



## International Study Center (ISC) Pre-Arrival Guide Spring 2011



Welcome!

You will soon be joining us at the International Study Center (ISC) at Fisher College in Boston, Massachusetts, America's birthplace. As you begin this impressive academic challenge you have set for yourself, our faculty and staff will steadily assist you. This guide will answer many questions you might have. For those questions that aren't answered, please feel free to contact us. Your instructors and I look forward to meeting you!

Joe Conrad  
Director  
International Study Center  
Fisher College

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### Key Facts

Head of ISC:	Joe Conrad
Address of ISC:	International Study Center 118-33 Beacon Street Boston MA 02116, USA
Office:	118-33
Telephone number of ISC:	+1 617-670-4456
Emergency contact number of ISC:	+1 877-394-6404

### Useful Websites

Useful websites if you would like to learn more about the ISC, Fisher College, and Boston:

Fisher College	<a href="http://www.fisher.edu">www.fisher.edu</a>
ISC at Fisher College	<a href="http://www.studygroup.com/isc/fisher">http://www.studygroup.com/isc/fisher</a>
International Essentials	<a href="http://www.fisher.edu/admissions/international-student-admissions/international-essentials.html">http://www.fisher.edu/admissions/international-student-admissions/international-essentials.html</a>
Official Boston visitor guide	<a href="http://www.cityofboston.gov/visitors">http://www.cityofboston.gov/visitors</a>
Boston travel and tourism	<a href="http://www.boston.com/travel/">http://www.boston.com/travel/</a>



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### Join us on Facebook

If you aren't already following us on Facebook, you can stay informed with news and pre-arrival updates on our Facebook Page. You can also connect with new, current, and past ISC students by becoming a member of our Facebook student group. Find us on Facebook by searching for "Fisher College International Study Center." From the search results, you can ['Like' the Page](#) and [Join the Group](#).

### Not a member of Facebook?

It's free to join but you will need to sign up at: [facebook.com](http://facebook.com). Follow the instructions on screen, and register your details. If you already know your Fisher College email address, use it when you register. This gives you automatic access to all Fisher students on Facebook! You will then need to check your email and click on the link confirming your email address.

### What to pack/bring

Essential items to bring with you include:

- your passport and visa
- your enrollment and accommodation documents
- passport sized photographs
- photographs of friends and family to brighten up your new room
- a towel
- essential toiletries and medications
- an alarm clock - for those early starts!

Please see the final page for a list of clothing and other items.

### Arriving in the US

Please advise the International Admissions Center (IAC) of your expected arrival details as soon as you know them. Contact them on: +1 212 497 0050.

You should arrive at Fisher College on Saturday 15 January, ready to begin orientation on Sunday 16 January, 2011. If there is any confusion upon your arrival, please call the Study Group emergency phone number:  
+1 877-394-6404.

### By plane from Logan (BOS)

International Student Assistance Group, Inc. has been contracted to transport you from Boston Logan airport to your residence. It is about a 30 minute drive. The driver will meet you at baggage claim, holding up a sign with your name on it.

For students living on campus, the driver will drop you off at Fisher College's main entrance where many people will be gathering.

Students not living on campus must communicate their housing arrangements to the International Admissions Center (IAC) in New York. Please contact the IAC with any questions at +1 212 497 0050.

### Orientation

During your first week after arrival, we will help you settle into life in the US through an orientation program designed specifically for international students. This process will include:

- registration at the university
- registration with the local/on-campus health services
- setting up a bank account
- becoming familiar with campus
- learning the bus system
- finding out your class schedule
- taking a placement test
- other activities

You will also attend the first year student orientation where you will be grouped with other new and experienced Fisher College students. Together you participate in activities that will help you during your first year. This will be a great opportunity to make new friends, learn about the Fisher College, and prepare for your academic studies.

### Medical Information

There are medical facilities located on and near campus. Be sure to complete your Health Center Record form and send it in or bring it with you. Staff will ensure you are

registered at the local Health Center, and will show you where the closest pharmacy is located and where you can get medicine.

### Opening a bank account

If you are coming to the US for at least an academic year, it is recommended that you open a bank account. Before opening an account, you should have some cash with you to deposit into your new account. As part of the Orientation, ISC and Fisher College staff will aid you in opening a bank account.

Warning: DO NOT carry large amounts of cash with you or keep large amounts of cash in your room at your residence hall.

### The cost of being a student

You will need to budget carefully to cover all of your living costs, which include clothes, transportation, books, and entertainment. If you live on campus during the Foundation Diploma, your fee to Study Group includes a meal plan. If you live off campus during the Foundation Diploma, a meal plan is not included in the fee. A meal plan can be added at an additional cost to the student.

It is very difficult to estimate how much money you will need over a year as this depends on individual lifestyles and circumstances. Remember, you will spend more money at the beginning of the semester as you will need to buy items such as room/bed supplies, books, and special equipment for your course. Small charges may also be made by some departments to cover supplementary materials or services.

More information about how to budget for your living expenses will be discussed during your first week.



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### Living in the US

#### *Social attitudes*

Life in the US will almost certainly be different from what you are used to. It is difficult to say what is the American way of life as attitudes and outlooks vary considerably according to where you are in the country. The US is a grand mixture of cultures, lifestyles, and landscapes. You will find similarities as well as differences between your home country/culture and the US.

Fisher College is well-known for its friendliness and hospitality. You will find that people - even strangers - will look you in the eyes and smile as you pass by, possibly even offering a kind greeting.

#### *Making the most of your time*

You will find great resources in Boston: exercise at a recreational facility near the college, eat in charming dining halls, take advantage of a well-stocked library and enjoy all the offerings of a major US city. Boston can suit all your tastes. If you have a particular hobby, chances are someone has started a club that celebrates it. There are countless activities for your academic and social life and for you to become an enlightened citizen of the world.

#### *Drinking*

Alcohol is legal to anyone aged over 21. There are strict rules against underage drinking and severe consequences. Drinking is often associated with a party lifestyle and atmosphere for college students. For those over 21, it is acceptable to drink in moderation in public.

#### *Smoking*

Smoking is banned in many public places in the US. On the Fisher College campus there are restrictions about where students can smoke. You must not smoke indoors at school or in the residence halls. If you are being hosted by friends, always ask where it is acceptable to smoke.

#### *Homesickness*

At the beginning of course everything will be new, exciting and different, but as time goes by you may start to wish that things were the way they were back home. Don't despair as this stage will pass - and much more quickly if you talk to someone about how you are feeling. There are counselors at Fisher who are happy to speak with any student who feels homesick and help them to feel better.

#### *Racism*

The ISC and Fisher College are committed to equality and to ensuring that you do not face discrimination while you are studying. If you feel like you have been discriminated against, please feel safe to tell your Center Director, Instructors, or Nancy Pithis, Dean of International Academic Operations and Curriculum Development. You have the right to always feel safe and that the rules are fair for all.

#### *Specialist and international foods*

There are many shops and restaurants in the area which sell these types of foods. You may also find that some of the larger supermarkets stock some of the products that you need.

### Things to bring

- Completed and signed Health Record Form
- A warm coat, gloves and a hat. Normal winter temperatures in the coldest month of the year, January, are 23°F (-5.6°C). Also, plan for plenty of beautiful snow!
- An umbrella
- Items that remind you of home

- Bed linens, pillows, blankets, and towels are not provided by the residence hall. You can bring these with you or purchase in Boston
- Toiletries
- Clothing
  - Casual
  - Formal
  - Athletic
- Shoes
  - Casual
  - Formal
  - Athletic
  - Hiking
- Items to share or give to friends that symbolize your country

### Fisher College Holidays

The residence halls at Fisher College close for certain holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and a week-long break during March, called Spring Break. During these times, students are not allowed to stay in their residence halls. The exact dates for all these periods will be made available during orientation, but Spring Break is March 12 to March 20, 2011.

These times offer a good opportunity to travel to other parts of the US with friends or to stay at the home of an American family. If travel is not desired, arrangements can be made through the ISC for where to stay during residence closures.

### In closing

We are very excited that soon you will join us, and we are sure that this will be an experience you find highly rewarding.