

Northeastern University

International Pathways



Pre-arrival guide for the Boston campus

Welcome to International Pathways

We are excited that you have chosen to study with us! We look forward to welcoming you to Northeastern and the city of Boston. The information in this booklet is designed to help you prepare for arrival in the United States and your future as a student at the University.

Remember to carry this pre-arrival guide with you in your carry-on bag when you travel, as it contains important instructions and contact details.

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Apply for your student visa

After you have accepted your offer to study with International Pathways at Northeastern, and have submitted the necessary financial documents, you will be sent a visa eligibility document (Form I-20). You will need the I-20 to apply for your US study visa.

Students who present a valid I-20 at a US port of entry must attend the university named on that certificate of eligibility. You should *not* enter the United States on a B-2 tourist visa, as it may be impossible to change it to F-1 student visa status at a later date. Here are the steps to apply for your US study visa:

For more information, visit the following websites:

- ▶ ice.gov/sevis/students
- ▶ travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html
- ▶ fmjfee.com/ig01fee

If you have any questions about applying for your student visa, please **contact one of our advisors**.

Step 1: When you have your I-20 form in hand, **pay the I-901 SEVIS fee** and **print a copy for your receipt**.

Step 2: Locate the US consulate or embassy nearest to you and **schedule an appointment for an interview**. Interviews can be scheduled as early as 120 days prior to the start date on your I-20 form. We recommend making an appointment early, as dates can fill up quickly and visas may take up to several weeks to process, depending on where you live.

Step 3: Prepare the following documents to bring to your interview:

- Valid passport:** If your passport will expire less than 6 months after your planned arrival in the United States, if it is damaged, or if you do not have an empty page available for your visa, you will need to obtain a new passport before your interview.
- Passports containing all previous US visas**, even if expired.
- DS-160 application form confirmation page:** Include the telecodes for your name, home address and company name written in your native language (if applicable) on the form. Please set page layout to “portrait” when printing out your confirmation page. Bring the printed (not faxed) confirmation page to your interview.
- Original bank receipt for DS-160 application fee:** Glue or tape the application fee receipt onto the bottom of the DS-160 form confirmation page.
- Photograph:** Affix one square (51mm x 51mm) color photograph of yourself (head and shoulders) with clear tape to your passport. You should face the camera directly and stand in front of a white background for your photo. It should be less than 6 months old.
- Completed SEVIS form:** Must be completed and signed by you and the University’s Designated School Official (DSO). The name on the form must exactly match the name in your passport and be entered into the SEVIS system by your US academic institution. For more information, see ice.gov/sevis/students.
- SEVIS fee receipt:** Bring a copy of your I-901 or I-797 receipt to the interview. For more information, see fmjfee.com/ig01fee.
- Proof of ties to your home country:** Documentation proving economic, social, family or other commitments that will help demonstrate your intent to return to your home country after your studies in the US. Examples include local bank account statements, home ownership paperwork or proof of employment.
- Proof of finances:** A recent bank statement or scholarship letter showing no less than the minimum funds required in Northeastern’s Declaration of Finances form.
- Research/study plan:** Detailed information about your planned studies or research in the US, including the name and email address of your advising professor and/or the head of your department in the US. Email neu.pathways@kaplan.com to obtain this information.
- Résumé/CV:** Detailed information about your past academic and professional experience, including a complete list of all publications to which you have contributed (if applicable).
- Official transcripts of returning students:** If you have returned to your home country after study in the USA and need to apply for a new visa, you must submit your official US university transcripts with your application.

Step 4: Prepare for your interview. Your visa interview will likely be brief, and you will be asked to discuss:

- why you wish to study at Northeastern University
- your pathway program, if applicable
- your future degree program
- what you plan to do after you graduate

There is no need to be nervous about this interview, but it helps to be prepared to answer these and other questions concisely.

Book your student housing

Live in International Guest House (IGH), our most popular accommodation option. It is located in Boston's historic Back Bay neighborhood, close to campus, the city center and lots of great shops and restaurants. We arrange housing at IGH by semester at a discounted rate. You'll live with other international students in a safe, residence hall-like environment, with daily breakfast and dinner.

Pathways also offers a limited number of other housing options such as shared apartments. You can request student accommodations by filling out and submitting the Housing Preference form included in your acceptance package.

To learn more about your housing options, download the [International Pathways at Northeastern housing guide](#) (see link on the back cover).

Airport transfer

We can pick you up from Boston Logan International Airport and transfer you to your student accommodation for a fee. You can request this service on your Housing Preference Form. Go to [page 7](#) to learn more.



Pack your bags

Your flight is booked and you have your study visa in hand. Here are some things you'll want to prepare before you depart for Boston.

Baggage insurance and weight limits

When you book your flight to the USA, we recommend you purchase travel insurance in case your bags are lost or damaged on the journey to Boston.

You should also check with your airline regarding baggage weight and size limits, as well as restrictions on what you can carry with you onto the airplane.

Clothing

The weather in Massachusetts varies dramatically from season to season (see page 11 for details). For an academic year in Boston, you'll want to prepare three types of clothing:

- light-weight for the summer heat
- raincoats or medium-weight coats for chilly fall and early spring days
- very warm, lined coats; waterproof boots; gloves and hats for cold and wet winter weather

You can also easily purchase any clothing or supplies you need after you've arrived, and we are happy to provide recommendations on the best places to shop.

Electronics

US electricity is set to 110 Volts and 60 cycles. If you come from a country where 220/240 Volts is the standard, you may need a converter that changes the voltage to use with small appliances, such as hair dryers and curling irons. In many cases, it will be cheaper to purchase new personal appliances after your arrival in Boston. Computers and tablets charges often support dual voltages, but may require a plug adaptor to fit US electrical outlets.

Money

Before you depart your home country, you'll need to make sure you can cover your immediate personal expenses after your arrival in Boston. You will learn how to open a US bank account during the Arrival program (see [page 8](#)).

Initial expenses

The amount you need to bring will depend on your personal spending habits. To cover your expenses during your first few weeks in Boston, we recommend that you bring:

- \$500–\$750 in traveler's checks, plus
- \$500 in cash

Traveler's checks

Traveler's checks are safer to carry than large amounts of cash and can be cashed at airports, exchange bureaus and most banks. Purchase traveler's checks before you leave your home country. Record the serial numbers of your traveler's checks and keep them in a safe place in case you lose or misplace your checks.

Credit and debit cards

Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are widely accepted credit card brands in the USA. If you plan to use a credit or debit card from your local home bank, check whether you will be able to use the card in the US and if you will be charged any fees.

In order to use a debit card, you will need to know your PIN (Personal Identification Number, a number code you type to withdraw money from a cash machine or ATM). Without a PIN, you may not be able to use your card to pay for purchases.

International money orders (IMOs)

An IMO can be purchased from a bank in your home country. You buy the order in your local currency, and the bank then issues you a check in US dollars. IMOs can be deposited into a bank account or exchanged for US dollars.



Enter the United States

At your United States port of entry, an officer of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) department will review your documents, including your passport, visa, important letters (e.g. offer letter, vaccination certificate), and I-20.

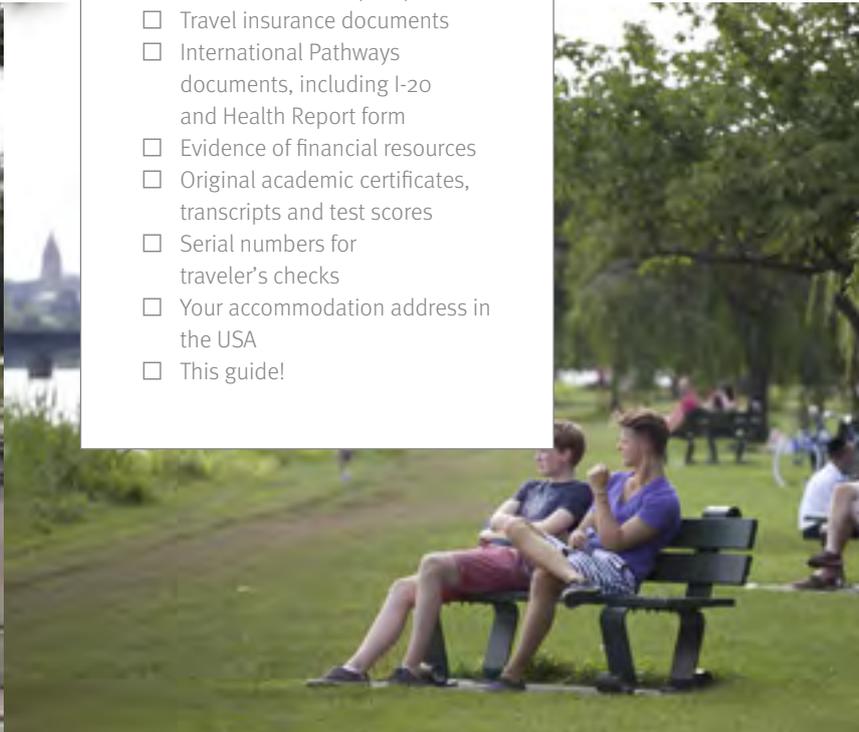
The entry date listed in Program State Date section of the I-20 is the last possible day this form can be used for initial entry into the United States. New students may enter the US up to 30 days prior to this date.

Be prepared to answer the following questions:

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

Carry-on baggage checklist

- Airline tickets and passport
- Travel insurance documents
- International Pathways documents, including I-20 and Health Report form
- Evidence of financial resources
- Original academic certificates, transcripts and test scores
- Serial numbers for traveler's checks
- Your accommodation address in the USA
- This guide!



Travel to your student housing

Airport transfer service

If you book your housing through International Pathways, you can request a transfer from Boston's Logan International Airport to your accommodation for a \$130 fee. Transfer requests can be made on the International Pathways Housing Preference Form.

As soon as you have obtained your study visa and booked your flight, please send an email to leslie.otoole@kaplan.com with the following details:

- Arrival date (MM/DD/YYYY)
- Arrival time
- Arrival terminal
- Airline
- Flight number
- Last city from which this flight departs

Flight changes

If your flight schedule changes, if you miss your connection or if your flight is cancelled, it is your responsibility to contact the transfer company, New England Coach Services, immediately by telephone (+1 800 609 1402). Alternately, you can call the International Pathways emergency number at +1 888 520 6874. Any changes to your flight must be reported at least 1 hour prior to your originally scheduled arrival in Boston. If you do not inform us, we will not know where and when to meet you!

Alternative transport from Boston Logan International Airport

- Taxi to Back Bay: \$30+
- Logan Express bus to Copley Square: \$7 one way
- Public transport using Boston bus + subway: \$2.75 single fare ride (see mbta.com for details)

Finding us at Boston Logan International Airport

Arriving from another US city

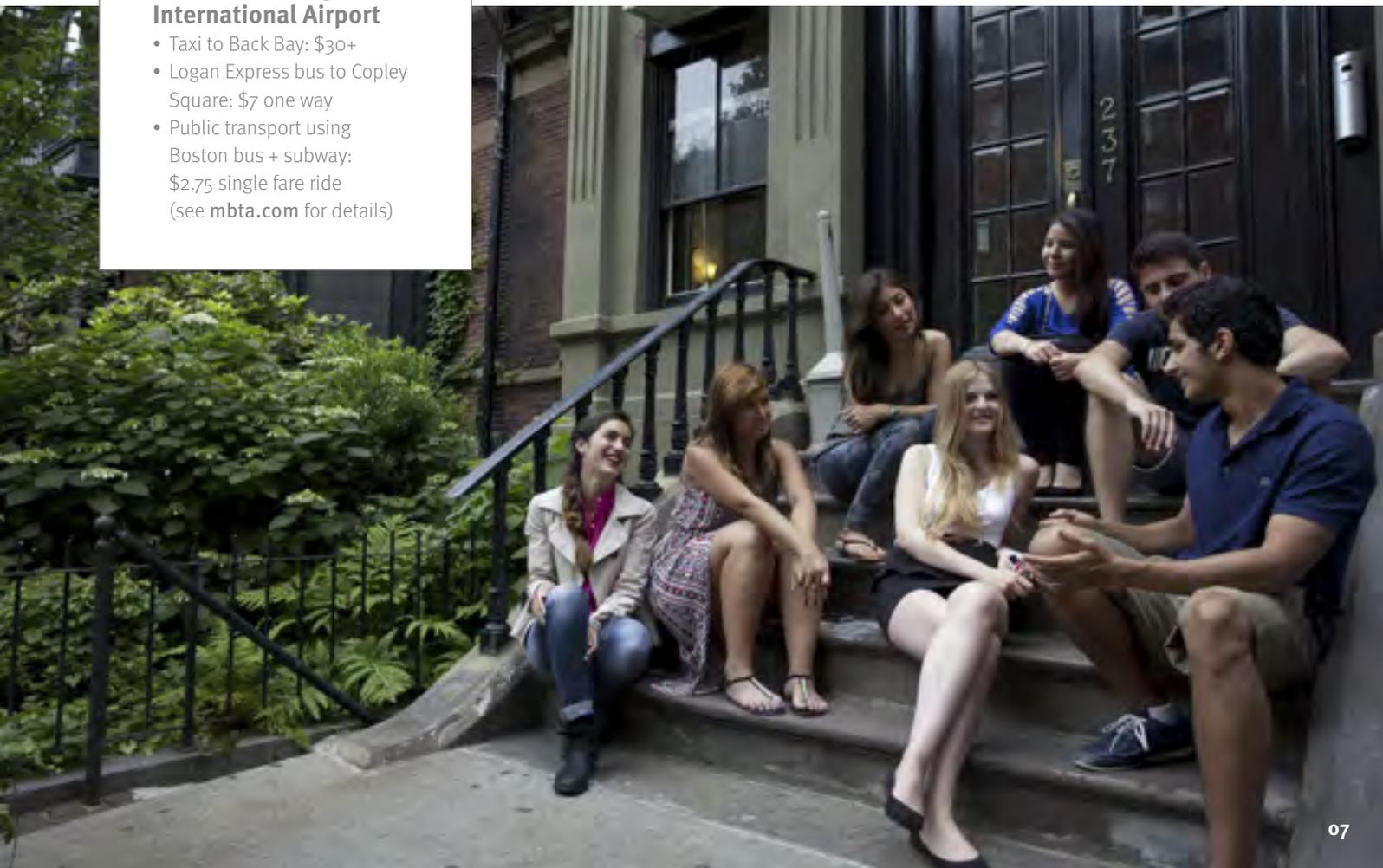
Domestic flights originating from another US city arrive in Terminals A, B or C. When your plane lands in Boston, you will be directed to the baggage claim area to pick up your luggage. The driver will meet you there with a sign that reads "International Pathways at Northeastern."

Arriving from another country

International flights land at Terminal E. After completing customs and immigration and picking up your luggage, you will exit through the International Arrivals door. The driver will meet you there with a sign that reads "International Pathways at Northeastern."

Logan is a busy airport. Please do not leave the designated meeting location, or we may not be able to find you. If, after waiting for 15 minutes, you do not see your driver, find the nearest public pay phone and follow these instructions:

1. Pick up the phone receiver and dial 1 800 609 1402. You don't need to insert any coins to call a toll-free (1800) number in the US.
2. When you hear "Welcome to New England Coach Services," press the number "1" and wait for an operator to answer. Please say, "Hello, I am an International Pathways student and can't find my driver. My name is _____ and I'm waiting in Terminal _____." The operator will then assist you in finding your driver promptly.





Attend the **International Pathways** Arrival Program

The Arrival Program will prepare you for life in Boston and studying at Northeastern, through a series of presentations, workshops and activities delivered by International Pathways. It's an excellent opportunity to meet your classmates and become familiar with your study program, the University campus and the surrounding city.

During the Arrival Program you will:

- Learn about your study program
- Tour the campus
- Explore the city of Boston
- Meet other international students
- Hear advice from current and graduated International Pathways students
- Sign up for activities and excursions
- Get your Husky student ID card
- Learn how to set up a US bank account
- Learn about SEVIS regulations
- Receive training on myNortheastern, the university's online portal for students

A detailed Arrival Program schedule will be provided to you at check-in. The Arrival Program is **mandatory for all Bachelor's Completion and Global Pathways** program students.

Setting up a US bank account

The Arrival Program includes a workshop to guide you through the process of opening a US bank account. You will also learn about types of bank accounts and services. Note that it can take from several days to a few weeks for the bank to set up your account and give you access to your money.

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

- passport
- proof of US address (i.e. housing confirmation letter)
- evidence of student status (e.g., I-20 form, acceptance letter)
- evidence of home country bank account

Arrival Program checklist

Please bring the following with you to check-in:

- Passport
- Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility)
- Form I-94 (Admission Departure Record)
- Health Report form (completed and translated – see next page)
- Official academic certificates, transcripts and test scores
- Your US address

Use student support services

It is our pledge to do everything possible to provide you with the programs and student services to prepare you for a lifetime of achievement.

Academic advising

You will meet regularly with an assigned student advisor to ensure that you reach your academic and professional goals. During these meetings, you will discuss your classes, academic progress, and cultural challenges and how to use available campus resources. Northeastern faculty and instructors also have “office hours,” which are times when they are available to discuss your academic development and provide additional help outside class.

Workshops and tutoring

The International Tutoring Center (ITC) offers one-on-one English language tutoring to help you improve your skills in conversation, interviewing and even résumé writing. The Office of Global Student Success (GSS) regularly hosts language and culture workshops focusing on American culture and classroom expectations. Reading workshops will help you practice your critical reading skills so that you'll be well-prepared for success in your university classes.

Social activities

Every month, you can choose from a wide array of fun events organized by International Pathways. These activities are a great way to get to know the Pathways staff and to meet other international students.

Health insurance and medical care

All Pathways students are automatically enrolled in Northeastern University's Student Health Plan (NUSHP), which provides comprehensive health benefits at a very affordable rate.

👉 northeastern.edu/nushp

Proof of immunization

In your acceptance package, you will receive a Health Report form for documenting your immunity to certain diseases. Complete the required form, have it translated into English and signed by a physician, and bring it with you to the Arrival Program check-in.

These immunizations are mandatory for all students in the state of Massachusetts. If you do not have proof of vaccination or your report is incomplete, you can get vaccinated at the NU Health Clinic. A complete vaccine series (over \$600 if paid without insurance) is fully covered by the NUSHP.

Recent International Pathways events

- Book club
- Boston Celtics NBA basketball game
- English conversation partner program
- Free yoga classes
- Halloween pumpkin carving contest
- Independence Day barbecue
- New England Aquarium tour
- Thanksgiving banquet
- Whale watching boat trip



Explore Northeastern University

At Northeastern, you'll enjoy all the benefits of a traditional American university campus with the added bonus of an incredible location.

Exciting student life

The 73-acre campus in the heart of city is a great place to study, live and work. You will also find plenty of events and activities at Northeastern, including over 400 student clubs, a vibrant Center for the Arts, endless volunteer opportunities and even a campus nightclub!

👉 studentlife.northeastern.edu

Libraries

The University libraries play an essential role in the intellectual life of the campus. Even before you progress to your degree, you can access award-winning reference services, excellent learning support and tutoring programs, and innovative technologies. Snell Library, Northeastern's main library, has almost 500,000 printed books and over 715,000 e-books. It also welcomes more than 2 million visitors each year!

👉 library.northeastern.edu

Recreation and fitness

Enjoy a wide variety of sports and fitness options at Northeastern's 3 on-campus recreation facilities. These include a swimming pool, squash and basketball courts, free weights, and the latest exercise equipment including treadmills, stair climbers and exercise bikes.

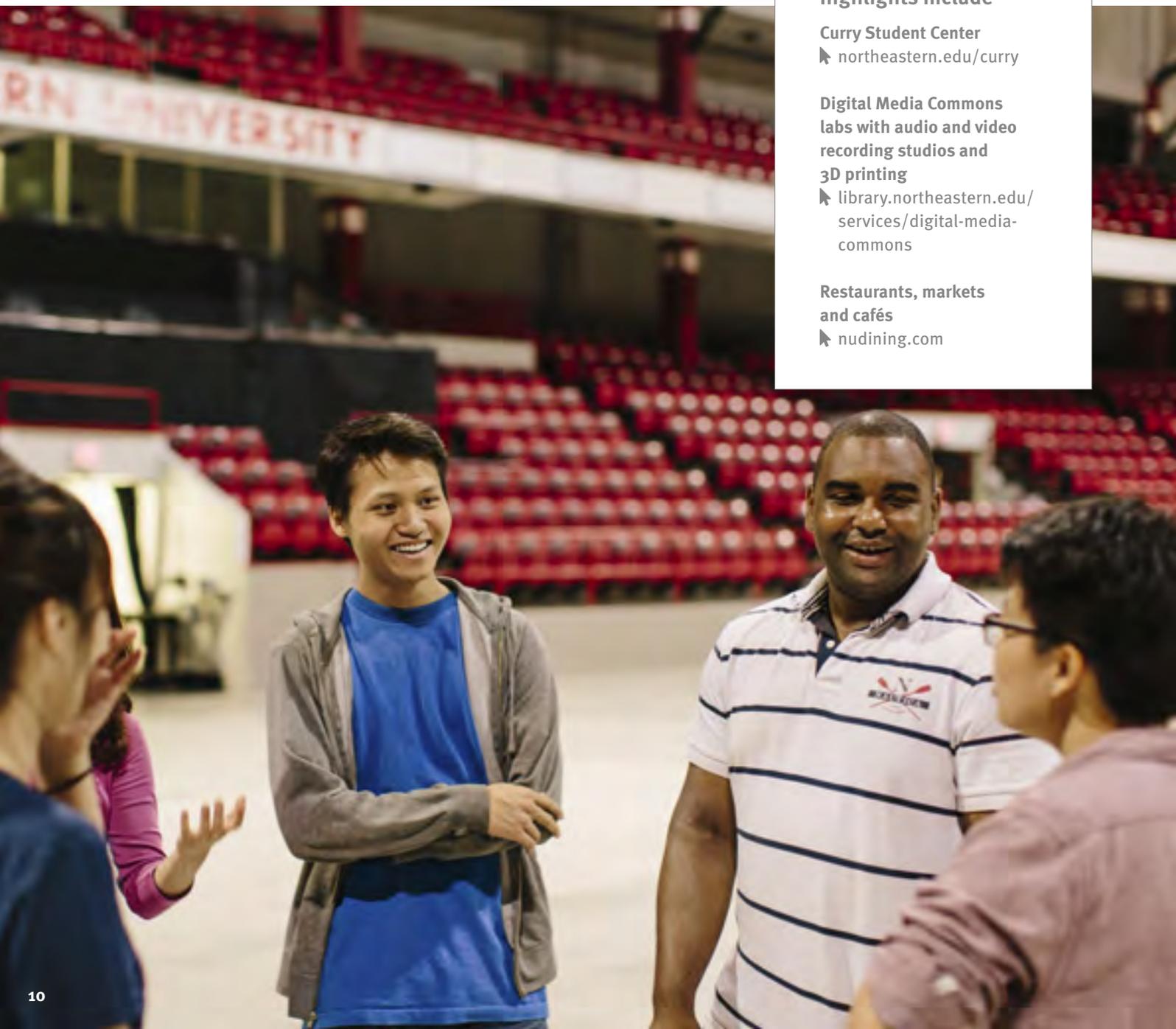
👉 northeastern.edu/campusrec

Other campus highlights include

Curry Student Center
👉 northeastern.edu/curry

Digital Media Commons
labs with audio and video recording studios and 3D printing
👉 library.northeastern.edu/services/digital-media-commons

Restaurants, markets and cafés
👉 nudining.com



Discover Boston

Northeastern's central location puts you right in the heart of Boston, Massachusetts, an international hub of culture, education and commerce.

Dynamic city

Boston is a cosmopolitan city made up of charming residential neighborhoods that are safe and livable. While it is modern and forward-thinking, it has also preserved much of its rich history; you'll discover that many original parts of the city continue to exist as historic monuments.

During the Arrival Program, you'll be introduced to Boston through tours and other fun activities. Pathways staff also organize trips around the city and to nearby towns throughout the year.

Weather

The weather in Boston changes dramatically between seasons, and sometimes even by the hour! The region is especially famous for its fall season, when the leaves turn brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow. Winter snow is beautiful, but can sometimes make it a challenge to get around in January and February. The temperatures become warmer and the days longer as you head into April. Boston summers bring heat and humidity, especially in July and August.

Sports town

At Northeastern, you can experience the thrill of Boston's proud sports culture, whether watching a professional game or cheering on one of the University's varsity teams (Go Huskies!). Most of the major sporting venues are close to campus, in particular Fenway Park, home to the famous Boston Red Sox baseball team.

Local professional sports teams

- Boston Bruins (ice hockey)
- Boston Celtics (basketball)
- Boston Red Sox (baseball)
- New England Patriots (American football)
- New England Revolution (soccer)

Average temperature (C), rainfall and sunshine per month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2°	3°	6°	12°	19°	24°	27°	26°	22°	17°	9°	4°

Average temperature

9.1	8.4	9.7	8.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
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Average rainfall (cm)

5	6	7	7	9	10	11	9	8	7	5	5
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Average hours of sunshine

Boston fast facts

- Capital city of Massachusetts
- Population: 4.6 million (the largest in New England)
- Greater Boston is home to 50+ universities and 250,000+ students





Northeastern University

Find out more

Visit the links below or contact us for more information.
We look forward to helping you make Boston your new home!

Click on the useful links below

- 👉 [International Pathways housing guide](#)
- 👉 [Northeastern University](#)
- 👉 [Student life in Boston](#)
- 👉 [Guide to Boston](#)
- 👉 [US Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\) Guide to SEVIS](#)
- 👉 [SEVP I-901 fee processing website](#)
- 👉 [US Department of State student visa information](#)

Airport transfer phone numbers

New England Coach Services:

☎ +1 800 609 1402

International Pathways emergency number:

☎ +1 888 520 6874

Contact us

✉ International Pathways at Northeastern University

360 Huntington Avenue, 10 BV

Boston, MA 02115

☎ +1 617 373 7508

@ neu.pathways@kaplan.com

👉 internationalpathways.northeastern.edu



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