Welcome to Boston University!

Making the Most of Your First Year at BU

Coming to a new college can be a big transition for all first-years, including first generation students. As you’re anticipating this new life chapter, there are ways you can prepare before even arriving on campus.

1. Participate in FYSOP and Orientation: Orientation and the First Year Student Outreach Program (FYSOP) are fantastic opportunities to get to know your peers, BU’s campus, and the city of Boston. You can also connect online with the rest of the Class of 2020. Reach out to others and know that you are not alone—everyone else is also new and trying to make friends and adjust to BU.

2. Get Involved on Campus: Consider volunteering with First Gen Connect! And make sure to visit the Splash activity fair in September, where you’ll meet many of BU’s clubs and organizations. The Student Activities Office also organizes a week of events right after move-in, which is a fun way to stay busy and make new friends.

3. Learn About Available Resources: From mock interviews to time management to study skills, the Educational Resource Center (ERC) and Center for Career Development (CCD) have resources to help you develop professional and academic skills.

4. Consider Jobs and Internships: Both Boston and BU have a lot of professional opportunities available for students! Explore job listings through Student Employment and learn about finding an internship with this resource guide. Make sure to consider your course load. While jobs and internships can help you develop professionally and alleviate budget strains, they can also take valuable time away from classes and homework.

5. Make a Plan for Move-In: Make sure you know the move-in dates and plan your travel arrangements in advance. Consider what you’ll bring from home and what you need to buy. Check the Housing website for a suggested list of what to bring. You can order items through the BU Barnes & Noble website and pick them up when you arrive. You’ll also find nearby locations for Target, Staples, and Bed Bath & Beyond.

6. Get to Know Boston: At BU, you get to reap all of the benefits of being at a school in the heart of Boston. Check out Coolidge Corner, the Esplanade, and the North End. Travel the T and get $9 student discount tickets to a Red Sox game!

7. Reach Out to Disability Services: There’s no harm in asking for help. If you received accommodations before coming to BU, make sure you’re starting college on the right track. Work with the Disability Services office to take steps now to secure accommodations so you’re ready when classes start.

Register for First Gen FY 101

Through activities, discussions, and trips, this First Year Experience seminar (CAS FY 101 EE) examines the college experience through the unique perspective of first generation college students and addresses things current and former first gen students wish they’d known at the start of their own college journeys.

This Fall course focuses on enhancing BU’s first gen community, building pathways to academic success and happiness, promoting mental and physical health, wellness, and safety on campus, and examining identities and values through self-exploration.

Instructors Kate Salvador & Mitsuko Crum—who were first generation students themselves—teach alongside first gen Peer Mentor Yadira Flores (CAS ’19). This one credit, freshman course is graded pass/fail.

**Register at Orientation during academic advising. Already registered? Log in to the StudentLink, choose Academics, select Registration and add CAS FY 101 EE.

** Register at Orientation during academic advising. Already registered? Log in to the StudentLink, choose Academics, select Registration and add CAS FY 101 EE.

** Transfer students should register for the more advanced FYE courses: CAS FY 101 DH & CAS FY 101 EC.

Welcome from the University Service Center & First Gen Connect!

The University Service Center (USC) is a great place to visit or call when you have a problem or concern and aren’t sure where to go. The staff can point you in the right direction or help you make a plan to address the situation.

The staff are excited to work with first gen students and will be able to talk with you about any question. The USC also hosts First Gen Connect for students who are among the first in their families to attend college.

First Gen Connect’s events, networking, and resources, serve as a launching point for students looking for a smooth and successful transition to Boston University.

Important Dates

Aug 29-Sept 2: FYSOP
Aug 31-Sept 2: Final Orientation
Sept 3: International Orientation
Sept 3-4: New Student Move-in
Sept 4: Matriculation
Sept 6: First Day of Class

Watch for Invitations to the:
First Gen Fall Social & First Gen Connect Volunteer Corps Kickoff Meeting

Spotlight

Check out our July Spotlight - Diane Ogede (CAS ’18)

Like our Facebook page to stay up-to-date on First Gen Connect news, information, and events.

Have a question or problem? Contact us! University Service Center 881 Commonwealth Avenue (Lower Level) (617) 358-1818 usc@bu.edu

Visit our website for events and workshops happening this academic year!