Welcome to Berklee

We are thrilled you chose to join our talented and diverse community, and we are excited to help you launch into your first semester.

Orientation is designed to help you discover everything that Berklee has to offer and to prepare you to succeed in your first semester. The orientation schedule encompasses a variety of programs to help you in your transition to Berklee. Whether it’s preparing for classes, getting involved, connecting with campus resources, or meeting new friends, we’ve got you covered. Please refer to the information in this schedule for details on the activities we have planned for you during orientation week.

Your first week at Berklee will no doubt be busy, rewarding, and, most of all, fun. We know that challenges and questions will come up along the way, but know that we are here to support you through your first week and throughout your career at Berklee. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to us or visit our office in the lower level of 24 Fenway. We are here to help you make the most of your Berklee experience.

Sincerely,

New Student and Family Programs
nsfp@berklee.edu

If you need accommodations due to a disability for any activity or event on this schedule, please contact nsfp@berklee.edu.
Tuesday, May 21
Dining hall hours: Breakfast 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., Lunch 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Onboarding and Move-In
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
7 Haviland Street
Stop by to check in and pick up your orientation program.

Technology and Software Distribution
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
186 Massachusetts Avenue, Lower Level
A representative from Technology Training and Support will be available at the onboarding station when you check in, to assist with your software package. If you need to pick up hardware (computer or audio interface), or if you experience computer problems after orientation week, stop by our offices at 186 Massachusetts Avenue (lower level) or call us at 617-747-2238 (call extension 2238 on campus).

Campus Tour
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.
Departing from 7 Haviland Street
Find out firsthand what it’s like to be a Berklee student. Tour the campus to see classrooms, studios, and facilities. This tour is best suited for those who have not yet had the chance to do a tour through the Office of Admissions.

Berklee Libraries Open House
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Stan Getz Library and Media Center (First and Second Floors), 150 Massachusetts Avenue
Albert Alphin Library (Second Floor), 8 Fenway
Come discover Berklee’s unique libraries: your resource for books, music, scores, technology training, music production labs, virtual reality, and events. Enjoy refreshments, tour the facilities, and check out the many activities taking place.
- Sync jam—Jam out on our drum machines, analog synthesizers, effects processors, MIDI controllers, and iOS apps. All instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome.
- Virtual reality demos—Want to walk underwater? Sharpen your Fruit Ninja skills? Come experience VR at the five stations at the Getz.

Wednesday, May 22
Dining hall hours: Breakfast 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., Lunch 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Placement Auditions
2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Various classrooms (your assigned time and location will be sent to your Berklee email)
The placement audition assists students’ instrumental departments in determining the appropriate private lesson instructor for them. It also enables Berklee to determine the appropriate level of ensemble and instrumental lab enrollment for students, placing them in ensembles and labs with other students of similar ability. Auditions are held by faculty members in a student’s instrumental department and by the Ensemble Department. Your audition packet containing music and instructions for the placement audition can be found at berklee.edu/orientation/auditions. The links to the musical examples will be live on May 17, 2019.

Friday, May 24
11:00 a.m.–11:50 a.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue
Explore Career Possibilities
Join the Berklee Career Center to learn about opportunities and support available for students as they explore career paths and develop their goals. Come learn about resources, advising, internships, and events that will help students get career ready. This session is strongly encouraged for all new students.

Lunch
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
160 Massachusetts Avenue, Dining Hall
Stop by the Berklee Caf and choose from a variety of dining options, including all-you-can-eat international entrees, grill, deli, salad bar, and more. Students who have a meal plan will swipe in. Commuter students and family members will enjoy a complimentary lunch.

English Language Assessment
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
7 Haviland Street
This required assessment helps us evaluate your English proficiency and place you in the English class that is best for you. There is no need to prepare; this is not an exam. It is an exercise to ensure we are providing classes that will be most helpful to you. Bring your student ID to the assessment.
You will receive an email from the Liberal Arts Department letting you know if you need to participate.

Women’s Welcome Social
11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Eisenson Room, 160 Massachusetts Avenue
Join us for live music, food, and a chance to mix and mingle with your women peers. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to make lifelong friends and hear the experiences of past and current Berklee students. Hosted by the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, this event is open to students of all gender identities and expressions.

Academic Expectations and Overview
10:00 a.m.–10:50 a.m.
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue
This session is designed as a conversation where you will focus on your Berklee experience from an academic and artistic perspective, reflecting on how these elements connect. The deans will offer suggestions and advice for how to approach Berklee so you will be able to fuel your passion for the Berklee curriculum and realize your career goals.

Berklee Global Partners: Transfer Credit/Articulation Agreement Session
10:00 a.m.–10:50 a.m.
1140 Boylston Street, Berk Recital Hall (Room 1A)
Students who have attended an international or domestic school with a transfer credit/articulation agreement as part of Berklee Global Partners must attend this session. Students will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Office of the Registrar to discuss transfer credits and to receive assistance with course registration and schedule completion. Berklee Global Partners was formerly known as Berklee International Network (BIN). This session is only for students from a Berklee Global Partner institution.

Academic Advising and the First-Semester Schedule
11:00 a.m.–11:50 a.m.
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue
Meet Berklee’s Academic Advising team and get introduced to your first-semester schedule. You will learn about the required courses that will be added to your schedule, hear from some members of the Student Academic Mentor team, and find out more about the LENS engaging seminar. This session is required for all Berklee College of Music students.
LGBTQIA+ Social
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.
7 Haviland Street, Patio
Come be in community with Berklee’s LGBTQIA+ faculty, staff, and those who ally with us. Get to know resources for students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and/or more identities in the realm of sexual and gender diversity. Hosted by the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Student Employment @ BCM
1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue
Start your career today. The student employment program offers great work experience as well as a chance to network and become a working part of the College and Conservatory. Find out how to apply for work, what types of jobs are available, and how to maximize your chances of getting hired.

Staying Healthy and Well at Berklee
1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue
The Health and Wellness Department will host a session on maintaining balance and a sense of holistic wellbeing while at Berklee: mind, body, and spirit. The session will also provide information about services, resources, and programs at Berklee aimed at supporting your health and wellbeing as a student. Presenters will include staff from the Health and Wellness Department.

It’s Your Berklee
2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
Red Room at Cafe 939, 939 Boylston Street
Orientation leaders will notify their group of which location to attend.

We all create our Berklee community together, and it is strengthened when everyone is included and can equitably participate, no matter their identity or origins. All Berklee students have a right to live, learn, work, and perform in an inclusive and safe community. This mandatory session provides resources and ideas for how new students can ensure that Berklee is a place where everyone is welcome. The session will also cover Berklee’s Equity Policy and how to file a report. We will provide information about sexual violence prevention, including the definitions of consent and incapacitation, and how to access resources and support. Remember to bring your Berklee ID. Direct questions about this program to the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at equity@berklee.edu.

Orientation Leader Meeting #2
4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
1140 Boylston Street, Berk Recital Hall (Room 1A)
Check in with your orientation leader and orientation group to get answers to questions about orientation, Berklee, and Boston.

Open Mic Night
6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
921 Boylston Street, The Loft
Come enjoy a night at the mic with fellow new students and orientation leaders. All levels, instruments, and genres are welcome. Participants are selected in order of sign-up.

Friday, May 24
Dining hall hours: Breakfast 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., Lunch 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Orientation to Ear Training
9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
Learn about the goals of Berklee’s ear training curriculum and the methods you’ll use to develop your musicianship skills. We’ll also discuss the five levels of entering ear training, how to make sure you’re in the right level, and how to get help and succeed in ear training.

Building a Community of Respect and Integrity
10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue
As members of the Berklee community, you are responsible for preserving an environment that is conducive to the pursuit of Berklee’s mission and programs. This session will outline the expectations set forth in the Student Code of Community Standards, and focus on the importance of community values.

Armed Intruder Response
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue
This presentation will focus on the key tenets of preparing for and responding to an armed intruder on campus, however unlikely it may be. It will cover suspicious activity indicators and warning signs, response procedures, the role of law enforcement in responding to an incident, and emergency communications. The run, hide, fight method will be emphasized as the primary means of responding to an armed intruder.

Students of Color Social
12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.
921 Boylston Street, The Loft
Join us to connect in a space that centers you and your peers of color. Let’s gather to support each other and make new friends, share your experiences in a new community, and learn more about resources that can foster your success. Hosted by the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Incomplete Schedule Assistance
1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
If you are missing any of the required components of your first-semester schedule, you may attend this optional event for further assistance. Please check your email for an assigned attendance time.

Schedule Completion
3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
921 Boylston Street, Rooms 311, 411, 511, The Loft, and Student Activities Center Lounge
A minimum of 12 credits is considered full-time. On average, students enroll in 14–15 credits per semester for the degree program and 12–13 credits per semester for the diploma program. The maximum load is 16 credits per semester for students in the degree program and 13 credits per semester for students in the diploma program. Students who have transfer credit or who have tested out of Introduction to Music Technology (ITEC 111) may find that they can add classes to their schedule. Information on transfer credit, open credit, and liberal arts courses will be available at this time. Department chairs and/or faculty will be available to discuss course options. Be sure to check your transfer credit before this event.

25-Plus Identity Social
4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
160 Massachusetts Avenue, Fourth Floor Patio
Meet with other members of Berklee community who are 25 years old and up. Gather to share your experience and make new friends.

Saturday, May 25
Dining hall hours: Brunch 10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

International Student Orientation Schedule
The following sessions are mandatory for international students unless otherwise noted.

International Student Welcome
9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
Join your fellow international students and international student support staff for a formal welcome by senior campus leaders.

Cultural Adjustment to the U.S., Boston, and Berklee
9:45 a.m.–10:15 a.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
This session will explore some of the initial shocks and complexities of American culture as well as discuss some tips to navigate your transition to the U.S., Boston, and Berklee.

The U.S. Education System and Classroom
10:15 a.m.–10:45 a.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
Have you thought to yourself, “How do I address my professor?” or, “What is classroom etiquette at Berklee?” Hear from two favorite professors as they share advice on how you can create the most successful academic experience.

Break
10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Healthcare and Wellness
11:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
Staff from Health and Wellness will introduce you to the American healthcare system and teach you how to navigate your student health insurance. They will also share tips for self-care and provide an overview of their services.

Mental Health and Counseling
11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
Hear from on-campus mental health counselors about the importance of mental health care, the concept of mental health on our campus and in U.S. culture, and services available for all students.

Lunch
12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.
At your own expense. Consider eating in the Berklee Dining Hall at 160 Massachusetts Avenue.

Safety in the U.S., Boston, and at Berklee
1:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
Berklee’s chief of police will provide an overview of the U.S., Massachusetts, Boston, and Berklee legal systems, review important laws, and provide guidance on how to interact with law enforcement.

Maintaining Your F-1 Status
2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
This session for F-1 visa holders only will provide an overview of immigration regulations and how they will affect you while studying in the U.S.

F-1 Student Work Authorization (Off-Campus Employment)
3:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
This session is for F-1 visa holders only. International students must gain permission from the U.S. government to work off campus. International Student Services staff will discuss the various types of work permission you may be eligible for and when it is appropriate to apply.

Break
3:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

On-Campus Employment for F-1 Students
4:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston Street
This session is for F-1 visa holders only. International students are eligible for on-campus employment without securing work authorization. Learn about what unique steps you must take to qualify for an on-campus job.

International Student Services is located in the Center for Student Advising and Success at 921 Boylston Street, third floor. The office is open Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. You may email questions to ISS@berklee.edu.
Common Berklee and Boston Acronyms and Lingo

Allston—A Boston neighborhood, adjacent to Fenway; encompasses the Fordham Road practice facility and some of Harvard’s classroom buildings. Many students that attend Boston-area colleges live in Allston.

ASB—Alternative Spring Break

Back Bay—The Boston neighborhood Berklee resides in; encompasses Newbury Street, Hynes Convention Center, Boston Public Library, and the Fens

BCB—Berklee Conservatory at Berklee

BCM—Berklee College of Music

BENS—Berklee Emergency Notification System

Berklee Hub—A notifications system that will alert users about new announcements and events

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BFHC—Boston Firehouse—Frontier House Café

BPC—Berklee Performance Center

BSO—Boston Symphony Orchestra

Caf Shows—Musical performances in the Berklee Dining Hall on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights during each semester

Comm Ave—Commonwealth Avenue

DFRH—David Friend Recital Hall

ESPA—Entering Student Proficiency Assessment

Fenway—Can refer to Fenway Park, where the Red Sox (Boston’s professional baseball team) play; can also refer to the Boston neighborhood, which encompasses Fenway Park, the Fenway T stop, and the Museum of Fine Arts

Five-Week—Berklee’s summer program for middle and high school students.

Fordham—The Fordham Road practice facility, owned and operated by Berklee for student use, located at 25 Fordham Road

Hynes—Can refer to either the Hynes T stop on Massachusetts Avenue, or the Hynes Convention Center, located on Boylston Street

I-20—The certificate of eligibility issued by Berklee to international students. It consists of three pages: the student information page, the endorsement page, and the instructions page.

LENS—First-year seminar course for incoming students

Mass Ave—Massachusetts Avenue

MFA—The Museum of Fine Arts, located in the Fenway neighborhood

OL—Orientation Leader

RA—Resident Assistant

SAC—Student Activities Center

SAFO—Student Acknowledgement of Financial and Other Obligations

SAM—Student Academic Mentor

SGA—Student Government Association

T—The “T” is Boston’s subway.

The BIRN—Commercial-free internet radio station; has five channels: Birn1, BirnCORE, Birn Learn, Birn Global, and Air Alumni

The Caf—Dining facility in the 160 Massachusetts Avenue residence hall

The Docks—The docks along the Esplanade (see below)

The Esplanade—The stretch of public park along the Boston side of the Charles River

The Fens—A public park near Berklee, past 1140 Boylston Street

The Groove—Berklee’s voice, an online newspaper run by musicians, for musicians

The Pru—The Prudential Center, a shopping mall on Boylston Street, next to the Hynes Convention Center

The Red Room—The performance venue located in Cafe 939 (see below)

TOEFL—Test of English as a Foreign Language

1140—1140 Boylston Street, administrative building and classrooms

1108—1108 Boylston Street, classrooms

150—150 Massachusetts Avenue, residence hall and classrooms

160—160 Massachusetts Avenue, residence hall and dining hall

18—18 St. Cecilia’s Street, classrooms

24, 26, 32, 40, 54—Fenway brownstone residence halls

270—270 Commonwealth Avenue, residence hall

921—921 Boylston Street, Genko Uchida Building

939—Cafe 939, Berklee-owned and student-operated performance venue

98—98 Hemenway, residence hall
Self-Care Tips for Orientation Week

brought to you by the Office of Health and Wellness and the Office of New Student and Family Programs

Use the camera on your smartphone to take pictures of papers, handouts, presentation slides, etc. Sometimes it can feel overwhelming to keep track of all of the information you’re getting. You can go back at a later time after orientation to review the photos you took. This is a quick and easy way to stay organized and not feel that you are losing any important information. It also helps you to stay present and engaged in orientation.

Remind yourself that the results of your placement audition and tests does not define who you are or what your time at the college or conservatory will be like. Most people walk out of placements feeling they could have done better. When you have those moments of self-doubt, take a breath, and remind yourself that these feelings are normal; and it’s likely that the other new students are probably feeling the same way.

Make sure you are getting sufficient food, water, and rest. Don’t forget to tend to your basic needs, and find self-care practices that work for you. Pay attention to what helps you manage stress and feel balanced. You may need to exercise, play music, talk with family or friends from home, or find some time by yourself.

Know that orientation can be overwhelming. If you feel overwhelmed, tired, confused, or stressed, you are not the only one. It’s normal to feel a mix of emotions, and it’s helpful to remind yourself that many of your peers are having similar experiences (even if it doesn’t look like they are). It’s okay to slow down. When you’re having so many new experiences, it’s important to find time for breaks, even if they are brief. Consider using an app like Pacifica or Calm, which both offer brief guided meditations.

Remember that making connections can take time. Many people meet lifelong friends during orientation, but just as many others struggle to connect during the first few weeks as they adjust to a new environment. You may feel pressure to make friends immediately, but most people experience some loneliness and a sense of disconnection at first.

Ask for help. Your RAs and OLs are a great resource, and Berklee faculty and staff are available to support you as well. Let someone know if you are struggling, whether it seems like a minor problem or a major issue.

If something feels off, trust your gut and err on the side of safety. Many people entering Berklee are adjusting to be in an urban environment for the first time and haven’t built up a strong social support network yet. It’s okay to say no to something you don’t feel comfortable doing, and you can ask for help if you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

Add Berklee Public Safety’s contact information to your phone: 617-747-8888. Call them if you need a safety escort or feel like you might be in an unsafe situation. Don’t worry about getting into trouble for contacting Public Safety; their primary concern is student safety.

Look out for each other. Noticed that someone on your floor or in your group seems stressed or isolated? It can be helpful to simply reach out and ask them how they are doing or invite them to eat a meal with you.

Remember that you don’t have to figure it all out in orientation. You will grow throughout your time at Berklee, and it’s okay to feel a little lost, confused, or afraid as you start this process.

Stay in the Know

There’s a lot going on at Berklee. Make sure you know where to find out about opportunities just for Berklee students—like Red Sox tickets or a Cirque du Soleil soundcheck and performance—as well as other important student information, like registration deadlines, wellness services, and when your favorite artist will teach a master class. This guide helps you get to know the information and resources Berklee offers to get the information you need, when you need it.

Berklee.edu

You may be familiar with berklee.edu already from the application process. As a Berklee student, you can log in to berklee.edu with your OnePass to access a whole world of information. Whether you’re looking for student employment or setting up an appointment with your academic advisor, you can find everything you need on berklee.edu.

Berklee Career Manager

Visit the Berklee Career Manager to view available gigs, jobs, and internships, or make an appointment with your career advisor. Learn more about the Berklee Career Manager at berklee.edu/berklee-career-manager-students.

The Berklee Hub

The Berklee Hub is a completely personalized platform that delivers information to you based on your area of study. Go to hub.berklee.edu, or check out the weekly email digest, which you’ll receive every Monday. You can customize your subscriptions at any time and subscribe to any other feeds you’re interested in.

The Hub features notifications that are customized for you, including:

- Berklee-wide and department announcements;
- exclusive events, master classes, and performances;
- news stories from Berklee.edu; and
- internships, gigs, and job opportunities from the Berklee Career Manager.

Student Newsletter

The student newsletter arrives in your inbox on Tuesday mornings. The newsletter is Berklee’s official way of sharing information with you, including exclusive events and opportunities, free ticket giveaways, messages from Berklee leaders, and key dates and deadlines. Each issue also features stories, videos, podcasts, and playlists highlighting your classmates, alumni, and faculty.

Digital Signage and Flyers

Check out the big screens that are in many building lobbies, where you’ll see information about free tickets (a group of students won tickets to see Dear Evan Hansen on Broadway in 2018), master classes with visiting artists, reminders about holiday schedules, and other opportunities.

Check out bulletin boards for flyers promoting your friends’ bands, student club events, and more.
Directory

Counseling Services
54 Fenway, Lower Level
617-747-2310
healthandwellness@berklee.edu

Housing and Residential Education
150 Massachusetts Avenue, Third Floor
617-747-2292
housing@berklee.edu

Berklee College of Music Admissions
921 Boylston Street, Room 600
617-747-2221
admissions@berklee.edu

Office of Student Financial Services
921 Boylston Street, Second Floor
617-747-2274
financialaid@berklee.edu

Office of the Bursar
921 Boylston Street, Room 242
617-747-2165
bursar@berklee.edu

Office of the Registrar
921 Boylston Street, Third Floor
617-747-2240
registrar@berklee.edu

Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
921 Boylston Street, Room 120
617-747-3156
diversityandinclusion@berklee.edu

Boston Conservatory at Berklee Admissions
8 Fenway
617-912-9153
conservatoryadmissions@berklee.edu

Career Center
921 Boylston Street, Room 100
617-747-2246
careercenter@berklee.edu

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs,
Diversity and Inclusion
921 Boylston Street, Room 500
617-747-2231
vpsa@berklee.edu

Public Safety
155 Massachusetts Avenue, Lower Level
617-747-2682
publicsafety@berklee.edu

Office of Student Activities
921 Boylston Street, Third Floor
617-747-2560
studentactivities@berklee.edu

Health and Wellness Programs
32 Fenway, Lower Level
617-747-2310
healthandwellness@berklee.edu

New Student and Family Programs
24 Fenway, Lower Level
617-747-6660
nsfp@berklee.edu