



UMass Amherst



University of Massachusetts Amherst Fact Sheet For 2018/2019 Graduate Exchanges

Contact Information

International Programs Office (IPO)

70 Butterfield Terrace
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Amherst, MA 01003-9242
USA

International Programs Office

<http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss>
Incoming Exchange Students
<http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/exchange-program>

Incoming Graduate Exchanges

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Director of International Student & Scholar
Services
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Quick Facts:

- Founded 1863
- 30,037 students (undergrad and grad, fall 2016)
- 1,300 full-time instructional faculty
- 112 bachelor's degree programs
- 6 associate's
- 76 master's
- 48 doctoral programs
- 9 schools and colleges

Part of the Five College Consortium

- Take classes at other campuses
- Borrow books from other libraries
- University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and Hampshire College
- <https://www.fivecolleges.edu/>

Video: Amherst State of Mind (Just for Fun!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B4TaaVD2Fs>

About the University of Massachusetts

As a public land-grant research university, the mission of the University of Massachusetts is to provide an affordable and accessible education of high quality and to conduct programs of research and public service that advance knowledge and improve the lives of the people of the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world. Education at UMass is enriched by a constant flow of people and ideas from around the globe as well as by the remarkably diverse backgrounds and experiences of the graduate students themselves.

From Nobel Prize-winning gene-silencing research to renewable energy, nanotechnology, cybersecurity, life sciences, marine science, gerontology, disability studies and advocacy, the University of Massachusetts is expanding the boundaries of knowledge, bringing distinction to the Commonwealth and improving the lives of its citizens. UMass students have amassed an enviable record when it comes to claiming prestigious scholarships, winning Fulbright, DAAD, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall and Gates Cambridge awards.

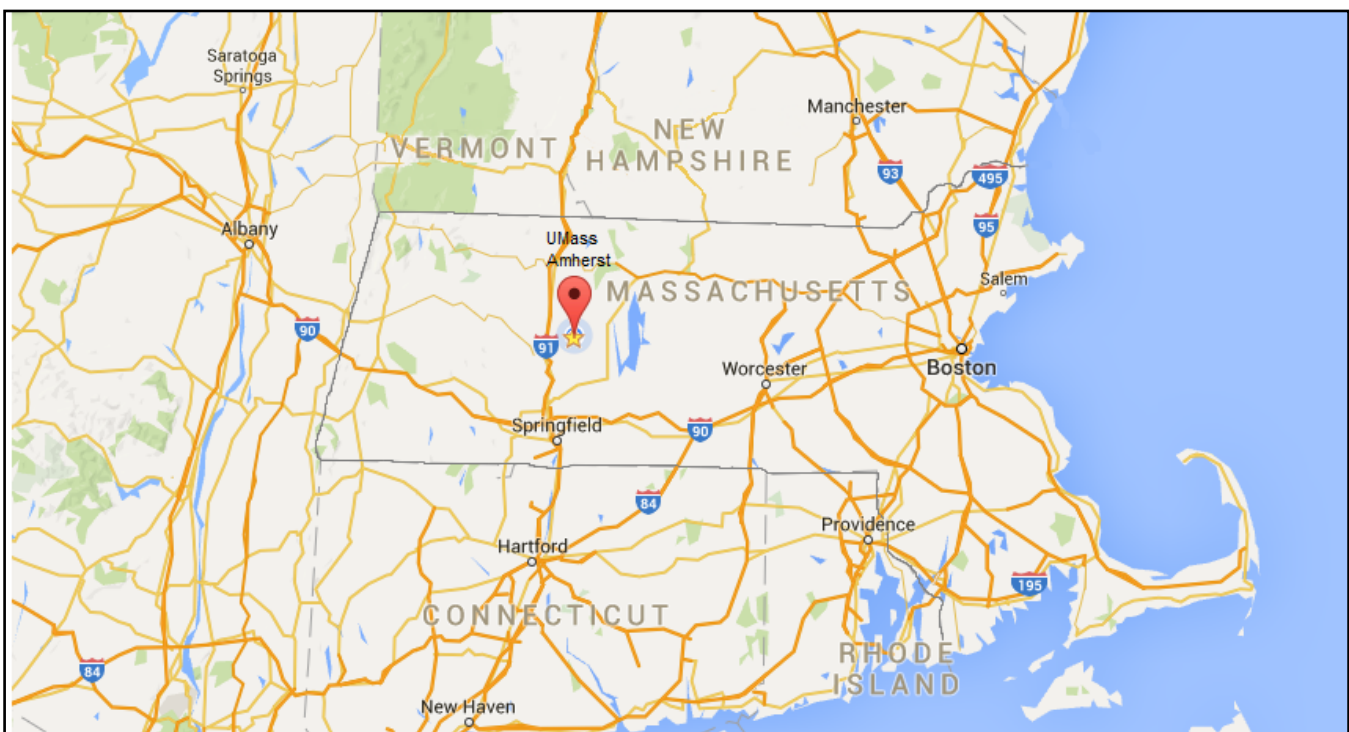
When students conduct research under the mentorship of our faculty, they experience firsthand the excitement and accomplishment of discovery. Student research may lead to co-authorship on peer-reviewed publications or professional presentations. Research collaboration with industry provides opportunities for internships that are often stepping-stones to rewarding employment after graduation.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is the original and largest campus of the University, and the most comprehensive in terms of the breadth and depth of its academic programs. Even as the campus incorporates modern teaching methods involving new communication and information technology, it remains an immersive, residential campus serving predominantly full-time students who learn from peers as well as their professors. UMass Amherst delivers outstanding value to students and families from across Massachusetts, the nation and the globe.

True to its land-grant roots, the campus is engaged in research and creative work in all fields. Total R&D annual expenditures exceed \$214 million, with major areas of emphasis in climate science, food science, alternative energy, nanomanufacturing, polymer science, computer science and linguistics.

Together, students and faculty are deeply engaged in collaboration with communities — both regional and international — to improve their social and economic conditions.

For more information about research at UMass Amherst: <http://www.umass.edu/gateway/research>



2018 — 2019 Academic Calendar

Current Calendars: <https://www.umass.edu/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar>

Fall Semester 2018 (September - December)

Arrival	August 29 (tentative)
Orientation	August 29 - August 31 (tentative)
Classes Begin	September 4
Classes End	December 12
Final Examinations	December 14 - December 20 (Snow Day, December 21)

Spring Semester 2019 (January - May)

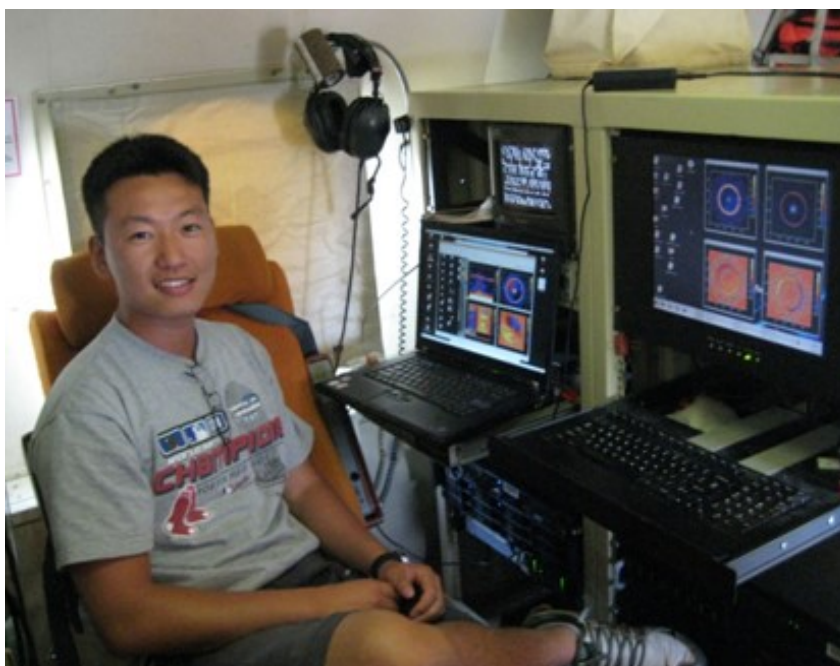
Arrival	January 18 (tentative)
Orientation	January 18 – January 19 (tentative)
Classes Begin	January 22
Classes End	May 1
Final Examinations	May 3 - May 9

Application Information

Application Materials	Contact your home school's international office for application procedures.				
TOEFL	English Language Test: Either TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), or IELTS (International English Language Testing System)-only the academic version of test is accepted, or PTE Academic (Pearson Test of English) The minimum scores are 550 for the paper-based TOEFL test and 80 for the computer-based TOEFL test, 6.0 for the IELTS, and 54 for the PTE. Please be advised of the specific requirements of the programs you are interested in.				
Program Specific Information	Online courses are not covered by exchange agreements. Clinical Psychology does not accept exchange students. Acceptance to the following departments require higher TOEFL scores (100 iBT and above) <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Economics</td> <td>Political Science</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linguistics</td> <td>Philosophy</td> </tr> </table> MBA Programs (restricted to partner MBA schools) 105 iBT/7.5 IELTS	Economics	Political Science	Linguistics	Philosophy
Economics	Political Science				
Linguistics	Philosophy				
Application Deadlines	Fall Semester: March 1 st (February 1 for Baden-Württemberg Exchange) Spring Semester: October 1 st				
Admission Notification	Fall Semester: Mid March/April Spring Semester: Early November Students will be contacted via email.				


More Application Information

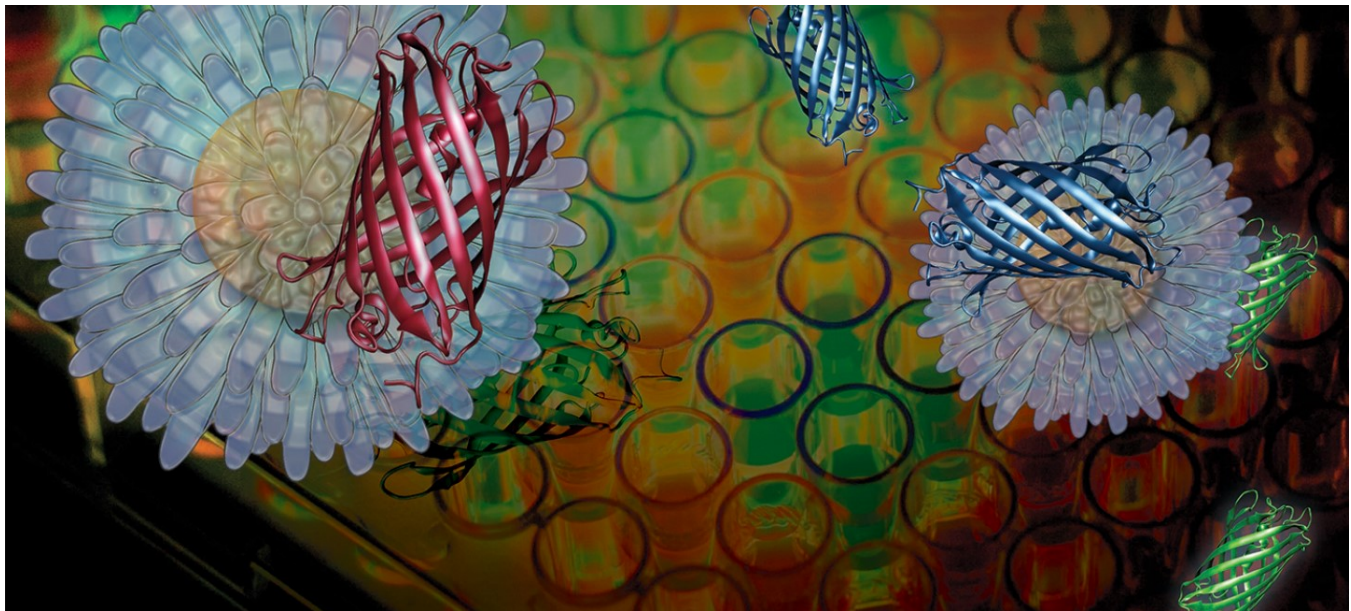
Study Proposals	<p>Graduate students are required to write study proposals as part of the application process. The study proposal is a way for you to articulate your academic and career goals and explain how a semester/year abroad at UMass Amherst would help you achieve them.</p> <p>Your study proposal should mention specific courses that interest you, relevant courses you have taken at your home university, research and/or specific lab work you might be interested in, and internships or other work experiences that are related to your field of study.</p> <p>Choose one specific academic department to which you will direct your application and please provide detailed information on your academic background and achievements, and indicate your specific areas of interest/concentration.</p> <p>If you apply to more than one department, you will need to submit a separate proposal for each one.</p> <p>Study Proposal should be two pages double-spaced and the main emphasis should be on academics and why a semester or year in a specific department at UMass Amherst will be beneficial.</p>
Letters of Academic Recommendation	<p>Students need two (2) letters of reference from sources who know the student in an academic setting and will be able to rank their academic achievements.</p>
Grade Explanations	<p>Students are required to submit an explanation that address any grades falling below a letter grade B or a GPA of 3.0 by US standards. Reasons could be specific personal circumstances or an explanation of the distribution of grades at home university. Grades could also be addressed in letters of recommendation.</p>
Duration of Exchange	<p>Year-long exchanges are preferred but fall or spring semester exchanges are also possible.</p>



Course Information

At UMass, you will register for courses using our Internet-based registration system, known as “SPIRE”. Course schedule information is ONLY available online. You will need your Net ID and password to log in to SPIRE. (Your Net ID and password are the same codes that you use to access your UMass email account.)

Course Catalog	Students can browse course offerings by semester <i>without</i> a UMass NetID by visiting https://www.spire.umass.edu and clicking “Search Classes/Catalog” under the heading <i>Catalogs & Schedules</i> .
Course Access	No courses are guaranteed. Take note of course pre-requisites. Often, the same classes or similar ones will be offered each year, but sometimes during only one term, e.g., fall or spring. Since the course catalog for future semesters is not online yet, you will need to look at the current as well as previous semesters.
Language of Instruction	English (unless a specific language course)
Registration Period	Students will receive an email with registration dates and information. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SPIRE and have a variety of courses in mind so they can enroll as soon as their appointment posts. The first two weeks of each semester is called the “Add/Drop” period where students can freely add classes or drop out of classes without any record.
Course Number System	100-199 – Lower Division Undergraduate – Freshman (first year) level 200-299 – Lower Division Undergraduate – Sophomore (second year) level 300-399 - Upper Division Undergraduate – Junior (third year) level 400-499 - Upper Division Undergraduate – Senior (fourth year) level Graduate students are expected to take at least two 500 level or above courses per semester and no more than one undergraduate course per semester. 500 - 599 Combined graduate/undergraduate 600 - 699 Master's or first-year graduate 700 - 899 Doctoral or advanced graduate
Course Types	Courses will generally be lecture style though some lectures are accompanied with a separate discussion section or lab. Other types of classes are seminars or independent studies with professors (contact professor for information).
Course Load	Graduate exchange students must enroll in a minimum of 9 credits per semester. 6 credits must be 500+ level.
SPIRE Help Videos 	UMass Amherst Getting Started with SPIRE https://youtu.be/1-bw4w0oALw UMass Amherst Searching for Classes https://youtu.be/Jl3OCqzVKg8 UMass Amherst Enrolling in Classes https://youtu.be/i72X3bRbZiQ



Grading System

UMass uses a typical American grade point average (GPA) system. The percentages corresponding to each letter grade vary depending on the professor and the department, but are generally stated in the syllabus.

For more specific information on GPA calculations:

<https://www.umass.edu/sas/current-students/academics/grading-system>

Letter Grade	GPA	Letter Grade	GPA
A	4.00	C	2.00
A-	3.70	C-	1.70
B+	3.30	D+	1.30
B	3.00	D	1.00
B-	2.70	F	0.00
C+	2.30		

Transcripts

Students are responsible for requesting and paying for their official transcripts at the end of the semester. IPO is not able to request transcripts for students.

For more information:

www.umass.edu/registrar/students/transcripts/how-request-official-transcript

Quick Tip: SPIRE

SPIRE is the University's secure online student information system. Almost all student functions take place on SPIRE: Students use SPIRE to register for courses, view/pay their Bursar bill, view holds, select/view housing assignments, change meal plans, etc. You will need your Net ID and password to log in to SPIRE. (Your Net ID and password are the same as those you use to access your UMass email account.) You can, however, look up classes for your initial study proposal without logging in to SPIRE.

Housing

Graduate students may live on-campus or off-campus. On-campus means living in university owned residence halls or apartment complexes. These halls and apartments are physically on the campus of the university. At UMass over 13,000 students, primarily undergraduate students, live in one of the 52 residence halls. On-campus housing is very limited and cannot be guaranteed.

Off-campus housing means that students live in independently managed housing. Though off-campus housing is not affiliated with the university, the university has an office dedicated to assisting students living off-campus, linked below.

Video: Sketch 22 Presents: Where To Live At UMass (Just for Fun!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbxeEzfaJjk>

Useful Links

UMass Housing: <http://www.umass.edu/living/>

UMass Graduate On-Campus Housing: <http://www.umass.edu/living/grad>

UMass Graduate Off-Campus Housing: <http://www.umocss.org/>

Western MA Craigslist: <http://westernmass.craigslist.org/> (not vetted)

Dining Options

UMass Dining, rated #1 in the US in 2017 by the Princeton Review, is a premier program that is committed to providing healthy, flavorful, world cuisine using freshly prepared, sustainable ingredients. You can find UMass Dining at every corner of campus. With **four** dining commons, **eighteen** retail cafes, Kosher and Halal options, **two** food trucks, a delivery service, the bakeshop, UMass Catering, concessions, and the University Club, UMass Dining is ready to welcome you with open arms.

Students can elect to purchase one of a few different pre-paid meal plan that allows for access to dining halls, a set of “dining dollars” and others.

Information about the possible meal plans for graduate students can be found here:

<http://www.umassdining.com/meal-plans/faculty-and-staff>

Climate and Weather

Summer: June - August

Hot, fairly humid and generally sunny
Temperatures 70 - 95 F (20 - 35 C)

Fall: September - November

Cooler, colorful leaves, and gets dark earlier
Temperatures 40 - 70 F (5 - 20 C)

Winter: December - February

Cold, windy, and snows fairly often
Temperatures 0 - 40 F (-15 - 5 C)

Spring: March—May

Warm days, cold nights, melting snow and rain
Temperatures 30 - 70 F (0 - 20 C)



Amherst, Massachusetts

The Town of Amherst, located in the lovely Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts, is a diverse, inclusive community offering numerous educational and cultural opportunities. Host to Amherst College, Hampshire College, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Town enjoys a tradition of open, professional, and high level of government services, quality education, support for open space and agriculture, and respect for its history.

Quick Facts:

Population: 37,819 (2010 census)

Founded in 1759

90 mi (145 km) from Boston

175 mi (280 km) from NYC

For more detailed information about

Amherst: <https://www.amherstma.gov/>

Video: Amherst: Best College Town in America

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKjZN8WW3nA>



Getting to Amherst

From Logan International Airport (BOS) or Boston South Station:

Peter Pan Bus: <http://peterpanbus.com/>

About \$35 cash at station or

Credit card for reservation online

From Hartford (Bradley) International Airport (BDL):

Valley Transporter: <http://www.valleytransporter.com/>

About \$60 with prior reservation

From New York City:

Best way is Peter Pan Bus

For more choices see also:

<http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/transportation.php>

UMass does **NOT** have a pick-up service from the airport! Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to the university.

Early Arrival in Amherst - Temporary Housing

Campus Center Hotel : <http://www.umasshotel.com/>

For local lodging see also: <http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/local.php>

You cannot move into the on-campus dorms before the start of the orientation!

Expense Estimates

All of the following costs are per semester. Actual costs could be 5% higher than this estimate.

Please contact your home university for information on what costs are covered by an exchange agreement between your home university and the University of Massachusetts Amherst .

University Fees	Estimate
Tuition ¹	\$13,917.00
Service Fee	\$635.00
Graduate Senate Tax	\$69.00
Mandatory Health Fee (individual)	\$375.50
Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP/individual) ²	\$1,485.00
Subtotal	\$16,481.00
Graduate Living Costs	Estimate
Residence Hall Rent (including Residential Technology Fee) ³	\$4,500.00
Estimated food costs	\$2,650.00
Subtotal	\$7,150
Variable Costs	Estimate
Rent and utilities (minimal living costs) ³	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous (books, supplies, laundry, etc.)	\$1,400
Other food & Miscellaneous expenses	\$1,400
Subtotal	\$4,300
Grand Total	\$27,931

¹ Tuition is billed on a per credit basis and this estimate is based on a student registered for 9 credits per term. In most

² The U.S. Federal and Massachusetts State governments require that all J-1 visa holders have health coverage. In compliance with Massachusetts insurance requirements, **students will automatically be enrolled in the Student Health Plan (SHBP) in order to meet the State's insurance requirements and are not eligible to waive any part of the SHBP without exception.** For more information, [click this link](#) and read *instructions for international students*. Graduate Exchange students are also **not** eligible to waive the Mandatory Health Fee, which entitles students to be seen at the University Health Services facility.

³ If living in on-campus housing, a **mandatory housing deposit** is required in advance to confirm housing assignment. For more information: <https://www.umass.edu/living/assign/grad-students>. Most off-campus (non-UMass) living

⁴ **Meal Plan Office:** <http://www.umassdining.com/meal-plans/residential-meal-plan>

⁵ Students who plan to travel during vacation periods or live off-campus should generally plan on higher expenses.

Visa Requirements

When students receive their acceptance email, they will be given visa application instructions. Hard copies of the DS-2019 will be sent to the home school coordinator to distribute to students to apply for their J-1 visa. Students should also make sure their passport has at least six (6) months beyond the intended stay in the US before expiration.

Employment

For employment options for J-1 students see: <http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/visa/student-employment/j-visa>

Health Insurance

Insurance	<p>The U.S. Federal and Massachusetts State governments require that all J-1 visa holders have health coverage. In compliance with Massachusetts insurance requirements, students will automatically be enrolled in the Student Health Plan (SHBP) in order to meet the State's insurance requirements and are not eligible to waive any part of the SHBP unless they qualify for a waiver.</p> <p>For more information, click this link and read <i>instructions for international students</i>.</p> <p>Students are billed in the fall for the period of August 1 through January 31, and in the spring for February 1 through July 31. Graduate Exchange students are not eligible to waive the Mandatory Health Fee, which entitles students to be seen at the University Health Services facility.</p> <p>Graduate students who are eligible for health fee exemptions through an assistantship in the GEO bargaining unit are only responsible for 5% of the cost of individual SHBP and 10% of the family plan.</p> <p>SHBP: http://www.umass.edu/uhs/insurance/shbp</p> <p>CHP: https://studentinsurance.com/Schools/default.aspx?Id=941</p>
Insurance for Families	<p>Students who will be accompanied by their families will need to purchase the Student Family Health Insurance Plan at a total cost of currently \$6,098.50/ semester. See http://www.umass.edu/uhs/insurance/shbp#2 for more info.</p>
Health Fee	<p>Students pay a mandatory Student Health Fee that entitles them to be seen at University Health Services. This fee cannot be waived.</p>
Immunizations	<p>Massachusetts state law requires that college students have certain immunizations before coming to school.</p> <p>Students are required to submit immunization information through the online system found at www.umass.edu/uhs/immunizations.</p> <p>Students are not able to submit this information until they have been assigned a UMass email.</p> <p>Immunization information should not be submitted to the IPO office.</p> <p>There will be a HOLD on your classes in Spire, meaning that you cannot register until you meet the immunization requirements.</p>

Student Services and Resources

Useful Links	<p>International Students and Scholars: http://www.umass.edu/ipofiss/ International Student Handbook can be found under “International Students”</p> <p>UMass Homepage: http://www.umass.edu/</p> <p>Graduate Programs: https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/Programs</p> <p>Amherst, MA Website: https://www.amherstma.gov/</p>
IPO Buddy Program	<p>IPO Buddies is a buddy/mentor program designed to enable you to meet current UMass student so he/she can help you to transition into life in the U.S., Amherst and at UMASS. Newly arrived students like YOU may need a friend to answer your questions and help you to adjust to a new academic and personal life here. If you are interested to have a buddy to provide advice, support and friendship, please send a message to buddy@ipo.umass.edu.</p>
On-Campus Wi-Fi and Computer Labs	<p>Office of Information and Technology: http://www.umass.edu/it/</p> <p>UMass has an office which can answer all of your technology needs as well as a large number of available computer stations all over campus.</p>
Library Services	<p>UMass Amherst Libraries: http://www.library.umass.edu/</p> <p>Learning Resource Center: http://www.umass.edu/lrc/</p> <p>Digital Media Lab: https://www.library.umass.edu/locations/dml/</p> <p>UMass has multiple libraries, study spaces, tutoring, and technology resources available for students to use. Most notably, the Dubois Library stands 28 stories tall as a campus landmark.</p>
Health Services	<p>University Health Services: https://www.umass.edu/uhs/</p> <p>UHS provides a large range of medical services on-campus for UMass community members including but not limited to: regular appointments, pharmacy, walk-in clinics, and women’s health services.</p>
Disability Services	<p>Disability Services: http://www.umass.edu/disability/</p> <p>Disability Services at UMass Amherst is a component of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity. Services are provided for students, faculty, and staff with disabilities, so that they may successfully learn and work at UMass. Disability Services promotes the empowerment of people with disabilities and their full integration into campus life and the community.</p>
Public Transportation	<p>Pioneer Valley Transit Authority: http://www.pvta.com/</p> <p>The PVTA provides public transportation in and around the Amherst area and is completely FREE for UMass and Five College students and faculty.</p>

Student Activities

<p>Student Organizations</p>	<p>UMass is home to over 500 registered student organizations. From professional networking organizations to hobby clubs, there is something for everyone and all are welcoming to international and exchange students. Some examples of types of organizations are:</p> <p>community service organizations • student government • ethnic and cultural groups • religious and spiritual organizations • student run businesses • media related groups • academic organizations • athletics and recreation • arts and entertainment • political interest groups</p> <p>Student Life Homepage: https://www.umass.edu/studentlife/</p> <p>(click Get Involved for activities)</p> <p>International Students Club: https://umassamherst.collegiatelink.net/organization/ISC</p> <p>Campus Pulse Page: https://umassamherst.collegiatelink.net/</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/isc.umass/</p>
<p>Sports and Athletics</p>	<p>UMass is home to many sports teams including but not limited to football, basketball and hockey. There are official recruited university teams where students can buy tickets and attend games but there are also many club and intramural teams that anyone can join.</p> <p>UMass Athletics: http://www.umassathletics.com/</p> <p>Intramural and Club Sports: http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/</p>
<p>Recreation Center</p>	<p>UMass is home to state of the art recreation facilities including the Recreation Center which has fitness equipment, basketball courts, an indoor track, group fitness classes and more!</p> <p>Recreation Homepage: http://www.umass.edu/campusrec/</p>
<p>Fine Arts</p>	<p>There are always lots of cultural events taking place on campus as well from theater and art to music and dance, the Fine Arts Center has something to offer for everyone.</p> <p>Fine Arts Center Homepage: https://fac.umass.edu/</p>



Museums in Amherst and Western Massachusetts

Basketball Hall of Fame

Springfield, MA



Museum of Natural History

Amherst College



... and many more!

Emily Dickinson Museum

Amherst, MA



Outdoor Activities in Amherst and Western Massachusetts

Hiking



Biking



Skiing



White Water Rafting



Kayaking



Apple Picking



Northampton, Massachusetts

“This small city offers more restaurants and shops, certainly more galleries, theaters and performance venues than most urban centers dozens of times its size. Add two rivers, mountain views, landscaped parks and meadow walks, and you begin to see why people call it paradise “ -The Boston Globe

Northampton offers a lifestyle rich in cultural, artistic, academic, and business resources. Our downtown center is one of the most vibrant in New England. The superb quality of life in Northampton contributes to a strong and diversified economic base. Northampton is unique in the number of independently owned businesses that make up our business community.

For more detailed information about Northampton:

<http://www.northamptonma.gov/31/Visiting>



Shopping (on Route 9 in Hadley/Amherst)

Electronics



Clothes and Home Goods



Food



Stop&Shop®

Home and Garden



Marshalls

T.J. maxx®



Big Y®

Almost Anything!



Books and Magazines

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS



Boston, MA

Boston is the capital of Massachusetts and the largest city in New England. Boston is most well known for its higher education institutions and early American history. The city is a rich historical center of the United States and was the scene of several key events during the American Revolution. After America's separation from Britain, the city continued to be an important port and manufacturing hub, as well as a center for culture and education. Apart from higher education and sports, Boston's diverse economy includes, biotechnology, finance, government activities, information technology and professional services. Businesses and institutions rank amongst the top in the country for environmental sustainability and investment.

Quick Facts:

One of the oldest cities in the United States: Founded in 1630

Population: 617,700 (2010 census)

The Greater Boston area is home to 7.6 million people

Boston is home to over fifty institutions of higher education making it an international center of education

General Information about Boston: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/visitors/>

Travel in Boston

The MBTA is Boston's bus and subway (called the T) system. Tickets can be bought in the form of reloadable Charlie tickets or cards. Charlie cards should be purchased for frequent visitors of Boston. MBTA also runs the commuter rail, the train system between Boston and the surrounding areas. Prices vary per zone. Purchase ticket before the ride (cheaper) or on the train.

More information: <http://www.mbta.com/>



Things To Do in Boston

New England Aquarium



Whale Watching



Museum of Fine Arts



Museum of Science



Beacon Hill



Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market



Back Bay



Charles River Esplanade

