

WELCOME

QUESTROM'S GUIDE TO BU, BOSTON, & BEYOND



Boston University Questrom School of Business
Graduate Academic & Career Development Center

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CITY GUIDES

The greater Boston area is made up of the city of Boston, which has 23 neighborhoods, and many other nearby cities. The three most common cities in which Questrom students live are Boston, Brookline, and Cambridge. Listed below are some basic city guides to introduce you to these three cities.

Boston City Guides

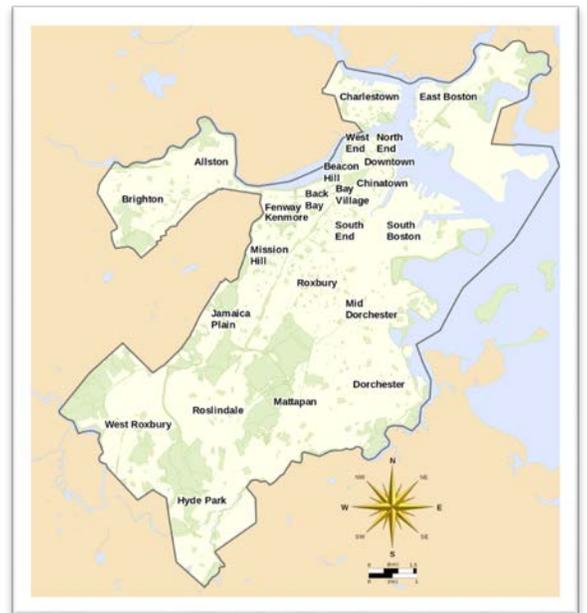
- Getting Around Boston: boston.gov/getting-around-boston
- Moving: boston.gov/moving
- Winter: <https://www.boston.gov/winter-coming>
- Events: <https://www.boston.gov/events> and <http://www.thebostoncalendar.com/>

Brookline City Guides

- Information for new residents: <http://www.brooklinema.gov/960/New-Residents>
- Winter: <http://www.brooklinema.gov/821/Winter-Guide>

Cambridge City Guides

- Moving to Cambridge with a vehicle: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic/Permits/residentparkingpermit/permitsforresidentsmovingintocambridge>
- Winter: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/snow/>
- City calendar: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/citycalendar>



TRANSPORTATION

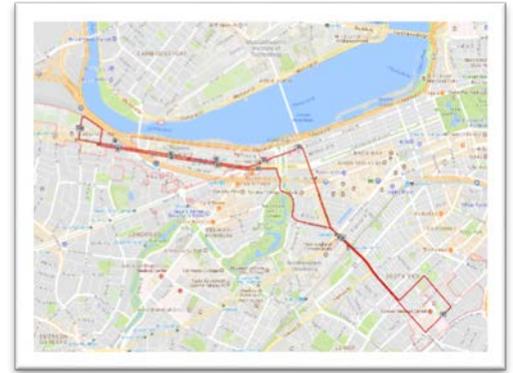
Public Transportation

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation (MBTA) provides subway, commuter rail, and bus service to the greater Boston area. The subway is referred to as “the T.” It is common to take public transportation to commute to BU, as well as to travel around Boston. Through the MBTA, you can purchase day, week, or monthly passes, or you may simply purchase individual rides. Through Boston University, you may be eligible to purchase a semester T pass.

- [MBTA website](#): Learn about the MBTA subway, bus, and commuter rail routes.
- [MBTA Trip Planner](#): Plan your travel route using public transportation.
- [Student MBTA Permits](#): The deadline for purchasing a Fall semester T pass is usually early August.

The BU Shuttle (BUS)

The [BUS](#) is a free shuttle bus that loops around BU and connects the Charles River and Medical campuses. Track it live through the Questrom Common app, or through the BU Mobile app on iOS or BU Bus Tracker on Android.



Biking

Many Bostonians choose to get around by bicycle. When considering this option for yourself, use these websites to stay informed about Boston biking and safety initiatives.

- [BU's Bike Safety site](#): Make safety your top priority while biking in the city. This website allows you to register your bike and provides biking tips, videos, and other resources.
- [Boston Bikes](#): The Boston Transportation Department's biking initiative
- [Hubway](#): Metro-Boston's bike sharing program.

Taxi Services

Boston has abundant mobile and traditional taxicab services. Whichever you prefer, there are ways to [stay safe in a taxi](#).

Mobile Taxi Services

A typical ride from the Boston Logan airport to Questrom ranges between \$25-40. If you have a mobile device with internet data, you can use the following apps to get a ride to your preferred destination:

- [Uber](#)
- [Lyft](#)

Traditional Taxi Services

Many taxicab companies operate in Boston, and rides often can be booked by phone or online. Boston Logan International Airport operates a taxi stand where customers can find taxis. Payment is accepted by cash and credit card.

- Reviews of Boston area taxicab companies may be found on [Yelp](#).
- A typical ride from the Boston Logan airport to Questrom ranges between \$35-50.

Car Rentals

When moving to Boston without a car, car rental companies offering hourly and daily rentals can bring shopping excursions and day trips within reach. The following are two common car rental companies in the area.

- [Zipcar](#)
- [Enterprise CarShare](#)

Parking Permits

Parking is limited and expensive in Boston. If you plan on commuting from the suburbs, a car can be essential. Check the [BU Parking & Transportation Services](#) site for BU Parking Permits. Also, remember to check with your city about parking regulations and permit requirements. Some cities, such as Brookline, do not allow overnight street parking.

Travel Beyond Boston

While Boston has much to offer, consider these resources and tips when considering travel beyond Boston.

- [Amtrak](#): Travel by train along the East Coast and nationwide. Boston stations include [North Station](#) and [South Station](#).
- [MBTA Commuter Rail](#): Travel by train to the North Shore, South Shore, and Providence, RI
- [Boston Discovery Guide](#): Compares bus companies that run from Boston to New York City.
- [Lonely Planet New England](#): Gives suggestions for ground travel around New England.
- International Students: While studying at BU, please notify ISSO if you plan to travel outside the country at any point.

HOUSING

Housing Tips

Start your search early. Even though you may not be able to sign a lease before you arrive in Boston, begin your search now. Also, keep in mind that apartments go quickly and do not stay on the market for long in many Boston neighborhoods. After school-related events begin in August, you will have very limited time to conduct an apartment search.

Most leases begin on September 1. If you are not able to find an August 1 or August 15 move-in date, you may consider some of these [temporary housing options](#) or our arranged student rates with nearby hotels.

Most leases are for 12 months. Expect to pay more if you are able negotiate a 9-month or month-to-month lease.

Be prepared for up-front costs. Tenants are often required to pay first month's rent, last month's rent, and a security deposit at the time of signing the lease. A realtor's fee may also be required.

Be smart when using online rental resources such as Craigslist. Anyone can fall victim to rental listing scams and identity theft. Be very suspicious of anyone who asks you to wire money through services like Western Union. Never give anyone any money or your personal information (like your social security number) until you have seen the property in-person and met with the landlord or realtor. Do your research on reasonable rent for local neighborhoods and be suspicious of advertised rent that is significantly lower. Learn about [internet fraud scams](#) before communicating with a potential landlord or roommate.

Consider Your Housing Priorities

Budget. Housing expenses include more than just the monthly rent. Heat and hot water are usually included in the cost of rent, electricity and gas (for cooking stove) are sometimes included, and cable and internet are rarely included. These can add \$100-300 to your housing bill per month.

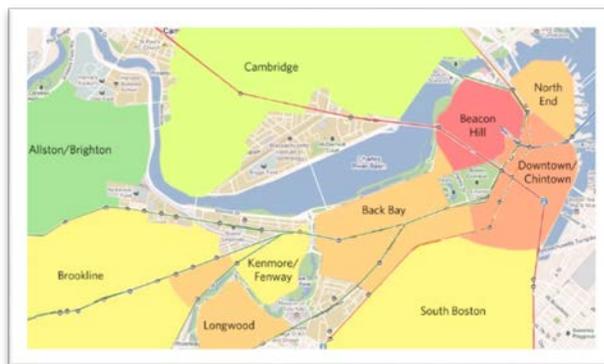
Neighborhood. Most students choose to live in the following areas because of their close proximity to the school in [Kenmore Square](#). Use these key neighborhood names to limit searches to areas close to campus.:

- Boston [Fenway Kenmore](#) | [Back Bay](#) | [Allston](#) | [Brighton](#)
- Brookline [Washington Square](#) | [Coolidge Corner](#) | [St Mary's](#) | [Brookline Village](#)
- Cambridge [Cambridgeport](#) | [Central Square](#)
- [Neighborhood Descriptions](#)

Commute to BU.

The time it takes to get from one part of Boston to another can vary significantly depending on your mode of transportation. Use online maps like [Google Maps](#) or the Boston Subway ["T" Trip Planner](#), or complete a "practice commute" to approximate your commute time.

The closest subway stop to Questrom is the [Blandford Street stop](#) on the "B" line. [Kenmore Square stop](#) is only a 0.2-mile walk away from Questrom, and the "B," "C" and "D" lines all stop at Kenmore Square.



Facilities

Weigh the importance of the following amenities to you because they are not standard in all apartments: laundry facilities, building security, air conditioning, parking, storage, and pets allowed.

Apartment Sharing

Sharing an apartment can increase your apartment hunting options and may reduce your rent. [BU Off-Campus Services](#) provides an online resource for finding prospective roommates.

The BU Medical Campus's ["Housing Reference Sheet"](#) is a helpful place to start when planning your search timeline and considering the housing priorities above. [This tool](#) may also be used to help estimate housing prices in some nearby neighborhoods.

Help Finding Housing

BU Real Estate

Boston University Real Estate owns graduate apartment housing in close proximity to the Questrom School building, including but not limited to the apartment residences at 580 Commonwealth Avenue. Working through BU can be a convenient way to find housing, but keep in mind that these apartments often fill up quickly. Visit [BU Real Estate](#) for more information or to fill out a housing application.

BU Off-Campus Services

[The Off-Campus Services Office](#) provides an online listing of off-campus apartments, rooms in apartments or houses and roommate matching. This site is available to the Boston University community and does not require a fee. Visit the ["Resources"](#) page to find options for short-term housing, as well as information about leases and tenant rights.

Helpful Websites with Listings for Apartments and Roommates

Please note that Boston University is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, any non-BU housing services. We provide these links as services commonly used by students and renters in Boston.

- [Boston Apartments](#)
- [Boston Craigslist](#)
- [Roommates.com](#)
- [Real Estate on Boston.com](#)
- [All Boston Apartments](#)
- Your Boston University class Facebook group

International Students

In order to rent an apartment, international students may need to provide a co-signer, a U.S. citizen who will back up the rent contract. Some owners/brokers will require you to prove, through bank or other financial statements, that you are able to cover your monthly rent. Be prepared to provide these documents when signing a lease.

IMPORTANT: F-1 and J-1 students must notify DHS of any address changes. [Click here for more information about how to report a change of address.](#)

Short-Term Housing

If you need to find a place to stay before your lease starts, you can consider making reservations in a hostel or hotel. You could also research the option for subletting an apartment for the month of August. BU Off-Campus Services provides a non-comprehensive list of short-term housing options on its Resources page. None of these companies are endorsed by Boston University.

Utilities

It is your responsibility to contact the necessary utility companies to arrange for service prior to your lease start date and to terminate your utilities prior to vacating the apartment. Please note that the utilities that you are responsible for vary by apartment, but it will be important to inquire with your landlord about your electric, gas/oil, and phone/cable/internet providers and to then set up service. Listed below are some of the common utilities providers in the Boston area.

Electricity and Gas

- [Eversource](#)
- [National Grid](#)

Phone (landlines), Cable, and Internet

- [Directv](#)
- [Verizon FIOS](#)
- [Comcast Xfinity](#)
- [RCN](#)

BANKING & CURRENCY

Opening a Bank Account in Boston

Boston University recommends you open a bank account in Boston. Traveling with large amounts of cash is not safe, so we encourage using other methods of payment until you can set up a bank account in Boston.

Some questions to consider before opening a bank account:

- Are there bank offices and/or ATMs near BU or my residence?
- What are the fees associated with wiring money from/to overseas?
- Is there a required minimum balance?
- Does my account earn interest?
- Are there monthly service fees or other fees?

Documents needed to open a bank account typically include:

- A passport and visa documents
- Proof of attendance at Boston University
- Proof of address such as personal mail or utilities bill
- May be required: Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)*

*The [BU International Students & Scholars Office](#) can help international students apply for a Social Security Number or an ITIN, and understand banking and currency in the U.S.

Common Banks in Massachusetts and Banks near Boston University:

- [Bank of America](#)*
- [Capital One](#)
- [Citizens Bank](#)*
- [CitiBank](#)*
- [Eastern Bank](#)
- [Metro Credit Union](#)
- [Santander](#)
- [TD Bank](#)

*These banks have branches or ATMS on BU's campus. BU is not affiliated with nor does it endorse any banks.

**There are many local banks and credit unions around Boston University and your neighborhood of residence. Please consider researching all of your options prior to making a decision.

Currency Exchange

It is common to exchange currency at Boston Logan Airport, as well as at many large banks.

The following currency exchange companies* are also common to the Boston area:

- [Currency Exchange International](#)
- [Travelex Currency Services](#)

* BU is not affiliated with nor does it endorse any currency exchange companies.

MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE

When purchasing a cell (mobile) phone, you will be asked to provide your Social Security Number. If you do not have one or are not eligible for one, you may be asked to pay a security deposit instead. Some common cell phone providers* include:

- [AT&T](#)
- [Metro PCS](#)
- [Sprint](#)
- [T-Mobile](#)
- [Verizon Wireless](#)

* BU is not affiliated with nor does it endorse any cell phone service providers.

IDENTIFICATION

There are two types of State IDs in Massachusetts: a driver's license and a liquor license. We recommend getting one of these, as out-of-state licenses are not accepted at certain venues, and so you do not need to carry your passport.

Please note that a Massachusetts driver's license, Massachusetts liquor ID, passport, or military ID are required for alcohol purchases and for admission to many events and venues where alcohol is present. The legal drinking age in Massachusetts is 21.

Massachusetts Driver's License: If you are interested in obtaining a [driver's license](#), which will additionally allow you to purchase alcohol, you will need a Social Security Card OR a Social Security "rejection letter" if you were unable to obtain a Social Security Card. Please visit the [Registry of Motor Vehicles \(RMV\) website](#) for additional information and locations.

Massachusetts Liquor ID: For individuals who do not have a Massachusetts driver's license, the Registry of Motor Vehicles can issue a [Liquor ID](#) that is an official form of identity, signature, and age.

POSTAL SERVICES

USPS

The [United States Postal Service \(USPS\)](#) is a government-operated mail service company found throughout Massachusetts and the United States. There is a branch near to Questrom at [11 Deerfield St, Boston, MA 02215](#)

Other Domestic & International Mailing Companies

- [FedEx](#)
- [UPS](#)
- [DHL](#)

Mail Considerations

- When mailing important documents, speak with a representative about adding insurance, tracking information, or other additional services to your mail.
- Theft can be a problem in some neighborhoods in Boston. If you are having a package delivered, consider the location to which it will be delivered and whether the package will be left outside. Choose a delivery option that requires a signature, if needed.
- Mail is not usually left at an apartment unless your name appears on the mailbox. You must report changes of address to USPS when you move to a new location.
- You can purchase stamps at USPS stores, supermarkets, or online. Regular mail, such as letters, can be dropped at a blue mailbox for pickup.



WEATHER IN BOSTON

We have four distinct seasons in Boston, which means during the entire year we experience temperatures ranging from 0 to 100 F (-17 to 36 C). Each year, we experience heat, humidity, wind, rainy season, and

heavy snow. As you prepare to move to Boston, we recommend you pack for all seasons or prepare to shop for season-appropriate clothing. See the [International Students & Scholars Office](#) for more information about weather in Boston.

In the event of heavy snowfall, school may be cancelled. Though they are rare, you can learn about class cancellations through your BU email, visiting the BU home page, or by calling the emergency weather hotline, (617) 353- SNOW. Daytime classes are typically cancelled by 5 a.m., and evening classes are typically cancelled by 3 p.m.



HEALTHCARE, HOSPITALS, & URGENT CARE FACILITIES

Healthcare in the United States and Boston can be expensive and confusing, so it is important to understand what resources are available to you.

[BU Student Health Services & SHIP Insurance](#)

At BU, both full-time and international students are required to have health insurance and are automatically enrolled in the [BU medical insurance plan](#), known as SHIP. Because SHIP does not begin until August 15, we recommend purchasing BU “gap insurance” or other independent insurance if you plan to arrive to campus early. By holding insurance, you may avoid expensive bills for unexpected doctor’s or hospital visits. All full-time students and all students on SHIP have full access to [Student Health Services](#).

BU Student Health Services include:

- [Primary Care](#)
- [Behavioral Medicine and Mental Health Services](#)
- [Wellness and Prevention](#)
- [SARP: Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center](#)

[When to Visit an Emergency Room \(ER\) at a Hospital](#)

In the United States, ERs are intended for true emergencies. ERs normally operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are found in most hospitals. They are equipped to handle almost all medical emergencies, including:

- Allergic reactions
- Broken bones
- Chest pain
- Constant vomiting
- Continuous bleeding
- Deep wounds
- Head injuries
- Trauma
- Other life threatening emergencies

If you have a true emergency, visit the emergency room at a hospital, or call 911.

Because emergency rooms are equipped to care for any medical situation, visits to the ER can also be very expensive. Urgent care facilities offer an alternative option for care in non-life threatening circumstances.

When to Visit an Urgent Care Facility

In a non-life threatening situation, urgent care facilities can be good alternatives to visiting the ER. They tend to save you money, as well. If you need immediate care but cannot see your doctor, urgent care may be able to help in situations including:

- Flu and cold
- Strep throat
- Cuts and scrapes
- Broken bones
- Sports injuries
- Other non-life threatening situations

[Student Health Services](#) is one urgent care facility available to BU students.

SHOPPING

Supermarkets (Grocery Stores)

These supermarkets are common to the Boston area and may be near to your home.*

- bfresh
- H-Mart
- Roche Bros
- Shaw's Star Market
- Stop & Shop
- Super 88
- Trader Joe's
- Wegman's
- Whole Foods Market

Furniture, Appliances, & Other Apartment Goods

These shopping opportunities are popular with many BU Questrom students.*

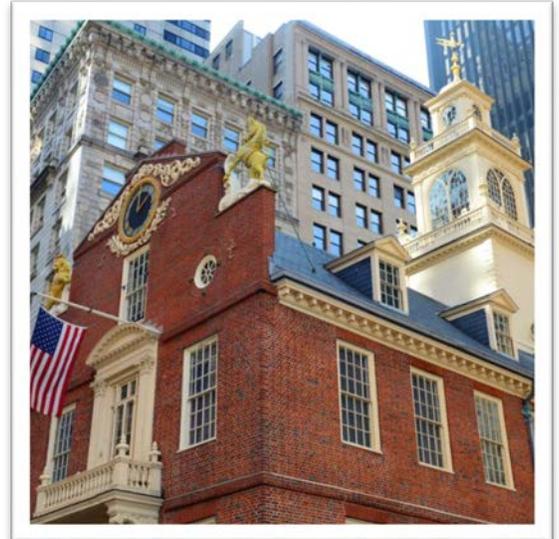
- [CORT Furniture Rental](#) has packages for students.
- [West Elm](#), [Bed, Bath & Beyond](#), [Amazon@Boston](#), and [Target](#) (two locations) are located within a mile from campus.
- [IKEA](#) is a 45-minute drive from downtown Boston.
- [Goodwill](#) and [Craigslist](#) are good resources for used home goods.
- Check out [BU's list of Consignment shops in Boston](#) for used clothing and goods.

* BU is not affiliated with nor does it endorse any supermarket or shopping center listed here.

THINGS TO DO & BOSTON CULTURE

Visit the links below to begin exploring some of the Grad Center's favorite things about Boston. You may also check out the [City of Boston's Things To Do page](#) or learn about the [BU Arts initiative](#), which provides free or discounted admission to many art museums and live arts performances. Websites such as [Yelp](#) or [TripAdvisor](#) also provide recommendations of things to do in Boston.

- [Arts Boston](#)- A site for theater, dance, music, visual arts, film, classes, readings and more
- [Bostix](#)- Reduced priced tickets to theater, music, dance and comedy shows
- [Boston Duck Tours](#)- Tours of the city on amphibious vehicles that drive and boat throughout Boston
- [Boston Harbor Cruises](#)- Sightseeing boat tours of the Boston Harbor and its islands
- [Commonwealth Shakespeare Company](#)-Every Summer the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company performs a free Shakespeare Play in the Boston Common
- [Crossroads Presents](#)- A site for local music venues
- [Emerald Necklace](#)- Chain of 9 parks within Boston
- [Faneuil Hall Marketplace](#)- Historic shopping area with restaurants, food court, and street performers
- [Fenway Park, Home of the Boston Red Sox](#)- Take a tour of the baseball park or buy tickets to a game
- [Freedom Trail](#)- 2.5 mile trail that leads to 16 historically significant sites in Boston
- [Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum](#)- The former home and art collection of Isabella Stewart Gardner
- [Museum of Fine Arts](#)- The MFA is free for Boston University students. Just show your student ID!
- [Museum of Science](#)- Science exhibits, Planetarium and IMAX Theater
- [New England Aquarium](#)- Wide array of sea animal exhibits
- [Symphony Hall](#)- Home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra



ENGLISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

In the United States, adults seeking to learn the English language should seek resources for ESL (English as a Second Language) or ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). Children, on the other hand, often learn English through their enrollment in public school; in this setting, children are referred to as English Language Learners (ELL). Each of the public school systems has resources for ELL students. Below is a sampling for many of the ESL and other language resources available nearby to adults. These programs vary by cost, intensity, and proficiency level.

Boston, Brookline, and Cambridge Community Resources

- [Boston Public Library Literacy Services & ESL Resources](#)
- [Boston Center for Adult Education ESL Programs](#)
- [The Public Library of Brookline ESL Conversation Group](#)
- [Brookline Adult & Community Education ESL programs](#)
- [Cambridge Center for Adult Education ESL Classes](#)

- [Cambridge Public Library Literacy and ESOL](#)
- [Cambridge Community Learning Center](#)
- [B-speak](#): A fee-for-service organization offering one-on-one English assessment and tutoring
- [Boston Toastmasters](#): Toastmasters is a global organization that provides a cost-effective way for community members to improve their public speaking skills. Members include by native English speakers and speakers of English as a second language.

There are additionally many language schools throughout the metro Boston area where adults can more intensively immerse themselves in English language studies. Often faith-based organizations such as churches, synagogues, or mosques also offer English classes or tutoring.

Boston University Resources

- [Educational Resource Center's Language Link](#) facilitates student conversation groups for different languages.
- [Center for English Language and Orientation Programs \(CELOP\)](#) provides English preparatory programs and tutoring in Summer and during the school year.
- In the Questrom Graduate Academic & Career Development Center, [Writing Assistance](#) is used by native and non-native English speakers alike.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Boston University Family Resources

[The BU Family Resources](#) office is a common first stop as students, staff, and faculty with families seek to manage work and family life. The Family Resources office seeks to offer the following services:

- Referral service and resource materials for parents seeking childcare
- Information about how to find Boston University students interested in babysitting
- Educational programs
- School vacation programs for children in Kindergarten through fourth grade during the February and April school vacation weeks
- Recreational summer camp program for children entering Kindergarten through fourth grade during summer school vacation weeks
- Elder care and adoption resource materials

Registering Your Children in School

In the United States, all children have access to free public school, though both public and private schools are common. School structures and age requirements also vary by city and region. This University of Minnesota ["Guide to the Education System in the United States"](#) provides an in-depth overview of schooling in the United States.

Boston Public Schools

Children must actually be full-time residents of Boston to attend [Boston Public Schools \(BPS\)](#). When your family moves for your graduate program at BU, your new address in the area can be considered your permanent address. However, see the [BPS Residency Policy](#) for more information.

- [How to Enroll](#) and [Registration](#)
- [Locations of Boston Public Schools throughout Boston](#)
- [English Language Learners](#)

Brookline Public Schools

- [Brookline Public Schools](#)
- [Residency requirements](#)
- Policies for [how to enroll](#) vary depending on the age and grade of your child.
- [Schools within the City of Brookline](#)
- [English Language Learners](#) and [other programs](#)

Cambridge Public Schools

Within the [Cambridge Public Schools](#) system children in grades Junior Kindergarten (JK) through 12 (approximately ages 4-18) may enroll for the current school year at any time. Each year, the school district also administers lotteries for a limited number of 3-year-old programs, as well as for choice schools for other young students.

- [Residency and Age Requirements](#)
- [How to Enroll](#) and [Long Distance Relocation](#)
- [English Language Learners](#)

Other Family Resources

At BU

- [Agganis Arena](#): Agganis Arena is home to BU Men's Hockey and many BU graduation ceremonies, but it additionally hosts concerts and family shows throughout the calendar year.
- [Fitrec](#): The Fitness and Recreation Center offers family programming, including swim school, sports and dance classes, yoga, school vacation and summer camp programs, and birthday parties.
- [Library](#): With a valid Boston University ID, you may check out resources from the university library.
- [Mothers' Rooms](#): BU has several mothers' rooms available on campus for women who are lactating.

In Boston, Brookline, and Cambridge

- [Boston Public Library Museum passes](#): Free or discounted passes to local museums, zoos, and tours are available for reservation up to 60 days in advance. In Cambridge, [these passes](#) are available up to 30 days in advance.
- [Brookline Smart Programs](#) offers summer, vacation, and after-school courses for school-aged children.
- [Metro Boston Library Network](#): If you hold an eligible library card from a neighboring network, you may register your card for borrowing through the Boston Public Library, as well.

