



Brandeis University



Tel Aviv University
TAU Recanati

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1. General information about Brandeis University and IBS

Brandeis University is situated in the Boston area in a small town called Waltham. The university has a big and a very beautiful campus with lots of trees and grass. It is known as a Jewish university and celebrates all Jewish holidays as days off. IBS (International Business School) is located on the west side of the campus. It is separated from the rest of the university and has its own independent life and existence.

2. Housing and Transportation

I would recommend for exchange students to apply for housing in dorms. The dorms, which are called Charles River apartments, are located only about 7 minutes walking from IBS (International Business School) and just 3 minutes walking from a commuter rail station Brandeis/Roberts that will get you in 25 minutes to the heart of Boston. Another good reason to live in the dorms, is meeting other exchange students from different countries, experiencing real student life, making friends, partners for traveling and who knows what else. The University provides free shuttle buses on weekend to Boston and Cambridge till 3 am, and on campus and inside Waltham free shuttles during all days of the week. This service is very convenient and useful for students who live in the dorms or in Waltham.

3. Visa information

It is highly recommended to set an appointment with the US embassy to get a visa at least a month ahead of departure. Best to do it straight when you get all needed documents from Brandeis. To arrive and start studying in the US you must have a student visa. It is not possible be a student in the US with a

regular visitor's visa.

4. Living expenses

For those who prefer living in Charles River apartments, monthly cost is about 930\$ including amenities (electricity, water, internet). As far as I know, it is possible to find an apartment with roommates for less than that, but I think it is still more convenient to stay in the dorms. There are some expenses in the beginning for house goods. Dishes, linens, blankets, cleaning products are not provided in the dorms. It is possible that total expenses will not exceed 10,000\$ including housing, food and nights out on weekends, but for traveling and shopping (for which US have lots of possibilities) it's better to have a budget bigger than that, depending on personal preferences.

5. Courses

IBS is known for its finance school. Finance classes on a very high level. The faculty also has about 12 Bloomberg licenses and teaches using Bloomberg services. IBS has also classes in other fields like marketing, economics, human behavior, but the choices are not as diverse as finance classes. It is important to mention that IBS has a variety of classes in real estate and it hired a new teacher Edward Chazen who has a real life experience in this field. I took his class "Real estate fundamentals" and recommend it to those who are interested in real estate. My favorite teacher was Prof Alfonso Canella with whom I took 2 classes "Corporate financial Decision making" and "Financial Modeling". Those are second-year elective classes; it is better to have a good financial basis to take them. I took Trading and Exchanges Foreign Exchange with Prof. Osler, which includes a foreign exchange markets simulation and gives a better understanding of those markets. There are also lots of possibilities for non financial classes. I've chosen to take Management Communication with Bill Ellet and Transnational Negotiations with Professor Steven P. Cohen. Those were more relaxing classes and were very helpful for improving verbal and writing English skills.

6. Recreation

Brandeis University has excellent sport facilities, which are free for students. It offers gym, tennis courts, and football fields, plenty of places for jogging. It also has really good recreation classes, including zumba, step, kickboxing, etc. During my exchange semester, a swimming pool was under construction and should've been open for spring semester 2012.

7. General experience

This semester abroad was a great opportunity to experience, how it is to be a student in the US. IBS was a very international school and gave me a chance to meet people from different parts of the world and to make connections. The faculty and the students organize lots of parties and different social events, so everyone could find something according to their interests.

8. Tips & important things to be aware of

- Exchange students can participate in all clubs in Brandeis. I would recommend participating in at least two clubs. It's a great opportunity to meet people and to socialize for those interested in networking.
- Don't forget to do required vaccinations. If some of those vaccinations are missing, the health department puts a "hold" on your account, which makes it impossible to change classes and receive grades, till all vaccinations are done.
- In Brandeis University, class participation is usually at least 30% of a final grade.
- It is better to plan traveling from the very beginning, and I would also recommend to participate in all trips organized by IBS, or other students.
- Boston and its surrounding is a very beautiful place with lots of museums, restaurants, shops, universities, nature. Many enjoyable possibilities to spend your free time.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me sivanoliyn@gmail.com

Good Luck