The Grad Assistant’s Unofficial Guide to Brown

From your International Graduate Student Assistants
Dear Incoming International Students,

Congratulations on your admission and, on behalf of the international student community here, we welcome you to Brown, your new home!

As the International Orientation graduate student assistants, we have compiled this guide to help ease your transition to Brown. It contains useful information about getting to the university, tips on finding an apartment or roommates, navigating your way around the city, performing crucial admin-related tasks such as opening a bank account and getting a mobile phone, acquainting you with life in Providence beyond your academics, and much more.

Brown has a strong and vibrant international community and we are all here to help you settle in. Take your time to go through the information provided here so that you can make your first few days in Providence feel as familiar as possible. In the meantime, keep an eye on the Admitted Students and Orientation Guide and also join the Brown University International Graduate Students Group Facebook page to stay connected with your fellow international students.

Your IO Graduate Assistants team,
Joe, Sofia, and Andressa
Arriving on Campus & in Providence

By Air

Flying into Boston
If you are flying from outside of the United States, the closest major international airport to Brown University is Boston Logan International Airport, which is approximately a one-hour drive to campus. If you can drive and have a valid driver’s license, various rental car options are available at the airport. Alternatively, both Uber and Lyft have been assigned dedicated parking spots at the airport and can be used to travel to campus.

A typical Uber ride from Logan to Brown University Campus can cost between $60 to $75. Although costly, this mode of transportation can make travelling with a lot of luggage easier and you can avoid the hassle of lugging it to a bus or train, which are otherwise more affordable options.

Alternatively, it is possible to get a free shuttle bus (the Silver line) from Boston Logan to South Station Trainstation in Boston. From there it is possible to take the Amtrak (American national rail) or MBTA (regional commuter rail) to Providence. Amtrak from Boston to Providence starts at around $15, and takes just over an hour, but prices go up the closer to the date. The MBTA has a flat rate of approximately $12.25 and takes about 90 minutes.

Another option is to get on a bus. Peter Pan bus lines go from Logan International terminal to both Providence bus terminal and downtown Providence. The ride is 1 hour 10 min and costs around $24. Once you arrive at the Providence train station/ bus terminal, it is quickest and easiest to use either Lyft or Uber to get to your apartment/Airbnb.

If you are flying in from another state, then the Rhode Island T.F. Green Airport located in Warwick, RI is about 10 miles south of Providence (approximately 20 minutes). Uber/Lyft and car rental services are available directly from the airport. Rail service is available in Warwick but the train station is about 1.2 miles from the airport.

Immigration at Airport
The typical immigration experience for students at the airport should be rather straightforward. Make sure you have all the required documents at hand, especially your passport (with valid US-Visa) and a valid Form I-20. At the beginning of the semester, there is a large influx of students into the United States, so expect the airports to be busy and the immigration lines to be long: it may take up to two hours or more to process a given flight. However, due to COVID-19 this processing time may vary as airports enact stricter safety protocols.

COVID-19 Tip: Rental cars are currently in short supply and prices are higher than normal in most locations. Be sure to check availability and cost prior to arrival.

Tip: If you arrive after 6 pm (7 pm in the summer) you can also use Brown onCall - a free shuttle that Brown University provides to travel around Providence after dark - the average wait time for the on-call shuttle is 15 to 30 minutes. Shuttle times may vary during University breaks (Please note that using the shuttle service requires a Brown ID).
By Train

The Providence Amtrak/MBTA train station (100 Gaspee St, Providence, RI) is located very close to the Brown Campus (less than a mile). However, the campus is located on College Hill and the incline can prove to be a challenge if you intend to walk all the way with heavy luggage. Taxi pick up and drop off is available at the station to travel to the main campus or to Providence locations, however app services like Lyft or Uber are generally cheaper.

By Car

Brown is located near Interstate 95 and 195.

*Disclaimer: All prices quoted in this guide are based on the experience of your fellow graduate students and Brown staff members. Please note that they are merely representative and actual prices may vary.

From the North or South on Interstate 95:
Take Exit 22A to Downtown Providence. Continue straight on Memorial Boulevard. At the fourth set of lights, turn left onto College Street. At the top of the hill, turn left onto Prospect Street. Take your first right onto Waterman Street. The Stephen Robert ’62 Campus Center will be on your right.

From the East on Interstate 195:
Take Exit 2 to South Main Street and continue for half a mile until the first set of traffic lights. Turn right onto College Street and then left at the top of the hill onto Prospect Street. Take your first right onto Waterman Street. The Stephen Robert ’62 Campus Center will be on your right.

From the Northwest:
Follow Route 146 to I-95 South then follow directions above (from north and south).

Parking on Campus

For Visitors
Visitors may find parking in Lot 68 Upper, also called the Power Street Parking Garage, located at 111 Power Street. The garage entrance is located at the intersection of Power and Thayer Streets.
The garage has two gate arms which are left open. Please enter in the right lane and exit via the left lane. The Lot 68 Upper garage contains two pay stations, which are located at the front and rear of the garage. Please locate an empty parking space, purchase your visitor parking permit via a pay station and place your receipt permit on your vehicle dashboard.

For Students
Students can apply to reserve a spot in a Brown parking lot through the Brown Transportation Office. Both daytime and overnight parking are available; annual rates are $700.

Parking Near Campus & in Providence

Street parking on and near campus is tight; after 9 a.m. it can be difficult to find a spot that is closer than a 10-15 minute walk away. Most of the convenient blocks are metered. Overtime meter tickets are $25 or more. Many apartments and houses also include parking spaces, but not always. If parking is not available with a rental, it is often possible to rent space nearby. Typical rents for a parking space are between $50–$150 per month.

A Providence city ordinance prohibits parking on the street between the hours of 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. Overnight parking permits may also be purchased from Brown and the City of Providence.

On campus, Brown overnight parking is only available to graduate students who either live on campus or in Brown owned housing. Because of the scarcity of parking spaces around Brown, all members of the Brown community are encouraged to find alternate means of commuting to and from campus.

Living in Providence/Accommodations

Accommodations are plentiful in the greater Providence area, although the majority of options are not owned by the University. Brown does offer housing via the Brown University Auxiliary Housing Service. Monthly rental costs are usually higher with Brown owned housing and range from $1100/month to $1300/month for a studio or one-bedroom apartment respectively and $950/month for a two-bedroom apartment (shared occupancy). Although expensive, this is a relatively hassle-free option for incoming first-year students. Brown does not run a credit check before offering you the apartment or require you to pay separate utility bills and the apartments can be available immediately upon arrival on campus. Limited units may still available for the 2021-2022 academic year. Please contact Auxiliary Housing if you are interested in living in Brown-owned housing. The application process opens in March for leases that start the following summer, so we encourage students to apply early in future years. A limited number of units may be available for a spring move in date each year.
The **International House of Rhode Island** is a non-governmental organization that often works with Brown. Their primary focus is to help build community for international students, their families and the wider international community of Providence. They often have long term room rentals available in their building. Each room is large and has its own bathroom; kitchen facilities are shared. The International House also has contacts with other housing opportunities in the community around College Hill.

Many students, however, prefer to live in private rental properties in the Fox Point or Wayland Square neighborhoods – both are located around 10-15 minutes’ walk from the College Hill campus. Both neighborhoods offer a collection of restaurants and shopping areas.

**COVID-19 Tip:** Many landlords and rental property agents can offer virtual tours of apartments if requested.

[Zillow](https://www.zillow.com), [Craigslist](https://www.craigslist.org) and [Apartments.com](https://www.apartments.com) are other useful resources for searching for apartments online (or download their mobile apps). Alternatively, you can join the [Brown University Housing, Sublets & Roommates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BrownHousing/) facebook group page for information on off-campus housing. Another very useful resource is GSBB (Graduate Student Bulletin Board), where graduate students place all kinds of announcements including apartment listings and roommate searches. Once you have your Brown email activated you can put an ad there or track the ads by other students, who are looking for roommates. Read more information on how to use the [mailing list](https://www.brown.edu/). Also, be sure to check out the [Guide to Off-Campus Living](https://www.brown.edu/) from the Brown Real Estate Office and a recording of the 2020 [Incoming Graduate Student Housing Webinar](https://www.brown.edu/) (April 21, 2021).

Other towns and areas to consider: Pawtucket, Cranston, Elmwood, Pawtuxet Village, East Providence, Johnston, and Seekonk are all within a 10-minute drive.

### Where to stay when you arrive to Providence

Some students prefer to rent a room/apartment in advance, but finding a permanent place after you arrive is also an option. It usually takes 5 to 7 days when there are many open rentals with August 1 and September 1 move-in dates. It may take slightly longer to find a place to live if you are starting in the spring, but there are always available rentals. The best option to find accommodation for the first several days is [AirBnB](https://www.airbnb.com/). It will definitely cost less than a hotel. The only option even cheaper than AirBnB is GSBB: usually when you put an ad asking for a 5-7 days sublet you get a lot of responses very fast. You can even find a free couch to crash for a couple of days.

**Pro Tip:** You can also get in touch with graduate students from your department and ask for help in finding an apartment. Some advanced students often travel for research and sublet their apartment or room.
As with any larger city, there is crime in Providence and students should be aware and mindful of their surroundings at night. We can personally recommend the Foxpoint, Wayland Square, Downtown and Federal Hill neighborhoods, but there are many other safe neighborhoods and areas.

**Furnishing your apartment**

Most apartments in Providence are not furnished. [Brown University Auxiliary Housing](http://www.brownu.edu) does provide some basic furnishings (check their website for specifics) but in most cases you will need to buy basic amenities such as a bed, mattress, bedding, study table and chair, (and others depending on your taste or requirement) so it is crucial to budget for this expense. The most affordable way is to buy furniture or other amenities you need from your fellow Brown students. At the beginning and end of every semester, and throughout the year as well, Brown students, especially those leaving or relocating, will use the GSBB mailing list at very affordable prices.

Alternatively, Walmart (51 Silver Spring St, Providence) and Target (79 Commerce Way, Seekonk, MA) are popular retail stores with dedicated sections for students that provide budget furnishing options. You can use the RIPTA bus service (see below for details) to travel to these stores. But please note that due to COVID-19 the opening hours as well as access to these stores may be restricted so be sure to check online before planning a trip.

**Traveling Within & Outside of Providence**

**Local Buses**

[Rhode Island Public Transit Authority](http://www.ripta.com) (RIPTA)

RIPTA operates buses throughout the state and in Providence; service is dependable and all Brown students ride free. The central bus stop is located in the center of the city at Kennedy Plaza, a 10-minute walk down the hill from College Hill. Buses also run frequently with many stops along Thayer, Hope and North and South Main Streets to many of the nearby neighborhoods. Check schedules and maps at [www.ripta.com](http://www.ripta.com) and the [Transit app](http://www.transitapp.com) on your phone.

*Pro Tip: Furnishing an apartment to your taste takes time and can be expensive so start with the basics first and build (and spend) slowly to avoid a financial crunch early on.*

COVID-19 Tip: Capacity on busses and trains may be reduced and face masks are still required. These rules are subject to change; up-to-date guidance is available on the individual transportation websites.
Interstate Buses

Peter Pan buses run regularly to most points out of state, including Boston and New York. They have a stop in downtown Providence and at Exit 25A off I-95.

Train

Rail service to and from Boston and New York (as well as points in between) runs through the Providence Amtrak and MBTA (MBTA Home Page Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) next to the State House. The MBTA also offers commuter rail service from Providence to both T.F. Green Airport and into Boston.

Brown University Shuttle

The Brown University Shuttle is a free transportation service for the Brown community (students, faculty, and staff with a Brown ID). There are several routes that run Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and in the evening from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. (Sun. - Wed.) and 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. (Thurs. - Sat.). Shuttle stops include the Rockefeller Library, gym, South Street Landing, the Alpert Medical School and several other locations. An on-call shuttle is also available after hours. An easy way to track the hours and shuttle locations is by downloading the BrownU app, then clicking the shuttle icon.

Bicycle

Cycling is another option for commuting locally in Providence with dedicated bike lanes on roads. Cycling is a very popular activity during the summer and a fun way to explore Providence and its surrounding areas as RI boasts a lot of scenic bike routes and trails to enjoy (Blackstone River Bikeway and the East Bay Bike Path).

Buying a new bicycle and its accompanying gear (helmet, bike lights, mudguards etc.) can be expensive ($400-500+), so it is advisable to buy a used bicycle from either a fellow Brown student (using the GSBB mailing list) or from a bike shop near campus.
**Uber/Lyft/ ZipCar**

Uber and Lyft are available in Providence and most of Rhode Island for commuting within and outside the city. If you already have a valid U.S. driving license or plan on getting one after arrival then Zipcar is also a very popular and useful commuting option (annual $15 fee and hourly rates range from $8-$13 depending on the type of vehicle reserved). You are eligible for a discount with your Brown ID and you can pick up and drop off a Zipcar from various stations in and around campus:

- Lower level of Lot #68 the Power Street garage (entrance on Brook St. across from fire station)
- 217 Bowen Street, Lot #7
- 20 Olive Street, Lot #77
- Young Orchard Ave, Lot #54 (next to Orwig Music Library)
- Page-Robinson Hall, Lot #17
- Richmond Street, Lot #105 across from the front entrance of the Alpert Medical School

**Getting a mobile phone line**

There are a couple of things to note before buying a SIM card in the U.S. First, if you intend to use your existing phone then you will need to make sure that it is compatible with a mobile carrier in the U.S. Cell phone companies in the U.S. use two types of standards/protocols. Of the three main carriers, Verizon uses the CDMA standard, whereas AT&T and T-Mobile use the GSM standard. Therefore, if you currently have a GSM enabled phone and you do not wish to purchase a new one, then your options are limited to AT&T and T-Mobile. In the U.S., unlike other countries, carriers sell mobile phones that typically only work on their mobile system. So if you wish, you can purchase a new mobile phone along with new mobile connections.

*Pro Tip: If you have a compatible mobile phone then it is a good idea to buy a prepaid SIM from the airport upon your arrival. You might be charged a premium, but this will allow you to immediately have phone and internet connectivity upon arrival. You can always change your carrier or mobile plan after settling in.*
Mobile phone plans in the U.S. are generally expensive. Many mobile phone carriers offer both prepaid and mobile plans that are billed monthly, however, most monthly plans require a credit check and a Social Security number. Therefore, upon arrival, many students choose to enroll in a prepaid plan until they build up a credit history and are issued a social security number. Prepaid plans range usually from $40-$65 a month depending on the carrier and the amount of mobile data you wish to use. A great option is a family plan, since prices are usually lowered if you sign up for two or more lines together with your friends. Family plans often have streaming and media services like Netflix and Spotify included, which makes them even more attractive.

All three major carriers have retail shops in the Providence Place Mall (1 Providence Pl, Providence), which is about a 15 minute walk from campus. Alternatively, there is a Verizon (Authorized Retailer) at 229 Waterman St. in Providence.

Opening a Bank Account

It is very important that you start the process of opening up a bank account as soon as you arrive in Providence, especially for supported students who will be receiving a stipend and want to set up direct deposit. Otherwise you will receive your stipend or other payments via check, which can take a couple of days to clear. Moreover, a bank check will include your address on it and can also serve as a ‘proof of residence’ before you acquire a state ID or a drivers license.

There are several banks close to campus, but a useful tip for making a selection is to open your account at a branch that is in close proximity to your residence. Additionally, remember that you incur an additional transaction fee if you withdraw cash from an ATM that is not from your bank. Several ATMs are also available on/near on campus with two of them (Bank of America and Santander) located in the Stephen Robert ‘62 Campus Center and two others on Thayer Street, near the Brown Bookstore.

A (basic) list of documents required for opening a bank account:

1. Identification (passport)

Pro Tip # 1: The list of required documents may vary from bank to bank so do not be afraid to walk into (or call) and ask. Most banks are expecting an influx of students in the fall and spring and are happy to accommodate you and sometimes accept delayed submission of documents.

Pro Tip # 2: The first days in any new country can be expensive. We recommend bringing enough cash with you to tide you over the first month. You can use your existing Visa or Mastercard, but note that in most cases you will be charged a bank transaction fee as well as a currency conversion fee (especially if you have a non-USD account).

Pro Tip # 3: Please note that supported students will not receive their first stipend payment until the middle or end of September/January.

Pro Tip # 4: If you are an iPhone user you should ask your bank to sign you up for Apple Pay so that you can have immediate access to your account without waiting for a debit/ATM card to arrive via mail. Similarly, check with your bank to see if Google Pay or other mobile wallet platforms are available.

Pro Tip # 5: You can of course use cash before your Debit/ATM card arrives. But any type of mobile wallet option will spare you from carrying a mound of coins, which can accrue very quickly if you pay in cash!
2. Proof of address (Your lease agreement)
3. Proof of employment (admission letter from Brown)

**Banks near campus**

- **Chase Bank**  
  234 Thayer St, Providence, RI  
  (401) 824-0706

- **Citizens Bank**  
  120 Waterman St, Providence  
  (401) 456-7050

- **Bank of America**  
  100 Westminster St, Providence  
  (401) 228-0128

- **Santander Bank**  
  131 Elmgrove Ave., Providence  
  (401) 521-4633

Many branch locations are open by appointment only due to COVID-19; check their website in advance and call ahead, if possible, before going to the location.

**Obtaining a RI Driver’s License or State ID**

You may consider applying for a RI Driver’s License or State ID, which can serve as a proof of identification, so that you do not need to carry your passport with you and allow you to more easily rent a car. OISSS offers a webpage with the steps required for the application process. Please note, the Department of Motor Vehicles (RI DMV) is currently open by appointment only, which can be challenging to obtain.

**Meals & Groceries**

Campus options: Brown has several large dining halls located on campus such as the Sharpe Refectory, Andrews Commons and Verney-Woolley that are open to all Brown students, but they are mostly used by undergraduates. However, the Blue Room and the Ivy Room are popular places for lunch and dinner – typical prices per meal range from $7 - $12. Meal plans are also available for graduate students. The BrownU app offers up-to-date information on hours and food offerings each day on campus.

COVID-19 Tip: If you do not wish to physically go to a store you can also buy your groceries online or via mobile apps from Instacart, Whole Foods (via Amazon) and Walmart. Check the Dining website for full details as hours may vary during breaks.

Thayer Street, which runs right through campus, has a large collection of restaurants and shops that serve a variety of food options such as pizza, burgers, Chinese, Thai, Korean and Indian food – typical prices per meal range from $10 - $20.

Most graduate students prefer to cook themselves since it is usually cheaper than eating out. You can buy groceries from several supermarkets located near campus. Whole Foods Market and Eastside Marketplace are located within walking distance of campus. Trader Joe’s is located in
Warwick, which is a 20-25-minute drive from campus and a popular and affordable option. Students usually share an Uber or a Zipcar to travel to the store. Stop & Shop and Shaw’s are two larger chain grocery stores located within a 10-15 minute drive from campus and offer lower prices.

Nearby Grocery Stores

Whole Foods Market
261 Waterman St, Providence &
601 N. Main St., Providence

Stop & Shop
333 W. River St., Providence

V-Mart International Market
176 Narragansett Ave., Providence

Shaw’s
15 Smithfield Rd., North Providence

Ponto Um Market
234 Warren Ave., East Providence

Trader Joe’s
1000 Bald Hill Rd., Warwick

Good Fortune Supermarket
101 Cadillac Dr., Providence

Eastside Marketplace
165 Pitman St., Providence

Asiana Food Market
92 Warren Ave., East Providence

Popular Restaurants in Providence and the Surrounding Areas

Providence offers a range of food options for all palates. As you settle in and get comfortable with your surroundings we highly encourage you to venture out and take advantage of the cuisine that Providence and the surrounding areas have to offer. Some of our favorites include:

- Jacky’s Waterplace (Sushi/Cantonese)
- Pho Horn’s (Vietnamese)
- Bee’s Thai Cuisine
- Noodles 102
- Chengdu Taste (Chinese)
- Apsara (Cambodian/Thai)
- Wara Wara (Japanese)
- Heng Thai
- Khaosan Thai Street Food
- Sun and Moon Korean Restaurant
- Venda Ravioli
- Piemonte Pizza
- Pizza J
- Sicilia’s Pizzeria
- The District (Pizza)
- Rosa Mia (Pizza)
- Not Just Snacks (Indian)
- Rasoi (Indian)
- Indian Restaurant
- La Gran Parada (Dominican)
- Los Andes (Peruvian)
- Machupicchu Restaurant (Peruvian)
- Tallulah’s Taqueria (Mexican)
- El Rancho Grande (Mexican)
- Chilangos (Mexican)
**Student Health**

The Brown University Health Services (BUHS) is located centrally on campus (13 Brown St., Providence) and should be your first stop for health-related issues. Students should call Health Services at 401-863-3953 to make an appointment or discuss any questions or concerns (walk-in appointments are not currently available). Prior to arrival, BUHS requires you to complete a medical history form online. This determines if you require any vaccinations or medical tests (typically for tuberculosis) upon arrival.

**For medical emergencies**, please contact EMS at 401-863-4111 if you are in the Providence campus community. If you are out of the area, please call 911 for emergency services in your area.

**Nursing advice** is available 24/7 by calling 401-863-1330. Our nursing staff will follow-up on all after hours calls during regular business hours.

**Pharmacy:** The BUHS also has a pharmacy where you can order prescription drugs and sexual health supplies.

**Pharmacies in the Nearby Community:**

- **CVS Pharmacy** (located in Wayland Square)  
  481 Angell St., Providence  
  401-521-4340

- **Walgreens**  
  135 Pitman St., Providence  
  401-861-4846

- **CVS (open 24/7)**  
  640 Warren Ave., East Providence  
  401-438-2272

  *CVS also has a location on Thayer Street where you can purchase over the counter medicines, but they do not have a pharmacy.*

**Mental Health**

Moving to a new country to start a fresh academic adventure is certainly an exciting opportunity, but it can also be a stressful experience. Settling into a new cultural environment takes effort, patience and a certain period of adjustment. Additionally, graduate degree programs are typically more rigorous and time consuming than undergraduate programs. Thus, the ‘culture shock’ together with added academic responsibilities can often result in stress and in worst cases lead to burn-out. However, know that you are not alone - Brown has a thriving international community that serves as a fantastic support structure. We encourage you to reach out to your peers and Brown faculty and staff in times of stress or need.

Brown’s **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** offers support regarding a host of issues and is particularly useful if you wish to discuss matters privately. Many graduate students at Brown also use **Zencare**, a website where therapists can be found easily and efficiently. There are several filters for specialties, health insurance and locations. This is a great option for graduate students who prefer to do counseling off-campus for any reason. There are also many therapists listed on the site who accept Brown’s health insurance.
Key Items to Bring with You (or Buy)

- Umbrella + Rain Jacket/Coat: Brown is located near the coast so rain is both frequent and unpredictable.

- Stationery: It is more expensive in the U.S. and therefore it is recommended that you bring some basic things, such as pens and refills, highlighters, calculators and writing pads.

- Winter Wear: During Fall, a windbreaker or a light coat/jacket along with a few jerseys/sweaters will help tide you over, but eventually you will have to buy an insulated jacket(s) to cope with the New England winter.

- Toiletries: It is a good idea to bring useful items such as shampoo, body wash, conditioner, toothpaste, etc. to tide you over for the first few days.

- Power Adapter/ Travel Adapter: The U.S. uses type A and B power sockets and if these are different from your country then be sure to bring appropriate power adapters so that you can charge and operate your electronic devices.

Places to Visit in Providence and the Surrounding Areas

- Blackstone Boulevard and Park
- India Point Park
- Roger Williams Park Zoo
- Waterfire
- RISD Museum
- Ladd Observatory
- Farmer’s markets
- Providence Athenæum
- Providence Flea
- Rhode Island State Capitol
- Governor Henry Lippitt House
- Neuraconkanut Hill Conservancy

Also check out the Providence, RI page on the Graduate School website for more information about the city and greater RI area.

10 Things I Wish I Had Known Sooner

1. **Rhode Island ID**
   In the U.S., foreigners are eligible to get a state ID in the area where they reside. You don’t need to have a citizenship or a green card to obtain one. This way you don’t need to carry your passport around. To obtain that go to the DMV website and make an appointment.

2. **Brown on Call Shuttle**
   The evening on-call shuttle is a great service, but not everyone knows it goes beyond College Hill, East Side and Fox Point. You can call it to/from downtown, the train station, Providence Place Mall, Whole Foods, Walmart and many other places, where an Uber ride would cost around $10.
3. **Zip Car**
   It is great if you need to rent a car. Zipcar has student discounts and takes foreign drivers licenses for up to a year.

4. **Amazon Prime Student**
   If you don't have a car, Amazon is helpful in a small city. It is also cheaper than many stores. A Prime account gives you an option of one- and two-day delivery and free returns as well as discounts at Whole Foods. Students pay $5 per month.

5. **Mobile family plan**
   All carriers offer discounts when two or more people use one plan. The price can go down from an average of $70 per month to $30. A good way to find people to join a family plan would be to cooperate with incoming students in your department or just put an ad on GSBB.

6. **$10 MBTA weekend pass**
   The closest big city is Boston, where you may want to visit rather often for cultural events, walks or libraries. MBTA offers a weekend pass for local trains that you can use as many times over one weekend as you want. It doesn't have your name on it, so it is a good way to share costs too.

7. **CAPS + therapy**
   You will be under a lot of pressure your first year, so it's very helpful to know that Brown insurance covers a lot of treatments that help you to complete the transition successfully. CAPS (Counselling and Psychological Services) is free; psychological therapy (most therapists in the area take our insurance) is about $15 copay per session); prices are similar for nutritionists and chiropractors who take the Brown insurance; physical therapy and acupuncture usually requires $300 deductible, with all sessions free until the end of the insurance year.

8. **UFunds**
   Check Brown's webpage for funding options; it offers various opportunities for scholarships and research funding.

9. **Building your credit history**
   If you are planning to stay in the country after graduation, it may be helpful to obtain a credit card. It will take time but talk to your bank about you options right away.

10. **Today@Brown and GSBB**
    Never ignore the daily email because all information on professional development and campus life is there. Another rule of thumb is: in any difficult situation ask the Listserve (GSBB); you can literally find answers to all your question there if you ask our amazing community.
Brown University Lingo

- Main Green = Officially College Green, a grassy quadrangle in front of the Stephen Robert ‘62 Campus Center
- Quiet Green = A grassy area between the Van Wickle Gates and University Hall
- GBC = Global Brown Center
- BBC = Brown Business Center
- GCB = Graduate Center Bar
- GSC = The Graduate Student Council
- The Sci-Li = The Sciences Library
- JCB = John Carter Brown Library
- The Rock = The Rockefeller Library
- B&H = Barus and Holley
- CIT = Thomas J. Watson Sr. Center for Information Technology
- The Watson = Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
- WC = The Writing Center
- The Ratty = Sharpe Refectory (Dining hall)
- V-Dub = Verney Woolley (Dining hall)
- Page-Robinson = Page-Robinson Hall
- OMAC = The Olney-Margolies Athletic Center
- The Pitz = The Paul Bailey Pizzitola Memorial Sports Complex
- OISSS = Office of International Student and Scholar Services
- RISD = The Rhode Island School of Design

Useful Websites and Resources

- Global Brown
- OISSS
- Academic Calendar (Registrar’s Office)
- Libraries
- Campus Map
- Courses at Brown
- Canvas