

Summer J-1 in Boston Guide



While Rian does not sponsor the Summer J-1 visa, we want to support Irish students in finding the right resources for their time in Boston. This guide is designed to help you prepare before traveling and to assist you in getting settled once you arrive. While it doesn't cover everything you need to know, we hope it gives you a solid starting point and helps you get a small handle on the city. Welcome to Boston!

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Welcome to Boston!

- Introduction to Boston: Welcome to Boston, a city steeped in history and rich in culture. From its iconic skyline to its cobblestone streets, Boston is a unique blend of old charm and modern energy. Get ready to make memories in one of the most exciting and vibrant cities in the U.S.!
- Boston's Irish Connection: With a significant Irish-American population, Boston has a deep-rooted connection to Irish culture. Many Irish students find the city to be a welcoming home away from home, where they can connect with their heritage and meet others from Ireland. The Irish Pastoral Centre, Irish Cultural Centre, and Consulate General of Ireland offer many resources, from support and social events to services that help you settle in and stay connected.

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Essential Resources & Support

- Emergency Contacts
 - Police: 911
 - Irish Consulate in Boston: +1 617-267-9330
 - Rian Immigrant Center: +1 617-542-7654
- Health
 - Hospitals & Medical Centers: Mass General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Tufts Medical Center
 - Mental Health Support: NAMI Boston, Massachusetts Mental Health Center, Network of Care Massachusetts
 - Note: It's important to check with your insurance provider to see what your coverage is before making any non-emergent trips to the doctor or urgent care.

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Work & Employment

- **Seasonal Jobs and Visa Requirements:** Employment must be seasonal or temporary, with key areas offering many jobs including Seaport, Boston Harbor, Quincy, and Cape Cod. Your J-1 visa is tied to your employment, and any unauthorized changes may result in visa termination. Always inform your sponsor if you plan to change jobs.
- **Social Security Number:** You must apply for a SSN to work. Employers can hire you before receiving your SSN as long as you've applied and have proof of your right to work in the U.S. Find SSO locations [here](#).
- **Job Search Tips:** If you're searching on your own, try searching terms like 'Tourism jobs in Boston,' 'Bars in Boston,' or 'Restaurants in Boston.' Visit employer websites and reach out directly to the owner, manager, or HR with a job inquiry.

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Neighborhoods & Housing

- Student summer housing is the most common option for Summer J-1s. Here are a few options:
 - UMass Boston Summer Housing
 - Suffolk University Summer Housing
 - MassArt Summer Housing
 - J1 Accom
- Renting or subletting is another option, but be cautious of scams. Most apartments will be unfurnished and can be expensive. Subletting from a university student going home for the summer can be an affordable option. Rian J-1s frequently stay in:
 - South Boston, Allston/Brighton, Dorchester, Somerville, Cambridge, Brookline
- Tip: When looking for housing, consider where you'll be working and how you'll get there using public transportation or other means.

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Transportation

- Public Transportation: Boston's "T" is the most affordable way to travel. It includes subway lines (Red, Orange, Blue, Green), bus routes, and commuter rails.
 - Load a CharlieCard with money at T stations or tap to pay your contactless bank card or phone to pay for a single ride!
- Ride-Sharing Services: Uber and Lyft are widely available for more direct travel.
 - Download the app, set your destination, and get a ride! Ideal for late-night or rainy trips.
- Biking: Boston is bike-friendly with many dedicated bike lanes.
 - Rent a bike through Bluebikes at stations across Boston!
- Walking: Boston is a very walkable city, with many attractions nearby.

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Social & Cultural Life

- Things to do in Boston: Boston Common/Public Garden, Freedom Trail, Museum of Fine Arts, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston Tea Party Museum, Newbury Street, North End, Boston Public Library, New England Aquarium, Charles Esplanade, Boston Wharf and Harbor, Fenway for a Red Sox game, and Harvard's campus in Cambridge
- Irish Community: Events at the Irish Pastoral Centre, Irish Cultural Centre, or the Consulate General of Ireland, Irish Pubs and Restaurants, Boston College & Boston University Irish Clubs, and Irish Heritage Trail
- Day Trip and Weekend Getaway Ideas: Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, the North Shore (Manchester-by-the-Sea and Marblehead), Salem, Gloucester, Rockport, Newport (Rhode Island), and the Berkshires