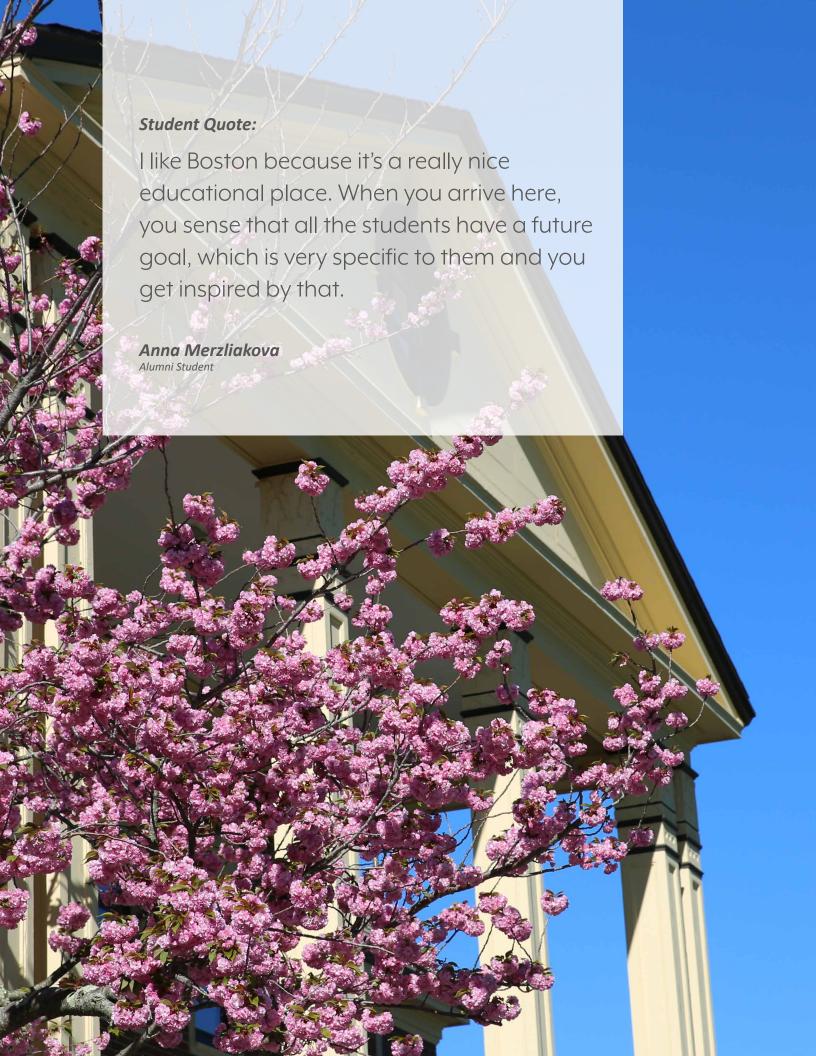


Pre-arrival Boston

Everything you need to know 2018-19

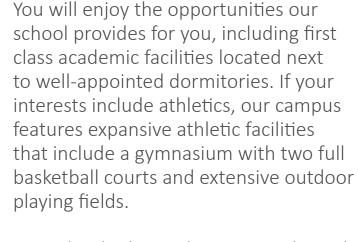


Principal's welcome	4
Dates to remember	8
Before you travel	9
Visas	10
Medical forms	11
Money	12
What to bring with you	14
Arrival in the U.S.	16
Your first week	17
Extra curricular activities	18
Health and wellbeing	20
Academy rules	22
How to find us	23
Local information	24

Welcome to

CATS Academy Boston

Live and study in the academic heart of the U.S.



Our school is located in an area that asks to be explored. You can easily commute into downtown historic Boston, where you can enjoy the culture and charm of one of America's oldest and most important cities.

Most important to your experience at CATS Academy Boston will be the people you meet, the friends you make, and the teachers from whom you learn. We are an inclusive, global community made up of students from more than 30 different countries including the United States, and we actively celebrate diversity and acceptance.

Our goal for you is to give you the best possible educational preparation for the challenges you will face in your future. I and everyone here at CATS Academy Boston look forward to helping you prepare for those challenges.







Dates to remember...

1st September

Please do not arrive before 1st September.

1st-2nd September

ARRIVAL AND INDUCTION

You must arrive at CATS
Academy Boston on either
Saturday 1st or Sunday 2nd
September, between 9am
and 3pm to participate in
the induction. Please reserve
4 hours of your day Saturday
or Sunday to register and
check into your dorm

Go directly to the college for registration and a welcome by staff.

3rd-7th September

Monday 3rd September will be the start of your orientation and placement tests.

Classes will start on the 10th September.

Before you travel

Before you arrive, **email: admissions@ceg-uk.com** to tell us what date you will be with us.

Your flight details:

Give us the information as soon as you have booked your flights.

If you are not staying in Academy accommodation:

You will receive your homestay family contact information before you arrive. You must contact your homestay family in advance to tell them when you expect to arrive to their home so they can arrange to be there and greet you.

If you need a taxi from the airport:

Tell us as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours before you arrive. Include your flight details in the email. We will add the cost of this taxi to your next invoice.

If you can't arrive between these dates and times, you must email - CABnewstudents@catsboston.com before the first day of term.

It is not recommended to arrive outside of the dates and times above. If you think this will be difficult, please email admissions before the first day of term. Arriving on another date may require the approval of the Head of School.

Visas

International students coming to study in the U.S. normally require a visa.

If you have questions about your visa, please contact the Admissions team or visit:

catsacademyboston.com/admissions.htm

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you will need to hold an I-20 from CATS Academy Boston and a valid F-1 student visa in order to be able to study at the school. If you have not previously studied in the USA and you meet all the conditions on your offer letter, Central Admissions will provide you with an I-20. You will need to apply for the F-1 student visa in your main country of residence before travelling to the U.S..

If you have already been studying in the U.S. on a F-1 visa from another school, we will need to transfer your I-20 from that school. If you return home between courses, you might need to apply for a new F-1 visa before returning to the U.S..

Preparing for your Student Visa interview:

Should your application be successful and you are admitted to our program, your next step will be to apply for a student visa.

As part of your visa application process, you will likely have to attend an in-person visa interview. Below are some tips on how to prepare for this. Please note we can not guarantee a successful outcome to your visa interview. These points are only meant as a guide for your interview.

Attend:

Failure to attend the interview may result in your application being automatically refused.

Answer:

You should always answer all questions fully and honestly.

Think:

You should think in advance about your program or course, the documents you provided in your visa application, and your intention to study. The Visa Official wants to know that you have given serious thought before choosing your course.

Speak English!:

The Visa Official will likely be checking your level of English so always answer in English, not via an interpreter. Practice answers to potential questions and be prepared.

Ask:

Ask for clarification if you do not understand a question to make sure you are providing the information they want.

Medical Forms

You will receive a packet of medical forms once you have enrolled in our school. You **MUST** complete these forms with your family doctor **PRIOR** to arrival in the U.S. as this is a legal requirement in the State of Massachusetts. Completion of these forms is compulsory and students will not be allowed to begin courses until the packet is completed in its entirety. You **MUST** bring up-to-date immunization records when you arrive.

Health Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory in the state of Massachusetts and is not provided free of charge. If you are an international student you will be automatically enrolled in the CATS Academy student health insurance.

The cost is \$1,700 for the academic year.

Course fees

If you have to cancel your course, cut it short or repeat it due to accident or sickness, we will reimburse your prepaid course fees.

Cancellation and curtailment

If you have to cancel or curtail your study due to accident, illness or sickness, you can claim back the costs of prepaid travel and accommodation expenses.

Insurance of personal property

- The Academy cannot accept responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, your personal belongings.
- Don't bring highly valuable possessions or equipment to the Academy.
- If you do choose to bring valuable items, we encourage you to arrange your own insurance for personal possessions as the Academy cannot arrange this for you.
- There are multiple providers available for Students' Possessions Insurance. Ask Student Services for details.

Money

You will need money for living costs outside of the Academy which may include clothes, music, travel, eating out and more.

If you are over 16 you will have the opportunity to set up a bank account in the United States. A local bank offers CATS students under 16 a savings account option. They will be at the Induction Fair.

If you are under 16, please have a debit card or credit card which allows you access to money throughout the year.

You will need spending money from time to time. CATS Academy Boston can arrange a float account for students under 16 who are unable to open a bank account.

Meals

Dormitory Boarding Students
Meals are included in the
accommodation fees and you
will be provided with three meals
Monday-Friday and brunch and
dinner on weekends. The Academy
will not refund any element of the
fees if the meals are not taken.

Homestay Students
(arranged by CATS Academy)
Breakfast and dinner will be eaten
with your homestay family and this
is included in your accommodation
fees for the homestay program.
You may eat lunch at school during
the school week, Lunch will be

provided by your homestay family

Independent Students Lunch during the week days is included with your tuition fees.

on the weekends.

Housing

During winter and spring vacations, the residences are closed - students may return home, stay with approved family/guardians or, if available, a homestay can be arranged for an additional cost.

Homestay students arranged by CATS Academy may stay with their host family during any school vacations, possibly with added cost.

Laundry

The Academy will provide basic linens including sheets, blankets, and towels, as well as a regular laundry service for those items. There are laundry facilities in the dormitories for you to do your own laundry. Students are not allowed to do laundry in their rooms and drying clothes on heaters is not allowed, as it poses a fire hazard. You can also send your laundry out for a fee. Check with Student Services for more information.



CATS Academy Boston students



What to

bring with you

The following items should be carried in your hand luggage.

Passport & Proofs:

- Passport (with visa I-20)
- · Proof of your financial support
- Proof of any study fees that you've already paid

Supporting Documents:

- Originals (not copies) of documents which were used to support your visa application.
- This pre-arrival handbook with CATS Academy Boston details and phone numbers.

Doctor's Letter:

If you bring any medication into the USA, also carry a letter (translated into English) from your doctor explaining what the medicine is and what it is for.

Consent to Travel

A letter, completed by your parents or guardians

Clothing

It advisable to bring warm clothes, for example sweaters, boots, thick socks, and a winter coat. You will also be able to purchase some of these items while in the USA.

Also bring with you:

Spending money:

Please ensure you have money available for arrival and the first two weeks. We suggest around US\$250.

A bank draft or cheque for your college fees:

(Or, if you have already paid your fees, please bring evidence, i.e. bank transfer documentation)

Money for extra school materials

Towels and essential toiletries

A U.S. power adaptor for your electronic items

Any medication that you are taking:

Medicines prescribed by a doctor and also a copy of prescriptions, preferably with generic names. All prescriptions must be translated in English and reported to the Health Office.

Medicines that are not regulated in the U.S. and are not translated to English will not be permitted and confiscated by our Head Nurse.

Laptop or tablet:

Students can choose their device but should be able to type up essays, carry out research and connect to a printer.

Cell phone:

All students are required to have a U.S. based cell phone. You may bring a U.S. compatible phone with you or purchase one on arrival.

You will not need:

Bed linen.

This will be provided

Large amounts of cash.

Do not carry this on you, or in your personal belongings.





Arrival in the U.S.

If you have any problems outside school hours please call the Academy:

Tel: +1 (617) 610-5635

What to expect

When you arrive at your port of entry, you will need to pass through immigration. You will need to show the immigration team:

- Passport
- · I-20
- Evidence of payment for your SEVIS application

The immigration officer may take your fingerprints and ask you questions about your reasons for studying in the US. It is important that you can answer these questions in detail. Make sure you have all of your academic and visa documents in your carryon luggage if you are flying into the US; you will not have access to your luggage until you have cleared immigration. Failure to have the right documents will result in delays or possible denial of entry into the US.

Customs

We strongly recommend that you do not bring more than \$250 when arriving into the US to avoid immigration complications otherwise you may need to make a declaration at US Customs when entering the country.

Arrivals

If you arranged for a taxi to meet you, you will find the driver at the information booth of your Arrivals area as you leave Customs.

The driver holds a board showing the name of the school. Look out for the name or the CATS logo.

If you cannot see your name

STAY at the information booth, ask them to help you contact your driver. Please have with you the Airport Transfer Confirmation Letter which will have all information you need.

Your first week

CATS Academy Boston provides a full orientation to welcome new students and equip you with all the key tools for success before you start classes. We will help you with the practical side of living in Boston, as well as make sure you have a lot of fun getting to know your new classmates!

During your first week you will:

- 1. Meet and greet CATS Academy Boston staff
- **2.** Be shown around CATS Academy Boston facilities
- **3.** Plan your schedule with CATS Academy Boston teachers
- **4.** Meet your fellow students
- **5.** Check your visa documentation Bring this with you!
- **6.** Provide the state-required medical forms
- **7.** Take placement tests
- **8.** Learn your way around Boston and open a bank account
- 9. Get a US cell phone or US SIM card
- **10.** Enjoy local trips and exciting extracurricular activities

Tests:

We also hold tests within the first few weeks of term:

Two ESL tests - Listening/Speaking & Reading and Writing)

non-native speakers only

A Mathematics test

A Science Test

All students with exception of CATS Extra students

A Humanities Test - Literature/History

All students with exception of CATS Extra students



Senior class trip - white water rafting

Extra Curricular **Activities**

Sports and Clubs

CATS Academy Boston provides a full after-school activities program, which offers an array of sports and clubs throughout the school year. The after-school activities program is mandatory for all students and an essential part of the curriculum.

Sample of sports & clubs

Rock Climbing

Soccer

Ultimate Frisbee

Cheerleading

Photography

Newspaper

Technology and Robotics

Arts & Crafts Club

Activities and Excursions

CATS Academy Boston provides an enriching program of weekend and evening activities and excursions for our students to enjoy. The program is designed to engage our students as members of the local community by providing access to key American experiences and places of cultural significance. Over the year there will be several New England-based trips, both for study and for learning more about the USA.

All trips are included in the activities fee unless expressly stated by the trip organizer.

Sample of excursions

Go Karting

Sky Zone Trampoline Park

Martha's Vineyard Island Trip

Boston Redsox game at Fenway Park

Trip to Six Flags Amusement Park

mp to six riags / triascritem rank

Trip to Salem

Blue Man Group Trip

Sample of Community Events

Cultural Fair

CATS Musical

CATS Talent Show

End of Year Prom

Spirit Week



Student Quote:

"In CATS extracurricular clubs, you get to meet people that you don't have the opportunity to meet during your classes. It's an opportunity to learn something new, something outside of your classes and something fun."

Livia Qeli

Grade 12 at CATS Academy Boston







Go+





Health

and wellbeing

Homesickness

When you arrive in Boston, life will be very exciting and upbeat. At times, however, you may miss your friends and family back home. It is perfectly normal to experience homesickness or culture shock when arriving in a new country and it is a good sign that you are engaging in the local culture and a healthy part of adjusting.

Counseling and Personal Support

If you have a personal problem, worries or concerns of any kind (such as relationships, health, depression, anxiety, etc) please speak with any of the Academy staff. We have a school counselor on site and access to a school psychologist who can support you with managing any concerns you may have.

To cope with homesickness we recommend:

Taking part in activities organised by the Academy to make friends with other students.

Staying in touch with home via email or telephone.

Bringing photographs or ornaments from home to decorate your room.

Most importantly of all, though, it's really important to talk about how you're feeling. Your Personal advisor, Dorm Parent or the Welfare team will always be happy to listen and offer advice.

Remember, almost everyone feels homesick at some stage but help will always be close at hand.

Student Servives

The Student Services team is one of your central points of contact within CATS Academy. They will help you with any questions you have and act as your first point of contact for all issues or concerns. They will also be the main point of contact for your parents or agent. Please go and speak to them if you have ANY questions and they will be very happy to help you or find the right person who can.





Academy Rules

The Academy encourages students to be responsible and to learn to manage their own time. You will experience a different learning environment from your previous school, but we will help you adapt. The Academy tries to keep an informal atmosphere. However, this is not at the expense of good manners and behavior. You are expected to treat your fellow students and all staff with respect.

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory. Missed assignments will affect your overall grade. A high attendance rate is also an immigration requirement to keep your I-20 and International Student status valid.

Late arrivals at the start of the semester are subject to approval by the Head of School, which may only be granted in the case of visa delays. Please note that late arrivals may have limited subject options.

You must be here for the start of each term and not leave before the end. Make sure your travel arrangements comply with this. End of year examinations may not be taken early, and any missed exams will receive no credit, so we recommend that you plan your travel for after the last day of class.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited on all CATS Academy Boston property and on all related events and excursions. In the USA, purchasing tobacco products is illegal for anyone under the age of 21.

If you have been smoking in your home country, you may find it difficult to adapt to the rules.

Please understand that smoking will not be tolerated at CATS

Academy Boston and you will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. If you have difficulties adapting, it is always better to communicate this with us so we can provide support to help you adjust.

Alcohol

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to drink or possess alcohol.

Though not illegal for anyone over the age of 21, alcohol is and will be treated as an illegal drug by the Head of School, and will be subject to the same policies.

Drugs and substance misuse

Illegal drugs are not allowed under any circumstances. Legal drugs that are sold or misused will be dealt with as illegal drugs. The Head of School may, at his discretion, expel anyone caught in possession of, or having taken illegal drugs, may suspend the students, or may take other appropriate measures in keeping with school policies.

CATS Academy Boston How to find us

Academy contact details:

Address

CATS Academy 2001 Washington Street Braintree, MA 02184

Telephone

School +1 (857) 400-9700 Emergency (outside of school hours) +1 (617) 610-5635

Email

CABnewstudents@catsboston.com

Central Admissions Team:

Telephone

+44 (0)1223 345 698

Email

admissions@catseducation.com

CATS Academy Boston's Student Services Office is located at:

2001 Washington St, Braintree, MA 02184 Student Services Direct Line: (857) 400 9702

Please ask for Danielle Baldissera upon arrival.

Email

studentservices@catsboston.com



Student Services WeChat Account

Scan to speak directly with the team

Public Transportation

For step-by-step journey planning by public transportation, please refer to the MBTA website, the closest stop is Bus 230, Washington St and Virginia Rd or Washington St and Olympus Speciality Hospital.

mbta.com/rider_tools/trip_planner/

Directions are also available on the CATS Boston Academy website: catsacademyboston.com

Local Informationfor Students and Parents

Local Restaurants:

Eat In, Take-Out and Delivery

Asian

New Golden Pacific +1 (781) 767-4200 New Mei Garden +1 (781) 849-1760 Sake Japanese Restaurant +1 (781) 313-8023 Tiki Palace +1 (781) 380-3808

Indian

Sher-A-Punjab +1 (617) 786-1010

Pizza/Deli Sandwiches

Braintree House of Pizza +1 (781) 849-3000 Easy Pie +1 (781) 848-8110 Holbrook House of Pizza +1 (781) 767-3700 Sara's Pizza Palace +1 (781) 963-0351

Local Restaurants:

Dining In

The Cheesecake Factory +1 (781) 849-1001 Cielo Mexican Restaurant +1 (781) 519-4454 Legal Sea Food +1 (781) 817-1292 Sintra Restaurant +1 (781) 848-1151 South Side Tavern +1 (781) 848-0511

Accommodations:

Braintree Area

Boston Marriott Quincy +1 (617) 472-1000 Candlewood Suites +1 (781) 849-7450 Hampton Inn +1 (781) 380-3300 Holiday Inn Express +1 (781) 848-7450 Hyatt Place +1 (781) 848-0600

Bed and Breakfast:

Boston Area

The Bertram Inn +1 (617) 566-2234 Clarendon Square +1 (617) 436-8260 College Club of Boston +1 (617) 536-9510 Herbert Carruth House +1 (617) 436-8260

Shopping:

Braintree Area

South Shore Plaza +1 (781) 843-8200 Derby Street Shops +1 (781) 749-7800