Welcome to Boston!

As a kid growing up in Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood, I knew many people that had come here from all over the world for greater opportunities. My own parents were immigrants from Ireland who came to Boston for greater economic prosperity.

I am so excited that you have chosen to study in Boston, home to some of the best colleges and universities in the world. You came here because you know Boston is a place where you will have the chance to further your studies, engage with a community of fellow learners, and put yourself on a path toward lifelong success.

We are proud of our international community in Boston. Twenty-five percent of our student body is international. Twenty-eight percent of our residents are foreign-born, and forty-eight percent of children in Boston have at least one parent who was born in another country. This diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

As Mayor of Boston, I wanted to reach out to you personally to let you know that you are welcome here, and that Boston is your city.

I wanted to let you know that we, as a City, are here for you. We want you to know your rights when you’re renting out an apartment from a landlord, getting a library card, or adjusting to life in Boston with the Office of Immigrant Advancement. The Office of Neighborhood Services and their 311 hotline and app are always available and can help connect you with all City services.

I also ask you to consider making Boston your home after you graduate. Boston has a dynamic innovation ecosystem, with numerous resources to support new companies. The Global Entrepreneur in Residence Program, which started in Boston, can even support visas for entrepreneurs if you want to stay in the US after graduation to grow your company.

If you’re new here, the #MeetBoston Challenge can help guide you in exploring all Boston has to offer. Whether it’s catching a Red Sox game at Fenway Park, learning about our revolutionary history, or discovering one of our neighborhood hidden gems, I recommend starting your relationship with our City early!

I hope you have a wonderful time getting to know your new home, because you are a Bostonian too now.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston