

The Graduate School University of Massachusetts - Amherst



New Student To-Do List

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO AMHERST

From Bradley International Airport (BDL), Hartford, CT

- [Valley Transporter](#)

From Boston Logan International Airport (BOS)

- [Peter Pan Bus](#)
- [Valley Transporter](#)
- [Boston Subway](#)

From New York (JFK, LaGuardia and Newark)

- [Peter Pan Bus](#)
- [Megabus](#)
- [Valley Transporter](#)
- [NYC Metro](#)

Other Resources

- [Amherst Taxi Information](#)
 - [Local Free Bus Services](#)
 - [Getting to UMass](#)
 - [UMass Free Transit](#)
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HOUSING

Graduate Housing at UMASS

- <http://www.umass.edu/living/assign/grad-students>

Off-Campus Housing

- <http://www.umocss.org/>
- <http://westernmass.craigslist.org/>

University Family Housing

- <http://www.umass.edu/living/residence/family>

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Programs Office

- <http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss>

Visa Information

- [Obtaining Your Visa](#)
- [Important Visa Information](#)

Social Security

- <http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/social>

International Student Employees (Including Tax Treaty and Tax Reporting)

- <http://www.umass.edu/humres/international-employees-0>
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IMPORTANT THINGS NEEDED TO START YOUR UNIVERSITY LIFE!

Obtain Student ID (168 Whitmore Building)

- <http://www.umass.edu/ucard/>

Activate Email Account

- <http://www.oit.umass.edu/accounts>

Activate and Register for Classes through SPIRE

- <https://www.spire.umass.edu>

Apply for Parking Permit

- <http://parking.umass.edu>

Health

- [University Health Services](#)
- [Student Health Benefit Plan](#)

New Graduate Employees

Please visit the HR information [webpage](#) for instructions on completing the Human Resources Hire Packet. To be paid on time, you must submit the hire packet to Human Resources at least two weeks prior to the start date for your assistantship (assuming your assistantship paperwork--the EGFAF--is also submitted in a timely manner).

Buy Textbooks

- [Amherst Bookstore \(8 Main St. Amherst, MA\)](#)
 - [Online at Amazon](#)
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FINANCES

Banking

- [Open a Bank Account](#)

Financial Aid

- [Graduate Student Financial Aid Opportunities](#)
- [Assistantship Information](#)

Graduate Student Employee Union

- [GEO Information and Contract](#)

UMASS CAMPUS LIFE

Get to Know the UMass-Amherst Campus

- http://www.umass.edu/visitorsctr/Campus_Map/

Take a Tour of the Library Facilities

- <http://www.library.umass.edu>

Get Involved in a Graduate Student Organization

- <https://www.umass.edu/gss/gsos>

Review Graduate Student Handbook

- <http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/policies-forms/graduate-student-handbook>

Office of Professional Development

- <https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/office-of-professional-development>

Visit the Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development

- <http://www.umass.edu/tefd/>

Check out the UMass Award-Winning Dining Services

- <http://www.umassdining.com/>

EXPLORE THE PIONEER VALLEY

Learn about the best stores, restaurants, services and attractions in the Pioneer Valley:

- [Best of "Valley Advocate"](#)

Explore New Areas

- [Northampton, MA](#)
 - <http://www.mass.gov/portal/cities-towns/northampton.html>
- [Amherst, MA](#)
 - <http://www.mass.gov/portal/cities-towns/amherst.html>

Child Care Options:

- [Graduate Student Senate](#)
- [Graduate Employee Organization](#)
- [Office of Family Resources](#)
- [Massachusetts Early Education and Care Programs](#)

Dining

- [Local Restaurants](#)

Join a Gym

- [UMASS Rec Center](#)
- [Planet Fitness](#)
- [50/50 Fitness & Nutrition](#)
- [Hampshire Athletic Club](#)