



International Student Pre-Arrival Handbook



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Welcome Message

Welcome to Northeastern University! The Office of Global Services (OGS) provides support to over 20,000 international students and scholars throughout our Global Campus Network. Building a diverse and inclusive community is central to Northeastern University's mission because diversity of thought, culture, and viewpoint is essential to learning and growth. We have a strong tradition of engaging with the world, creating a distinctive approach to education and research, helping thousands of learners become global citizens. We are looking forward to your engagement with our community.



Through our programs, services, and advising, OGS is here to assist you with your transition to the United States and advise you on maintaining your status as an F-1 student. We are excited to welcome you to our engaging global community and to support you in finding your home-away-from-home at Northeastern University.

We have developed this pre-arrival guide to assist you with this transition, so that you are well prepared for the tasks and journey ahead. In addition to reading through this document, be sure to regularly check your Northeastern Email as you prepare to arrive on campus. We will send you additional information about upcoming webinars and information about preparing to arrive in the U.S. We will share with you key information about our mandatory International Student Orientation and share with you all the ways that OGS is here to support you during your academic journey at Northeastern.

We wish you safe travels and we look forward to welcoming you to Northeastern.

Sincerely,

Jenn Christ

Dean, Office of Global Services

Principal Designated School Official (PDSO) | Responsible Officer (RO)

Office of the Chief Enrollment Management Officer



Photo by: Alyssa, Stone; Northeastern University

Welcome to the Husky Pack!

Office of Global Services (OGS) supports international students on campus studying on an F-1 nonimmigrant visa.

- OGS provides support for international students related to maintaining their F-1 or J-1 nonimmigration status as well as resources for academic success and cultural adjustment.
- Students are encouraged to attend our programs throughout the year to meet new people and learn about other cultures represented on campus.
- Students can utilize walk-in advising services for simple immigration questions and can schedule an appointment with OGS advisors for more complex situations.
- For the most up to date information and event schedule please bookmark [OGS HOME PAGE](#).

*The school colors of
Northeastern are red and black.*



The Northeastern University mascot is Paws the Husky. A mascot is a symbol of unity and good luck to connect the students and alumni of an institution.



Follow OGS on Social Media

Follow our social media accounts:



@NU_OGS



@Northeastern OGS



facebook.com/NortheasternOGS



SO, YOU'VE BEEN ADMITTED!

WHAT COMES NEXT?

1

Confirm your enrollment. This often is done by paying an enrollment deposit

2

Claim your Northeastern Account

3

Complete your Duo two-factor authentication setup

4

Complete all required actions in your admissions portal

4

Request your I-20 through myOGS

5

Receive your I-20 in your Northeastern Email

6

Pay the I-901 SEVIS fee

7

Schedule your visa appointment

8

Receive visa

9

Send in your University Health Report to University Health and Counseling Services

10

Submit your official transcripts to admissions

11

Search for roommates and apartments

12

Pay tuition and submit Student Financial Responsibility Agreement (SFRA), available on the Student Hub

13

Enroll in courses via the Student Hub

14

Book your flight and prepare for a successful journey to Northeastern!

15

Complete International Student Orientation on the Homebase platform.

16

Attend orientation for your academic department



Office of Global Services



Office of Global Services

Office of Global Services (OGS) is an active resource to over 20,000 international students from 147 different nations across the world. We provide the professional expertise and support you need to maintain compliance through immigration, academic, and your employment experiences— helping you remain a valuable member of the Northeastern community.

OGS Events

Throughout the school year, OGS offers fun opportunities on and off campus to get involved! From Paws and Play: DIY String Art, to kayaking on the Charles River, OGS makes it a priority for our international students to feel acclimated and welcome to life on Boston's campus. Please join us during the school year for engaging events on and off campus. A list of our upcoming programs can be found in the [OGS events page](#).

OGS WEBSITE RESOURCES

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Northeastern University

OFFICE OF GLOBAL SERVICES

E-FORMS NEW STUDENTS • CURRENT STUDENTS • EMPLOYMENT • EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM • STUDENT SUPPORT • CANADIAN CAMPUSES • Q

HELPING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS,
SCHOLARS, AND THEIR FAMILIES FEEL
WELCOME AT NU

Search

Go

Recent Updates

Changes to OGS

SEVP Update: Sign and Send

Cultural Support

OGS supports international students in more than just immigration -let us know how we can help!

Services include:

- International student programming
- Events
- Global Student Mentor Program





Global Student Mentor Program

The OGS Global Student Mentor Program is available to first semester international graduate students on the Boston and Silicon Valley Campuses.

The mission of the Office of Global Services' Global Student Mentor Program is to:

1. Support incoming international graduate students as they transition to college life at Northeastern and American culture
2. Foster engagement with the Northeastern community
3. Improve resource awareness and utilization

A peer mentor is a current international student who spends time with new students to help them adjust to college life. The students who receive mentorship are called "mentees."

Eligible students will receive additional information about the program, including how to sign up to be matched with a mentor via email.



PREPARING TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S.

- We DO NOT recommend making any travel or housing arrangements until you have received your visa.
- Please check your Northeastern University email address daily for any important information and updates as your start date arrives.
- You will receive instructions from OGS about what documents to bring, and completing our online immigration clearance after your arrival in the U.S.
- In the meantime, you can find more information on the OGS website under the "[New Students](#)" section.



Immigration Clearance



IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE

Once you have your I-20, visa, and booked your flight, it is time to start thinking about what happens when you get to campus.

When you have arrived in the U.S., Office of Global Services will email your Northeastern student email account (xxxx@northeastern.edu) with a link to the mandatory immigration clearance e-form at the beginning of the academic term. This mandatory check-in will allow us to register your SEVIS record, which will officially begin your F-1 status. Immigration clearance cannot be submitted before arriving in the U. S.

Requirements to complete this form include:

- Valid passport
- Electronic copy of your Visa Stamp (PDF recommended)
- Electronic copy of your I-94 (PDF recommended)
- Valid address in the U.S.

ORIENTATION

International Student Orientation

- To help with your transition to Boston, **OGS hosts international student orientation** to welcome you to campus and to help you learn more about being an international student at Northeastern.
- Due to the importance of information covered, **completing the International Student Orientation in the Homebase platform is mandatory.**
- **Failure** to complete orientation will result in a hold on your student record.

Orientation

- You may also have an orientation for your college, and or academic department.



Photo by: Alyssa, Stone; Northeastern University

CAMPUS **LOGISTICS**

CAMPUS LOGISTICS



GETTING STARTED

Once you have claimed your Student Hub account, you can access, me.northeastern.edu, which integrates students' class schedule, network with other students, view financial information, pay bills, and access other Northeastern resources such as Outlook, [Canvas](#), Teams, and more.

CANVAS

Familiarize yourself with [Canvas](#), which is the learning management system for courses, assignment, and communication with professors. Review this [Quick Guide for Students](#) to learn more about Canvas.

1. Log in to Canvas.northeastern.edu
2. Download the Canvas Mobile application
3. Customize your profile: add a picture, bio
4. Customize your settings, set your pronouns, me zone, and language Customize your default notifications preferences
5. Connect the calendar to your Outlook calendar
6. Customize your dashboard
7. Customize your course list
8. Take a [Self Guided Tour](#) of Canvas

NORTHEASTERN STUDENT EMAIL

Upon acceptance, admitted student are provided with a Northeastern student email account. This is the account where ALL official university communication will be sent. It is important to check this account daily.

HUSKY CARD

- This is your official identification card at Northeastern University.
- The Husky Card is used for many purposes including:
 - Access to resident halls and buildings
 - parking, printing, gym access, vending machines, dining services, on and off campus vendors, discounts, library book checkout and more.
 - The card can be used as a debit card where you can add money on it and pay for food and services around campus.
- Where can I pick up my Husky Card?
 - Students can pick it up at the Husky Card Services Office on the Boston Campus.
 - 10 Speare Place, Boston MA, 20115
 - A government issued photo ID must be presented when receiving your Husky Card.
- Is there a mobile ID app for the Husky Card?
 - Yes, you can download the Mobile App



iPhone Users

1. Open the App Store
2. Search for cbord mobile id or use this link.
3. Download the free app Mobile ID.
4. Launch the Mobile ID app.
5. Enter huskycardcenter.neu.edu into the Server URL text field.
6. Press the red Authenticate my device button.
7. You will be redirected to the Northeastern Enterprise Authentication Service.
8. Enter your myNU username and password and press Login.
9. Press the green Authorize button.
10. Allow Mobile ID to use your current location.

Android Users

1. Open Google Play.
2. Search for cbord mobile id or use [this link](#).
3. Download the free app Mobile ID.
4. Launch the Mobile ID app.
5. Enter huskycardcenter.neu.edu into the Server URL text field.
6. Press the red Authenticate my device button.
7. You will be redirected to the Northeastern Enterprise Authentication Service.
8. Enter your myNU username and password and press Login.
9. Press the green Authorize button.
10. Allow Mobile ID to use your current location.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)

Many support questions are covered in the FAQs for this service. For detailed, specific or technical email help questions, visit the ITS Knowledge Base. You may also contact the ITS Service Desk at 617.373.4357 (xHELP), email help@northeastern.edu or initiate a chat session if you have questions regarding your account.



CAMPUS SAFETY

Boston is a safe city although there is occasional crime, as in all populated areas. Please check with the Northeastern University Police Department for special concerns or questions.

Northeastern University Police Department phone numbers

- NONEMERGENCY: 617-373-2121
- EMERGENCY: 617-373-3333

General safety tips for walking and exercising:

- Avoid walking or jogging alone (especially at night).
- Use well lit, familiar streets. Never take poorly lit shortcuts through alleyways or wooded areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings Avoid using cell phones or listening to music with headphones.
- Plan your route and walk confidently.

SAFEZONE APP

- Through a mobile safety app called SafeZone, students, faculty, and staff can now connect directly with the Northeastern University Police Department to immediately report emergencies, request medical assistance, or simply stay in touch during late hour work assignments.
- Users can instantly get in touch with NUPD to report the nature of the emergency and the location.
- From the main screen, users must only press one of three tabs— First Aid, Help, or Emergency. All the alerts go directly to NUPD, and dispatchers are immediately notified and shown the user's location on a campus map. Also from the main screen, users can "checkin" at any time to share their locations with NUPD—if, say, they are on campus late at night or are working alone in a lab or office.





NU ALERT

- Northeastern has NU ALERT, a service that allows the administration to reach all students and staff with information during unforeseen events or emergencies.
- The system uses voice, email, and text messaging to broadcast pertinent information and, when appropriate, provide directions.
- Your Student Hub information is your link to NU ALERT, so please keep your information up to date.
- Any and all contact information you provide, such as home telephone numbers, mobile phone numbers, and e-mail addresses, may be used to notify you of an emergency or crisis that may affect you and/or the University community.
- Your University e-mail address is automatically enrolled into the NU Alert system.

SCAMS

Unfortunately there are some people that try to take advantage of international students by scamming them. These scams are most commonly disguised as fake phone calls from the US government, and fake realtors or apartment ads.

To avoid scams:

- Do not send money to any government agency without speaking to OGS
- Do not send money to a landlord or realtor without seeing the apartment first
- If you think something seems weird, please contact NUPD

UNIVERSITY HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES (UHCS)



- Full-time and part-time students at Northeastern University are required to submit documentation of immunizations.
- University Health and Counseling Services is partnering with Sentry MD to provide immunization compliance. Sentry MD provides a streamlined process for managing your health requirements.

- If UHCS does not receive your complete immunization record, you are at risk of being held out of classes and university activities.
- All incoming students are required to upload their vaccination documentation to Sentry MD and demonstrate compliance with all required immunization, in accordance to local and state laws.



BANKING



BANKING

What do banks offer?

- Banks offer checking accounts
 - Checking accounts can be used to write paper checks to pay bills or to pay bills online.
- Savings accounts
 - Savings accounts do not usually have check writing privileges.
- Debit cards
 - Debit cards draw immediately on the funds in your checking account and can be used for cash withdrawals at automatic teller machines
- Credit cards
 - When considering a U.S. credit card, international students should check the credit terms carefully.
 - You will most likely need a Social Security number to complete the application process.

Please notify the credit card company before you travel to avoid a sudden lack of credit.

BANKING

When opening a bank account in the U.S., consider the following:

- Look at the location of the branch offices and ATM
- Compare banks' monthly fees, fees for writing checks, whether the bank requires a minimum balance. Minimum balance requirement should be waived for active students under 23 by presenting a student identification or visa.
- Most banking operations are done online; however, to open an account you should go to the nearest bank office and speak to a customer service representative.
- Present two forms of identification to open an account your passport, visa, or foreign identification are examples of accepted documents, and proof of a local address bill, bank statement.
- Ask for an international operations sheet that includes the American Bankers Association (ABA) Routing, Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) code, and an address to receive foreign wire transfers.





LIFE ON &

OFF CAMPUS



LIFE ON & OFF CAMPUS

OFF CAMPUS HOUSING

Off Campus Engagement and Student Support at Northeastern provides support and education related to off-campus housing, renter's rights knowledge and off-campus responsibilities.

How to find an apartment:

- Understand the Boston apartment search process. Review our [‘Get Started’ page](#), research [Boston’s neighborhoods](#), and watch our off campus [video series](#)!
- Use the Northeastern Housing [Database-Links to an external site.](#) to find apartment listings, rooms available, verified agencies, and potential roommates. We recommend that you create a roommate profile.
- View [Boston rental cost by neighborhood](#).
- Do you need a co-signer? Many landlords/property managers will require a co-signer. A cosigner is someone with an income that agrees to cover any unpaid rent. We recommend you take the following steps:
 - Let your realtor or property owner know that you are an international student. Some applications are automated and co-signing may be waived if they know you are a student with a visa.
 - [Learn about](#) and use third-party [co-signing companies](#).
 - These services charge a fee to serve as a co-signer and may be the right choice for you.
 - Discuss your application with the landlord/property manager. Most landlords/property managers know that international students may not have a co-signer and will opt to charge a fee instead.
 - If there isn't much flexibility, consider using a different realtor or renting a different property.
 - Many students live with roommates and choose to use the T (subway) to get to/from Northeastern.

The International Student Guide is also available for download [here](#).



Resources for Settling In:

- Apartment Condition Checklist
 - Used to take note of any pre-existing damage.
 - Students should take pictures of the condition of their apartment on the first day they arrive.
 - This protects your security deposit for any damages that already exist when you move in.
- Roommate Agreements
 - We have an online Roommate Agreement that students can create together, and send copies to each other.
 - Since students living off campus are jointly bound by their lease agreement, these are very important for successful living experiences.

Best Practices:

- Lease Education and Checklist
 - Learn what to look for in your lease, including specific clauses or restrictions.
 - Remember, you need your name on the lease to legally be a tenant of the property.
- Steps to Subletting
 - Important guidance on how to sublet should students need to request permission from their landlord (summer vacation, co-ops, roommate changes).

General Info:

- Parking and Transportation
 - Good info for commuting, traveling locally, or exploring biking options.
- 



HOUSING SCAMS

Web Sites and other third party rental resources are great for searching for roommates, apartments, and subletting. However, this is no guarantee they are free from scams. Learn about common scam techniques and avoid becoming a victim. Here are some guidelines to help keep you scam free.

- Be careful: If you choose to use platforms outside of our database, visit our [Rental Scams](#).
- Never rent a place you or a friend can't view in advance.
- Never wire or send funds to someone you have not met via Western Union or MoneyGram or other services.
- Never make payments in the form of cash. Use a credit card or bank check that can be tracked. Many credit cards offer fraud protection.
- Never give out financial or personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card information until you know the identity of who you are speaking with.
- Be mindful of fraudulent checks and money orders.
- Keep in mind, if it feels wrong it probably is!

REPORTING HOUSING SCAMS

- Get guidance from Northeastern. Contact Northeastern University Police Department's non-emergency line (617-373-2121) and Off Campus Engagement and Support (617-373-8480) to let us know you have experienced a rental scam.
- Report the scam to your [state consumer protection office](#). If you lost money or other possessions in a scam, report it to your local police too.
- Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). FTC is the main agency that collects scam reports. [Report the scam to the FTC online](#), or by phone at 1-877-382-4357 (9:00 AM – 8:00 PM, ET). The FTC accepts complaints about most scams.
- Report fake websites, emails, malware, and other internet scams to the [Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#). Some online scams start outside the United States. If you have been affected by an international scam, report it through [econsumer.gov](#). Your report helps international consumer protection offices spot trends and prevent scams.



