

BOSTON COLLEGE

Exchange Student Handbook



Office of International Programs

We are delighted that you have chosen to attend Boston College as an exchange student. We value the partnership that we have developed with your home university and look forward to welcoming you as a representative of your institution. Your presence will add a significant element to the international dimension of Boston College, and we hope you will take advantage of every opportunity to share your culture with our community.

This handbook is intended to give you the vital information you will need to prepare for your trip to the United States and your first days in Boston. The information included here is not meant to be comprehensive — you will be given a complete information packet upon arrival — but rather to inform you of the things you need to do in order to make a smooth transition from home to Boston College. Please read everything carefully and feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. We are committed to making your stay with us as rewarding as possible.

At the Office of International Programs we want to provide you with a hassle-free transition. We work closely with numerous offices on the Boston College campus. One of those offices is the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), which is responsible for international student services on the Boston College campus. This office issued your visa documents and will work with you on any immigration-related matters. Please pay close attention to materials you receive from the Office of International Students and Scholars, especially since they are experts on immigration matters and will be responsible for helping you maintain your legal status in the United States.

As an exchange student, you are given the opportunity to study at Boston College for a semester or academic year as part of your academic program at your home university. Please note that it is not possible to transfer to Boston College to finish your degree. Boston College has a variety of graduate programs that will welcome your application once you have received your degree.

Please visit www.bc.edu for detailed campus information. For information on the Office of International Programs see www.bc.edu/international.

We wish you all the best as you begin to prepare for your upcoming trip to Boston. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.



Nick Gozik, Ph.D.
Director, Office of International
Programs



Esther Messing
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♦ BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- ☐ Apply for F-1 or J-1 visa from local US Embassy or Consulate
- ☐ Make travel plans for arrival and departure from BC
- ☐ Secure on-campus or off-campus housing. If necessary, arrange temporary housing or hotel
- ☐ Complete and submit *Immunization and Health Forms* to BC University Health Services

♦ AT BOSTON COLLEGE

- ☐ Check in at the Office of Residential Life to pick up keys and get housing assignment or locate off-campus housing
- ☐ Check in at the Office of International Students and Scholars
- ☐ Attend orientation. Dates, times, and locations are in your acceptance packet
- ☐ Set up your e-mail account and establish your library account. This process will be explained at the orientation.



INTRODUCTION

Office of International Programs

The Office of International Programs (OIP), located in Hovey House at 258 Hammond Street, is your primary contact while you are studying at BC. The exchange program that brought you here is administered jointly between the OIP and a comparable office at your home university. In addition to admitting you to Boston College, we pre-register you for courses, assist with housing selection, and can assign you to a faculty academic advisor if you wish. We also maintain regular contact with our counterparts at your home university. Please feel free to come to us with any questions or problems before, during, or after your semester or year at Boston College.

Our office also sponsors an Exchange Mentor Program that aims to match you with Boston College students who have studied abroad at your home university.

The OIP works alongside numerous offices on the Boston College campus to ensure that you have the same access to facilities, services, and opportunities as all other BC students. Other offices that you may come into contact with include: the Office of International Students and Scholars, Student Services, Health Services, Residential Life (which encompasses the On-Campus Housing Office and the Off-Campus Housing Office), and various academic departments.

Office of International Students and Scholars

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is responsible for issuing the immigration documents required for international students to apply for a student visa. They also issue work authorization and advise on other issues related to maintaining legal status in the United States. In collaboration with the OIP, the OISS organizes a mandatory International Student Orientation each semester.

In addition to these important services, the OISS sponsors programs for international students throughout the year, including welcome socials, Boston walking tours, the Thanksgiving Host Family Program, and many other activities. They also provide undergraduate international students with International Assistants, who are BC students serving as peer advisors to international students. You will meet your International Assistant during orientation.

Things to Know Before You Leave Home

Student Visa

As a participant of an exchange program to Boston College, you will most likely be entering the United States either on an F-1 student visa or a J-1 exchange visitor visa. To apply for a student visa you will need:

- the enclosed *Certificate of Eligibility Form I-20* for F-1 visa (or *Form DS2019* for J-1 visa)
- a passport valid for at least six months after your scheduled return to your home country
- proof of funding such as a letter from your bank



Courtesy BC Office of Marketing Communications

With these items, you must apply to the appropriate Embassy or Consulate General of the United States in your home country. If you are applying for an F-1 visa, be sure to complete the items on the bottom of pages 1 and 3 of your I-20 before applying for your visa. For further information, refer to the visa documentation supplied by the Office of International Students and Scholars.

It is important to understand that as an exchange student on a non-immigrant F-1 or J-1 visa you are required to be enrolled as a full-time student for the duration of your participation on the exchange program. Please refer to the Academics section for more information on full-time status.

Travel Plans

As an exchange student, it is your responsibility to arrange for your arrival to and departure from the United States. Please refer to the *Academic Calendar* enclosed with your acceptance packet for important dates.

You should plan to arrive at Boston College on a weekday (Monday - Friday) between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, when university offices are open to assist you. On-Campus Housing staff may be available on the weekend prior to the start of the semester. Details will be sent at a later date.

If you are planning to live off-campus and have not secured housing prior to departure you should arrive as early as possible (5-7 days) to look for housing before the beginning of orientation. Please see p. 9 for more information.

Also, please be aware that the following immigration regulations are in effect for all F-1 and J-1 students:

- New international students will not be permitted to enter the US more than 30 days before the start date of their program as indicated on the I-20 or DS2019 form.
- Upon completion of studies (i.e. the end date listed on the I-20 or DS2019), F-1 students are permitted to remain in the US for 60 days and J-1 students are permitted to remain in the US for 30 days.

Additional immigration information is available at the following web site:
<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/oiss/incoming.html>.

Medical Insurance

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires all full-time students (both American and international) attending colleges and universities in Massachusetts to subscribe to a US-based insurance plan. You will be automatically enrolled in the BC medical insurance upon your admission to the university. BC medical insurance is mandatory and may not be waived. Please see p. 15 for more information on BC medical insurance.

Living Expenses

Past exchange students have been surprised by the cost differences between their home country and the Boston area, since Boston is an expensive city. *When estimating the costs of your studies and living in Boston, be sure to budget for housing, meals, transportation, books, entertainment, and any travels you plan to take beyond the local Boston area.* Specific information on costs can be found on the Estimated Expenses page in the back of this handbook.



Granby, Massachusetts

YOUR FIRST DAYS IN BOSTON

Getting To Boston College

Most students come to Boston by flying to Logan International Airport. Getting to Boston College from Logan is not hard and can be done in many ways:

Taxi and Private Limo Service

The simplest, yet most expensive, way to get to Boston College is by taxi.

Another alternative is to utilize one of the private airport limo services that operate from Logan and will drop you off at Boston College. Prices vary by company. You are advised to make a reservation in advance. For a listing of private limo services available from Logan, visit www.massport.com.



Courtesy BC Office of Marketing Communications

Public Transportation

You can utilize public transportation to get to Boston College. The subway is known locally as the "T." For more information consult the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority website at www.mbtta.com.

To take the "T" to Boston College, take the airport shuttle bus to the Airport subway stop and follow directions to the "Green Line." Please note that there are four branches of the Green Line! Be sure to take the "B-Line" train outbound, destination "Boston College," and get off at the last stop. A public transportation map is included in your acceptance package. Obtain a reusable "Charlie Card" at the subway station to reduce your "T" fare.

For more information on Logan International Airport and traveling into Boston from the airport, please consult www.massport.com.

Moving Into On-Campus Housing

Boston College has a number of residence halls. If you will be living on-campus, BC tries to place you in residence halls with kitchen facilities. Students living in rooms without access to kitchen facilities are required to purchase the Boston College meal plan, which pays for meals in the campus dining halls throughout the semester. Students living in rooms with kitchen access have the option of purchasing the meal plan. If you do not wish to purchase the full meal plan, you should strongly consider the “self-catering” option, which allows you to purchase “Dining Bucks” in smaller amounts throughout the semester. For more information on meal plans and Dining Bucks visit the Dining Services web site at www.bc.edu/offices/bcds.

Please be aware that sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, etc. are not provided in the residence halls. These items can be purchased inexpensively in Boston, so you may not want to take up luggage space with bedding and towels.

The cost for on-campus housing varies by residence hall and room arrangement. You will be assigned to available housing and will not be able to request a specific residence hall. Your BC student account will be billed once your housing assignment is confirmed. You are then responsible for paying for your housing upon arrival at Boston College.

Every student on campus has a private phone number and a phone jack in her/his room. You must provide your own telephone, which can be purchased inexpensively in nearby stores. Local telephone service and voice mail are free. Campus rates for long distance and overseas calls are very competitive. Long distance calls are billed to your student account. Many students also use cell phones and Skype for long distance and international calls.

All on-campus rooms have free internet access, available through either an Ethernet cable or wireless device. Contact +1-617-552-4357 with questions.

Students with on-campus housing can move into their rooms on the first day of the International Student Orientation for Fall/Full Year students, or on the day before the Exchange Student Orientation for Spring students (see the enclosed *Academic Calendar*). Be sure to arrive between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, when the housing office will be open to check you in and give you your room key. The On-Campus Housing Office phone number is +1-617-552-3060.

If you plan to arrive outside of normal business hours, please notify the OIP as soon as you make your travel plans so we can inform the housing office. Upon arrival at BC, go directly to your residence hall and ask for the RA (Resident Assistant) on call. The RA will let you into your room and you can pick up your key on the next business day from the Residential Life office.

Off-Campus Housing

If you will be living off-campus, you will need to make your own housing arrangements. The Boston College Off-Campus Housing Office has up-to-date lists of apartments and roommate openings near Boston College and acts as a referral source for rooms in private homes. Your name will be given to the Off-Campus Housing Office and they will contact you and assist you in your housing search. The staff can advise you on suitable arrangements, convenient locations, etc. However, they cannot make arrangements on your behalf. If you choose to utilize the above services, it is possible that you may secure housing prior to your arrival in the United States. Be aware that most leases begin on September 1.



Courtesy BC Office of Marketing Communications

Because apartment rentals in the BC area are expensive, many international students either share an apartment with other students or live with families in private homes in the surrounding area. We advise all exchange students who will be seeking off-campus housing to arrive at least 5-7 days before orientation in order to have enough time to make the necessary arrangements. You should also make necessary hotel arrangements prior to arrival (see the Hotels and Temporary Housing section for suggestions).

Finally, be sure to carefully read your lease or other agreements to rent an apartment before signing and make certain that you understand the terms. If you are unclear about what a particular document means, consult the Off-Campus Housing Office for advice. There are laws to protect tenants in Massachusetts, so be sure to find out what your rights are in case you run into a conflict with your landlord.

The Off-Campus Housing Office web site offers helpful hints to assist you in your search. To access their web site, go to www.bc.edu/housing and click on the Off-Campus Housing link on the left sidebar.

Once you have settled into your accommodations for the semester, you must enter your address and phone number on Agora so that we know how to contact you when necessary.

Hotels and Temporary Housing

If you will be arriving in Boston early to find off-campus housing or have accompanying guests who need temporary housing, you can obtain lists of temporary accommodation options from the Off-Campus Housing web site at www.bc.edu/housing (click on the Off-Campus Housing link).

Checking In

As an exchange student at Boston College, you must check in with the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm). All international students are required under the terms of their visas to check in officially at the Office of International Students and Scholars for immigration purposes. You will need your passport with the white I-94 card attached, as well as your I-20 or DS2019 form in order to check in.

You should also go to the Office of International Programs (OIP) in Hovey House and check in so that the office knows that you have arrived safely.

Orientation

The Office of International Programs, in collaboration with the Office of International Students and Scholars, sponsors an orientation program for all new international students which includes new exchange students. For fall and full year students orientation takes place the week before classes begin. Spring students have orientation prior to the first week of classes in January. The orientation will provide you not only with important information about Boston College, but also with valuable opportunities to meet other exchange students, staff members, and Boston College students.

An important part of this program is the English Placement Test, administered to non-native English speakers. All fall and full year international students, including exchange students, are required to take this test if their first language is not English. The placement test is not given during the spring semester.

Please see the OISS letter in your acceptance packet for additional information about the orientation.

ACADEMICS

Full-Time Status

All international students in the US are required to maintain full-time student status for the duration of their studies in the US. Undergraduates must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits per semester. Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credits per semester. Undergraduate exchange students should expect to take between 12 and 15 credits per semester. Graduate exchange students should expect to take between 9 and 12 credits per semester. Failure to maintain full-time status will affect your legal status in the United States, so it is very important to be enrolled in the appropriate number of credits. If you are uncertain about how many classes you must take at BC, ask your home university.

Selecting and Registering for Courses

Prior to your arrival, the OIP attempts to register you for the classes you requested on your application, but please keep in mind that you must be flexible about what courses you will take. We cannot guarantee that you will get all of the classes you request. If you need to make any alterations to the courses you selected on your application, please e-mail the OIP at oiexchange@bc.edu.

When selecting courses, there are a number of factors that must be taken into account. First, be sure to choose courses that correspond to the level at which you were admitted to BC. Your acceptance letter states if you were accepted as an undergraduate or graduate student. Second, be sure to select courses that correspond to your level of experience with the subject matter. Each course listing on the BC course web site gives the course level. Levels for all BC courses are:

- CORE: Fulfills university core requirements. Fairly basic courses open to undergraduate students from any field of study.
- ONE: Undergraduate elective courses open to students from any field of study.
- TWO: Undergraduate courses designed primarily for those specializing in that field of study.
- THREE: Upper-level courses for undergraduate and graduate registration. Most suited to those with background knowledge of the general subject matter and specializing in that field of study.

GRAD: Only for those admitted as graduate students. Requires advanced knowledge of general subject matter. Please note that some of these courses are open to undergraduate students with the permission of the professor.

Undergraduate students should select courses with a level of Core, One, Two, or Three. Graduate students should select courses with a Grad or Three level.

Courses listed on the BC course website (<https://portal.bc.edu/portal/page/portal/Public/CourseInformationSchedulePublic>) look like this:

Financial Accounting (ACCT102101)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Carroll School of Management Fall 2014	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
WILSON, PETER WILSON, CAROLYN R Credits: 03	FULTON HALL 145
Course restricted to Carroll School of Management students	
<input type="checkbox"/> More Detail	

In the example above, the complete class number includes a four-letter abbreviation for the department (e.g. ACCT is Accounting), a four-digit course number (e.g. 1021), and two numbers that indicate the class section (e.g. 01). Popular courses are offered in different sections to keep class sizes small. The course above carries a 3-credit load, which is the most common load for university courses. Clicking on “More Detail” shows a brief course description, and clicking on the course title shows other information including prerequisites and the **course index** number. *You must include the course index number on your Course Registration Form.* It is your responsibility to make sure that you have had all prerequisites required for any course that you request. **NOTE: You may not request all of your classes in one subject only; you must take classes in a variety of subjects.**

Courses typically meet several times a week. Classes that meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday (MWF) are generally 50 minutes long, while Tuesday, Thursday (TTH) classes are typically 90 minutes.

Some courses require co-registration for a supplementary lab or discussion section, which is indicated in the course listing. Enrollment in some courses is restricted to majors only or requires department permission prior to registration; OIP is not able to pre-register you for such courses, but you may be able to appeal to the department after arrival to seek special permission to enroll. Undergraduates who wish to enroll in graduate-level courses will need to seek direct permission from the instructor after arrival at BC. It is fairly unusual for undergraduates to obtain approval for graduate courses and you should not assume that you will be able to do so. BC can only pre-register you for one Economics class and a maximum of two Finance classes.

BC cannot guarantee that you will get into classes requested on your exchange application. Some classes have restrictions and size limitations that may impact your access. It is important to check required prerequisites and to be flexible about your class requests.

Finally, please note that many courses “close” during the early registration period. Each course has a maximum number of students who can enroll. Once that limit is reached, the computer system will not allow any additional registration in that course. If you find that a course you need is closed, you will have to appeal to the professor (after you arrive) for an “override” to allow you into the class. This is not uncommon and most professors are sympathetic to reasonable requests from exchange students. However, it is not guaranteed that you will receive an override for a closed course.

Please look for classes offered in the semester in which you will be attending (e.g., Fall, Spring) even if the list is for the previous year.

Drop/Add

The first week of classes at the beginning of each semester is called the “Drop/Add” period. At this time you can make changes to your course schedule, adding and/or dropping courses as needed. Don’t worry if you do not have all of the courses that you need by the time classes start. You will have this period of time to make adjustments to your course schedule, seek overrides as needed, etc.

Your OIP exchange advisor can help you with most registration needs, including add/drop. Registration matters can also be handled at Student Services in Lyons Hall or on the computer via AGORA. You will receive more specific information about these resources upon arrival. In the meantime, refer all course requests to the OIP.

Faculty Advisors

You may request a faculty advisor for assistance with academic planning for your semester or year at BC. The OIP will make advisor placements based upon your field of study. If your advisor at home already knows a particular professor at BC, or if you have already made contact with a professor here and you would like him/her to be your advisor, please let us know. If you request a faculty advisor, you will be required to meet with him/her by appointment during the first week of classes and throughout the semester as necessary.



Courtesy BC Office of Marketing Communications

Tutoring

The Connors Family Learning Center offers free tutoring for more than 60 undergraduate and some graduate courses, including writing and English as a Second Language. Intensive, small-group supplemental instruction sessions are available in several courses, and tutoring and assistance in improving academic writing. For more information about services provided by the Learning Center, go to www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring.html.

English Classes for Non-Native Speakers

If your native language is not English you will be required to take a placement examination during the Orientation in the fall. If necessary, students will be recommended for a particular course based upon the results of this examination. The Program in English for Foreign Students is based in the English Department and offers several courses in college-level English for non-native speakers. Recent course offerings include:

- ENGL 10090 First Year Writing Seminar for English Language Learners: extensive practice in writing/editing skills necessary for content courses

In order to enroll in one of these courses, you **must have taken** the placement test. Please note that this test is not given in the spring semester.

Transcripts of Academic Work

At the end of your time at Boston College, the OIP will send an official transcript of the academic work you completed to your home university. Before the OIP can release your BC transcript to your home university, however, you must clear any outstanding debts to Boston College that you may have. Be sure that all long-distance phone calls, on-campus housing fees, insurance, meals, library charges, etc. have been paid.

Your BC student account must show a zero balance before you leave Boston or we will not be able to release your transcript.

The academic system in the US differs from other countries. You may spend more time in class than you would at home, and BC professors often include class attendance as part of your final grade. Students are usually expected to complete a variety of assignments and are assessed throughout the semester. Students often participate actively in class discussions. You must abide by BC's academic integrity policy—see www.bc.edu/publications/ucatalog/policy.shtml.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Student Identification Cards

If you submitted the required digital photograph with your Exchange Student Application you will receive your student ID card during orientation. If you did not send us a digital photo, you will be able to have your ID card made at Student Services in Lyons Hall following orientation.

Your Boston College student identification card ("Eagle ID") is a very important item for you to have. In addition to identifying you as a BC student, the card enables you to check books out from the library, to make purchases at the BC bookstore, to access your student record and account from "U-VIEW" computers around campus, and to make use of the BC Flynn Recreation Complex (fee required), among other services. Be sure to keep your Eagle ID with you at all times and do not lose it. A replacement fee will be charged by Student Services for lost cards.

Medical Insurance

As explained in the Things to Know Before You Leave Home section, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires all students enrolled in a Massachusetts college or university to be covered by a US-based medical insurance plan. Therefore, you have been automatically enrolled in the Boston College medical insurance policy which provides adequate coverage during your stay at BC, including travel within and outside the US during your period of coverage. Your student account was billed upon registration at BC. As an exchange student it is your responsibility to pay for your insurance, which can be done at Student Services in Lyons Hall. Full year students will be automatically re-enrolled in the insurance plan for their second semester. You can find more information on the BC medical insurance coverage on the BC website at www.bc.edu/offices/uhs/services/insurance.

Health Services

The Health Services Center at Boston College offers a range of services to BC students. Staffed by first-class doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical staff, the Health Services Center is equipped to handle health emergencies, minor illnesses and questions about healthy living. While the general health services offered are comprehensive, if you require specialty care you can be referred to a qualified specialist.

All undergraduate exchange students who live on-campus are required to pay the Health Services fee. Exchange students who live off-campus are also entitled to this service for the same fee. Off-campus students can either pay in advance, or the first time the service is used. It is recommended that you utilize the Health Services if necessary. Services covered by the fee are detailed on the Boston College Health Services website at www.bc.edu/offices/uhs.

Please note that *the Health Services fee is not the same as medical insurance*. You must still have adequate medical insurance coverage, especially for such things as hospitalization, emergency room visits, diagnostic testing, x-rays, etc., which are not covered by the Health Services fee.

University Counseling Services

Sometimes students find adjusting to a new culture and new academic environment very challenging. The Counseling Services Office provides caring, professional support and assistance to full-time students who request it. Selected staff members in Counseling Services have extensive experience with cross-cultural issues and are especially well-suited to help students who are experiencing culture shock. It is very common in the United States for students to seek the help of counseling professionals when dealing with challenging situations. In fact, thousands of students take advantage of the services offered by Counseling Services for a variety of issues each year.



Courtesy BC Office of Marketing Communications

The services offered by Counseling Services, at no additional cost, include short-term individual counseling and psychotherapy as well as a limited number of counseling groups. If you wish to speak with a counselor you can make an appointment by calling 617-552-3310 or by visiting the Counseling Office in the lower level of Gasson Hall.

Also, please remember that the OIP staff is always available and willing to help if you have any questions, either academic or personal. Most of the staff members have studied and/or lived outside the US and know firsthand the challenges of adapting to a new country and culture.

Students with Disabilities

Boston College provides a range of services and accommodations for students with physical or learning disabilities. If you require additional assistance because of a disability, feel free to share that information with your OIP exchange advisor. You may also contact the BC Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities, Maloney Hall Suite 212, phone: 617-552-3470. Be sure to bring documentation from your doctor or university disability coordinator to support your request for services.

E-mail

Every student enrolled at Boston College is eligible to receive an e-mail account. You may obtain your account after arriving at BC by presenting your BC ID card at the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) located on the second floor of the O'Neill Library. The use of your BC email account is required once you have arrived on-campus. If you have another address that you prefer to use, set up your BC account (by using AGORA) to forward all messages to the alternate account. The OIP and other BC offices will send all information to your BC email address during your time at Boston College.



LIFE BEYOND ACADEMICS

Religion

As a Jesuit institution, Boston College is sensitive to the spiritual needs of all members of the BC community, whatever their respective faiths or philosophical traditions. Catholic Masses are offered throughout the week in several locations on campus and are open to all BC students, faculty and staff. The Campus Ministry Office offers spiritual counseling and guidance to students, as well as volunteer service opportunities in Boston and other parts of the world. Campus Ministry also provides information and support for people of all religious and spiritual traditions by maintaining a list of churches, temples and synagogues in the Boston College area. Various student clubs, including the Asian Christian Fellowship, Jewish Students' Association, and Muslim Students' Association, provide a sense of community and support for students of various spiritual traditions. More information can be found at www.bc.edu/ministry.

Activities/Opportunities

There is a wide variety of clubs and activities to meet any student's interests, including several intercultural clubs focusing on individual countries or regions. An Activities Fair early in the fall semester will give you an opportunity to learn about many of these opportunities and speak to some of the students involved. For students on exchange during the Spring semester, the Office of the Dean for Student Development has a list of all BC clubs and activities (www.bc.edu/a-z/clubs/). Exchange students are asked to come prepared to organize an event or activity that will introduce the BC community to some aspect of their country or culture. Such activities enrich campus life and also encourage dialogue and intercultural understanding.



Courtesy BC Office of Marketing Communications



Courtesy BC Office of Marketing Communications

Sports in American University Culture

Many international students are surprised at the level of importance placed on intercollegiate sports in the United States. American football, particularly, draws thousands of screaming fans every Saturday during football season, with students cheering for the home team. This is very much a part of American college culture and, even if you are not a sports fan, it is something you should experience during your time as a student in the United States. You may not know anything about the intricate rules of American sports like football, hockey and basketball. However, the experience of sitting in a crowded stadium, cheering, listening to the band, watching the crowd, and even trying to follow the game, is a true American experience and should not be missed.

Recreation Complex

The Flynn Recreation Complex provides Boston College students with a broad array of sports and physical fitness opportunities, from aerobics to weight lifting and swimming. As an exchange student you have the option of joining the “RecPlex” for a semester or academic year (membership fees apply). If you choose not to join the “RecPlex” you may still use the facilities by presenting your BC ID card and paying a small fee per visit. Visit www.bc.edu/rec for more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of International Programs

Location: Hovey House, 258 Hammond Street
Mailing Address: Hovey House, 140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3926
Phone: 617.552.3827 Fax: 617.552.0647
Email: oiexchange@bc.edu
Web: www.bc.edu/international
Director: Dr. Nick Gozik
Email: nick.gozik@bc.edu
Assistant Director for Exchange Students: Esther Messing
Email: messines@bc.edu

Office of International Students and Scholars

Location: 72 College Road
Mailing Address: 140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3926
Phone: 617.552.8005 Fax: 617.552.2190
Web: www.bc.edu/offices/oiss
Director: Adrienne Nussbaum
Email: adrienne.nussbaum@bc.edu

Office of Residential Life

Contact: On-Campus Housing, Off-Campus Housing Advice
Web: www.bc.edu/offices/reslife

Office of Student Services

Contact: Billing, Medical Insurance, ID, Course Registration
Web: www.bc.edu/offices/stserv

University Health Services

Contact: Immunization, Health and Wellness Issues
Web: www.bc.edu/offices/uhs

University Counseling Services

Contact: Personal Counseling
Web: www.bc.edu/offices/counseling

Estimated Expenses 2016-2017

When estimating the costs of living in Boston, be sure to budget for housing, meals, transportation, books, entertainment, and any traveling you plan to do in the US.

Average Cost of Apartment/Room Rental

Studio Apartment: \$1400 - \$1800 per month *
One Bedroom Apartment: \$2000 - \$2800 per month *
Two Bedroom Apartment: \$2400 - \$3000 per month *
Three-Four Bedroom Apartment: \$3000 - \$4000 per month *
Private Room in Local Home: \$700 - \$1000 per month *

*Please note: Boston rental agents often charge one half or one full month's rent as a commission fee (also known as a "Finder's Fee")

On-Campus Housing

Shared Room: \$4300 - \$5900 per semester

Meals and Books

Campus Meal Plan: \$2700 per semester for full meal plan
No Meal Plan: \$2100 per semester
Books: \$900 per semester

Other Expenses

Medical Insurance: \$1350 (Fall 2016); \$1664 (Spring 2017) **
University Health Services: \$520 per year, fall or spring semester **
Flynn Recreation Complex: \$155 per semester

**The BC Medical Insurance plan is mandatory. The University Health Services fee is required for on-campus students.

Personal Expenses: These will vary significantly according to the individual, but students should budget approximately \$2700 per semester.

Transportation from Logan Airport to BC

Taxi or Private Limo: approximately \$50 - 60

Subway ("T") Ride: \$2.65 cash payment or \$2.10 using a "Charlie Card"