

Study at Brandeis University

Information Sheet 2026-2027



ABOUT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Brandeis University is a community of scholars and students united by their commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and its transmission from generation to generation. As a research university, Brandeis is dedicated to the advancement of the humanities, arts and social, natural and physical sciences. As a liberal arts college, Brandeis affirms the importance of a broad and critical education in enriching the lives of students and preparing them for full participation in a changing society, capable of promoting their own welfare, yet remaining deeply concerned about the welfare of others.

Brandeis was founded in 1948 and is located in Waltham, Massachusetts, approximately 10 miles outside of Boston, Massachusetts. 3,632 undergraduates attend Brandeis and 19% of the undergraduate student population is comprised of international students.

CONTACT US

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Telephone and Email

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[Brandeis University website](#)

[Information for incoming students](#)

Advisor for incoming and outgoing exchange students

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APPLICATION INFORMATION

Partner Nomination Deadline

Academic Year/Fall Semester: April 1

Spring Semester: September 15

Nomination deadlines are general guidelines. If your internal selection process conflicts with these dates, please contact us to see if we can accept a later nomination.

Student Application Deadline

Academic Year/Fall Semester: May 1

Spring Semester: October 15

Application Procedure for incoming exchange students

Academic Year/Fall Semester: Applications will open February 1 and are due May 1.

Spring Semester: Applications will open August 1 and are due October 15.

Students must submit an online application.

Eligibility Requirements

- Only enrolled students that are candidates for a university level degree are eligible to apply.
- Open to all who are interested in studying in the United States and learning about the US through academic and cultural immersion.
- Students must have studied for at least one year at their home institution.
- Students must have an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 90 or higher, an IELTS score of 6.5 - 7.0 (with no individual band score below 6.5), or C1 or C2 proficiency on the Cambridge Assessment. Students whose first language is English or who are studying for a degree fully in English will typically be exempted from this requirement and should contact our office to request the exemption.
- All applicants are required to secure the approval of their home institution.
- 3.0 GPA or equivalent

Application Instructions

A. Create Brandeis University Account

- Click "Apply Now" on your institution's [homepage](#)
- Select your home institution
- Fill in required introductory information
- Upon completion of this information, the system will send an email with login instructions and a temporary password, which you will need to change to a permanent password when you initially

log in (Your full email address serves as your username for this system, i.e. student@nus.edu.sg).

B. Submit Online Application

1. Select the term you wish to apply for (Academic Year, Fall or Spring)
2. Complete the necessary online forms as follows:
 - Profile Photo
 - Personal and Academic Information Form
 - Emergency Contact Information
 - Personal Statement
 - Copy of passport photo page

C. Submit Paper Forms to your Exchange Coordinator at your home institution

1. Submit the following materials to your exchange coordinator:
 - Official Transcript
 - Official TOEFL score (an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 90 or higher): if applicable

Once Brandeis University has confirmed the applicant's participation in the exchange program, further materials will be made available in the Brandeis Online System regarding housing, visa, money and other issues.

[Online Application](#)

ARRIVAL

Please do not book any travel arrangements until instructed to do so by Brandeis University.

Arrival dates

- Fall 2026: Late August 2026
- Spring 2027: Early January 2027

Orientation

Orientation is mandatory for all exchange students and will take place prior to the start of classes. More information will be provided to students who are accepted to study at Brandeis.

ACADEMICS

Registration

After your acceptance to Brandeis University, you will receive instructions on registering for classes. Registration will take place in the summer for fall 2026 and in the late fall for spring 2027.

Please note that some courses may require pre-requisites and you may be asked for further details.

Important Information

It can be difficult to register for courses in the Business and Economics departments due to high demand.

Non-available subjects

Graduate-level courses are not available to undergraduate exchange students.

Course list

Course lists are available [here](#). Please note that course availability is subject to change.

Course load

Most courses are 4 credits. Exchange students must take a minimum of 12 credits and can take a maximum of 20 (with permission). Most students take 16 credits.

Add/drop period

The add/drop period is during the first two weeks of class. Students can change their schedule and add courses until this date.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS

On-Campus Housing

All exchange students are required to live in on-campus housing with a meal plan. Brandeis University has a number of residence halls across campus. Most international exchange students live with international and American suitemates. Room assignments will be confirmed closer to the start of the semester.

Rooms

Rooms are usually two to six person suites, each containing single bedrooms, one-two bathrooms, and a common space in larger suites. Individual bedrooms range in size from approximately 80 to 100 square feet. Students are also sometimes placed in singles or doubles. Students with medical, religious, or other accommodations that should be considered when being placed in housing are encouraged to proactively contact our office.

All residence halls and academic buildings have access to free wireless internet access. Please be aware that sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, etc. are not provided in the residence halls. Students also have a Community Advisor (CA), an undergraduate student who is the residence hall point person—from someone to just talk to or someone to notify in emergency situations. Additionally, the Area Coordinator is a full-time staff person available to help in any situation.

On-Campus Meal Plan

All exchange students are also required to have a meal plan. [Read more about dining hall services at Brandeis.](#)

ESTIMATED COSTS

Estimated 2026-2027 costs per semester:

Room and Board: \$10,422*
Health insurance: \$3,917
Books and supplies: \$500
Personal expenses: \$600
Estimated airfare: \$1,850
Visa fees: \$400

*Based on living in a Ziv suite with the required All Access + 5 Meal Plan. Actual cost will vary based on housing assignment. **On campus housing with a meal plan is mandatory.**

Expenses are estimated based on 2025-2026 costs and may change before the 2026-2027 academic year. Students staying at Brandeis for a full academic year should double the estimated expenses for room and board, books and supplies, and personal expenses.

VISA INFORMATION

Obtaining a student visa

Most exchange students enter the United States on a J-1 exchange visitor visa. The International Students and Scholars Office will send information on how to apply for a visa after students are accepted. Always follow visa instructions very carefully.

[Read updated information on how to obtain a student visa.](#)

Visa entry regulations

New international students will not be permitted to enter the US more than 30 days before the start date of their program as indicated on the DS-2019 form.

Upon completion of studies (i.e. the end date listed on the DS-2019), J-1 students are permitted to remain in the US for 30 days. Once students leave the U.S., even within 30 days, their visa will end.

Students are encouraged to remain apprised of guidance from the International Students and Scholars Office and the U.S. Department of State related to applying for a J-1 visa at their local U.S. embassy or consulate.

Working or interning

Working or interning (even unpaid internships) is generally not advised for exchange students.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Clubs and Events

Brandeis has more than 250 student-run clubs and organizations, including service organizations, cultural awareness groups, performing groups, spiritual and religious groups, sports and games clubs, student leadership and activism groups, student publications, a television station (BTV) and a radio station (WBRS).

Gosman Sports Center

The Gosman Sports Center is open every day of the week and has an indoor pool, tennis and basketball courts, weight room, exercise equipment, and more.

Spiritual Life

The chaplains of Brandeis University warmly welcome you to the Brandeis community. As Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Dharmic leaders, we welcome students of all faiths.

Brandeis encourages and supports all expressions of spiritual and religious life on campus. The university's three chapels — the Berlin Chapel (Jewish), the Bethlehem Chapel (Catholic) and the Harlan Chapel (Protestant) — serve as the focal point of spiritual and religious activity on campus. In addition, a Muslim prayer room and resource center are located in the Usdan Student Center.

Bookstore and Library

The on-campus bookstore is the place where you can buy collegiate clothing, gifts, books and all class materials.

International exchange students also have access to check out books at the Goldfarb and Farber Libraries. The library houses borrowing services, equipment loan, research help, library collections, the Getz Multimedia Lab, Academic Computing, the Technology Help Desk, classrooms, Archives & Special Collections, and other services.

Brandeis Counseling Center

Some students find adjusting to a new culture and new academic environment challenging. The Brandeis Counseling Center provides counseling for students in times of stress, and encourages them to ask for help with their most immediate concerns. Their staff is experienced in dealing with deeper developmental and psychological issues ranging from stress and depression to substance abuse and eating disorders.

All concerns are addressed with sensitivity to and respect for diversity and individuality. They maintain the strictest standards of privacy and confidentiality, and serve as a resource to the entire Brandeis community.

Orientation

Orientation is designed to help exchange students meet other students on campus and know what resources and groups are available during the semester.

Tutoring Services and the Writing Center

The academic system in the US differs from other countries. Exchange students may spend more time in class than at home, and Brandeis professors often include class attendance as part of the final course grade. Students are usually expected to complete a variety of assignments and are assessed throughout the semester. Students often participate actively in class discussions.

Tutoring services are available to all exchange students. Brandeis Undergraduate Group Study (BUGS) is a program open to all undergraduates. Trained facilitators run small group sessions to go over course material and help prepare for exams. Group Study Leaders are undergraduates who have successfully completed the relevant course(s), are recommended by faculty, and have been trained by Academic Services.

Additionally, writing lengthy papers can be challenging, especially if English is your second language. The Brandeis Writing Center offers [free writing tutorial services to all students](#).

BRANDEIS ACADEMIC CALENDAR: Academic Year 2026-2027

Fall 2026		Spring 2027
First Day of Classes	Aug. 26	Jan. 19
No Classes	Sept. 7, Sept. 11, Sept. 21, Oct. 12, Nov. 25-27	Feb. 15-19, Mar. 26, April 21-29
Last Day of Classes	Dec. 3	May 6
Study Day(s)	Dec. 4 & Dec. 7	May 7
Final Exams	Dec. 8-16	May 10-18

Move-in and mandatory orientation dates prior to the start of classes will be communicated to you by the Office of Study Abroad. All dates are subject to change.