition to your studies in your first semester.

Off-Campus Employment:
Working off-campus requires permission from the immigration service and must be DIRECTLY related to your degree. In most cases, students are not allowed to work off-campus until they have been a full-time student in the U.S. for a full academic year. Please consult the OISS for more information: www.bc.edu/oiss.

***IMPORTANT! ALWAYS remember to consult the OISS BEFORE considering any employment, especially any work off-campus. Working without permission can have VERY serious consequences for your immigration status!***
Making Phone Calls and Introduction to Boston

Mobile/Cell Phone Companies  (See local area map in this guide for addresses and locations.)
Most cell phone companies have 1-2 year contracts. Students who are studying in the U.S. for a semester or academic year may want to purchase a pre-paid plan. Please be aware that many companies charge high deposit fees for students without a Social Security Number (See page 9 regarding SSNs). AT&T and Verizon typically have the best coverage in the Boston area. However, T-Mobile does not require a deposit or SSN. The AT&T store in Coolidge Corner will open an account without a deposit and will be at OISS orientation.

AT&T :  www.wireless.att.com/
Sprint :  www.sprint.com
T-Mobile:  www.t-mobile.com
Verizon Wireless:  www.verizonwireless.com  Please note that Verizon does not support SIM cards, so if you have a phone you are bringing from home you will not be able to use it with Verizon.
SIMPLE Mobile: www.trysimplemobile.com  Bring your unlocked GSM phone and buy a SIM card (no contract)
CampusSIMS:  www.campussims.com  Mobile plans designed for international students that only require downloading the app after purchasing a plan. **This product is not affiliated with Boston College, nor the OISS**

Calling Cards and other Resources
Calling Cards:  Calling cards can be purchased at most convenience stores including Campus Convenience located at the BC T stop. Some services can be purchased online as well– a good place to start is http://www.internationalstudent.com/phone-cards/

Skype:  http://www.skype.com/
Many students recommend using Skype for your phone service to calls abroad.

Boston

Boston is the capital of Massachusetts and the largest city in New England, with a population of over 500,000. It is considered a “college city” with a student population of over 200,000 students representing over 50 colleges and universities from all areas of the United States and the world. Living in Boston will give you an excellent opportunity to experience one of the oldest cities in the United States and to get a first-hand glimpse of American history. Many of the most important events of the American Revolution and the founding of this country took place in or around Boston, and historical monuments and museums can be found all throughout the city. There are museums, performances, restaurants, bars, clubs and sporting activities to suit every interest and taste.

Climate  “If you don’t like the weather, just wait a minute; it will change!”
Weather in New England can be variable and unpredictable. There are four seasons with distinct weather conditions: autumn (also known as “fall”), winter, spring and summer. The most enjoyable weather is typically the spring months of April through June when flowers bloom and temperatures are moderate and the early fall from September to early November. Summers can be very hot and humid. The coldest and snowiest months are January and February.

Average temperatures in Boston for each season are as follows:
Autumn:  40-60 degrees Fahrenheit (8-15 degrees Celsius)
Winter:  0-37 degrees Fahrenheit (-17-3 degrees Celsius)
Spring:  38-60 degrees Fahrenheit (3-15 degrees Celsius)
Summer:  60-95 degrees Fahrenheit (15-35 degrees Celsius)
Arrival Checklist

☐ Find a Place to Live: Housing  www.bc.edu/reslife
Office of Residential Life, Maloney Hall, Suite 413, 617-552-3075, open Monday through Friday 9AM-5PM. For additional weekend hours visit the office’s website. Graduate international students serving as housing advisors will be available in the Office of Residential Life until the end of August to provide additional assistance.

☐ Check in at the OISS with your immigration documents (passport, and I-20 or DS-2019 form).
Bowman House, 72 College Road by Friday, September 8, 2017

☐ Get Your ID Card: Eagle One Card  http://www.bc.edu/eagleonecard
Office of Student Services, Lyons Hall 112. Bring proof of identification such as your passport (Exchange students and Freshmen who have submitted a photo will get their ID cards at orientation)

☐ Pay for School: Account Questions and Tuition Payment  www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/
Office of Student Services, Lyons Hall 112, 617-552-3300 or 1-800-294-0294. Fall tuition is due on August 10th for undergraduate and law students and on September 15th for graduate students and Woods College students. * Flywire is recommended by BC to pay for school tuition (www.bc.peertransfer.com)

☐ Get your Username and PIN  www.bc.edu/help  Any questions, call 617-552-HELP (4636)
Each BC student has username and password in order to gain access to computer services at BC. Undergrads who did not receive their username by email should contact Student Services in Lyons Hall. Graduate students should contact their department. Exchange students will receive their username and pin at orientation.

☐ Visit AGORA and update your Local (U.S.) address (only if you are living off-campus):
AGORA is BC’s student computer system. You can log onto AGORA using your username and pin to confirm your student account information including contact information, financial aid, register for classes, email etc. Once you find a place to live you will need to update your LOCAL address. If you are living on-campus, your local address will be updated for you.

☐ Buy Your Books: BC Bookstore  www.bc.edu/bookstore
Located in McElroy Commons. Be sure to save your receipts for book refunds in case you decide to change classes. Many students also buy their books online at websites like www.amazon.com, which can be cheaper.

☐ Open a Bank Account  www.bankofamerica.com
There are several Bank of America ATMs on campus. The closest office location is at 350 Chestnut Hill Ave in Brighton (Cleveland Circle). There will be representatives from Bank of America at the OISS orientation to help students open accounts. Additional banks in the Boston area include Santander Bank, Citizens Bank, and Citibank.

☐ Attend Orientations
Orientations are important to get information and meet other students.
- Freshman (First Year) Orientation Session 7: August 20th-22nd (Contact First Year Experience to sign up)
- Exchange Student Orientation: August 23rd 10AM (before International Student Orientation)
- International Student Orientation: August 22nd-24th (Graduate students August 24th only)
- Graduate Student Life Orientation: August 24th. Visit www.bc.edu/gse for more details.
- Individual department orientations: Applies to graduate students—check with your school or department.

☐ Submit Immunization Forms to Health Services
University Health Services, Cushing Hall  www.bc.edu/offices/uhs  Questions? Send an email to uhs@bc.edu. All immunization forms must be completed PRIOR to the start of classes or you will be assessed a fee.
**Grocery Stores**

- **Stop and Shop (C1)** (smaller store)
  155 Harvard Street, Brookline - Take the “C” line to Coolidge Corner

- **Shaws Supermarket (C2)** VERY large grocery store
  1065 Commonwealth Ave Allston - Take the “B” line, Packards Corner

- **Star Market (C3)** (smaller store)
  1717 Beacon St. - Take the “C” Line to Tappan St.

- **Trader Joe’s (C4)** (Organic and prepared food at great prices)
  1309 Beacon St.
  Take the “C” Line to Coolidge Corner

- **Whole Foods (C5)** (Organic and specialty foods, somewhat pricey)
  1717 Beacon St. - Take the “C” Line to Tappan St.

- **Wegman’s** NEW large grocery store in Chestnut Hill

**Pharmacies/Drug Stores**

CVS and Walgreens are the most common drug store chains in the Boston Area. They carry everything from cosmetics to snacks to personal items and also most also have a pharmacy if you have a prescription you need to fill from a doctor.

**Pharmacy closest to BC:** 1927 Beacon Street (B1), Cleveland Circle

**Shopping Neighborhoods**

- **“T” Accessible:**
  - **Landmark Center** (Green D Line to Fenway or take B or C line to Kenmore and walk 5 min)
    201 Brookline Ave, Boston
    - **Bed Bath and Beyond** www.bedbathandbeyond.com
      - Bedding, kitchen accessories, appliances, limited furniture and more!
    - **Staples** www.staples.com School supplies (pens, paper etc), Electronics, and office furniture
  - **Coolidge Corner** - Take “C” Line to Coolidge Corner
    Small shops, a variety of cell phone stores and a bookstore.
  - **Allston Village** - Take the “B” Line to Harvard St.
    A BC/BU student area with lots of furniture stores (used and new).
    (Tip: For used furniture check out Craigslist www.craigslist.com)

- **By Car**
  - **Arsenal Mall and Watertown Mall** (Across the street from each other)
    10-15 minute drive from BC and about a $15 dollar taxi ride from BC
  - **Arsenal Mall**: 615 Arsenal Street Watertown
  - **Watertown Mall**: 550 Arsenal St. Watertown
    - **Home Depot**: www.homedepot.com Tools, appliances, some home furnishings
    - **Target**: www.target.com Has everything you need at reasonable prices.
  - **Natick Collection and Shopper’s World** (on Route 9-25 minutes west of BC by car)
    **Natick Collection**: 1245 Worcester St. Natick MA
    **Shoppers World**: 1 Worcester Rd. Framingham MA
    If you have a car there is almost every store that you can think of in this area!
    **IKEA**: 1 IKEA way, Stoughton MA www.ikea-usa.com (45 minute drive from Boston)
    Cheap furniture and things for your apartment!

**Map Key**

- **A. Banks**
  - A1. Bank of America
  - A2. Citizen Bank
  - A3. Santander Bank

- **B. Pharmacies**
  - B1 CVS
  - B2 Walgreens

- **C. Grocery Stores**
  - C1. Stop & Shop
  - C2. Shaws
  - C3. Star Market
  - C4. Trader Joe’s
  - C5. Whole Foods
  - C6. Super 88

- **D. Cell Phone Companies**
  - D1. AT&T
  - D2. Verizon
  - D3. T Mobile
  - D4. Sprint

- **E. Book Stores**
  - E1. BC Bookstore
  - E2. Border’s
  - E3. Barnes and Noble

- **F. School Supplies**
  - F1. BC Bookstore
  - F2. Staples

- **G. Computers/Electronics**
  - G1. Best Buy
  - G2. BC Bookstore

- **H. Dorm/Apartment**
  - H1. Target
  - H2. Bed Bath & Beyond

- **I. Hospitals**
  - I1. St. Elizabeth’s
  - I2. Longwood
Important Dates

August 4  Deadline to respond for International Orientation: www.bc.edu/oiss
August 20  English Language Assessment for ALL FRESHMAN (NOT grad students) who submitted TOEFL scores and will be attending First Year Orientation Session 7.
August 20-22  Undergraduate First-Year Orientation session 7: www.bc.edu/fye
August 22  Exchange Student Orientation (Prior to International Orientation)
August 22  International Student Orientation for undergraduate & exchange students
August 23  International Orientation for all students
August 24  International Orientation continues for undergraduate & exchange ONLY
August 24  Graduate Student Life Orientation www.bc.edu/gsc
August 28  Classes begin
August 28  Immunization Forms are due to Health Services www.bc.edu/uhs
September 6  Drop/add period ends
September 8  Deadline for Immigration Check-In with OISS

The last day of exams is December 20, 2017. If you are arranging your round-trip tickets DO NOT book your return flight until AFTER the last day of exams.

For a complete academic calendar: www.bc.edu/bcinfo and choose “academic calendar.”

Helpful Boston College Websites

Office of International Students and Scholars: www.bc.edu/oiss
Student Services (ID Cards, Insurance, Tuition): www.bc.edu/studentservices
Residential Life: www.bc.edu/reslife
Bookstore: www.bc.edu/bookstore
Technology Help Center: www.bc.edu/help
Health Services: www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/
Student Clubs and Organizations: www.bc.edu/clubs
Academic Help and Tutoring: www.bc.edu/connors
Graduate Student Life: www.bc.edu/gsc
Graduate International Student Association: www.bc.edu/offices/gsc/gradorgs/gisa.html
BC Language Laboratory: www.bc.edu/langlab
BC Transportation: (including shuttle and parking info): www.bc.edu/transportation
Counseling Services: www.bc.edu/offices/counseling/