

# **Northeastern University**

Global Pathways Brochures

Global Pathways Program

March 01, 2012

# Global Pathways pre-arrival guide

Global Pathways, Northeastern University

#### **Recommended Citation**

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# **PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE**





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# Planning your arrival

We are excited you have chosen to enroll in Global Pathways and look forward to welcoming you to Boston and Northeastern University (NU). The information contained in this booklet is designed to help you prepare for your trip and future as a student of Northeastern University. It will answer your questions about what to do before you leave your home country for the US and what you can expect when you arrive.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact: Brandon Bachner

Campus Manager

Telephone: 1-617-373-7196

Email: brandon.bachner@kaplan.com

Or, check out Northeastern's University's website: www.northeastern.edu.

Or, http://www.ice.gov/sevis/factsheet/100104ent\_stdnt\_fs.htm

Remember to carry this Pre-Arrival Guide with you in your carry-on bag when you travel, as it contains important information and contact details.

#### **Preparing for Travel**

Prior to departure to the United States, international students should ensure that they obtain the proper nonimmigrant visa at a United States Embassy or Consulate. Students who receive a Form I-20 issued by NU will acquire an F-1 visa, provided they meet the criteria set by the visa-issuing consular officer (i.e. financial documentation, intent to return to the home country, etc.).

When you receive your visa, the consular officer will seal your immigration documents in an envelope and attach it to your passport. You should not open this envelope! The Customs and Border Protection Officer at the US port-of-entry will open the envelope. Students who present a valid I-20 at a US port-of-entry must attend the school named on that certificate of eligibility. Students should not enter the United States with a B-2 tourist visa as it may be impossible to change it to student visa status at a later date.

#### **Upon Arrival**

At the United States port-of-entry, an officer of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) department will review your documents, including the passport, visa stamp, important letters, and the I-20. The visa eligibility document (I-20) will be processed by the ICE, with a page returned to you along with the I-94 card. The entry date listed in item #5 of the I-20 is the last possible day to use this form for initial entry to the United States. New students may enter the US up to 30 days before the indicated start date on the I-20.

Be prepared to answer the following questions:

- What and where will you study?
- · Do you have family connections in the US?
- What are your plans for returning to your home country?
- Where will you be staying in Boston?

#### Insurance

When you book your flight, ensure that you have travel insurance in case your bags are lost or damaged on the journey to Boston.

#### **Arrival Details**

Once you have obtained a visa, you should contact us immediately with the following details:

Arrival Date / /	Arrival Time
Arrival Airport	Arrival Terminal
Airline	Flight Number
Last city from which this flight departs	



# **Airport Transfer**

Transportation from Boston's Logan International Airport to your housing has been arranged for you by Global Pathways. It is your responsibility to contact the transfer company immediately by telephone (1-800-609-1402) if your flight schedule changes, you miss your connection, or if your flight is cancelled. You can also contact our Emergency Number 1-888-520-6874. If you do not call, we will not know how and when to meet you. Any changes must be made at least one hour prior to your original arrival time in Boston.

#### **Finding Us When You Arrive**

If your plane is coming directly from another U.S. city it will arrive at Terminal A, B, or C. When your plane lands in Boston, you will be directed to the baggage claim area where you will pick up your luggage. The driver will meet you at this baggage claim area with a sign that reads:



If your plane has come directly from another country it will land at Terminal E. First, you will be directed through customs and immigration. Second, you will exit through the International Arrivals door. This is where you will meet your driver with the above sign.

Logan Airport is very busy. Please do not leave or we may not find you. If you do not see us after 15 minutes, find the nearest public pay phone and follow these directions:

- Phoning is free and easy from any public phone within the U.S. You don't need coins, simply pick up the handset of the telephone and dial 1-800-609-1402.
- You will hear "Welcome to New England Coach Services". At this point press the
  number "1" and wait for an operator to answer. Please say: "Hello, I'm a Global
  Pathways student and can't find my greeter/driver. My name is\_\_\_\_\_\_
  from \_\_\_\_\_\_ and I'm waiting in Terminal \_\_\_\_\_\_.".

The operator will then assist you in finding your greeter/driver promptly.



#### **Global Pathways Program**

This program is mandatory and will help prepare you for life in Boston and for studying at Northeastern University. The program comprises a series of presentations, workshops, and activities particular to Global Pathways and for all newly arrived international students. The Arrival Program serves as an excellent opportunity to become familiar with fellow classmates, the campus, Global Pathways and the Northeastern University community.

#### **During the Orientation Program you will:**

- · Obtain your Student ID (Husky) Card
- Participate in a student panel with current and graduated Pathways students
- Sign-Up for activities and excursions
- · Learn about SEVIS regulations
- Meet other international students
- Receive training for myNEU—your access to email
- · Learn how to set up a US bank account
- Learn about the Global Pathways Academic Program
- Tour the campus and Snell Library
- Explore the city of Boston

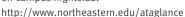
Please note: All students are required to attend the Program, particularly the Immigration Clearance and SEVIS Session. If you cannot attend, you must contact Global Pathways prior to orientation. We cannot guarantee to hold your place in the program or your accommodation.

# A detailed outline of the Arrival Program will be provided when you check in

Orientation Checklist Please bring the following:		
	Passport	
	Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility)	
	Form I-94 (Admission Departure Record)	
	Health Report (completed and translated)	
	Original academic certificates, transcripts and test scores	
	Your US Address	

#### **Our Campus**

Northeastern is an exciting and vibrant place to learn, work and live. Northeastern combines all of the benefits of a traditional college campus with the wealth of resources found in one of the world's most dynamic cities. Our 67-acre campus located in the heart of Boston is a vibrant, self-contained community energized by the cultural, intellectual, social, and recreational pursuits of a diverse and engaged community of students, faculty, and staff. Northeastern also offers an abundance of campus activities that range from student clubs and the Center for the Arts to volunteer opportunities and an on-campus nightclub.







# **Campus Recreation**

NU's three recreation facilities offer students a wide variety of sports and fitness opportunities. They feature a swimming pool, squash courts, basketball courts, the latest in exercise equipment, including Nautilus, free weights, treadmills, stair climbers and exercise bikes.

http://www.campusrec.neu.edu

# **Snell Library**

The heart of Northeastern's academic life holds 985,000 volumes and welcomes over one million visitors a year. With award-winning reference, instruction, tutoring programs, Meet the Author talks, and innovative technologies, the University Libraries play an integral role in the intellectual life of the campus. http://www.lib.neu.edu/

#### Some other highlights of campus include:

- Curry Student Center
- InfoCommons & wireless internet access
- After Hours Nightclub



#### **Initial Expenses**

The amount you need to bring will depend on your personal spending habits. We recommend that you bring \$500-\$750 in travelers checks and \$500 in cash to cover your expenses the first few weeks in Boston. You should buy traveler's checks before you leave your home country. Traveler's checks are much safer than carrying large amounts of cash and can be cashed at airports, exchange bureaus, and most banks. We recommend that you record the serial numbers of your traveler's checks and to keep them in a safe place in case you lose or misplace them.

If you are planning to use a credit or debit card from your local bank at home, check that you will be able to use the card in the US and what charges will be applied to your account. Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are widely accepted in the US. Also, in order to use it as a debit card, you will need to know your PIN—the 4 digit Personal Identification Number used to withdraw money from a cash machine (ATM). Without this, you may not be able to use your card to pay for purchases.

#### International Money Order (IMO)

IMOs can be bought from banks in your home country. You buy the order in your local currency and your bank issues a check in US Dollars. You can then deposit this check into a US bank account or exchange it for US Dollars.

#### Wire transfers

To make a wire transfer, you will need to have a US bank account already. Your bank at home will transfer money electronically to your US bank account. Wire Transfers are quick and safe, but do have service charges.

# **Banking**

As a part of the Program you will attend a banking workshop which will guide you through the process of arranging a new US bank account. In addition, you will learn about the different bank accounts and services provided. Please note it may take some time before the bank has your account set up and ready for you to access your money.

#### Opening a bank account

The following documents are usually required to open a US bank account:

- Your passport.
- Proof of US address. This could be your housing confirmation.
- Evidence of student status, e.g. I-20 or Letter of Acceptance.
- Evidence of bank account in your home country may be requested.

#### **Health Insurance and Medical Care**

Massachusetts law requires all students to maintain a medical care plan (including health insurance). All Global Pathways students will be automatically enrolled in Northeastern University's Student Health Plan (NUSHP), administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts which provides comprehensive health benefits at a very affordable rate. You may learn more about the health services and health insurance offered by going to the website: www.neu.edu/uhcs.

As a student at NU, you must provide the Health Center with proof of immunity to certain diseases, outlined in the health form you received in your acceptance package. The immunizations are mandatory for being a student in the state of Massachusetts. The report must be completed, translated into English, and signed by a physician. Please bring the Health Report Form with you. If you do not have proof of vaccines or your report is not complete, you will be able to get vaccines at the NU Health Clinic.

### **Housing**

Please note that housing arranged by Global Pathways will be reserved for the first 4 weeks of the program. We believe that this time period is perfect for you to become comfortable with your new environment, and to determine if you'd like to extend your stay or change your accommodation. We will also provide an off-campus housing seminar during the Arrival Program which will help you with the process of finding an apartment.

#### **Student Services**

It is our pledge to do everything possible to provide you with the best courses, programs, and student services to prepare you for a lifetime of achievement. Each Global Pathways student is assigned a Student Advisor—someone who will monitor your progress and answer the many questions that life in a new school and country can bring.

Your Student Advisor will meet with you regularly to discuss your classes, progress, housing, and cultural challenges to ensure that you meet your academic and professional goals. Northeastern teachers and faculty will also have 'office hours'—times when they are available to meet with students to discuss academic development and provide assistance for further success.

# How to apply for a student visa?

Applicants should prepare to present the following documentation and any other relevant information at the time of the interview:

□ <b>Valid Passport:</b> If your passport will expire less than 6 months from your planned arrival in the United States, or is damaged, or you do not have a page for a visa, please get a new passport before your interview.
□ The DS-160 application form confirmation page, with the telecodes for your name, your name, home address, company name and company address written in Hanzi handwritten on your form. When printing out your confirmation page, please set "page layout" to "portrait". Please bring the printed, not the faxed confirmation page to your interview.
☐ One photograph: Two inches square (51mm x 51mm) color photograph, less than 6 months old, against a white background, full frontal view. Please use scotch tape to stick your photo on the front cover of your passport.
Original Bank Receipt for Application Fee: Please glue or tape the application fee receipt onto the bottom of DS-160 form confirmation page.
$\square$ Passports containing all previous U.S. visas, even if expired.
□ Completed SEVIS Form: I-20A-B (for F1 students) or Form I-20M-N (for M-1 students) properly completed and signed by both the Designated School Official (DSO) and the applicant. Name on form must exactly match the name in your passport and has been entered into the SEVIS system by the U.S. academic institution. For more information go to http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/
□ SEVIS Fee Receipt: Most J, F, and M applicants must now pay a SEVIS fee. Please bring an electronic receipt or I-797 receipt to your interview. For more information go to https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/
☐ Proof of Ties to home country: Proof of economic, social, family, or other commitments that will help demonstrate your intent to return to home country after your studies in the U.S.
□ <b>Proof of Finances:</b> Proof that you can support yourself during your entire stay in the U.S. without working.
□ Research/Study Plan: Detailed information about your planned studies or research in the U.S. including the name and e-mail address of your advising professor and/or the head of your department in the U.S.

- □ Resume/CV: Detailed information about your past academic and professional experience, including a complete list of all publications to which you have contributed.
- Official Transcripts of Returning Students: Student visa applicants returning to schools in the U.S. should submit their official transcripts of their coursework with their applications.

# For more information, please visit the following websites:

http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\_1268.html

https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/students/student/help.htm



# **The City**

Boston is a high-energy, international hub of culture, education, commerce, and recreation that combines the diverse, cosmopolitan, and cutting-edge vibe of a major city complemented by the 'neighborhood flavor' of a safe and livable town. While expanding to become a modern metropolis, Boston has made an effort to preserve much of its rich history and today many of the original parts of the city continue to stand as historic monuments. Northeastern's central location puts you 'in the heart of it all.'



Boston is the capital of Massachusetts and the largest city in New England with a population of 5,000,027. Located on the Atlantic Ocean 180 miles (290 km) northeast of New York City, Boston is home to over 50 colleges and universities. This large student population, including an international student population of about 20,000, contributes significantly to the overall population of the city and to the dynamic feel of the downtown area. The number of outstanding universities located in the city is one of the reasons Boston is considered an intellectual capital of the world.



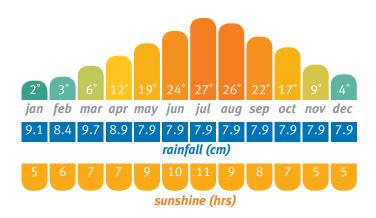
# **America's Sports Town**

Bostonians are proud of their many professional sports. Some would say they are truly FANatics! Whether you're watching the great American sports rivals—the Boston Red Sox playing the New York Yankees in Boston—or a football game with the New England Patriots, a basketball game with the Boston Celtics, an ice hockey game with Boston Bruins, a soccer match with the New England Revolution, or any of the Northeastern University sports teams, you'll have an experience you'll never forget! Most of the major sporting venues are close to campus, particularly Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox.



#### Weather: Four Seasons of Fun

You may have heard the saying about New England weather: "If you don't like it, wait 10 minutes." Variations from day to day (if not minute to minute) can be enormous. We do, however, have four distinct seasons of which the average temperatures and precipitation are as follows:



One of the most distinctive features of the New England climate is the change from one season to another. New England is famous for autumn (or fall) when the late September foliage turns brilliant reds, oranges and yellows before the trees lose their leaves. Snow in the winter can sometimes make getting around difficult in January and February, but the weather becomes milder towards April as the days get progressively longer and warmer. Summer in Boston brings periods of heat and humidity in July and August.

The academic year requires three types of clothing: light-weight for warm, humid weather; very warm, lined coats, protective footwear, gloves, and head covering for cold and snowy weather; and raincoats or medium-weight wool coats for chilly autumn and early spring days. In September, the temperature can reach as high as 26 °C, so you will still need light clothing. Regardless, you will have plenty of opportunity to purchase any clothing or supplies you will need.

# **Pre-Departure Checklist**

He	re's a checklist to help you plan for coming to Northeastern.	
	Check with your airline regarding limits for weight and size for baggage. In addition, check on restrictions for carry-on baggage.	
	Ensure you have a valid passport with visa. Please make photocopies.	
	Arrange cash and travelers checks to support yourself until you can open a bank account.	
	Arrange for travel insurance.	
	Inform Global Pathways of your arrival plans.	
	Check the compatibility of any electrical equipment you are bringing.  Depending on the appliance you might need an adapter to fit a U.S. electrical outlet. If you come from a country where 220/240 volts is used, most of your electrical appliances such as computers and iPods should work in the U.S.	
Carry-On Baggage Checklist		
	Airline tickets and passport	
	Travel insurance documents	
	Global Pathways documents, including I-20 and Health Report	
	Evidence of financial resources	
	Original academic certificates, transcripts and test scores	
	Serial numbers for traveler's checks	

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☐ This guide



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