



OISE Boston

Preparing for Your Trip



OISE Boston
31 St. James Ave Ste 1007
Boston, 02116

Dear Client,

Firstly, may I say, thank you for choosing OISE Boston. You have given yourself the best opportunity to gain confidence and progress in the English language.

We are delighted that you will be joining us and we look forward to welcoming you to our school.

You will soon be leaving for Boston, Massachusetts in the United States. Travelling abroad can sometimes be a confusing process, the information in this document is designed to help and make your arrival as comfortable as possible. Please take a moment to read through this material.

If you have any questions, however small, please feel free to contact us via any of the methods below.

In case of emergency, you may reach us via the OISE cell phone: +1-857-222-6273.

We look forward to meeting you at orientation and wish you a pleasant trip to Boston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Noel Radcliffe-Marrs'.

Noel Radcliffe-Marrs
Director



Assessing your needs and English level

In order for us to tailor your program to your exact needs, we need as much information as possible before you arrive.

To achieve this, we will arrange a time convenient to speak to you on the phone and assess your English level. We will also send you a link to an online English test to complete before you arrive.

Agnieszka Goldsmith, OISE Boston Academic Manager, is responsible for everything academic in the school. If you would like to schedule a time to speak with her, or you have not yet received the English test website link then please contact her at bostonacademic@oise.com or +1-617-357-647.

OISE Boston is all about 'autonomous learning', which implies that you shouldn't be just a passive recipient of knowledge but should take more responsibility for your own learning process.

In OISE Boston, you and your teachers will both be actively involved in creating an academic program that suits your learning needs and utilizes your learning styles.

Classroom instructions are not teacher-centered, which might come as a shock to many students from more traditional academic settings. Here, the teacher is considered a facilitator of a teaching/learning process 'managed' by the learner.

This progressive way of teaching at OISE is a dramatic shift from an old-fashioned teacher-directed methodology and may make some students uncomfortable at first.

We, the OISE team, can assure you, however, that with our competent teachers and supportive staff, you will make a significant difference to the way you use English in your job or in your studies. We will help you get out of your comfort zone, to gain *confidence* in your ability which, with lots of *practice*, will quickly translate into better *performance*.

One thing to keep in mind throughout your time here:

'You will get out of this experience as much as you put into it!'

So, bring an open mind, lots of motivation and enthusiasm, and we will see you at OISE Boston soon!

Host family

If you are staying with a Host Family, please contact them and introduce yourself before travelling to the United States. They will be pleased to hear from you and would love to get to know you before you arrive.

Your Host Family will expect you to arrive at their home between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the Sunday before your course begins, unless you have arranged to arrive at a different time.



Important:

- Confirm your flight arrival time with them at least one week prior to your departure.
- Notify OISE Boston if you have any specific housing requirements, such as allergies to pets, dietary needs etc.

Please note that all airport transfers are arranged directly with OISE and not with your Host Family.

Privately Arranged Accommodation

If you have decided to choose private accommodation, then we will need the address so we can send you your welcome information. Please send the address to bostonadmin@oise.com.

Student Health

Medical Insurance

If you seek medical treatment in the United States, it is your responsibility to pay for the services. Purchasing medical insurance can offset the risk of having to pay high medical bills if you happen to need treatment during your visit to the U.S. One company that offers medical insurance for visitors to the U.S. is:

Gateway Visit America

Call 1-800-282-4495 or visit http://www.gatewayplans.com/gw_vis.cfm

You must enrol within 7 days of arrival in the United States; proof of arrival date may be required.

When purchasing a medical insurance policy, be sure to review the types of coverage the plan offers. For example, some policies will not cover accidents from sports activities such as skiing or boating.

You will need to bring with you information about your health insurance on your first day at OISE Boston.

Transportation to your accommodation

You will fly into Boston's Logan airport, located just two miles from the city center.

Taxi Transfer Arranged by OISE Boston

If OISE Boston has arranged an airport transfer for you then you will find a greeter waiting for you outside customs. They will be holding up a sign with your name on it. If for some reason you cannot find the driver, please check at the information desk or call +1-800-562-8808. Have your taxi confirmation number ready.



The driver will take you to your accommodation in comfort and safety. In the event of a last-minute schedule change, contact the limousine company at the number above. If there are any problems, please contact the OISE Boston emergency phone: +1-857-222-6273. The service and tip has already been paid for by OISE Boston so you do not need to give any money to the driver.

Regular Taxi

If you have not arranged an airport transfer through OISE, we recommend that you take a taxi. The taxi stand is located outside the main doors of the terminal. Your fare will not usually be more than \$50, and for most locations it will be less. Make sure that they use the taxi meter. There will also be an additional charge if they use the tunnel.

If you will be staying with a host family, please contact them for any special directions for your taxi driver.

It is common to tip the taxi driver between 15%-20% of the total fare. You will be able to pay by credit card if your trip begins from the airport. It is a legal requirement that these taxis accept card payment. If you pay by card, ask them before the journey starts that their credit card machine works.

Taking the Metro or Bus

The public transport network is called the MBTA. The subway or metro is referred to as the 'T'. The public transport network is very good in Boston.

The MBTA offers FREE bus services from all Logan Airport terminals to South Station in Downtown Boston and also the Airport Station. More detailed information can be found here: http://www.mbta.com/riding_the_t/logan/

From South Station and the Airport Station you can access the extensive 'T' network.

The most cost effective way to travel by public transport is to buy a weekly or monthly pass. To buy a weekly pass you will need to go to one of the self-service machines; you can pay by cash or credit card. At the present time the cost of a weekly pass is \$19 per week. You will be buying a paper Charlie Ticket; this ticket is not rechargeable.

If you would like to buy a monthly pass you will need to get a Charlie Card from the kiosk. Charlie Cards are plastic and can be recharged. At the present time the cost of monthly pass is \$75. You can also use these Charlie Cards in a 'pay-as-you-go' way.

More information can be found here: http://www.mbta.com/fares_and_passes/charlie/

Apple/Android Applications

There are some excellent cell phone applications which give you real time bus & subway schedules. One such application is called 'Open MBTA' <http://openmbta.org/>. You could also try 'MBTA Alerts' which is a much more basic application but still effective.

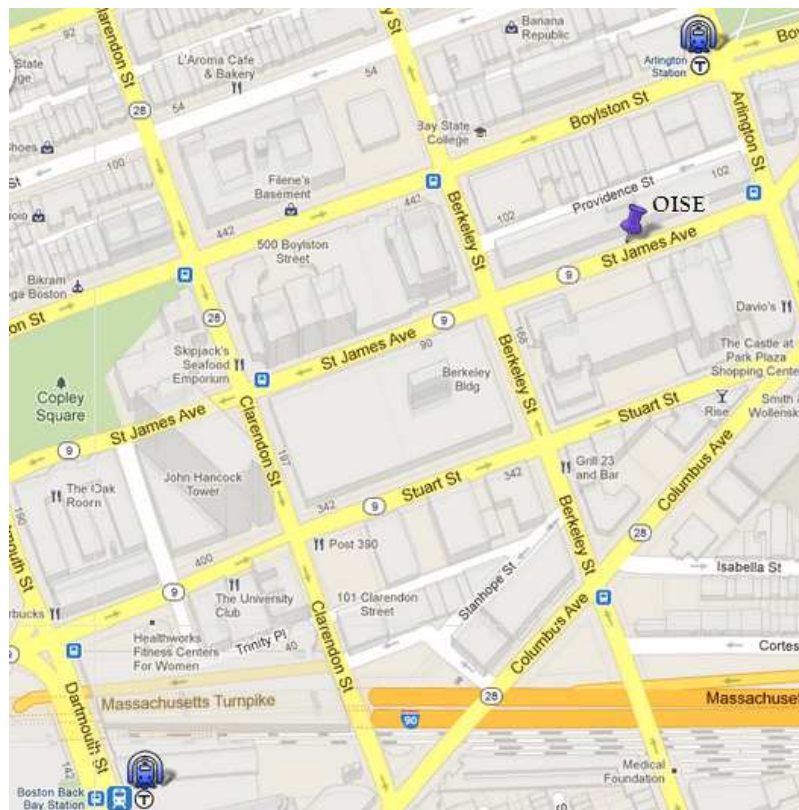


Getting to OISE Boston

OISE Boston is centrally located in the Park Square Building in Boston's Back Bay at 31 St. James Avenue, Suite 1007, which is a one-minute walk from the Arlington stop on the Green subway line and a five-minute walk from the Back Bay stop on the Orange subway line.

You will have a welcome pack waiting for you at your accommodation choice. This will contain a map of how to get to the school as well as a welcome booklet.

On your first day you will need to bring with you identification. This will be used to enter the building at the security desk. During orientation at the school you will be given a security pass which you can use during your time at OISE Boston.



OISE Boston, 31 St. James Avenue, Suite 1007 Boston, MA 02116, USA
 Tel +1 617 357 6473 Fax +1 617 426 7577 Email: bostonadmin@oise.com



Your first day

A letter will be sent to your accommodation option, which will include a map and directions to OISE Boston. On the first day of your program, you should report to school at 8:15 a.m. for the first day orientation. As each student has a unique program, we will tell you about your individual schedule upon your arrival.

Please bring with you on your first day:

1. *Passport with I-94 (this is the index card stapled into your passport)*
2. *I-20 Form if you have an F-1 student visa*
3. *Health Insurance information*

In preparation for US Immigration

You may be asked for the following documents when you arrive in the United States. Please have them ready on arrival at the airport.

1. Your passport, which should be valid for at least the period of your intended stay in the United States.
2. If you were required to obtain an F-1 visa: Your F-1 visa, I-20 form and financial support documents.
3. Your return airplane ticket showing the date when you will return to your home country.
4. Your confirmation of enrolment in OISE Boston's program, which shows that you will be receiving a program of language instruction.
5. The name and address of the hotel, host family, dormitory or private residence where you will be staying.
6. Your student card or business card, which helps to show your life at home to which you'll be returning.
7. The money, traveller's checks, or credit cards, which you will use to pay for incidental expenses.



Contact Information

If you have any questions about any part of your stay then please do not hesitate to get in contact with relevant team member.

Noel Radcliffe-Marrs, Director: noel.radcliffe-marrs@oise.com

Agnieszka Goldsmith, Academic Manager: bostonacademic@oise.com

Stephanie Coleman, Sales and Marketing Coordinator (including visa information):
bostonadmin@oise.com

Accommodation: bostonadmin@oise.com

OISE Boston office number: +1(617) 357-6473

OISE Boston Emergency Cell Phone: +1 (857) 222-6273

Emergency Services Police/Fire/Ambulance: 911