



SURVIVAL TIPS AND TRICKS FOR NEW GRAD STUDENTS AT BOSTON COLLEGE - FALL 2019





WHO WE ARE



The Boston College Graduate Employees Union-UAW (BCGEU-UAW) is a union of graduate TAs, RAs, and GAs at Boston College. We've joined together to fight for workers' rights at BC. In Sept. 2017, we held an official election in which BC grads voted on whether we wanted to form a union. A majority of those who voted said yes. Since then, we have been fighting to get the Boston College administration to recognize the results of this election and bargain a contract with us that improves the lives of grad students across the university.



WHY THIS GUIDE



The goal of this guide is to fill in the gaps that the university has neglected year after year. When we began organizing our union, one of the first things grad workers talked about was the lack of transparency and the isolation we experience at Boston College. We wanted to remedy that for ourselves and for future grad workers and students by creating an orientation guide for new grads. We firmly believe that many of the issues addressed by these tips and tricks would be better solved through a collectively bargained contract with the Boston College administration. We fight every day for the Boston College administration to recognize us, and will continue to do so.

When Boston College fails us and creates these gaps, we feel that it's important to look out for each other and provide the support that the university won't. As the Boston College Graduate Employees' Union, our purpose is to ensure that BC grads have the information and community support necessary to be successful. Moreover, our union is strongest when everyone's involved.



WORKING AT BOSTON COLLEGE



- You can receive your service-stipend via direct deposit. If you receive a non-service stipend, you can collect it at 129 Lake Street in two lump sums on Sept. 15, and Jan. 15.
- Most service-stipends are paid Sept.–Dec. and Feb.–May. Make plans for the pay gaps that occur in January and the summer, especially if you don't receive summer funding.
- You can apply for Graduate Assistantship positions at BC. Check out their job website (www.bc.edu/offices/gsc/students/assistantships.html) or contact your department admin or chair for more information.



HOUSING IN BOSTON



- Most leases are September 1st, which makes move-in day a hassle! Reserve a parking space from the city of Boston to ensure you can unload your stuff near your new place. The most you can be charged when you sign your lease is first and last month's rent, a security deposit (cannot exceed 1 month rent), and a broker fee (also cannot exceed 1 month rent).
- "Allston Christmas" occurs September 1st! People moving out leave behind tons of great (and not so great) gear for your house, including clothing, furniture, and some wacky candle holders! However, beware of bed bugs on upholstered stuff.



HEALTH CARE AND COUNSELING SERVICES



- BC offers a student health care plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield. Some students have this paid for by being employed at BC while others don't. This depends on your degree and program. International students must enroll in the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan unless you have US insurance that meets certain criteria.

See BC's website here (www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/offices/student-services/billing-student-accounts/medical-insurance.html) for more information.

- If you need to see a doctor under the school health insurance plan and have time to plan ahead, many providers are available in the greater Boston area for a \$25 co-pay. Call the number on your insurance card for more information or go to their website <https://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/provider-networks.php?idField=1016>.
- You can use the Blue Cross plan to find counseling services off campus. Also, University Counseling Services (UCS) is free for all full-time students and is located in Gasson 001. Unfortunately, we've had reports from grads that UCS is understaffed and not designed for long term care.
- Dental and Vision are not included in BC's health insurance plan. They do offer some discounts on their website.



TRANSPORTATION



- You can receive an 11% discount off your MBTA pass from BC. Boston College is located at the end of the B branch of the Green Line. Details here: www.bc.edu/bc-web/offices/student-services/billing-student-accounts/mbta-passes-parking-permits.html
- Parking on campus can be expensive and difficult, and you are not guaranteed a spot.
- The free shuttle service is good if you live nearby; you can catch it at the Reservoir stop on the D branch of the Green Line. www.bc.edu/offices/transportation/bus.html
There is also an app for real-time shuttle locations <https://bc.transloc.com/info/mobile>



FUN THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND BOSTON



- ◆ Join in various trivia nights around the city, including at Harry's and Cityside
- ◆ Try out the Sam Adams Brewery in JP, Harpoon Brewery in the Seaport District, and Down East Cider in East Boston
- ◆ Head over to Revere Beach, America's first public beach, accessible by the T's Blue Line
- ◆ Check out to the beautiful Arnold Arboretum
- ◆ Take a walk around the Chestnut Hill Reservoir
- ◆ Walk the Esplanade along the Charles River



DON'T MISS OUT ON FREE STUFF AND DISCOUNTS!



- ◆ Download Microsoft Office, Mathematica, and other software from BC's website
- ◆ Get a Boston Public Library card
- ◆ Look at this website for student discounts on everything from tech to entertainment
www.bc.edu/offices/gsc/boston/Student_Discounts.html
- ◆ Get into the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum for free with your BC ID
- ◆ Score discounts to Red Sox, Celtics, and Bruins games as a BC student
- ◆ Purchase discounted tickets to BC sports games as a grad student
- ◆ Check out the New England Aquarium at a discount

This guide was inspired by our good friends, BUGWU-UAW (The Boston University Grad Workers Union – UAW). Thank you for assembling a great range of ideas and sources. Additional credit goes to the many grad workers of BC for their hard work on this guide.

Solidarity forever.

If you're interested in this mission, here are a few ways you can help:

Sign on to our Open Letter affirming our goals and demanding that BC come to the bargaining table:
bit.ly/OpenLetterBC

Come to a meeting! We always need help reaching everyone on campus, and having more people involved is the best way to do this.

Connect with us online:
facebook.com/BCGradEmployees
twitter.com/BCGEU_UAW
BCGradUnion@gmail.com

OTHER GRAD GROUPS ON CAMPUS

Grad International Students Association (GISA)

www.facebook.com/BostonCollegeGISA

Grad Students of Color Association (GSCA)

www.facebook.com/BostonCollegeGSCA/

Grad Pride Alliance (GPA)

www.facebook.com/BCGradPride

Women's Center

www.bc.edu/offices/wc.html

**Graduate Student Association (GSA)
and Student Senate**

<https://www.facebook.com/bostoncollegegsa/>

#WeAreWorkers



facebook.com/BCGradEmployees



twitter.com/BCGEU_UAW



BCGradUnion.com