J-1 Pre-Arrival Guide for Visiting Faculty & Researchers

WELCOME!!

We are glad that you chose The University of Massachusetts Boston (UMASS Boston) for your J-1 Exchange Visitor Program and we look forward to welcoming you to our city.

You will find the City of Boston to be a vibrant, thriving city renowned for its cultural facilities, world-class educational institutions, champion sports teams, in addition to being at the forefront of American history.

With 50 universities and colleges in its metropolitan area, Boston is the academic hub of the United States. Every August and September, the city welcomes thousands of students, scholars and faculty from all over the world. While here, please make the most of your time by exploring all the city has to offer. You can learn more about the City of Boston at its website: www.cityofboston.gov. The University of Massachusetts Boston is located in the Boston neighborhood called Dorchester. Surrounding neighborhoods are Quincy, South Boston and Roxbury.

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) is here to help you with immigration matters during your stay. This J-1 Pre-Arrival Guide contains critical information about immigration regulations and services for new international faculty and scholars. Whether you are coming to UMASS Boston from your home country or transferring from another U.S. institution, please read this guide carefully.
When you receive your DS-2019, follow this checklist for next steps:

- Read all of the information in the J-1 Pre-Arrival Guide;
- Verify that all the information on your DS-2019 is correct. Note the program start date and notify your host department and ISSS immediately if your travel plans change;
- Pay the I-901 (SEVIS FEE) online at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com);
- Apply for a J-1 Visa at the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy to your home residence;
- Purchase or make plans to purchase medical insurance coverage. The U.S. Department of State requires all individuals who enter the United States in J-1 status to have medical insurance for themselves and any accompanying J-2 dependents;
- Arrange for your housing needs. Although ISSS is unable to assist you in arranging housing, this guide provides an overview of housing resources;
- Schedule your mandatory J-1 mandatory orientation session for a date shortly after your arrival in Boston. For an appointment email: susan.connors@umb.edu;
- Arrange for transportation from the Boston (Logan) airport to your hotel or apartment.

### I-901 - SEVIS (Student & Exchange Visitor Information System) FEE

All J-1 visa applicants must pay the SEVIS fee of $180. The SEVIS fee must be paid at least three business days prior to the scheduled visa interview at the U.S. Consulate. For most individuals, the SEVIS fee can be paid by electronically completing the Form I-901 and paying with a credit card through the Internet at [www.fmjfee.com](http://www.fmjfee.com). You will need the information from your DS-2019 in order to complete the SEVIS Fee payment.

Please print the electronic receipt immediately after payment has been made. You must show the receipt to the consular officer at the time of the interview. Spouses and dependent children (J-2s) do not pay this fee. The SEVIS fee is not a visa application fee. It is used to operate and maintain the SEVIS database. The fee is non-refundable, even if the visa application is denied.

**Note for Mac Users:** The Internet Explorer browser does not work properly with the website [www.fmjfee.com/i901fee](http://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee) for payment of the SEVIS fee. Please use Safari 1.2.2 or higher, available at [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com); Netscape 7.1 or higher, available at [www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com); or Firefox 1.0 or higher, available at [www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org).

### APPLYING FOR A J-1/J-2 VISA

A valid J-1 visa is required to enter the United States on the Exchange Visitor Program. For information on processing times and procedures, visit the U.S. Department of State at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

*A personal interview is required, so you will need to schedule your appointment as soon as possible. Be aware there also could be substantial delays due to security checks, so please plan your travel arrangements accordingly.*
Immediate family members (spouse and children under the age of 21) who will accompany you to the United States may apply for J-2 visas using the DS-2019 forms enclosed. If your family will join you later, a DS-2019 form will be issued by ISSS upon your request.

The following is generally required for the J-1/J-2 visa application:

- Signed Form DS-2019(s). A separate form is required for all visa applicants. The J-1 should sign the bottom of the first page of all forms and submit them for the visa application. The DS-2019(s) will be returned to you to present at the U.S. port of entry.
- Receipt showing payment of the SEVIS fee (J-1 visa only).
- Payment of the visa application fee, and appropriate visa application forms (see U.S. Consulate webpage), for each visa applicant.
- Passport(s) valid for at least 6 months into the future, for each visa applicant.
- Proof of ties to your home country. Consult the website of your local U.S. Consulate/Embassy for suggestions.
- Proof of financial support. You must be able to verify the total funds indicated on the DS-2019 with a personal bank statement and/or a sponsor’s official statement of support. If you are receiving payment from UMASS Boston, you may request a letter from the host department that specifies your position and salary.
- Two passport-size photos for each visa applicant often required (check with U.S. Consulate).
- J-1 Invitation letter from the host department at UMASS Boston (recommended).
- Marriage certificate and birth certificates (in English with attached translation) of children carrying their own passports (J-2 visa only).

PROGRAM DATES & ACTIVITY
Your application for a J-1 visa implies acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined on the second page of the form. You will be admitted to the United States to engage in the activity described in item 4 of the form and for the period of time specified in item 3. **Note:** The period of your stay may be extended after your arrival, at the request of your host department.

MAXIMUM STAY

If the category Research Scholar or Professor is indicated in item 4 of your DS-2019, your maximum period of stay under this program is limited to five years. If you will be a Short-Term Scholar, your maximum limit is six months. The Short-Term category does not allow for extension. See the second page of the DS-2019, 1(c) “Limitations of Stay.” Upon completion of your J-1 program, you are afforded a 30-day grace period to prepare for departure from the United States.

ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

Please present the following documents to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer at the U.S. port of entry:

- Passport(s) containing a valid J-1 visa (or J-2 visas for accompanying family members).
- Signed Form DS-2019(s) for you and any accompanying family members.
- I-94 card(s), which are distributed on the airplane before landing.
Recommended: Proof of financial support (same as the documentation presented at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate).
Recommended: invitation/appointment letter from your host department at UMASS Boston

The officer should return:

- Passport(s).
- Stamped Form(s) DS-2019 for you and any accompanying family members.
- Any of the recommended documents that you provided in support at your consular visa appointment.

Note: If you notice a discrepancy in how you are admitted to the US, please be sure to address it with the CBP officer immediately as it may be difficult to make any correction to I-94 cards once you leave the port of entry.

CANADIAN NATIONALS: Canadians are not required to obtain a visa stamp from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate, but must present the enclosed Form DS-2019, SEVIS fee receipt and a Canadian passport at the U.S. port of entry in order to be admitted in J-1 status for D/S (duration of status). If you are a Canadian Landed Immigrant, please check with the nearest U.S. Consulate about whether or not you require a J-1 visa stamp, as requirements vary depending on country of citizenship.

ARRIVAL/TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority: Boston and its surrounding communities are connected by a public transportation system of trains and buses called the MBTA. The four subway lines are the Blue, Green, Red, and Orange, and there is also an extensive bus system. The T (trains and buses) operates between 5:30 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. The train costs $2.50, and bus fare is $2.00. There is reduced fare available by purchasing a “Charlie Card”. The MBTA also operates an extensive commuter rail (train) system to surrounding suburbs; prices vary according to distance traveled. Monthly MBTA passes can be purchased at many subway stations. For information on the MBTA visit: www.mbta.com.

Airport Arrivals: You can obtain information on getting to/from Boston’s airport, called Logan Airport, on the MBTA website: www.mbta.com.

BOSTON TAXIS: There are seven authorized cab associations in the City of Boston which are licensed by the Police Commissioner: http://www.cityofboston.gov/police/hackney/companies.asp

Transportation to UMASS Boston: you can find directions to the university (the red line on the MBTA) by visiting the UMASS Boston website: www.umb.edu and clicking the ‘Getting Here’ link.

Upon your arrival to Boston, it is very important that you:

- Inform your host department that you have arrived safely.
- Attend mandatory scholar orientation with an ISSS scholar advisor.

Please Note: If you arrive Saturday or Sunday, you will find that the University and many other businesses are closed.
J-1 MANDATORY ORIENTATION SESSION

OVERVIEW
The U.S. Department of State requires that your program sponsor provide you with an orientation. At the orientation session a scholar advisor will validate your arrival in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) database. This notifies the Department of Homeland Security that you have arrived, begun your J-1 exchange visitor program and changes your SEVIS record to ACTIVE status.

Failure to attend orientation and have your SEVIS record validated may result in future immigration complications as well as problems in obtaining a Social Security Number.

DAYS AND TIMES
Please attend the required J-1 mandatory orientation session as soon as possible after you arrive in Boston. Orientation sessions are held Mondays and Wednesdays and are by appointment only. Typically the session lasts between 30-45 minutes. To set an orientation appointment, please contact susan.connors@umb.edu.

Depending on your period of arrival, your orientation may be with an individual scholar advisor or in a group setting. We ask that you please be on time for your orientation and have all of your documents with you (noted below). If your orientation is a group orientation and you arrive after the session has begun, you will be asked to reschedule for another session.

WHAT TO BRING
You will need to bring the following documents with you (for you and all J-2 dependents, if applicable):

- passport(s),
- I-94 card(s),
- DS-2019(s), and
- Proof of insurance coverage.
- Local U.S. Address

Your J-2 dependent family members are welcome to attend the orientation with you; however, the J-1 scholar/professor is the only individual who is required to attend. Note: If your family members do not accompany you to the orientation, please remember to bring their documents and insurance for verification.

At orientation, a scholar advisor will review all of the topics listed in the Scholar Orientation Guide that can be found on out scholar services page, some of which are also mentioned in this Pre-Arrival Guide.

SCHOLAR PROCESSING FEE
All incoming exchange visitors in the categories of visiting professor, researcher, and short-term scholar are required to pay the scholar processing fee of $450 to the Office of International and Transnational Affairs. Incoming exchange visitors will not have their program validated until the payment is received.

If you are sponsored by another agency (Fulbright, for example) or if you are in the OITA International Visiting Scholar Academy (IVSA) you will not pay this fee.
The following information is provided by the U.S. Department of State. We include it in this guide according to the Department of State’s requirements for J-1 Program Sponsors.

The U.S. Department of State administers the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended. The Act promotes mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange. The Exchange Visitor Program provides foreign nationals with opportunities to participate in exchange programs in the United States and then return home to share their experiences.

SPONSORS
The U.S. Department of State designates sponsors to administer individual exchange visitor programs. Sponsors are U.S. organizations such as government agencies, academic institutions, educational and cultural organizations, and corporations. They screen and select exchange visitors participating in their programs, provide them with pre-arrival information, an orientation, and monitor their activities. Sponsors offer exchange visitors cross-cultural activities that will expose them to American society, culture, and institutions. Exchange visitors are encouraged to voluntarily participate in activities that provide them with an opportunity to share their language, culture, and history with Americans.

EXCHANGE VISITORS
An exchange visitor is a foreign national selected by a sponsor to participate in an exchange program, and is issued a J-1 visa. An accompanying spouse and any unmarried children under 21 years of age, may apply for J-2 visas, with the permission of your sponsor.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS
Sponsors appoint individuals as responsible officers and alternate responsible officers to advise and assist exchange visitors. These officers issue the Certificates of Eligibility (Form DS-2019), and conduct official communications with the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on your behalf.

RULES AND REGULATIONS
It is important that you understand and abide by the Exchange Visitor Program regulations, U.S. laws and sponsor rules. Regular contact with your scholar advisor will help you keep current of any changes, which may affect your J status.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM PROVISIONS
You will enter the United States in one program category, and will be required to engage in that category and subject/field of activity listed on your form DS-2019. You must comply with the specific program provisions of the regulations relating to your program category.

MAINTENANCE OF STATUS
You are required to have a valid and unexpired Form DS-2019. Sponsors may terminate an exchange visitor’s program for violating U.S. laws, Exchange Visitor Program regulations or the sponsor’s rules governing their particular program.
NOTIFICATION
You must inform your scholar advisor if you change your address or telephone number, or complete or withdraw from your program early. Doing so will assist your sponsor in complying with their notification and reporting requirements to the U.S. Department of State.

Contact Information
U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation
301 Fourth Street, SW Room 734
Washington, DC 20547

212(e) Two-Year Home Residence Requirement

Exchange Visitors and their dependents may be subject to the Two-Year Home Residence Requirement. This requirement is different from the 12-month and 24-month bars mentioned below. It is very important to read and understand section 1(a) on the second page of the enclosed Form DS-2019.

The 212(e) requirement is normally associated with government funding (your country’s or U.S. government funding) and/or the skills list. To see if your country and skill results in this requirement, please check the skills list at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_4514.html.

If you are subject to 212(e), it does not mean that you cannot return to the U.S. for two years in any nonimmigrant status, (for example, in student or tourist status). However, it does mean that you cannot change status in the U.S. or obtain a work visa (H), permanent residency (green card) or an intra-company transferee visa (L) unless this requirement is waived or until it is met. For more in-depth information on the Two-Year Home Residence Requirement, please see the ISSS website.

The Consular Officer may indicate this requirement on your visa and/or DS2019 and a U.S. CBP officer may indicate it on your I-94 card when you enter the United States; however, the Department of State Exchange Visitor Program has the final determination concerning this requirement.

REPEAT PARTICPATION BARS

12-MONTH BAR
USCIS regulation 22 CFR 62.20(d)(ii) established a “12-month bar” on beginning a new J-1 program as a Research Scholar or Professor for those persons who spent the previous year in the U.S. in any J status (J-1 or J-2). The bar does not apply to transfers from one institution to another, to persons who were Short-Term Scholars or to persons whose J program lasted less than six months.

24-MONTH BAR
USCIS regulation 22 CFR 62.20(i)(2) established a “24-month bar” on repeat participation as a Research Scholar or Professor for those persons were present in the United States in J-1 Research Scholar or Professor Category on or after Nov. 17, 2006. The bar does not apply to transfers from one institution to another.
Please note that these bars only prevent new programs for Research Scholars and Professors who have previously held J status. They do not prevent someone who has held J status from beginning a new program as a J-1 Student or a Short-Term Scholar. Once the applicable 12-month or 24-month time period has lapsed, exchange visitors are again eligible to begin a program in any J category.

**If you held J status within the last year or believe that one of these bars might apply to you, please contact a scholar advisor at ISSS immediately**

**ABSENCES FROM PROGRAM ACTIVITY – SEVIS REGISTRATION FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS**

J-1 Research Scholars may travel abroad during their stay at UMASS Boston for a period of more than 30 days only if the scholar’s program activity requires the scholar to travel, and the travel abroad is in collaboration with the J program activity of the host department. In such circumstances ISSS will maintain the exchange visitor’s SEVIS record active. The Request for Temporary Leave of Absence (LOA) must be approved by the host department and submitted to ISSS prior to departing the U.S. accompanied by a letter detailing the continued collaboration. ISSS will determine if the LOA is in accordance with the federal regulations pertaining to J-1 Research Scholar category. If so, the LOA will be granted.

Absences not required/related to the J-1 exchange visitors’ academic objective with the host department may not extend beyond a maximum of 30 days and may not be repetitive in nature. In accordance with federal regulations pertaining to the J-1 Research Scholar category, ISSS cannot maintain that an exchange visitor is in the U.S. actively engaged in the objective stated in item #4 on the DS-2019 if the researcher is not in the US. Research scholars should be aware that termination of the SEVIS record subjects scholars to the 24-month bar on repeat participation.

**EMPLOYMENT IN THE J-1 SCHOLAR/PROFESSOR CATEGORY**

The purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program is “to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries by means of education and cultural exchanges.” Some Exchange Visitors are employed at UMASS Boston, but the primary activity is to gain, contribute, impart and share specialized skills.

While the visitor may be employed at UMASS Boston, employment is secondary to the purpose of the exchange visitor’s admittance to the US. The J-1 visa is not an employment visa.

Therefore, options for employment outside the host institution are limited. These are classified as occasional lectures or short-term consultations, and are not to be considered employment. The term “occasional” embodies the concept of a single event rather than an ongoing activity.

The criteria for an occasional lecture or short-term consultation is that it must be directly related to the objectives of your program, must be incidental to your primary program activities, and must not delay the completion date of your program at UMASS Boston.

Because you may not be classified as an employee, any wages or remuneration you receive will require you to act as [and be paid as] an independent contractor.
MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

U.S. Department of State regulations require all J-1 Exchange Visitors to have medical insurance for themselves and any accompanying J-2 family members for the duration of their program.

**Willful violation of the insurance requirement is a violation of J-1 status and can result in the termination of your J-1 program by your program sponsor in accordance with immigration regulations.**

Your insurance must meet the following requirements:

- Major Medical Coverage: $50,000 per accident/illness
- Deductible cannot exceed: $500
- Medical Evacuation: $10,000
- Repatriation of Remains: $ 7,500

Fulfilling this requirement is essential, not only because of the U.S. Department of State regulations, but because medical treatment in the United States is very expensive without proper insurance coverage.

You are required to purchase an insurance policy for the entire duration of your program (as indicated on your DS-2019) if your program’s duration is less than one year. If your program will continue for more than one year, you may purchase insurance for the first year only and renew your policy in yearly increments. It is your responsibility to provide proof of continuous insurance coverage to ISSS.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOLAR INSURANCE PLAN

J-1 Exchange Visitors are eligible to purchase the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) Scholar Insurance Plan from the Aetna Insurance Company. Information on this plan is issued to you with your DS2019 information. The UMASS plan covers the medical evacuation and repatriation insurance requirement.

FOREIGN MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICIES

Individuals carrying policies that do not meet the minimum levels of coverage outlined in this guide will be required to purchase insurance that meets the U.S. Department of State requirements, which must include medical evacuation and repatriation coverage as outlined above.

VISION AND DENTAL CARE

It is important to remember that in the United States certain kinds of elective medical care, such as eyeglasses or dentistry are ordinarily not covered by regular medical insurance. Exchange Visitors should take care of such needs before leaving home, or may elect to purchase separate coverage for these needs through a private company.

BANKING

Most U.S. banks offer many different types of personal account services for checking and savings. You may want to open an account in a U.S. bank before you arrive. Ask the bank in your country for information about corresponding banks in the Boston area. If you wait to open an account until you arrive, it could take two to four weeks before you have access to money deposited into an account by a
foreign check. It may be quicker to bring travelers' checks or to arrange a wire transfer to your new account.

**Credit Cards:** Credit cards such as Visa, Mastercard, and American Express are widely accepted in most stores, including major supermarkets. Most car rental companies require a major credit card to rent a car. If you currently have a credit card at home and would like to apply for one in the United States, you should bring a letter of reference from your home bank regarding your credit history.

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**TAX INFORMATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS**

As in most countries, the tax laws in the United States are complex. Tax treaty benefits, Social Security taxes and filing requirements depend on your visa status, the purpose of your visit, the number of days you will be in the United States and the history of your prior visits.

**TAXATION OF EXCHANGE VISITORS**

It is hard to generalize about specific tax situations. Under normal circumstances, visitors in J-1 status do not pay Social Security, or Medicare, taxes until they have been in the U.S. for two calendar years. However, U.S. source income is normally subject to federal income tax withholding at a 10-14% rate, or at a 30% rate for one-time payments for independent contractor services. If your country has a Tax Treaty with the United States, then a portion of your income is generally exempt from tax withholding for a certain period of time specified by the treaty.

*Please note that J-2 dependents with work authorization are fully subject to Federal, Social Security and Medicare taxes and are not eligible for tax treaty benefits.*

**TAX FILING RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSISTANCE**

If you are in the United States in J-1/J-2 status, you will have tax filing responsibilities. If you did not have any U.S. source income, you are still required to file Form 8843 with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Your J-2 dependents must also file Form 8843. If you have U.S. source income, you may also be required to file a tax return. Although ISSS cannot assist you with preparing your taxes, J-1 Exchange Visitors at UMass Boston are eligible to use tax preparation software called WINDSTAR available through the ISSS office. For more information, please contact isss@umb.edu.

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

A Social Security Number (SSN) is required for payment and taxes in the United States. Instructions on the SSN application procedure is discussed at your scholar orientation. You cannot file for a SNN until you have completed your scholar orientation and paid your processing fee (if applicable).

*You must wait 10 days from your mandatory scholar orientation, when you are validated in the SEVIS system, in order to apply for an SSN. Please plan accordingly.*

Please note that if you have an SSN from a past visit to the United States, you will use the same number for your entire lifetime.
LIVING IN BOSTON

HOUSING INFORMATION
As a visiting professor or research scholar you can use the UMB Housing Registry Database which lists available housing in the area. To view options please visit the registry at http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/housing.

Another common source for listings is Craig’s List: http://boston.craigslist.org/

You may also want to contact your host department to see if they are able to provide housing assistance to you. Unfortunately, there is no housing available for exchange visitors on the UMASS Boston campus.

ROOMATES
A person living alone in an apartment may spend up to $700 more per month for rent, utility bills and food. Sharing an apartment with a roommate can significantly lower these costs and can help international visitors practice speaking English and learn about United States culture.

LEASES
A lease is a legal contract between a landlord (property owner) and a tenant (person renting). Do not sign any lease until you have read it thoroughly and understand all of its provisions. Almost all property owners require the tenant to sign a lease for one year, committing the tenant to 12 months' rent unless a subtenant acceptable to the owner can be found. Leases usually start on the first of the month. If you have questions about any of the terminology in your particular lease, you may contact the Office of Housing Services. You will also be issued information about Massachusetts tenants’ right at your scholar orientation.

LIVING EXPENSES
The following information lists items you will need to consider when you are planning your expenses for your exchange in Boston.

- You will need to purchase medical insurance for yourself and any accompanying family members. Supplemental insurance to cover medical evacuation and repatriation is also required for you and your family during your entire J-1 program.
- It is important to note that you may not accept employment that is unrelated to the objective of your Exchange Visitor Program. Therefore, you should not expect to obtain U.S. funding in excess of that indicated on the enclosed Form DS-2019 if you are employed at the University.
- If your funding is coming from UMASS Boston, there may be a delay of up to one month before your first paycheck is received. Because of this, it is advisable for visitors to arrive with at least $2,000–$3,000 to cover initial expenditures and deposits. A bank draft or cashier’s check in U.S. dollars (payable to yourself) is a convenient way to bring money to be deposited with a local bank. Since the bank draft or check will not clear for your use until 15-30 days after deposit, it is recommended that you bring part of this amount in traveler’s checks or cash.
- **Rental Costs**: Most owners require one month’s rent in advance. You should be prepared to pay up to three or four months’ rent before occupying an apartment (first and last months in advance, a refundable security deposit, and possibly a realtor’s fee). Please arrive with sufficient funds (preferably in travelers’ checks, not cash) for these initial expenses. Rent for a one-bedroom apartment generally ranges from $1,000 to $1,800 per month or more depending on
the condition and location of the unit. The cost of a two-bedroom apartment varies anywhere from $1,300 to $2,500 per month or more. Single family homes range from $2,000 to $4,000 per month or more. Furnished rooms, with or without cooking privileges, cost from $700 to $900 per month or more. The estimated monthly cost to share an apartment with a roommate ranges from $700 to $1000 per month or more per person. Utilities, such as heat, hot water, gas, and electricity, may range from $120 to $450 per month.

- **Utilities**: The major utilities are telephone, electricity, hot water, and heat (electric, oil, or gas)
- **Telephone**: The average cost for local telephone service ranges from $30 to $80 per month. Long distance calls are billed separately. The cost to install a new telephone ranges from $37 to $90
- **Electricity**: The voltage used in the United States for small appliances is 110-V (60 cycles). If you bring appliances which use 220-V to 240-V, you must use an adapter. Adapters are available for purchase; however, they are expensive. Monthly electricity costs vary from $30 to $100 per month depending on building size and usage.
- **Heat**: If heat is not included in your rent you should expect to pay from $90 to $350 per month, depending on the size of your apartment or house. To keep fuel costs to a minimum, thermostats could be set to about 65º F during the day and 55º to 60º F at night or when you are not at home during winter months.

### BOSOTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BPS)

The public schools that your children will attend are determined by the location of your housing in Boston or the surrounding towns. Note that immunization records are required to enroll children in Massachusetts public schools. School transcripts are also helpful (though not required) for placement of children into appropriate grade levels. Your scholar advisor can assist you with information on enrollment. For details regarding the public schools, registration and classes, please visit the Boston Public Schools website: [http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/). If you know where you will live, you can email a scholar advisor for information about school enrollment for that town ahead of time.

### CLOTHING

New England winters are very cold and you will need warm outer clothing and boots. Unless you own these items, it is usually easier and more economical to purchase them after you arrive. Winter coats vary in price from $70 to $300, depending on quality and materials. Winter boots cost from $50 to $150. Good quality used clothing is available at lower prices. Lightweight clothing is needed for the Boston area's hot, humid summers.