

# Boston University Visual Arts Summer Institute



## 2018 Info Guide

Boston University  
College of Fine Arts  
855 Commonwealth Avenue  
Room 552  
Boston, MA 02215  
617-353-3371  
[buvasi@bu.edu](mailto:buvasi@bu.edu)



# Arrival And Departure

## Arrival Day and Time

Residential students should make their travel plans so that they arrive on the Boston University campus for check-in and move-in between **Noon and 2pm on Sunday, July 1, 2018**. If this check-in time poses a problem, please contact VASI staff **before** making any travel reservations to discuss alternative arrangements. VASI Orientation activities will start promptly at 2pm on Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and students who arrive closer to 2pm will have time for moving in and unpacking on Sunday evening as well.

**Please note that we are unable to provide any accommodations or supervision for students prior to the check-in time.**

Commuter students should also arrive for check-in by **2pm on Sunday, July 1, 2018**, and plan to stay until approximately 6pm for VASI orientation activities.

## Check-in Location: Warren Towers Dormitory, 700 Commonwealth Avenue

Students will be given their VASI student handbook, room assignment, keys, and a mailbox number at check in. Because all of the rooms are doubles, each student will be assigned a roommate unless there is an odd number of students. Roommate assignments will be sent via email one week prior to the start of the program, and are made randomly.

**All students need to bring a photo ID, such as a passport, license, or student ID (photocopies will suffice) to VASI Orientation in order to receive an official Boston University ID card.**

## Transportation

Boston University does not provide transportation to campus. Boston Logan Airport (<http://massport.com/logan-airport>) is approximately thirty minutes by taxi to Boston University and the cost is approximately \$30.00. South Station, for students arriving by Amtrak train or bus, is about the same distance and price.

The MBTA is Boston's extensive public transportation system, commonly called the "T". Maps and other information can be found at <http://www.mbta.com>. Boston University is located along the B branch of the Green Line at the BU East, BU Central, and BU West stops.

## Hotels

The following hotels are located close to campus.

Hotel Commonwealth, Kenmore Square:

<http://www.hotelcommonwealth.com>

Holiday Inn, Brookline:

<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/brookline/bklma/hoteldetail>

Hyatt Regency, Cambridge:

<http://www.cambridge.hyatt.com>

Marriott Courtyard, Cambridge:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/boscy-courtyard-boston-cambridge/>

Double Tree Guest Suites, Boston:

<http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/massachusetts/doubletree-suites-by-hilton-hotel-boston-cambridge-BOSSBDT/index.html>

Sheraton Hotel, Boston:

<http://www.sheratonbostonhotel.com/>

## **Driving Directions**

Detailed maps of the campus and surrounding area are available at [www.bu.edu/maps](http://www.bu.edu/maps). There is limited parking on the BU campus, information is available at [www.bu.edu/parking](http://www.bu.edu/parking). The BU Campus is located near Fenway Park, so Red Sox games often cause additional traffic in the area.

## **Departure**

VASI officially concludes with the exhibition and closing ceremonies on Thursday, July 26, 2018, and dorm move out is Friday, July 27, 2018 by 1:00 pm. Students will be expected to be moved out of their studios by the end of the day on Thursday. We recommend that residential students arrange to leave on Friday so they do not miss any of the closing ceremonies on Thursday. Students with late-day departure arrangements on Friday may wait in the dormitory common area after checking out of their dorm room.

## **Exhibition**

We invite all friends and family to celebrate the VASI program at a closing reception and exhibition the late afternoon of Thursday, July 26, 2018, in the Commonwealth Gallery at the Boston University College of Fine Arts. More details on the reception and exhibition will be provided closer to the program dates.

## **Campus Life**

### **The Dormitory**

Residential students will be living in the Warren Towers dormitory at 700 Commonwealth Avenue. [Warren Towers](#) is made up of three separate towers of dormitory rooms, connected by common areas on the fourth floor. Most Boston University pre-college program students are housed in Warren Towers. During the summer, female and male students are assigned to separate towers. Warren Towers is centrally located on BU's campus and is a short walk from the College of Fine Arts where VASI classes are held.

### **Meals**

The meal plan consists of 19 or 14 meals per week. The dining hall will be open starting with dinner on the Sunday of VASI check-in. VASI students usually eat at the Warren Towers and West Campus dining halls, which provide a variety of food stations including vegan and gluten-free options. For more information on BU Dining Services,

see <http://www.bu.edu/dining>.

Commuter students have the option to purchase Convenience Points, which can be used at all University dining establishments. Information on signing up for Convenience Points will be sent to all Commuter students at a later date.

### **Laundry**

There are washers and dryers in the fourth floor common area of Warren Towers.

### **Mail**

Residential students will be assigned a mailbox in the dormitory when they arrive. All mail must be sent to the mailbox number, which is different from the room number. It is best to wait to send any mail until the student receives their mailbox number. We do not recommend mailing students cash or other valuables.

### **Messages**

Messages can be left for students at Warren Towers (617-353-3439). The answering machine will be on 24 hours a day, BUT messages will only be posted twice each day on a message board on the fourth floor of Warren Towers. Messages can also be left between 9am and 5pm during the week by calling the Visual Arts office at (617) 353-3371.

### **Emergencies**

In case of an emergency, students can be reached by calling the Campus Police, at (617) 353-2121. This is also the on-campus number that students should call in case of an emergency.

### **Program Activities**

Scheduled group activities, field trips, and dorm events are an integral, and required, part of the Visual Arts Summer Institute. These planned events are designed to promote a healthy balance between academics and recreation, as well as to provide exposure to the Boston arts community. Travel to these activities will involve public transportation and/or walking through Boston neighborhoods and streets. Students will receive a schedule on move-in day (schedule is subject to change).

Commuter students are invited to attend all night and weekend activities, but we understand that they may have other commitments. They will be asked to choose which activities they would like to attend before the start of the program, so that we can plan our staffing and make reservations accordingly. All activities are included in the VASI tuition.

Some activities may take the entire day (such as a beach trip), and some only a few hours (museum visits, movies, etc.). There will also be some evenings and weekend days that are unscheduled. During these free periods, students will be able to explore the city of Boston provided they follow the Free Time Guidelines (listed in the Rules and Regulations section).

## What to Bring

### Room Supplies/Linens

Residential students will need to bring sheets, blankets, towels and pillows. The beds in Warren Towers are 80 inches long (extra-long twin). Items can also be purchased at the BU bookstore or at Target or Bed, Bath, and Beyond (a 15 minute walk from Warren Towers). **We also suggest bringing/purchasing a fan as there is no A/C provided in the dorm rooms.**

### Clothes

Most of the activities and the weather call for casual summer clothes. Students should bring a warm sweatshirt or jacket for cool nights, a bathing suit, and a waterproof jacket or umbrella. Remember to bring clothes you can wear in the studio that are OK to get messy.

There will be a variety of activities and lots of walking so be sure to bring comfortable shoes. Be sure to bring a pair of closed-toe shoes (not sandals) as they are a safety requirement for some sculpture class activities.

### Art Supplies

Art supply kits will be available for purchase online through [Dick Blick](#). These kits are approximately \$180, and students will be provided with the link to purchase the kit closer to the program dates. Students are also welcome to purchase other supplies and/or bring what they already have in their personal collection. There's a Dick Blick store within walking distance of campus in case students need more supplies during the program.

### General Supplies

The Boston University bookstore is a good place to buy school supplies such as notebooks and pens. There is also a City Target across the street from the College of Fine Arts building that's well-stocked with essentials. Former students have recommended bringing flip-flops for the shower and a shower caddy to organize and carry toiletries.

### Music

Music is welcome in the dorm rooms and studios, but students should use headphones or keep the volume down out of respect for their fellow students. Students are also welcome to bring musical instruments if they play and would like to continue practicing over the summer.

### Appliances

A fan is **STRONGLY** recommended. The dorms are not air-conditioned and can become very hot if it is a humid summer. Students may also want to bring a desk lamp. Large appliances such as microwaves, and air conditioners are not allowed in the dorms. The only permitted large appliance is a micro-fridge that is rented from Boston

University. A micro-fridge rental can be arranged during VASI check-in. Smaller items such as blow dryers are fine to bring.

### **Phones**

There is no in-room telephone service; most students bring personal cell phones.

### **Computers**

WiFi is available throughout the Boston University campus. Boston University is not responsible for personal computers, so students are encouraged to keep them locked up.

### **Spending Money**

We suggest at least \$100 to \$300 in addition to money for art supplies. Students can also have an enjoyable summer on much less, if they so choose. Personal out-of-state checks, money orders and cashier's checks will not be honored in Boston. We do not provide a banking service, all students are fully responsible for their spending money. There are a number of ATM machines throughout the campus, so accessing cash should not be a problem.

## **Rules and Regulations**

Boston University has established rules and regulations that are applied to all pre-college programs. These rules have been designed for students' safety and well-being. We feel that they will also increase enjoyment of dorm life and of the Boston area. In order to prevent any misunderstandings about the rules and regulations during the summer, we are describing them here as clearly as possible. Please feel free to call the Visual Arts office at (617) 353-3371 with any questions.

These rules and regulations are strictly enforced. Students found in violation of program or Boston University rules and regulations will be immediately removed from the dorm and the program regardless of when during the program the infraction occurs.

### **Curfew**

Our program does have a curfew. All residential students must be inside the dorm and on their floor by 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and by midnight Friday and Saturday. Because Boston is a large city and all of our students are minors, we feel this is the only way to ensure the safety of the students during nighttime. Students who are late for curfew will be sent home. **There are no exceptions or extensions to the curfew.**

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

No illicit drugs or alcohol are allowed in the dorm or on campus. Students found with illicit drugs or alcohol in their possession will be sent home immediately. Students found to be intoxicated and/or under the influence of any illicit substance will be sent home immediately. Students who sell or are in the presence of alcohol or illicit drugs will be sent home immediately. **There are no exceptions.**

### **Leave Request Form**

We understand that many Residential students may have friends and family living in or visiting the Boston area during the VASI program. Students are allowed to go off campus with friends and family as long as a Leave Request Form is submitted by a parent/guardian. The form can be found at <http://www.bu.edu/cfa/vasi/welcome>, and should be submitted at least 48 hours in advance. Students are asked to make every effort to plan off-campus visits so that they do not conflict with class time or scheduled activities.

### **Overnight Absence from Campus**

Occasionally Residential students may need to stay away from campus overnight (family reunions, emergencies, etc.). If a student needs to be away from campus overnight, we **must** receive the special leave request form signed by a parent/guardian at least forty-eight hours in advance. This must name the person who will be responsible for the student while off campus, as well as the length of time the student will be gone. We ask that overnight absences be kept to a minimum, as participants are expected to take part in program activities.

### **Guests**

All guests must be signed into the dormitory by the student they are visiting. The guest must give a picture ID to the security assistant at the front entrance. The ID is returned as the guest leaves. Guests must leave the building by curfew. Overnight guests are not allowed. Only same-sex guests are allowed up to a student's room (this includes family members except on move-in day.)

### **Free Time**

During free time students are not permitted to leave campus but must be accompanied by at least one other student in the program or a counselor. Students may not leave the city of Boston without the permission of their parents and the program directors. The city of Boston is relatively safe, but the program directors reserve the right to restrict students' access to any part of Boston for security or other concerns. When students do leave campus, they are required to inform a program counselor of their destination and estimated time of return. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in removal from the program.

### **Additional Dormitory Rules and Regulations**

Accompanying the Residence License Agreement that each residential student must sign are the Terms and Conditions of that agreement, in which dormitory rules and regulations are outlined. Removal from housing for violations of University rules and regulations will always lead to removal from the program.

### **Health Services Information**

A parent or guardian must sign and return the Treatment Consent Form so that students may receive emergency hospital care. The Health Form from Student Health Services

must also be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian and the student's physician.

Boston University has immunization requirements for all Residential students. These requirements are outlined in the Health Form document. Please contact Beth Zerega with any questions about the immunization requirements.

Boston University Student Health Services is open to all students. Most students' medical problems can be addressed through Health Services. Each student will pay a service fee of \$25.00 per visit. In addition, if the visit results in a billable charge, the student will be responsible for payment of said charge. In the case of an emergency or the need for medical care on the weekends or weekdays after 5pm, students will be sent to a local hospital, accompanied by a program staff member.

**It is important that we know of any medical concerns or personal circumstances that could affect the student during their stay here in Boston.**

## **Fees and Refunds**

### **Payment**

The full Residential student program fee including tuition, activity fee and room and board with the 14 meal plan is \$5,158. With the 19 meal plan, the full program fee is \$5,311. Most students find the 14-meal plan to be sufficient as they do eat off-campus on occasion and there are several nearby coffee shops for a quick breakfast. Several meals (pizza parties, etc) are also included in VASI events.

For Commuter students, the tuition and program fees total \$3,445. While a meal plan is not required, we recommend purchasing Convenience Points which can be used in the University dining halls.

Payment can be made via check, money order, or credit card. Do not send cash. If paying by check, please write the attending student's entire name on the check, and make the check payable to Boston University. A \$25 fee will be charged for any returned checks, and new payment must be made by money order or certified bank check.

To pay by credit card, please contact Jackey West at 617 353 3371 or [buvasi@bu.edu](mailto:buvasi@bu.edu) for the link to the online payment portal.

**The total program fee is due by Friday, May 18, 2018.**

### **Refunds**

A refund, minus the \$75 application fee, will be given if written notice of cancellation is received by the Visual Arts Summer Institute office at least 4 weeks prior to the start date of the program. If a severe illness occurs within the 4-week deadline, a written request for a refund, accompanied by a doctor's note stating that program attendance is medically inadvisable, must be received by Visual Arts Summer Institute before a refund is issued. The \$75 application fee is nonrefundable.



No refund or reduction in fee will be made for a student who arrives late, leaves early, or attends only part of the program.