

## **Neighborhoods**

*Boston is made up of a number of different neighborhoods, each with its own unique feel. Where you choose to live is entirely up to you and we strongly encourage students to visit and tour areas before signing a lease. The following list contains brief descriptions of the major neighborhoods in Boston as well as areas that Emerson College students typically live in.*

### **Allston/Brighton/Brookline**

Located west of downtown Boston, this area is very popular with students, as it has a great commute into Boston's university districts. Rents are generally not as expensive as in the Back Bay or Beacon Hill areas and apartments are generally larger. There are also many nightclubs, restaurants, and specialty food stores. These neighborhoods contain many beautiful homes that have been converted to rental space. The commute into Boston is made easy by trolley and bus routes that run very consistently. These neighborhoods are a great alternative to the hectic downtown lifestyle. Public transportation time: 20-40 minutes.

### **Back Bay/Fenway (Boston)**

Back Bay is located right in the middle of downtown Boston, and is home to the famed Newbury Street, Kenmore Square, and the Fenway area. There is a very diverse population of business people, artists & musicians, and college students. It is the home of two great art museums, the Boston Conservatory, and Fenway Park. In this trendy area, rents are generally expensive, but the commute is short. Trolley stops are located on just about every corner, but on a sunny day you can walk from most areas. Public transportation time: 10-20 minutes.

### **Beacon Hill (Boston)**

Beacon Hill is extremely important historically, and the beautiful architecture reflects the love our city has for the area. Beacon Hill is home to the Massachusetts State House, Cheers, and the Museum of African American History. Many streets are cobble-stoned, gas lit, tree lined and occupied by homes protected by the historical society. Because of the exclusivity of the area, rental prices are at a premium. Most apartments are very small, and as a result many landlords impose occupancy limits. However, this area is generally quiet, and commute is typically not an issue due to its proximity to the campus. 5-10 minute walk to campus.

### **Cambridge**

Cambridge is Boston's sister city, located on the other side of the Charles River. This city is home to Harvard, MIT, and a large number of smaller colleges. It has a very trendy atmosphere with lots of nightlife, cafes and restaurants. Most of Cambridge is beautiful, reflecting the nature of its Ivy League residents. The apartments are usually large and can be rather pricey, but they can be quite a bargain for someone interested in eclectic surroundings. The subway system has 4 stops that run throughout Cambridge, and the commute is fairly short. Public transportation time: 15-20 minutes.

### **Charlestown**

Charlestown is one of Boston's most historic and charming neighborhoods. In recent years, it has become very popular among college students and young professionals. Known for its luxurious waterfront property, Charlestown has many upscale restaurants and cafes along its redbrick walkways. Traditionally residential, finding an apartment in this trendy area may be difficult, but the commute is easy. Bus lines run throughout the area, and it's only a brief walk to downtown. Public transportation time: 20-30 minutes.

### **Dorchester**

These are constantly growing and changing neighborhoods. Within their boundaries exist the spectacular John F. Kennedy Library and the beautiful Dorchester Bay. The residents of these diverse neighborhoods display strong civic pride and community involvement. Public Transportation time: 15-30 minutes

### **East Boston**

Widely known as a strong, family-oriented neighborhood, it shares a peninsula with Logan Airport. The population has decreased over time with the expansion of transportation facilities, but there is still a strong civic pride in this urban community. Public transportation time: 15-30 minutes.

### **Hyde Park**

This residential community of 33,000 lies eight miles from downtown Boston. The neighborhood enjoys a quiet, suburban setting, is home to a national wildlife preserve, and provides its residents with the best of urban and suburban living. Public transportation time: 20-30 minutes.

### **Malden/Medford**

Located just north of Boston, Malden and Medford are suburban areas with typically large, moderately priced apartments. Primarily a residential area, it is easily accessible to supermarkets, Laundromats, and shopping centers. It is also a great area to have a car, but it is not necessary. There are many, many bus lines that run throughout Malden and Medford and several subway stations. Public transportation time: 20-25 minutes.

### **North End (Boston)**

The North End is located on Boston's waterfront and is very important historically. This neighborhood has become one of the city's most popular destinations. There are many authentic Italian restaurants and cafes situated among brownstone buildings on cobblestone streets. Within walking distance to downtown Boston, you can find tourists and college students mulling the area year round. The North End has become one of the more friendly neighborhoods for young students while still maintaining its old-fashioned charm. Public transportation time: 10 minutes, walking distance to campus.

### **Quincy**

Located south of Boston, Quincy is a coastal area divided into many different sections. The apartments are fairly large, comfortable, and easy to share as well as affordable. The individuality of each of Quincy's neighborhoods makes it a convenient place to work, shop, and enjoy an active lifestyle. The subway has 5 stops throughout Quincy and the furthest stop is less than half an hour from the downtown area.

Public transportation time: 20-30 minutes

### **Roslindale**

This residential neighborhood provides its residents with suburban comforts as well as urban access. Strong civic and crime watch organizations make it a source of pride for those families who call it home.

Public Transportation time: 20-30 minutes

### **Somerville**

Located northwest of Metro Boston, Somerville is an area with a mixed population of college students and the working class. The close proximity of Somerville to the BAC plus the convenience of being outside of the downtown area make for an attractive combination to out-of-towners. Apartments in the area are much larger than in many other areas and the 4 subway stops that run throughout the city make commuting simple. Somerville also has many coffee shops, bars, and theaters in its distinct squares of the city that contribute to its reputation as a city with a rich nightlife.

Public transportation time: 15-30 minutes

### **South Boston**

Called "Southie" by its residents, this neighborhood is steeped in rich heritage. Located on a Boston Harbor peninsula, Southie attracts a diversity of people drawn to the beaches, hills, and water views.

Public transportation time: 10-20 minutes

### **South End**

This neighborhood is tucked between South Boston and Fenway/Kenmore. Ethnic diversity draws culture seekers, artists, and Bostonians who see future opportunities in this continually changing community.

Public transportation time: 5-15 minutes – Within walking distance to campus

### **Watertown**

Located west of Boston near Newton this attractive residential community provides high quality housing and town services. Here you may catch a glimpse of the historic Charles River as it winds its way into Boston Harbor.

Public Transportation time: 30-40 minutes

*As you investigate the attributes and amenities of each neighborhood, just remember that it is better to determine the character of a community from your opinions and personal experiences than by the opinions of others.*