

Home Away from Home Overview

Introduction

Home Away from Home aims to connect graduate international students at Northeastern University to Boston community members to build a sense of community, in a relaxed and self-directed way. Students will have the opportunity to meet fellow international students and expand their understanding of Boston through local experiences.

The *Home Away from Home* program pairs graduate international students with engaged community members who live or work in Boston neighborhoods, and near Northeastern University. These community members are offering a sense of neighborhood connection, and off campus hospitality, creating cross-cultural connections and relationships making Boston feel like a “home away from home” for students studying abroad at Northeastern University.

- **Time Commitment:** We understand that people are busy. That said, we simply hope that you will plan to meet up once or twice. We will be sponsoring free community events in Winter and Spring you can attend together such as a NU Hockey game or Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre.
- **Flexibility + affordability:** There is no budget involved, no strict time commitment, or check-in requirements. We will reach out seasonally to offer our support and hope to receive feedback from you. Periodically you'll receive fun itineraries created by our off-campus Community Ambassadors as a great jumping off point of things to do or recommend.
- **Support:** Our program leads both at Northeastern University, and in the community, will be in touch should you have questions, concerns, or need ideas. We will also facilitate open communication via group emails to allow pairs to meet up or gather in groups.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mallory Perna, Director of Off Campus Housing, Engagement and Support at Northeastern University at offcampus@northeastern.edu or 617-373-8480. You may also contact Amy D'ablemont Burnes at amydablemontburnes@gmail.com or by phone at 617-512-4486.

We hope we get to meet you soon! Wishing everyone a happy holiday season!

Best,
Amy d'Ablemont Burnes and Mallory Perna

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Guidelines and Expectations

Northeastern's Role

Off Campus Engagement and Support (OCES), City and Community Engagement (CCE), and the Office of Global Services (OGS) will collaborate to bring together interested students and committed community members.

Through Northeastern's relationships with city and neighborhood organizations, we will identify involved community partners that are interested in fostering a connection with graduate international students to provide a way for students to build a sense of community in Boston. Participants will have the opportunity to share their culture and learn a new culture through this exchange.

The Office of Global Services and Off Campus Engagement and Support will identify interested students through an online sign-up form. This will allow students to opt-in to being connected to a community member, invited to group events, and to receive communications from fellow participants.

Expectations

Off Campus Housing and Engagement and Support and the Office of Global Services will communicate expectations of this program to all participants.

Expectations are to include:

- Participants must sign-up with OCES through the online participation form.
- Initial introductions among participants will be done on campus at the annual kickoff when possible. All matches will be introduced via email following the kickoff.
- Both participants should choose activities in which they both feel comfortable. Participants are not encouraged to meet in private homes. We encourage interactions to take place in public when possible.
- Students and community members should use their best judgement and communicate any concerns directly to Northeastern staff, which the staff will address promptly.

Communication

Off Campus Engagement and Office of Global Services will be available for any questions or concerns that arise. All participants will receive a check-in email from a staff member 2 weeks after the initial introduction to see if there are any questions or concerns.

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After 60 days, Northeastern (OGS or OCES staff) will check-in with students and OCES will check-in with community partners to determine how program is progressing and if there are any questions, concerns or needs from participants.

Concerns

Any concerns will be communicated to OCES (offcampus@northeastern.edu) and OGS (ogs@northeastern.edu) to address directly.