



BOSTON-LONDON PROGRAM

THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF BEING A BOSTON-LONDON PROGRAM STUDENT?



"The Boston-London Program gave me a smaller community within CGS and Boston University. The class sizes were small and I was able to create intimate connections with peers and professors. I also found that the faculty members were really dedicated to the students, and that the program rigor prepared us well for our majors."

"It was an amazing opportunity to be able to study abroad, especially during freshman year. The London portion of the program was eye-opening between living in another country and visiting the different sites that we were learning about. I think the London experience made me more mature and put me further ahead in my development as a college student."

"I was able to have an internship in the fall, start college in the spring, and study abroad in London in the summer, all within my first year at BU. How many people can say that!?"

"The time off between high school and college gave me the chance to save up money and pursue some of my hobbies without needing to also focus on school work."

HOW DO PEOPLE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FALL BEFORE THEIR FIRST SEMESTER?



"I used the fall to focus on me, doing things I had always wanted to do, but never had the time for. I took non-academic classes such as Pilates, voice lessons, and cooking courses. I also spent a lot of time with my family."

"I spent the fall taking a course at a local community college that my CGS academic advisor helped me pick. I also held a part-time internship to gain work experience and build my resume."

"I did a one-month volunteer trip in Peru and then worked the rest of the time to save money for living in Boston and London. It was such a great fall!"



WHAT IS IT LIKE ARRIVING ON CAMPUS IN JANUARY AS A FIRST-SEMESTER STUDENT?



"When we arrived, we were treated the same as any other student. Boston University is a big school, so we just blended in."

"I found that we were received with open arms. Many students were excited to meet new people and learn about our unique program."

"I was a little intimidated arriving in January. You think that everyone is already acclimated to BU. But it wasn't as bad as I had expected. Students were welcoming, and I made new friends both in and out of classes."

"The transition can be tough, but coming in with a large group of students who are going through the same experience makes it easier. The program has a strong sense of community, so you become good friends. It creates a comfort zone that gives you the confidence to reach out to people who aren't in the program, too."



HOW EASY IS IT TO CONNECT WITH STUDENTS WHO STARTED IN SEPTEMBER?

"I found it to be just as easy to connect with students as it would be if I had matriculated in the fall. Students were very open and inviting. I was happy to be accepted in such an enthusiastic manner."

"Somewhat easy. It took a little time to get used to the BU campus and living in a city, which the other students had already figured out."

"I actually found it advantageous to start in January. The freshmen who had started in September were able to share tips about BU since they had already been there for a semester."

"Starting in January was not an easy thing for me. I went in thinking that the other students made their friends during the fall, which was intimidating. In just a few weeks though, I had a group of friends, most of whom lived in my dorm. Now, I have the very best friends of my life, so although it was challenging to go outside of my comfort zone, it was incredibly rewarding."

IS IT EASY TO GET INVOLVED IN THE BU COMMUNITY?



"Because of the long winter break, the January semester feels like a new school year to everyone, so I didn't notice a difference. There are new and existing student activity opportunities, just as there are in the beginning of the fall semester."

"You need to be motivated and put yourself out there to join groups and activities. Opportunities to get involved are not going to present themselves easily if you never leave your room. The easiest way to get involved in student activities is to become friends with students who have similar interests as you—they can help introduce you to the student groups that they participate in. The Student Activities website is also helpful to see all of the different clubs that are at BU."



WHAT IS IT LIKE HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ABROAD AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR COLLEGE CAREER?

"I didn't know how to spend my fall. I didn't know what direction to take. My CGS academic advisor was really helpful. She suggested a few different courses I could take that would help fulfill BU requirements. I ended up taking classes at my community college, which created room for more electives."

"I was worried about making friends with students who started in September. Would I be able to meet people as easily in the winter? Would they already have their friends, or would clubs not want new members? My freshman ambassador was really helpful in connecting me to campus. She suggested a few different clubs I could join based on my interests, which was a great way to meet people."

"It was my roommate's second year and the entire floor was sophomores. I was a little nervous at first because I felt like they wouldn't feel compelled to bring me into their circle. When I got there it was just the opposite. It really felt like a community. Doors were always open—people going from room to room. I never felt like I was in the wrong place. It always felt like home."

"I wasn't sure what to do during the fall gap semester. I did some research on different service and abroad programs, and ultimately ended up going to Paris to learn French and work as an au pair. I probably never would have had the chance to do that otherwise!"

"Unbelievable. Studying abroad was an incredible experience that enhanced the way I think and interact with the world. I cannot wait to do it again my junior year."

"It was fantastic! I thought I would have to wait until junior or senior year to get the chance to study abroad. It is one of the most rewarding experiences a student can have, and it was such a treat to get to do it so early during my college career."

"It really allows you to grow up and become an adult. I learned what it was like to be truly independent and reliant on myself for everything. I also learned a lot about budgeting and living independently."



DID YOU HAVE CONCERNS OR HESITATIONS WHEN YOU WERE ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAM? WHAT WERE THEY, AND HOW DID THEY PLAY OUT?

"The semester wait to start college intimidated me at first. I had no idea what I was going to do with all that time! Luckily, I was able to intern at my local art museum and discover my passion for art history, and I was also able to save up some money for the semester in London. The semester off let me explore my options and gave me time to grow before I started college, which was extremely beneficial looking back."



DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL ADVICE THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR FUTURE BOSTON-LONDON PROGRAM STUDENTS?

“Know that it can be difficult during the fall to see your friends going away to school. To help with the transition, do something worthwhile in the fall. I suggest working or taking classes, and if you have the opportunity, to travel.”

“Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there. Explore the city as much as possible when you come to Boston. Connect with people inside and outside the program. Get involved with clubs and activities.”

“Make smart decisions and study hard. A good GPA freshman year will create a solid foundation as you move on from CGS into your junior and senior years.”

“Come in with an open mind. Get ready to be challenged. Get ready to step outside of your comfort zone. Consider the Boston-London Program as a very unique experience that can help in many ways; but know it will not be a conventional school year, which is okay. If you’re adventurous and willing to do something ‘different,’ you will probably benefit greatly both academically and socially.”

“Take academic classes in the fall or do something that challenges you. You have this extra time that you can use to learn something new, or to learn more about something that already interests you.”

“This is a very unique program and the experience is well worth it. Take advantage of the opportunity to travel so early in your college career because not many universities offer such programs.”