

BOSTON  
COLLEGE

OFFICE OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS AND  
SCHOLARS (OISS)



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# Boston College International Welcome Guide

Fall 2007 Boston College

## Welcome New International Students and Scholars!

On behalf of the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), welcome to Boston College! As an international student at Boston College, you are joining a community of nearly 1200 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 that you will need as you become acquainted with Boston College. More detailed information can be found in your OISS welcome folder, including an **International Student Handbook** and **Immigration Regulations for International Students and Scholars**.

### International Student Orientation

We hope that you will join us for our **International Orientation August 28th–31st!** This orientation is designed to supplement other orientations that you might have on campus and is a great way to meet other international students. For more information and a detailed schedule, please visit our website at [www.bc.edu/oiss](http://www.bc.edu/oiss) or visit our office.

### International Student Orientation Schedule

#### Tuesday August 28th :

5-8PM , Campus Green, Welcome BBQ

#### Wednesday August 29th:

9-3PM Devlin 008, President's welcome, Information sessions

3-5PM Time for Library Tours, Campus Tours, Bank of America

5:15PM Meet at the BC Train Stop for Harbor Cruise

7-8:30PM Boston Harbor Cruise (\$10)

#### Thursday August 30th:

9-5:30: Undergraduate and Exchange Students: OISS orientation, Murray  
Function Room, Yawkey Center

7PM: Dinner in Downtown Boston

\*\*\*\*\*

10AM-5:50: Graduate Students, Graduate Student Orientation

5-7PM New Graduate Student Welcome BBQ

**Friday, August 31st : Undergraduate and Exchange ONLY**

## Getting Started

### The Basics

**Finding a Place to Live: Housing** [www.bc.edu/offices/reslife/offcampus/](http://www.bc.edu/offices/reslife/offcampus/)

Office of Residential Life, Campanella Way, Suite 220, 617-552-3075, open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Graduate international students serving as housing advisors will be available in the Office of Residential Life until September 1st.

**Getting Your ID Card: Eagle One Card** <http://www.bc.edu/eagleonecard>

Office of Student Services, Lyons 112. Bring proof of identification. .

**Paying for School: Account Questions and Tuition Payment** [www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/](http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/)

Office of Student Services, Lyons 112, 617-552-3300 or 1-800-294-0294

**Getting Connected: Username and PIN** [www.bc.edu/help](http://www.bc.edu/help)

Each BC person has a unique username and password in order to gain access to various computer services at BC. If you did not receive your username by mail, please go to the Office of Student Services in Lyons Hall. Any questions, call 617-552-HELP (4636)

**Buying Your Books: BC Bookstore** [www.bc.edu/bookstore](http://www.bc.edu/bookstore)

Located in McElroy Commons. **Be sure to save your receipts for book refunds in case you decide to change classes.**

**Opening a Bank Account** [www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com)

Many BC students choose Bank of America for their banking needs. There are several Bank of America ATMs on campus. There will be representatives from Bank of America on campus at OISS orientation August 29th and 30th to help students open bank accounts.

**Getting a Cell Phone**

The major cell phone companies are Cingular, Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile. As an international student, you may be asked to provide a large deposit because you have not established credit in the U.S. Many students report that T-Mobile has the lowest deposit requirement for international students.

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## Getting Around: Transportation

**Drivers License and Massachusetts Identification Cards** [www.state.ma.us/rmv](http://www.state.ma.us/rmv)

Non-US citizens who do not have a SSN and who are not eligible for a SSN may still be issued a learner's permit, drivers license or ID card. If you are not eligible, you should go to the Social Security Office and ask for a letter of denial to take to the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). For more information, please see the RMV website.

**Boston RMV:** 630 Washington Street, Boston      **Watertown RMV:** 550 Arsenal Street, Watertown

**Parking at BC** <http://www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/parking/student/>

Parking on campus is by permit only. Graduate students may purchase a one-year permit for \$220 which allows parking throughout the day until 2 a.m. Graduate students also have the option of purchasing a one-year permit for \$105 which allows parking from 3 p.m. until 2 a.m. Applications must be submitted through the Agora system. Undergraduate resident students are generally not allowed to park on campus in most cases.

**Public Transportation:** [www.mbt.com](http://www.mbt.com)

**BC Shuttle Service** [www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/bus](http://www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/bus)

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.

**Eagle Transportation-BC Safety Escort Service**

BC offers van and walking safety escorts to on-campus and off-campus locations between 7PM and 2AM. It is a good idea to use the service if you will be walking alone at night. Call 617 552 8888 for service.

## Getting Started

### What if I get sick?

- DO NOT go to the emergency room of a hospital unless you are having an emergency! You will wait a long time and it will be very expensive.
- We recommend that you use the Infirmary at Boston College located in Cushing Hall. For more info visit <http://www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/services/> or call 617-552-3225.
- Make sure to bring your insurance card or insurance information with you. Health care is very expensive in the U.S. which is why you are required to have insurance!

### Health Insurance

**Health Insurance Information** <http://www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/services/insurance/>

All international students are automatically enrolled for the Boston College Student Injury and Sickness Insurance Plan, which is serviced by Koster Insurance Agency. **You are covered under the policy beginning on August 7th.**

### Getting Your Insurance Card

Insurance cards will be mailed to your LOCAL address in September (make sure you have updated your LOCAL address in Agora!). **What if I need to go to the doctor before the card arrives?** Go the BC Health Services website at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/services/insurance/>, go to "Frequently Asked Questions" and print the page that has the contact information for Koster Insurance.

**Waiving Your Health Insurance** <http://www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/forms>.

If you have comparable health insurance from another company which is based in the U.S. (and J-1 students must also meet the Department of State criteria), you will be able to waive this insurance fee once you arrive at BC by logging onto AGORA <http://agora.bc.edu> OR by downloading the waiver form <http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/forms/#med> **The deadline to waive your insurance is September 14th**

**Immunization Requirements** <http://www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/forms/immunization/>

All immunization forms must be completed and **submitted by August 15th** or there will be a hold on your registration and you will be assessed a fee of \$55 on your student account. For more information, contact University Health Services at [uhs@bc.edu](mailto:uhs@bc.edu) or 617-552-3225.

## Working in the U.S.

***IMPORTANT! ALWAYS remember to consult the OISS BEFORE considering any employment, especially any work off-campus. Working without permission can have VERY serious consequences with your immigration status!***

### On-Campus Employment

**Jobs are posted on the Student Services website at [www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/](http://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 40 hours per week 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 usually be DIRECTLY related to your degree. In most cases, student 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 your immigration handbook as well as the employment information on the OISS website at [www.bc.edu/oiss](http://www.bc.edu/oiss).



### 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.**
- 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!!! You may have received correspondence from BC which states your "Social Security Number" beginning with a "9." This is only a BC identification number and is NOT a Social Security Number, and it should not be given out to anyone.
- For more information, visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

# Use Your Resources at BC!

## Language Resources

### Language Lab [www.bc.edu/langlab](http://www.bc.edu/langlab)

Several languages are available for web browsing and word processing on selected workstations in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O'Neill Library and the Language Lab in Lyons 313. Visit the CTRC and the Language Lab for more information.

### Courses in English for International Students

Courses in English designed for students whose native language is not English are offered through the English Department. Graduate students also may enroll in the classes for a fee. A placement test held during orientation determines enrollment. For more information, contact the English Department in Carney Hall.

### Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC) [www.bc.edu/connors](http://www.bc.edu/connors)

Boston College international students who would like more help with the English language can receive free individual tutoring from ESL tutors at the Connors Family Learning Center on the second floor of O'Neill Library. Call 617-552-0611 to make an appointment.

### English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Support Program for Graduate Students

Office of AHANA Student Programs has an EFL program consists of three services including a writing seminar, tutoring services and a reading/conversation seminar. For more information visit: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/ahana/programs/tutorial/>, email OASP@bc.edu or call 617-552-3358. **The deadline to apply for the writing seminar is September 20th.**



### Graduate Student Discussion Group

Want to meet other graduate international students? Interested in practicing your English and learning more about American culture? The Connors Family Learning Center, OISS and Graduate Student Life sponsor weekly discussion groups to give international graduate students the opportunity to meet and practice their English. The group meets almost every Friday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Connors Family Learning Center in O'Neill Library, and lunch is provided. your BC



**Career Center**  
38 Commonwealth Ave.  
617-552-3430

### Boston College Career Center [www.bc.edu/offices/careers](http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers)

All BC students are welcome to use the Boston College Career Center. The Career Center's services include individual career advisement, a resource library, internship listings, alumni contacts, and workshops on self-assessment and career choice, resume writing, and interview techniques.

### Career Center International Website [www.bc.edu/offices/careers/resourcesfor/intlstudents](http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/resourcesfor/intlstudents)

The Career Center has a web page specifically for international students



**Murray Graduate Center**  
292 Hammond St.  
617-552-1855

### Graduate Student Life [www.bc.edu/gsc](http://www.bc.edu/gsc)

Graduate students are important at Boston College! Graduate students comprise one-third of the entire student population at Boston College. The Office of Graduate Student life provides a variety of academic and non-academic services and programs for graduate students on campus.

The office is located in the Murray Graduate Center (across Beacon Street near McElroy Commons). The Center provides a welcoming space for graduate students and offers many amenities and services, including a computer lab and study space.

### *Connors Family Learning Center*

*Finding your Finance class difficult? Need help proofreading or writing that paper?*

*The Center provides tutoring free of charge.*

*Going to be a TA this year?*

*The Center also provides assistance and training for TAs and faculty!*

### **Graduate Student Orientation!**

**Thursday, August 30th and Friday August 31st.**

**For more info, visit [www.bc.edu/gsc](http://www.bc.edu/gsc) or consult the brochure in your OISS welcome folder.**

## Get Involved! Student Clubs and Organizations

### Student Activities Day September 14th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Dustbowl! (Rain-date September 18th Conte Forum)

Student life outside of the classroom is an important part of life at American universities. Want to learn more about how to get involved? Boston College has approximately 200 student organizations!

Whether you want to learn a new sport, join a volunteer organization or join a club with students from your home country, Student Activities Day is a great way to learn more about clubs and organizations at BC! Representatives from many of the different clubs will be there to answer your questions, and many clubs will be signing up members at Student Activities Day. Although many of the clubs are comprised of undergraduates, graduate students can join the clubs as well.



### Graduate International Student Association (GISA)

The Graduate International Student Association (GISA) is a student association run for and by the Boston College international student community. Students from various countries can meet one another to share experiences and build friendships. In the past, GISA has organized events such as cultural holiday celebrations, international movie nights, and day trips to Cape Cod and other area sites. GISA receives funding through the Graduate Student Association to help cover the cost of events and activities. Any questions: email Farooq Pasha the new GISA president at pasha@bc.edu All students are welcome!

**Don't Miss GISA's Culture Night Sept. 6th at 6PM in Lyons Hall**

### Intercultural Clubs at Boston College

African Student Organization  
Arab Students Association  
Armenian Club  
Asian Baptist Student Koinonia  
Asian Caucus  
Asian Christian Fellowship  
Black Student Forum (BSF)  
Brazilian Club  
Buddhist Club  
Cape Verdean Student Association  
Caribbean Culture Club  
Chinese Students Association  
Cuban-American Students Association  
FACES  
German Academy  
Hawaii Club  
Hellenic Society  
Hillel  
Il Circolo Italiano  
Irish Society  
Jamaica Association  
Japan Club  
Korean Student Association (KSA)  
L'Association  
Haitienne  
Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Student Association (MEISSA)  
Model United Nations (BCMUN)  
Muslim Students Association  
NAACP  
Organization of Latin American Affairs (OLAA)  
Philippine Society (PSBC)  
Slavic Club  
Society of Native American People (SNAP)  
South Asian Student Association (SASA)  
Southeast Asian Student Association (SEASA)  
UNICEF  
Vietnamese Students Association



Students interested in joining a club should contact the organization's leaders or advisors. More information and a complete list of Boston College's approximately 200 student organizations is available at [www.bc.edu/clubs](http://www.bc.edu/clubs).

*There is always something going on at BC! [www.bc.edu/events](http://www.bc.edu/events)*

## Reminders of Home

*Feeling a little bit homesick? Here are some ways to stay connected with home. For even more information, remember to use your International Student Handbook included in your OISS welcome folder. Lost the handbook? You can find it at [www.bc.edu/oiss](http://www.bc.edu/oiss) under the "Incoming Students and Scholars" section.*

### Food

Can't think of eating another hamburger? Although it may not be exactly like home, Boston offers many ethnic restaurants. To find a restaurant, go to [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com) under "A&E" and "restaurants," where you can search for food by type of cuisine. Also check your International Student Handbook and ask fellow international students for advice!

### International Newspapers

**Boston College Library** [www.bc.edu/libraries](http://www.bc.edu/libraries)

In case you haven't discovered the periodical section of the O'Neill Library, make it a point to do so this year. It is well stocked with up-to-date newspapers from around the globe in addition to magazines and scholarly journals. The journals and newspapers can also be found on the library's website.

### Out-of Town News Agency

Located in Harvard Square, this news stand carries some overseas newspapers.

## International Television

### SCOLA and The International Channel

SCOLA (Satellite Communications for Learning) rebroadcasts live or near-live international news broadcasts to subscriber affiliates via satellite. SCOLA broadcasts are available on BC Cable Channel 14, and Asian American programming is on Channel 16. For programming schedules, visit [www.scola.org](http://www.scola.org) and [www.internationalchannel.org](http://www.internationalchannel.org).

### Boston College Language Lab

As a result of a joint effort between the Language Lab and the Audiovisual Department of Boston College, videotaped recordings are available for viewing in the Language Lab in Lyons 313 from France, Spain, Israel, Japan, Jordan, China, Russia, Germany, Italy, Cuba, South Korea, Greece, Chile, Peru, Brazil and Mexico. Stop by the Language Lab on Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. to catch up on the news from home.

## International Films

### French Library

[www.frenchlibrary.org](http://www.frenchlibrary.org)  
53 Marlborough Street  
Boston  
617-266-4351

### Kendall Square Cinema

[www.landmarktheatres.com](http://www.landmarktheatres.com)  
1 Kendall Square  
Cambridge  
617-494-9800

### West Newton Cinema

[www.westnewtoncinema.com](http://www.westnewtoncinema.com)  
1296 Washington Street  
Route 16  
West Newton  
617-964-6060

### Coolidge Corner Theater

[www.coolidge.org](http://www.coolidge.org)  
290 Harvard Street (at Beacon Street)  
Brookline  
617-734-2500

### Harvard Film Archive

[www.harvardfilmarchive.org](http://www.harvardfilmarchive.org)  
Harvard University  
Carpenter Center  
24 Quincy Street  
Cambridge  
617-495-4700

### MFA Film Series

[www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)  
465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston  
617-369-3300

### Brattle Theater

[www.brattlefilm.org](http://www.brattlefilm.org)  
40 Brattle Street  
Harvard Square  
Cambridge  
617-876-6837

### Boston Public Library

[www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org)  
700 Boylston Street  
Copley Square  
Boston  
617-536-5400

## Music

### World Music: From the Far and Near Corners of the Globe

World Music is the Boston area's premier presenter of global culture and features music and dance from around the globe.

In addition to approximately 60 concerts per year, World Music also offers educational programs, workshops, and lecture demonstrations, many of which are free. To view the concert schedule or for more information, visit the website at [www.worldmusic.org](http://www.worldmusic.org).

## Explore Boston!

### Tours in Boston

**Boston Tour Guide** [www.boston.com/travel/boston/tour\\_guide](http://www.boston.com/travel/boston/tour_guide)

**Boston Walking Tours** [www.bostonbyfoot.com](http://www.bostonbyfoot.com)  
Walking tours of specific areas in Boston are offered from May through October. Average ticket price is only \$10!

**Fenway Park Tours** [www.redsox.com](http://www.redsox.com)

Want to see famous Fenway Park baseball stadium but don't want to pay to see a game? Tours now leave from the Souvenir Store across Yawkey Way seven days a week, every hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until three hours before game time, whichever is earlier. Tickets are \$10.

**Boston Duck Tours** [www.bostonducktours.com](http://www.bostonducktours.com)

The tours are a popular way to see the city from both the streets and from in the Charles River.



*There is always something to do in Boston and many of the events are FREE! Go and enjoy everything the city has to offer!*

*For current event information, visit*

*[www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com) under "A&E" or [www.boston.citysearch.com](http://www.boston.citysearch.com)*

### Museums

**Museum of Fine Arts** [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

465 Huntington Avenue. Take the Green E Line "T" to the Museum of Fine Arts stop. One of Boston's major cultural resources, the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) is the premier museum in America after the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Boston College students are eligible for free admission to the exhibits upon presentation of a valid BC ID. The MFA also occasionally shows national and international films.

**Museum of Science** [www.mos.org](http://www.mos.org)

The Museum of Science showcases constantly changing exhibits. The museum also shows IMAX films, has a weekly Sunday Skyline Brunch and offers a unique Friday night cocktail series.

**Isabella Gardner Stuart Museum** [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org)

Art museum located in a mansion with a beautiful garden courtyard. The galleries are filled with paintings, sculptures, tapestries and decorative arts. Classical concerts are also held in the museum.

### Theater

#### Upcoming shows:

For more shows and information, see [www.wangcenter.com](http://www.wangcenter.com), [www.broadwayinboston.com](http://www.broadwayinboston.com) and [www.artsboston.org](http://www.artsboston.org)

**Same-Day Half Price Tickets!!** [www.artsboston.org](http://www.artsboston.org)

Half price tickets can be purchased the same day of the show at ticket booths in Copley Square Plaza and Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

### Free Outdoor Concerts

**Free Concerts at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade!**  
**Boston Blues Festival**  
September 22nd and 23rd  
[www.hatchshell.com](http://www.hatchshell.com) for a complete listing of free concerts and movies.

**Boston Folk Festival**  
September 15th and 16th UMASS Boston  
[www.bostonfolkfestival.org](http://www.bostonfolkfestival.org)

# BOSTON COLLEGE

## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS (OISS)

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Don't forget to check our  
website for the latest news  
and information at  
[www.bc.edu/oiss](http://www.bc.edu/oiss)

### *Boston College International Welcome Guide*

## Important Dates

August 15	Immunization forms are due to Health Services
August 25	On-campus dorms open for new students living on campus
August 28	Undergraduate First-Year Orientation
August 28-31	OISS International Student Orientation (Graduate students will also join Graduate Student Orientation on the 30th)
September 4	Classes begin
September 12	Drop/add period ends for changing classes
September 14	Deadline for Immigration Check-In with OISS
September 14	Student Activities Day
September 14	Deadline to submit health insurance waiver form to Health Services

## Important Immigration Reminders

### Don't forget . . .

- Report to the OISS with your I-20 or DS-2019, passport and I-94 card for Immigration Check-In.
- Update your address in Agora at <https://agora.bc.edu> within 10 days of moving (does not apply to students living on campus).
- Get a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019 if you travel outside of the country.
- Get permission from the OISS before beginning any work on or off campus!
- Do not drop below full-time student status without permission from the OISS (usually 4 classes for undergraduates and 3 classes for graduate students)
- Check and read your Boston College email (or make sure you are using the forwarding service). All important emails from our office will be sent to your BC email account.
- When you have an immigration question or concern, always ask the OISS! We are here to help you!

