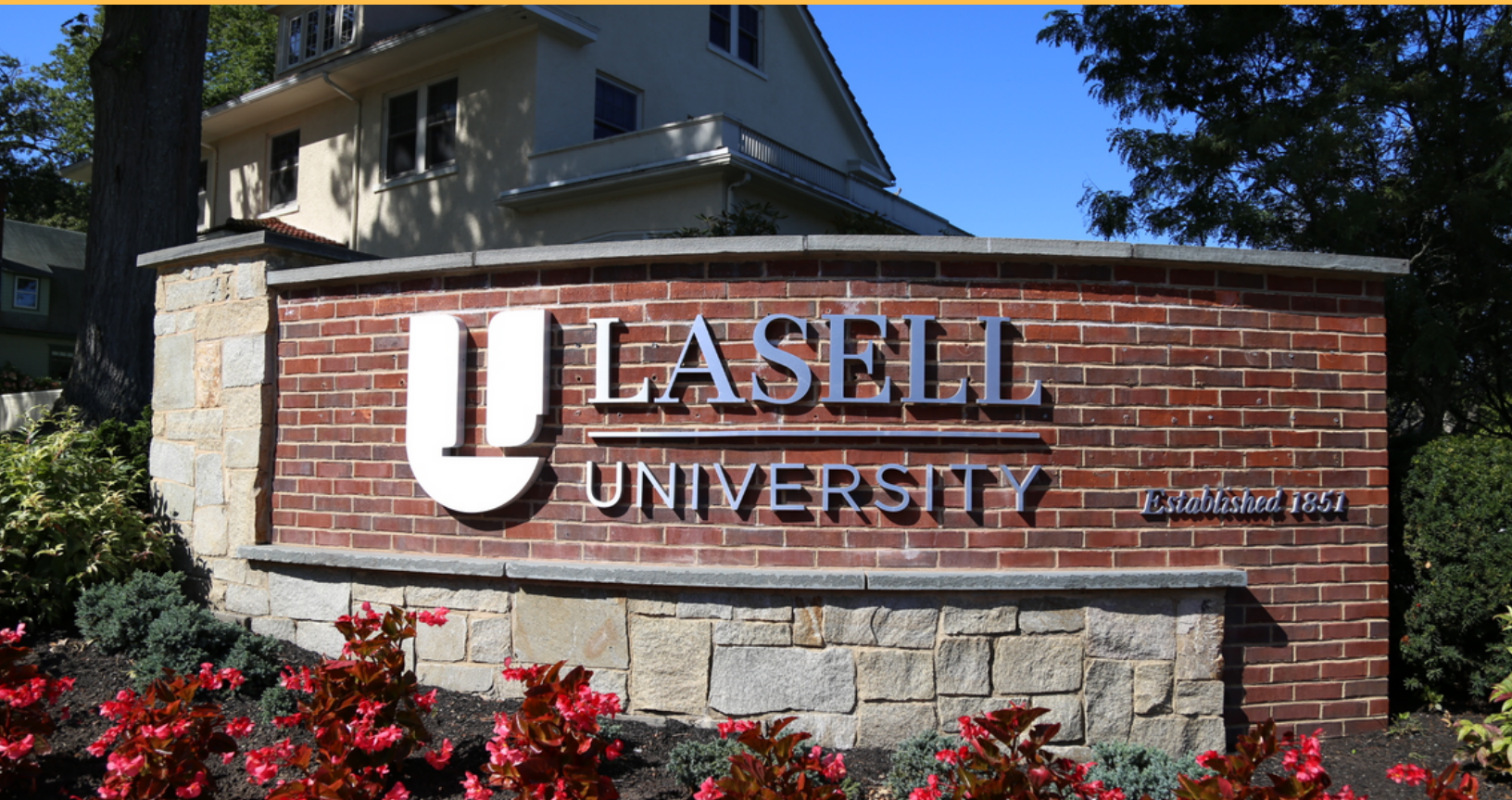


INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE

2024-2025



THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

The Office of International Services is dedicated to supporting international students throughout their time spent in the Lasell community. The Office of International Services provides information, support, and advising on a wide range of topics, including immigration issues (work permissions, travel, F-1 visa regulations), social and cultural differences, and resources at Lasell University and in the community.

Our services include:

- Advising students about on-campus and local resources
- Providing guidance on F-1 visa regulations and maintaining valid immigration status
- Information sessions and assistance in applying for employment authorization (CPT and OPT)
- Answering travel-related inquiries
- Assistance in applying for on-campus jobs, social security numbers, driver's licenses, etc.
- Support in cultural, academic and social adjustment
- Cultural programming and events for international students

Arnow Campus Center, Room 210

Phone: 617-243-2402

Email: iss@lasell.edu

Website: <http://www.lasell.edu/iss>



Maria Adkins

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Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) for SEVIS

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F-1 VISA REGULATIONS: THE BASICS

While studying in the United States, it is important to maintain your F student status. Your status relates to the purpose, or reason why you want to come to the United States. The [U.S. Department of State](#) issues you your visa based on your intended purpose.

If the Department of State issues you an F student visa, this means that you are coming to the United States to study. You should not take any action that detracts from that purpose.

An F-1 visa is valid for D/S or “duration of status.” The F-1 visa becomes invalid if a student enters the U.S. with a different visa type, or if the F-1 visa regulations are broken. Breaking the F-1 visa regulations results in a student being out of status, which is grounds for immediate termination of a student’s F-1 visa.

Regulations change frequently. The Office of International Services will do its best to alert students when regulations change, but it is the responsibility of the student to learn and stay up to date with the F-1 visa regulations.

GLOSSARY OF IMMIGRATION TERMS

There are many technical terms and abbreviations international students should be familiar with related to their immigration status. Below is a glossary of many of the common terms.

D/S Duration of Status	As an F-1 student you do not have an expiration date for how long you may stay; instead you may stay in the country as long as you maintain legal status as a student and until you complete your studies. You must not let your I-20 or passport expire.
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DSO Designated School Official	An international advisor who has been approved by the U.S. government to grant certification of status for international students and to verify status on government forms.
EAD Employment Authorization Document	A laminated government card bearing your photo you receive after successfully applying for permission to work. It has beginning and ending dates of your authorized employment.
F-1	The class of visa that is issued to non-immigrants who are granted permission to enter the U.S. to study at an approved school, also known as a Student Visa.
I-9	A form to prove employment eligibility by anyone being hired.
Form I-20	Three-page document you are sent before you attend school. It shows your field of study, starting and ending dates of study, and financial information. Is used to obtain your F-1 visa and for entry and re-entry into the U.S.
Form I-94	Form I-94, which is also called a Departure Record, is issued to students upon their arrival in the U.S. by an Immigration officer. The I-94 is an electronic record updated by the Immigration officer at the port of entry each time a student enters the U.S. It is recommended that students obtain their I-94 from this website https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov each time they enter the country. For F-1 students, it should say D/S.
SSN Social Security Number	The Social Security Number is a permanent ID number issued by the U.S. government. A Social Security Number is required to receive compensation for work in the U.S. (F-1 on-campus employment, paid internship, OPT).
SEVIS: Student Exchange Visitor Information System	The government's system and database that is used to track student visas, employment status, and to issue student I-20s.
USCIS	United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is the government agency responsible for enforcing the regulations that apply to foreign nationals within the U.S.

ARRIVAL IN THE U.S. AND SEVIS REGISTRATION

F-1 students must:

- Enter the United States no more than 30 days before the program of study begins.
- Attend International Orientation or make an appointment to report to the Office of International Services in person the first week of classes.

To ensure proper processing of SEVIS Registration, F-1 students must bring the following to check-in:

- Form I-20
- Passport
- F-1 visa
- Most recent I-94 arrival record (After arriving in the U.S., visit this website and print the most recent I-94. <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>)
- COVID requirements (negative test or vaccination record) see CDC website for more information.

At the Lasell University immigration check in at orientation, students will be instructed to enter their U.S. and international addresses and contact information in MyLasell Self-Service.



MAINTAINING STATUS

While studying in the United States, F-1 students must:

- Attend and pass all your classes. If school is too difficult, speak with a DSO in the Office of International Services immediately.
- You must take a full course of study each term; if a student cannot study full-time, the student should contact their DSO immediately.
- Do not drop a class without first speaking with the DSO.
- If an F-1 student is unable to complete their program by the end date listed on their Form I-20, talk with your DSO about requesting a possible program extension.



F-1 VISA REGULATIONS

To maintain legal status in the U.S., F-1 students must follow these federal regulations, state regulations, and Lasell policies:

1. **Check in with the Office of International Services upon arrival at Lasell College** to register your SEVIS record. This alerts the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that the student is an active student.
2. **Report any changes to your name, address, or contact information to the Office of International Services** within 10 days of the change by updating the profile in MyLasell Self-Service.
3. Be sure to **carry your required documents** when traveling and re-entering the U.S. as well as when you travel inside the U.S. Be sure to have your I-20 signed at least one time each year. This is referred to as a "travel signature" since students will need to show that they have a recent signature from a Designated School Official (DSO) every time they leave the U.S. and then re-enter.
4. **Keep your passport valid 6 months into the future.** Contact your embassy to renew your passport well BEFORE the expiration date.
5. **Register for and complete a full course of study each semester** at the school that issued your I-20 (Lasell College). A full course of study is a minimum of 12 credit hours for undergraduate students and 9 credit hours for graduate students during the fall and spring semesters. A student who does not register for and maintain the minimum credit hours during the fall or spring terms is considered out of status. The summer and winter sessions are optional and thus there is no minimum course load that must be carried. No more than one three-credit online-course per semester can count towards a student's full-time course load.



F-1 VISA REGULATIONS

6. If a you cannot complete a full course of study due to extenuating medical or academic circumstances, you must be approved for a Reduced Course Load with the approval from the academic advisor and authorization in SEVIS from the Office of International Services BEFORE you drop below full-time or take a leave of absence.
7. If you plan to graduate early or cannot complete your program by the program end date listed on the I-20, you must see the Office of International Services to see if you are eligible to have your program date shortened or extended on your I-20. This must be completed at least one month before the I-20 program end date.
8. Notify the Registrar's Office and the Office of International Services if you change your major.
9. **Depart the U.S. within 60 days of the completion date on your I-20.**
10. **NEVER work on campus for more than 20 hours per week** while you are registered.
11. **NEVER work off-campus without PRIOR authorization in your SEVIS record.** Always discuss off-campus work authorization at the Office of International Services before you start working off-campus, even if that employment is unpaid or an internship.
12. **Comply with all other U.S. federal and state laws**, such as never driving while intoxicated and never carrying a weapon.
13. **Comply with all other Lasell academic and conduct policies.**
14. If you wish to transfer from Lasell University to another school, you need to have your SEVIS record transferred and must notify the Office of International Services that you intend to transfer in advance. You must submit a letter of acceptance from the schools you are transferring to.
15. When you graduate and are on F-1 OPT or F-1 STEM OPT, be sure to complete ALL the required reporting ON TIME- we send email reminders but you should also take responsibility for the proper reporting.

REQUIRED REPORTING

Change of Address

F-1 students must report any changes of their name, phone number, or address to the Office of International Services within 10 days of the change. Students should report their change of address by updating the profile in Self-Service in MyLasell.

Students can utilize the video tutorials on the Resources page of the International Student Services webpage for instructions on how to do it.

[How to Update Address Using MyLasell](#)

[How to Update Phone Number Using MyLasell](#)

Change of Major

F-1 students must notify the Registrar's Office and the Office of International Services if they change their major. Students will be issued a new I-20 with the correct major.





RESOURCES FOR F-1 STUDENTS

Education USA: A very helpful website developed by the U.S. Department of State which includes information about undergraduate and graduate study and pre-departure information and resources.

<https://educationusa.state.gov/>

Study in the States: An informative website by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for prospective or current F-1 students to learn about the process and rules for studying in the United States as an international student. <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students>

I-94 Records for U.S. Visitors: Official Site for Travelers Visiting the United States: Apply for or Retrieve Form I-94, Request Travel History and Check Travel Compliance. <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>

TRAVEL

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

During your studies at Lasell University, you may wish to travel outside of the United States from time to time. In order to return to the United States after a temporary absence, F-1 students must present specific documents to the immigration inspector at the port of entry:

1. A valid passport (valid at least 6 months into the future)
2. A valid F-1 visa stamp (certain exceptions apply)
3. A valid I-20 with a valid travel signature on Page 2 (signed once within the past calendar year, or within the past six months for post completion OPT students).
4. Receipt of the I-901 SEVIS Fee payment. (If you do not have the receipt and have paid the SEVIS fee before, please go to <https://www.fmjfee.com> to print one out.)
7. F-1 students on OPT should also have their Employment Authorization Document (EAD) and a letter from an employer verifying that they have a job in the U.S.

What happens at the Port of Entry?

- At the port of entry, the immigration inspector should inspect the I-20 Form and return it to the student.
- The inspector should also inspect the passport with the F-1 visa (if applicable), issue an admission stamp, write "F-1/DS", and return the passport to the student.
- The inspector may or may not request to see the other documents listed above.

TRAVEL SIGNATURES

All F-1 students are required to present an unexpired I-20 with a valid travel signature at the port of entry when returning to the U.S. from a trip outside the country.

Travel signatures refer to the list of signatures on the second page of the I-20. The travel signature must be provided by a DSO in the Office of International Services.

Travel signatures are valid for one year. We recommend students get a new signature every semester if they have plans to travel internationally. Students can make an appointment for a Travel Signature using the Starfish Make an Appointment feature on MyLasell.

Students traveling within the U.S. should also carry their passport, F-1 visa, and I-20 with a valid travel signature.



LIFE IN BOSTON

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lasell University is located in Newton, Massachusetts, which is 8 miles from the city of Boston, the capital of Massachusetts and the largest city in New England. Boston has a population of about five million. This includes a student population of 250,000, representing more than 50 colleges and universities. Students here come from all areas of the United States and around the world.

Living in Boston will give you an excellent opportunity to experience one of the oldest cities in the United States, and to get a first-hand glimpse of American history. Many of the most important events of the American Revolution and the founding of this country took place in or around Boston, and historical monuments and museums can be found throughout the city.

Boston is definitely a “college city,” and you will find events, restaurants, clubs, museums, and sporting activities to suit every interest and taste. Check out these resources and enjoy everything Boston has to offer:

City of Boston official website

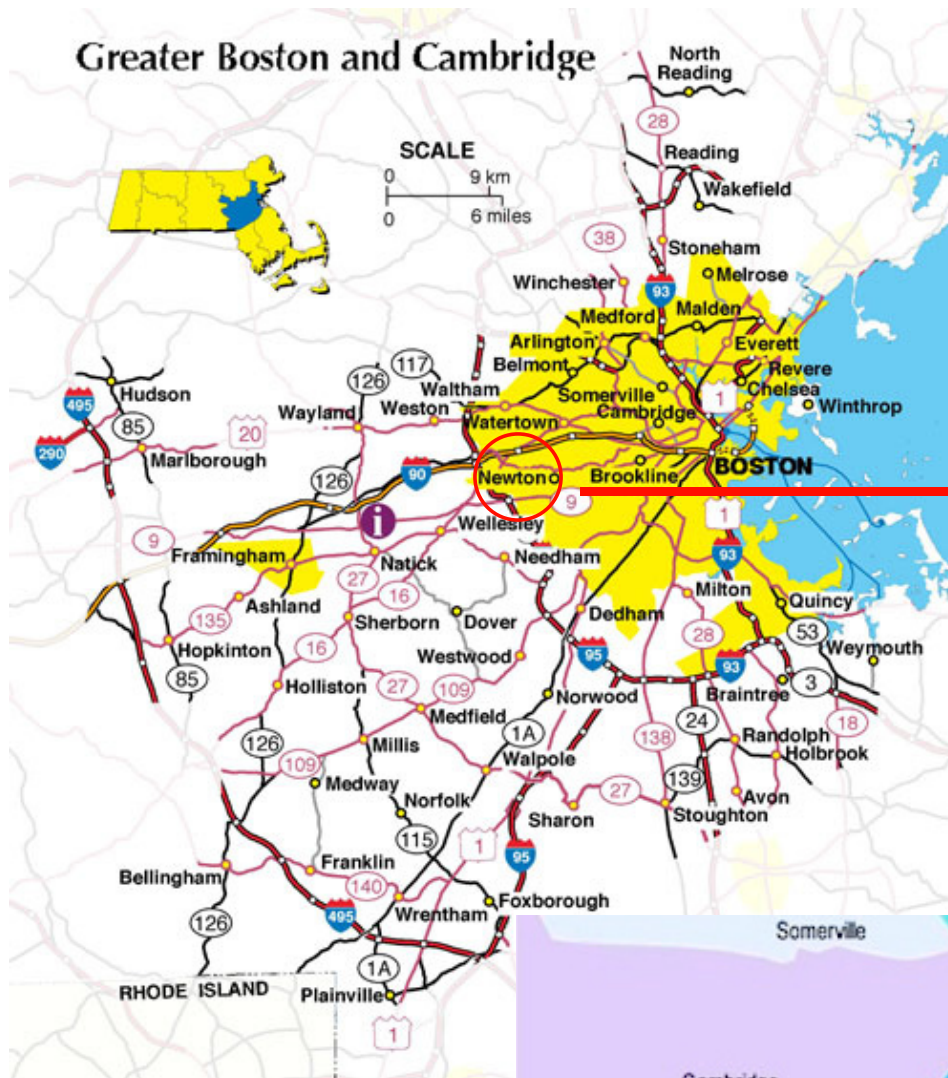
- <https://www.boston.gov/>

Greater Boston Chamber of
Commerce

- <https://bostonchamber.com/>

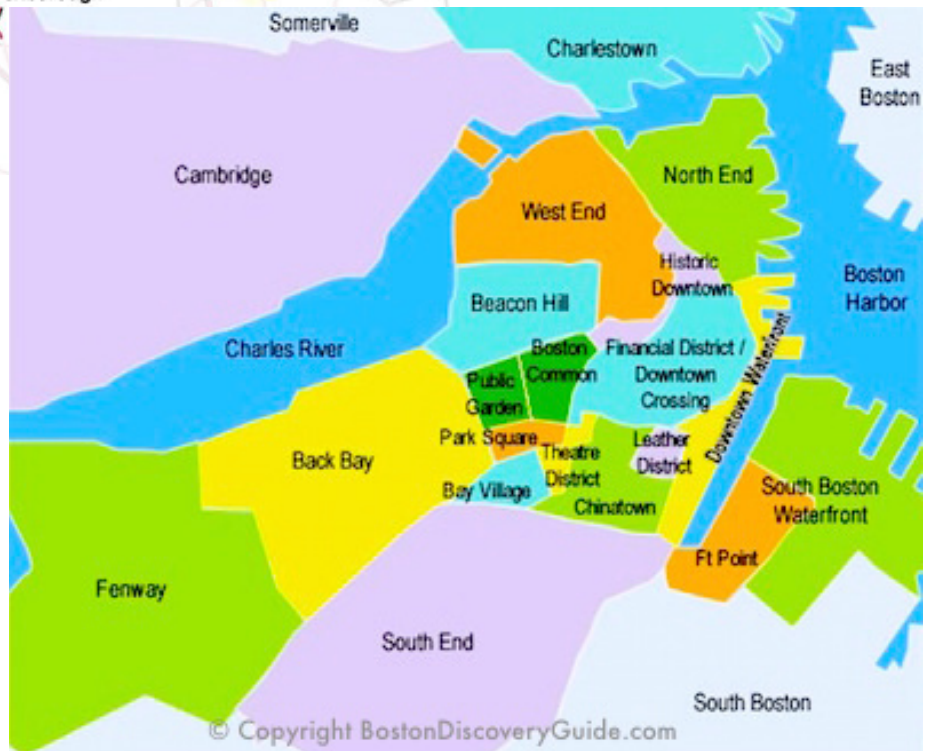


BOSTON MAPS



Lasell University is located in the town of Newton, Massachusetts.

LIFE IN BOSTON



Neighborhoods in Boston

TRANSPORTATION

THE "T": BOSTON'S SUBWAY/METRO SYSTEM

Lasell is located one mile from both the **Riverside MBTA station** and the **Woodland MBTA station** (the "T") on the Green Line. **The D train** is the only train on the Green line that goes to Riverside so it is important to make sure that the train says Riverside when traveling from Boston to Lasell. Riverside is the last stop on the line. Students can walk or use the Lasell Shuttle service to get to and from campus.

To view a map and schedule for the metro, please visit:

http://www.mbtta.com/schedules_and_maps/subway/lines/?route=GREEN

To plan your trip (get trip time estimates, figure out where to switch trains, and how far you'll need to walk from the T station to your destination):

<https://www.mbtta.com/trip-planner>

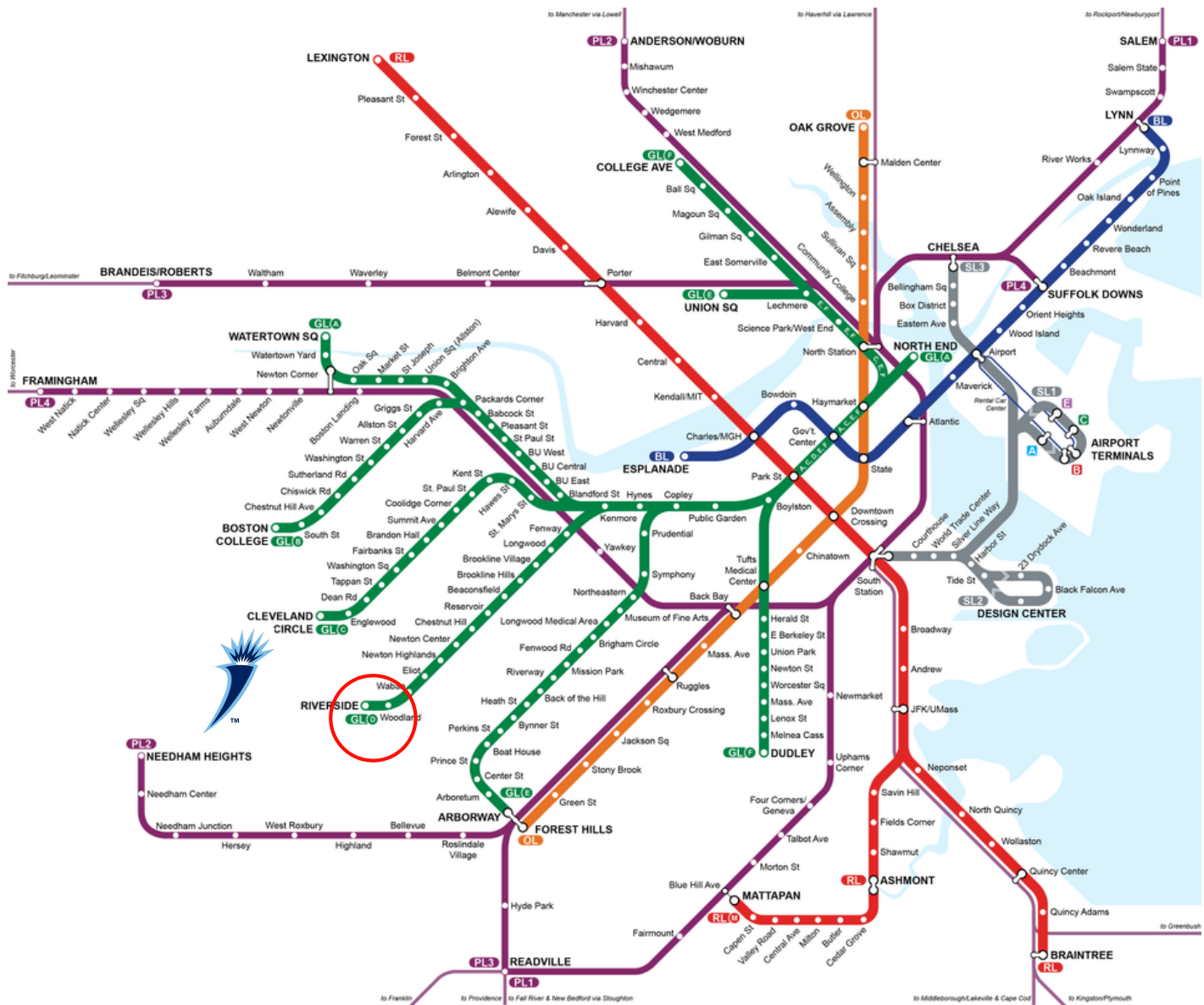
THE COMMUTER RAIL (TRAIN SYSTEM)

The Commuter Railroad serves as the regional rail arm of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA). The Commuter Rail runs as far south as Providence, Rhode Island, as far north as Newburyport, Massachusetts, and as far west as Worcester, Massachusetts. The trains have two terminal stops in Boston—South Station and North Station—both transportation hubs offering connections to Amtrak, local bus and subway lines. There are two Commuter Rail stops located nearby Lasell. These stops are West Newton and Auburndale and are both stops on the Framingham/Worcester Line.

To view a map and schedule for the Commuter Rail, please visit:

http://www.mbtta.com/schedules_and_maps/rail/

TRANSPORTATION



Lasell College is located at the Riverside or Woodland stations on the D Train of the Green Line

TRANSPORTATION

LASELL SHUTTLE SERVICE

A shuttle service is provided to all students seven days a week (excluding break periods) throughout the academic year. The shuttle follows a scheduled route that transports students throughout the campus and to the Riverside T Station, the Newton Center business district, and to a local supermarket. The schedule is available online at <https://www.lasell.edu/discover-lasell/campus-info-and-maps/shuttle-schedule.html>. Students can track the shuttle and see the next two arrival times at any stop.

BUS

The MBTA runs many bus routes in and around Boston. One of these busses- the #505 bus- stops outside the Lasell campus. This is an “Express Bus,” meaning that its route begins at South Station in downtown Boston and then heads to Newton without making any stops.

To view a map and schedule for the #505 bus, please visit:

http://www.mbt.com/schedules_and_maps/bus/routes/?route=505

PHONE APPLICATIONS

The following phone apps provide ride services:

- Uber
- Lyft



COMMUTER STUDENT SERVICES

Lasell University has an office dedicated to helping students who live off-campus. They offer help in making sure that you are able to access all of Lasell's student services and events as conveniently as students who reside on campus. Additionally, they can help you locate off-campus housing and navigate any issues that you may encounter with your current housing situation. For more information contact the Office of Off-Campus Living and Commuter Student Services at offcampusliving@lasell.edu.

INTERCULTURAL CENTER AND COMMUTER COTTAGE (IC3)

The Commuter Lounge is located on the ground level of 70 Maple St, the Intercultural Center. The lounge contains a kitchenette, TV, tables, couches, a bathroom, lockers, and a computer/printer. Lockers in the lounge are free for students to reserve. The Commuter Lounge is a great space to relax between classes and store your belongings for the day.

COMMUTER DISCOUNT MBTA PASSES

Lasell offers a limited number of discounted MBTA passes (Boston's subway, also known as "The T") to commuter students each semester. Look for emails from offcampusliving@lasell.edu for more information. Monthly MBTA passes for the subway normally cost \$90.00 and may be purchased from any MBTA station or online at <https://www.mbta.com/fares>

PARKING

Commuter student parking permits are \$120 for the year and are available from Campus Police at the start of the semester. Commuter students with permits may park in any green-signed lot. For additional information, email parking@lasell.edu or call 617-243-2202.

COMMUTER MEAL PLAN

Lasell University offers six commuter meal plans. For information on these meal plans, pricing, and registration, please visit dineoncampus.com/lasell. Meal plans may be used at any time during the semester in the Valentine Dining Hall or the 1851. The cost of your meal plan can be added to your student account semester bill.

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT IN THE U.S.

Opening a bank account in the United States will be much easier to manage your finances and cheaper than withdrawing money from a foreign bank account. You can also pay your bills online and use credit cards without large international banking fees. There are two types of bank accounts in the U.S.:

Checking Account – Great for day-to-day expenses. A checking account lets you make numerous withdrawals and unlimited deposits. You can use your checking account for living expenses, daily transactions, and paying bills. Many banks will offer online and mobile banking, so you can manage your money 24 hours a day.

Savings Account – Perfect if you want to save money. A savings account requires a minimum deposit and provides a modest interest rate of return. Savings accounts are generally for money you don't intend to use for daily expenses. A savings account is also likely to have a limited number of free transfers/transactions.

How to choose a bank:

Every bank in the US offers different services to students. Make sure you read the account information carefully so you're fully aware of what service fees they charge.

Lasell has some Citizens Bank ATM machines on campus where you can withdraw funds in cash. Usually banks will not charge extra fees when you are using your bank's ATM. When you use an ATM in a store or at other banks, you may be charged an extra transaction fee. <https://www.citizensbank.com/>

Important questions to consider when choosing a bank:

- What's the minimum balance required on the account?
- Are there extra fees if the balance goes below the minimum?
- What are the monthly service fees?
- Are there transaction limits?
- Does the bank offer online and mobile banking?



OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT IN THE U.S.

DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED:

- Your full name, home address, home telephone number, your campus telephone number, and your college address. (Letterhead showing the local address – i.e. utility bills, apartment contract, etc.)
- Unexpired passport
- I-94 record (Obtained at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/>).
- I-20 Form
- Enrollment verification letter from your school (Requested from the Registrar's Office at registrar@lasell.edu).
- A secondary form of identification (Acceptable ID includes your Student ID card, birth certificate, State's driver's license, or a letter from the Office of International Services)

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW WHEN USING YOUR BANK ACCOUNT:

- You may be asked for your Social Security Number (SSN). F-1 students are not eligible for a SSN unless they have been offered an on-campus job or are in a period of work authorization. A SSN is not required to open a bank account, but it is required for a U.S. credit card.
- If you wish to deposit money into your account, you can take cash to the bank, mail a check to the bank, or use an authorized ATM. Never mail cash to your bank.
- Be sure to have adequate funds in your account, when you write checks or use a debit card. Spending more money than you have available can be very expensive. There may be overdraft fees charged by both, the bank and the vendor.
- You should watch your monthly online statement carefully to see that all transactions are parallel to your deposits and withdrawals.
- Never sign a personal check before you are ready to use it, and never give someone a check with just your signature on it.

CELL PHONE OPTIONS

To avoid expensive roaming fees, it is a good idea to purchase a U.S. based cell-phone plan upon arrival in the U.S.

You have three choices for cell phone plans:

1. Using an unlocked cell phone from home and purchasing a new SIM card in the U.S.
2. Buying a new phone and setting up a pre-paid plan to pay as you go
3. Buying a new cell phone and setting up a contract plan to pay monthly

Option 1: Using an unlocked cell phone from home and purchasing a new SIM card in the U.S. If you have an unlocked phone, campusSIMS is a great option for purchasing a new SIM card. The Office of International Services has a supply of campusSIMS cards that you can set up via a downloaded app or online.

Option 2: Buying a new phone and setting up a pre-paid plan to pay as you go

Pre-paid plan is a more expensive option in terms of overall value but can be good if you are in the U.S. for a limited time or do not expect to use your phone much. You purchase the phone, which is usually rather expensive (at least \$50-60 for the simplest models), then purchase minutes as you go. It does not require a contract.

Option 3: Buying a new cell phone and setting up a contract plan to pay monthly

Contract phones require that you buy a phone from the specific company. You must also sign an agreement for a one or two-year plan. This will mean that once every month you will receive a bill for the use of the service. Contract plans generally require either a Social Security number or a credit check, which most international students cannot provide. T-Mobile is one carrier that does not require a contract, nor deposits or a credit check to set up a contract, which makes it a great option for international students.



U.S. AMERICAN CULTURE

Many international students arrive in the U.S. already knowing a great deal about the U.S. and about Americans. However, living and studying in the U.S. can be much different from reading about the U.S. or visiting it with family members. In this section, a few of the most common U.S. cultural values are described so that students can begin to prepare themselves for how some of the cultural values may differ from or be the same as their own cultural values.



CULTURAL VALUES

INDEPENDENCE

Americans strongly believe in the concept of individualism. They consider themselves to be separate individuals who are in control of their own lives, rather than members of a close-knit, interdependent family, religious group, tribe, nation, or other group.

DIRECTNESS

Americans tend to value frankness and openness in their dealings with other people. They believe that conflicts and disagreements are best solved by means of forthright discussion among the people involved. Americans believe that if someone has a problem with someone else, they should tell the person clearly and directly in order to come up with a solution to the problem.

WORK ETHIC

Similar to people in many countries, U.S. Americans place a high value on hard work. However, they tend to feel personally responsible for their accomplishments and take personal credit for what they've done. It is believed that people achieve results on the basis of how hard they work, so they often judge others by how hard they work and how task-oriented they are.



CULTURAL VALUES

EQUALITY

The American Declaration of Independence states that “all [people] are created equal,” and this belief is deeply embedded in their cultural values. Americans believe that all people are of equal standing, and are therefore uncomfortable with overt displays of respect such as being bowed to.

INFORMALITY

This belief in equality causes Americans to be rather informal in their behavior towards other people. Don't be surprised if store clerks and waiters introduce themselves by their first names. Many people visiting the U.S. are surprised by the informality of American speech, dress, and posture. Don't mistake this for rudeness or irreverence; it's just a part of the culture!

IMPORTANCE OF TIME

“Time is money,” is a common expression in the U.S. One of the more difficult things for many students to adjust to in the U.S. is the notion that time must be used carefully and productively. Being “on time” (arriving at the stated time) for class or meetings with advisers, professors, and even with friends is very important. It is considered rude to show up late for a scheduled meeting or appointment.

FOLLOWING RULES

In the U.S., many rules really are followed and procedures are often not negotiable. Arguing or demanding to see someone “in charge” will not lead to success. It is more effective to explain exactly what you need and what kind of problem you have been having, and ask, “What do I do now?” or “Is there someone who could help me?”

MAKING APPOINTMENTS AND DOING BUSINESS OVER EMAIL AND PHONE

In the U.S. and at Lasell, it is common to make appointments with advisors, faculty and student services offices like the Academic Achievement Center or Health Center. This will ensure that they will be expecting you and ready for the appointment. Many advisors, faculty and offices allow you to make appointments using Starfish on MyLasell. In the U.S., many things are done over the phone, or through email, making a personal visit unnecessary.



ACADEMIC DIFFERENCES

As an international student, studying in an American classroom can be a life-changing experience. You will be able to express yourself freely, make friends, build your confidence and challenge your friends and professors on topics in class. There are characteristics of classes and the academic atmosphere in the U.S. that may be different from those in your home country.

1. CLASS PARTICIPATION MATTERS

For most classes, you will be expected to speak, either to share an opinion on the subject or simply to ask questions on things that you do not understand. By speaking up, not only are you going to make good contributions to the class, you are improving your public speaking skills. In some classes, making interesting remarks can improve your grades significantly.

2. THE GRADING IS PROBABLY DIFFERENT

Most international students are accustomed to the letters system, based on a scale of A to F, which ranges from superior to average performance to failure. Many colleges in the U.S. use this scale to evaluate how well students are doing in class. Your grade-point average will be based on a scale of 4.0. The highest GPA you can earn is a 4.0, which indicates an A average in all of your classes. A 3.0 would indicate a B average, a 2.0 a C average, a 1.0 a D average, and a 0.0 an F average.

ACADEMIC DIFFERENCES

3. THERE WILL BE GROUP PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS.

Some international students may be familiar with the concept of the teacher assigning a group of students to complete a project and present it in front of class, but many may not have experienced it back home. The grade the group receives is your grade, so it is everyone's responsibility to make good contributions to the project. Sometimes, the professors will hand out evaluation sheets for all team members and ask them to rate each individual's commitment and contribution to the project. Students may even be asked to suggest the grade you think your other group members should receive.

4. PROFESSORS WILL HAVE OFFICE HOURS

Professors usually hold office hours once or twice a week for a few hours at a time. This is a time when students can come in to have any questions or concerns addressed or simply just have a discussion with their professors on what they are learning in class. If you find yourself having difficulty understanding the class materials, going to office hours is a great solution! Most professors are very open about speaking with and getting to know students outside of class as well as helping you succeed academically.

5. DISCIPLINE IS STILL IMPORTANT

Although there are plenty of opportunities for students to express their opinions in the classroom or to have personal interaction with their instructors, it is still critically important for students to be polite and respectful to professors and other students. Challenging a professor's authority, arriving late, using a cellphone while in the classroom or cheating on exams are considered poor behavior in American college classes. Your professors respect and value your contribution to the class, and your classmates – just like you – are people who are there to learn and grow.

U.S. LAWS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW

While at Lasell students are expected to follow laws and policies that govern a variety of daily life and academic activities. There are different levels of laws in the U.S including federal, state, and local community laws which will differ depending on the particular jurisdiction. Violating a U.S. law can have different consequences for an international student than for their American friends and can negatively impact their U.S. immigration status. For example an arrest for “driving under the influence” of alcohol (known as DUI) could lead to the State Department revoking the U.S. visa in the passport. Similarly a violation of Lasell University policies can also impact a student’s immigration status.

It is the student’s responsibility to know what is legal or not. The following is a description of some of the laws that may affect F-1 students. It is meant to introduce F-1 students to some of the laws that exist in the U.S. that may be different from other countries. Students must also review the Lasell University Policies and Issues of General Conduct in the Student Handbook.

ALCOHOL

Alcohol use in the U.S. is regulated by law. In every state in the U.S. including Massachusetts, alcohol may not be legally purchased or consumed by anyone under the age of 21, and it may not be consumed while in public or in an automobile. It is illegal to have any open bottle, can, or container with an alcoholic beverage in public, even if the consumer is of legal drinking age. Driving while intoxicated is considered a serious crime, punishable by large fines, jail sentences, and the loss of driving privileges. It is also a serious crime to offer or provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

U.S. LAWS

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Smoking in public buildings is prohibited by Massachusetts law. Smoking is generally allowed outdoors and in one's home. When in someone else's home, it is considered polite to step outside to smoke. Cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping products and other tobacco products may not be purchased or used by people under the age of 18.

At Lasell, smoking is not permitted in any building on campus, and this prohibition includes e-cigarettes and hookahs. Students who choose to smoke outside of any campus building are asked to use appropriate receptacles to dispose of cigarettes, and are asked to smoke at least 25 feet away from a building's entrance and/or windows.

DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

The possession or use of marijuana is prohibited by federal law. Although the recreational use of marijuana is permitted in Massachusetts and some other states for individuals 21 years of age or older, it remains a federal crime to possess or consume marijuana and can have immigration consequences. Furthermore, at Lasell University, any illegal use, sale or distribution of drugs, and/or possession or supply of drugs, drug paraphernalia, narcotics and marijuana (including marijuana plants) will result in disciplinary action by the university and/or criminal prosecution. Street drugs, such as cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, and other mood-altering substances that are not prescribed by a medical doctor, may not be possessed or sold legally in Massachusetts. Strict laws and severe penalties apply.

U.S. CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT LAWS

Individuals have the right to stop sexual contact at any time. This means that when a person says "no" to any type of sexual contact, it violates the law if the partner attempts to emotionally or verbally coerce or physically force that person into continuing the sexual contact. Violation of the Criminal Sexual Conduct Code ranges from forced rape to improperly (without consent) touching the clothed or unclothed intimate body parts of another person. Violation of these laws can result in a prison or jail term and a large fine. Any student that has been subjected to harassment is advised to report to the Title IX Coordinator, Jennifer O'Keeffe at 617-243-2065 or jokeeffe@lasell.edu.

WELCOME!

The Office of International Services is a great resource for you throughout your time at Lasell University. Please contact us with any questions, concerns, thoughts and ideas.

Welcome to the Lasell University community!

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Arnow Campus Center, Room 210

Phone: 617-243-2402

Email: iss@lasell.edu

To Make an Appointment: Use Starfish
link on MyLasell

Website: <http://www.lasell.edu/iss>

Additional Resources:

- Website: <http://www.lasell.edu/iss>
- MyLasell- International Student Services
- "Resources for International Students" Canvas course

Maria Adkins, Director of International Student Services
madkins@lasell.edu

