

## Transportation

- You can receive an 11% discount off your MBTA pass from BC. Boston College is located at the end of B branch of the Green Line.
- Parking on campus can be expensive and difficult, and you are not guaranteed a spot.
- The free shuttle service is good if you live nearby or you can catch it at the Reservoir stop on the D branch of the Green Line. [www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/bus.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/bus.html)

## Fun things to do in and around Boston

- Join in various trivia nights around the city, including at Harry's, the Green Briar, and Cityside.
- Sam Adams Brewery in JP, Harpoon Brewery in the Seaport District, and Down East Cider in East Boston are all fun
- Head over to Revere Beach, America's first public beach, accessible by the T's Blue Line.
- The Arnold Arboretum in JP is beautiful
- Take a walk around the Chestnut Hill Reservoir
- Walk the Esplanade along the Charles River
- Free Stuff and Discounts!
- You can download the Microsoft Office suite, Mathematica, and more, for free on Boston College's website.
- If you live anywhere in Massachusetts, you can get a Boston Public Library Card.
- Student discounts! Boston College has a list of student discounts on everything from technology to entertainment. [www.bc.edu/offices/gsc/boston/Student\\_Discounts.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/gsc/boston/Student_Discounts.html)
- You can get into the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum for free with your BC ID!
- Discounts on Red Sox, Bruins, and Celtics tickets.
- Attend Boston College sports games, grad students can often purchase discounted tickets!
- Check out the New England Aquarium

This guide was inspired by our good friends, BUGWU-UAW (The Boston University Grad Workers Union – UAW). Thank you for assembling a great range of ideas and sources. Additional credit goes to the many grad workers of BC for their hard work on this guide. **Solidarity forever.**

**#WeAreWorkers**

# Survival Tips and Tricks for New Grad Students at Boston College 2018–2019



**Boston College  
Graduate Employees Union – UAW  
(BCGEU-UAW)**

## Who We Are

The Boston College Graduate Employee Union—UAW (BCGEU—UAW) is a union of graduate TAs, RAs, and GAs at Boston College. We've joined together to fight for workers' rights at BC. In Sept. 2017, we won our union election and are fighting for Boston College to recognize our union so that we can bargain a contract that improves the lives of graduate workers at BC.

## Why This Guide

When we began organizing our union, one of the first things grad workers talked about was the lack of transparency and isolation we experience at Boston College. We wanted to remedy that for ourselves and for future grad workers and students with by creating an orientation guide for new grads. This pamphlet is the abbreviated version of our new orientation guide, found at our website, **bcgradunion.com**. We firmly believe that many of these tips and tricks would be better addressed through a **collectively bargained contract** with the Boston College administration. We fight every day for Boston College to recognize us, and will continue to do so. But in the meantime, we hope you find this guide helpful for your time at Boston College.

### Connect with us online and get involved!

[www.bcgradunion.com](http://www.bcgradunion.com)  
[www.facebook.com/BCgrademployees/](https://www.facebook.com/BCgrademployees/)  
[@BCGEU\\_UAW](https://www.facebook.com/BCGEU_UAW)  
[bcgradunion@gmail.com](mailto:bcgradunion@gmail.com)

## Other Grad Groups on Campus

### Grad International Students Association (GISA)

[www.facebook.com/BostonCollegeGISA](https://www.facebook.com/BostonCollegeGISA)

### Grad Students of Color Association (GSCA)

[www.facebook.com/BostonCollegeGSCA](https://www.facebook.com/BostonCollegeGSCA)

### Grad Pride Alliance (GPA)

[www.facebook.com/BCGradPride](https://www.facebook.com/BCGradPride)

### Women's Center

[www.bc.edu/offices/wc.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/wc.html)

### Graduate Student Association (GSA) and Student Senate

[www.bc.edu/officesgscgraduate\\_student\\_association.html](http://www.bc.edu/officesgscgraduate_student_association.html)

## Working at Boston College

- You can receive your service-stipend via direct deposit. If you receive a non-service stipend, you can collect it at 129 Lake Street in two lump sums on Sept. 15, and Jan. 15.
- You can apply for Graduate Assistantship positions at BC. Check out their job website ([bc.edu/offices/gsc/students/assistantships.html](http://bc.edu/offices/gsc/students/assistantships.html)) or contact your department admin or chair for more information.
- Most service-stipends are paid Sept.—Dec. and Feb.—May. Make plans for the pay gaps that occur in January and the summer, especially if you don't receive summer funding.

## Housing in Boston

- Most leases are September 1st, which makes move-in day a hassle! Reserve a parking space from the city of Boston to ensure you can unload your stuff near your new place. The most you can be charged when you sign your lease is first/last month's rent, a security deposit (cannot exceed 1 month rent), and a broker fee (also cannot exceed 1 month rent).
- Allston Christmas occurs September 1st! People moving out leave behind tons of great (and not so great) gear for your house, including clothing, furniture, and some wacky candle holders! However, beware of bed bugs on upholstered stuff.

## Health Care and Counseling Services

- BC's offers a student health care plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield. Some students have this paid for by being employed at BC while others don't. This depends on your degree and program. International students must enroll in the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan. See BC's website for more information.
- If you need to see a doctor under the school health insurance plan and have time to plan ahead, many providers are available in the greater Boston area for a \$20 co-pay. Call the number on your insurance card for more information.
- University Counseling Services (UCS) is free for all full-time students and is located in Gasson 001. You can also use the Blue Cross plan to find services off campus.
- Dental and Vision are not included in BC's health insurance plan. They do offer some discounts on their website.