



Ready for Your
MassArt Journey:
**PRE-DEPARTURE
CHECKLIST**

Head out for your MassArt adventure!

SECTION 1: PRE-DEPARTURE PREPARATION

On the following pages are some important items to review before you depart for Boston.

Topics include:

- Passport and visa
- Administrative items
- Housing
- Transportation
- Emergency numbers
- Healthcare
- Food
- Finances & logistics
- Packing considerations



PASSPORT AND VISA

Are your passport and visa ready?

- Did you fill out all of the appropriate paperwork?
- Did you successfully complete your embassy interview?
- Do you have your visa settled?
- Is your passport up to date?
- Do you have several recent photographs with your passport?
- Have you reviewed our Obtaining F1 visa and Entering US I MassArt ?
- Do you have everything with you when you go to the airport?
- Do you have your visa and passport somewhere that they are easy to access (carry-on or handbag)?



ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Is everything settled at MassArt?

- Is your financial aid and other financial concerns settled?
- What does your class schedule look like, is it all set?
- Do you have all of the necessary paperwork completed?
- Are there any any other applications that you have to fill out?
- How much time do you have between your arrival and the first day of classes?
- Have you informed MassArt about your arrival date?



HOUSING

Accommodations in Boston

- Do you have somewhere to stay temporarily if necessary?
- Has your housing deposit or security deposit been paid, or do you have arrangements regarding that when you arrive in the United States?
- What is your move in date?
- Do you know where you are going when you arrive?
- Take a look at the area around where you will be living and studying.
- Is a friend or family member picking you up or do you have transportation planned to get you to where you are staying?
- If you are staying with a family in the United States, do they know when you are arriving? Do you have a gift for them?



TRANSPORTATION

Getting Around Boston

- Do you understand how transportation works in Boston?
- In Boston, the subway/bus/commuter rail is call the T, run by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority: <https://www.mbta.com/>
- Do you know how to get a CharlieCard? This is what the pass to ride the T is called: <https://www.mbta.com/fares/charliecard>
- The popular rideshare apps in Boston are Uber (<https://www.uber.com/>) and Lyft (<https://www.lyft.com/>)
- Boston is also a walkable city, and MassArt is centrally located! Do your own research on the different neighborhoods. Online maps, such as Google Maps, can help you check out the immediate area, even if you are still in your home country when you do it.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Just in case... how to ask for help in an emergency

- 911: Off-campus emergencies. Same number for police, fire and medical emergency
- MassArt Public Safety: 617.879.7800
- MassArt Counseling Center: 617.879.7760 (press 1)
- Tech Central:
 - On the phone: 617-879-7888
 - Via email: helpdesk@massart.edu
 - In person: Tower 312



HEALTHCARE

Prepare before you leave!

- Have you gotten all of your necessary vaccinations and submitted them to MassArt?
- Have you applied for the Health insurance through MassArt that you will need while in the United States?
- Are you ready to travel health-wise?
- Do you have any medications that need to be transferred to a pharmacy in the United States?
- Have you talked to your primary physician about your trip?
- Do you know where to buy medicine in the U.S.? The main pharmacies in the Boston area are CVS (<https://www.cvs.com/>) and Walgreens (<https://www.walgreens.com/>)



FOOD

Food will be different in the US!

- If you're living on campus, are you enrolled in a food plan?
- Download American food delivery apps, like DoorDash or UberEats
- Bring some seasonings from home!
- Research where to buy food and seasonings from home in Boston
- If you have food allergies or dietary restrictions, make sure you do research ahead of travel to Boston on where to find what you need



FINANCES & LOGISTICS

Make sure you consider day-to-day logistics

- Check out local banks to open an account
- Ensure you have a credit card that works internationally
- What is the U.S. currency conversion as compared to your home currency?
- Will your phone work or will you need to purchase one upon arrival? Will you need a new wireless plan?
- Do you know what is available in the immediate area of MassArt in terms of stores where you may need to shop?
- Have you taken a day to look at what is available to do in the area where you will be living?



PACKING CONSIDERATIONS

Pack Smart! Plan Ahead

- Do you have all of the clothing that you want to bring? Look at the weather for the next few months and plan accordingly.
- Do you have mementos to help remember your loved ones while you are away?
- Is everything that you have packed according to air travel codes? You can find the regulations on the airline's website or through your country's transportation authority.
- Have you double checked your bags? Do you have everything that you need and won't be able to obtain upon arrival to the United States?
- Do you have some cash on you in case you forgot something that you will need as soon as you come into the country?



DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

- Passport
- Visa
- I-20
- Air tickets
- College transcripts
- Immunization records
- University letters
- SEVIS receipt
- Test scores - GRE/TOEFL/IELTS
- SOP - Statement of purpose (Grad)
- Recommendations
- National ID
- Photographs



SECTION 2: PACKING CHECKLISTS

Follow the checklists on the next pages for ideas on what to pack - this is not an exhaustive list! You need to bring what's right for you!

- Clothing to bring
- Personal and health-related items
- Electronics
- Extras



CLOTHING TO BRING

Here's the start of a packing list...

- Your favorite clothing
- Traditional clothing (1 set, if you wish)
- At least one warm jacket/sweater (you can buy more here)
- One pair of warm boots (you can also buy them in Boston)
- Hat, scarf, mittens or gloves
- Formals or any party wear
- Your sport/exercise clothes
- Shoes/flip flops/sandals
- Any other accessories of your choice



PERSONAL & HEALTH-RELATED

- All of your medications, with the prescription attached
- Body lotions
- Shower gel
- Towels (body, hand, face)
- Makeup products
- Contact lenses/solution & glasses
- Anything else that you might need for initial days, later you can buy stuff from here



ELECTRONICS

- Charging cables for your devices
- Laptop (you can bring one or buy here)
- Adapter
- Any other items like an electric razor (make sure you keep the batteries separate if any)
- launch international roaming service for mobile phone



EXTRAS

- Any special memory items
- Your personal items
- Photos or wall hangings for your room
- Favorite art supplies
- Sketch book and some stationary you might need initially



FINALLY...

SAYING GOODBYE TO FAMILY

How to Say Goodbye

- Do you have all of the contact information that you need? Emails, social media, video chat, mailing addresses, and phone numbers may be important
- Consider starting a blog and writing updates there during your time in the United States. This is more of a convenience than a necessity; instead of having to write individual updates, you can keep everyone up to date at the same time with one blog post
- Have you spent time with those that you love? Too many people will get busy with their preparations, and forget to spend time with their loved ones. Avoid this by throwing a going-away party or some other type of social gathering for those you love before you go

