LSI Boston 2015

CITY DETAILS

Boston is located along the coast of Massachusetts. Many people visit throughout the year because of the rich history, diverse neighborhoods, top-ranked professional sports teams (such as the the Red Sox baseball team, Celtics basketball team, Bruins hockey team, and Patriots American football team), and elite academics. Boston is home to about 60 colleges and universities, including Harvard and MIT, so it is the perfect city for studying abroad. Whether it is winter, spring, summer, or fall, Boston offers a wide range of activities all year round. In the warmer months, you can take in a baseball game at Fenway Park, walk the historical Freedom Trail, enjoy free concerts in the Hatch Shell, or go kayaking along the Charles River. In the fall and spring, you can see the beautiful colors of the changing leaves (fall) or new flowers (spring) while walking through the Boston Common & Public Gardens. In the winter, you can enjoy an evening of ice skating at the Frog Pond, one the oldest public ice skating rinks in the country, or tour one of the many museums, like the Museum of Fine Arts or the Museum of Science. And these suggestions are only a small sample of the countless options for visitors. Boston truly offers something for everyone. We hope you take advantage of everything the city has to offer!

SCHOOL DETAILS

The LSI school building address is 105 Beach Street, which is less than a 5-minute walk from South Station, the major public transportation hub for the downtown area, connecting many bus, subway, and commuter rail lines. The building is also within walking distance of several other bus and subway stops. The area in which the building is located is called the Leather District. Nearby neighborhoods include Chinatown, Little Italy, the Financial District, the Downtown Crossing shopping area, and the Boston Common & Garden—all within short walking distance from the school!
What is the building/area like?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>LSI Boston</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>105 Beach Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>+1 617 542-3600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax Number</td>
<td>+1 617 542-1790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info-bos@lsi.edu">info-bos@lsi.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lsi.edu/en/english/united-states/boston/school">http://www.lsi.edu/en/english/united-states/boston/school</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSI on Facebook</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/LSI-Boston/309217649089186">http://www.facebook.com/pages/LSI-Boston/309217649089186</a></td>
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The LSI Boston school occupies an historic five-story building that it shares with a few local tenants, including a deli on the first floor. The building has an elevator and traditional architecture. The classrooms feature large windows with exposed red brick walls and exposed wood beam ceilings. Classes are held on the fourth and fifth floors, and the reception/administrative office is located on the fourth floor.

**LSI BOSTON FACILITIES**

**What facilities are available to students?**

The 4th and 5th floors each have a student lounge where students can hang out before and after class and on breaks. The 4th floor lounge has a chalkboard graffiti wall for students to draw fun art and write messages. The 4th floor also has a second lounge, a computer lounge, with 15 computers with Internet access that are free for students to use. Free wireless is also available at the school. LSI also keeps many board games for students to play in the computer lounge. Finally, the building has a roof deck with beautiful views of downtown Boston, which is furnished with tables and chairs so that students can sit outside and enjoy the weather when it is warm.

**How many classrooms are there?**

We currently have about 10 classrooms available.

**Do you have a cafeteria?**

No, but we are very close to many affordable cafes, restaurants, sandwich shops, and markets, where students may purchase breakfast or lunch for around USD $5-$15. Inside the building, there is a deli on the first floor where students can buy breakfast, lunch, snacks, and drinks if they choose. Students may also bring lunch and eat in one of the student lounges. The lounge on the 5th floor has a microwave and refrigerator for students to use.
OUR TEACHERS

How many teachers do you have?

Though it varies throughout the seasons, we have approximately 6 to 10 regular teachers and 2 to 4 additional part-time teachers.

What are your teacher qualifications?

All of our teachers are qualified with native English speaking proficiency and minimum requirements of at least 1) a Bachelor of Arts degree and 2) six months of ESL teaching experience. Many of our teachers have experience and education over and above the minimum requirements.

OUR STUDENTS

Where do your students come from?

Nationalities and percentages vary throughout the year, though we always have a good mix. From September 1, 2012 to September 1, 2013, our biggest nationalities were Brazilian, Japanese, Colombian, Korean, Italian, Turkish, Saudi, and Spanish (Spain).
How many students do you have during high and low seasons?

During the summer high season, we have up to 150 students maximum, and 120-130 students average. During the spring and fall seasons, we have 70-90 students average, and during the winter low season, about 50-70 students average.

What is the minimum and average age of your students?

The average age of our students is mid- to late-twenties; however, we accept students for our adult programs from a minimum age of 16 years old to ages 65 and up! Students tend to be slightly older (average 27 years old) in the fall/winter, and younger in the spring/summer (average 25 years old). Students for the Mini Group and other executive courses also tend to be slightly older. The minimum age for our Junior Program is 13 years old.
OUR COURSES

How do we teach?

LSI’s General English classes integrate all skills, which means reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation are taught together. LSI has chosen this practical method to reflect the way language is used in the real world. In addition, LSI emphasizes communicative language teaching, meaning a focus on speaking and listening skills, as those are the areas where many students struggle and need the most practice. LSI maintains this student-centered approach by minimizing teacher talking time and maximizing student pair work, group work, games, and activities. (Even after class, students can practice their communication skills by participating in the optional monthly social activity calendar events, which are all led by a qualified ESL teacher!)

When are the start dates?

For General English courses, start dates are any Monday. True Beginner level start dates are the first Monday of every month. For other course options, please refer to the website or contact the office Registrar for start dates and availability.

Courses we offer

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intensive 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>English for Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>International School Year Standard 20</td>
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We offer both intensive and semi-intensive programs with durations of 1 to 48 weeks (24 or more weeks being International School Years) which include Standard 20 General English and Intensive 30 General English. The Intensive 30 program includes an afternoon elective, which may include different options such as Conversation, Business English, TOEFL Preparation, Cambridge FCE/CAE Preparation, or others depending on the time of year. We also have courses for professionals, such as the Mini Group, and courses for young students with the summer Junior Program. Finally, any student may add Plus courses of Individual lessons, one-to-one with a teacher, at any time.
Do you offer work experience?

No, LSI USA students are not allowed to work, not even part time, while they are in the United States on an F Student visa or any other non-immigrant visa such as the B Tourist visa, or the WT visa waiver.

What is the length of each lesson?

All lessons are 50 minutes.

What is a typical class time table like?

Standard 20: Lessons 1 & 2 from 9:10 to 10:50; Break from 10:50 to 11:10; Lessons 3 & 4 from 11:10 to 12:50; Finished. Intensive 30: Lessons 1 & 2 from 9:10 to 10:50; Break from 10:50 to 11:10; Lessons 3 & 4 from 11:10 to 12:50; Lunch Break from 12:50 to 1:50; Classes 5 & 6 from 1:50 to 4:05*; Finished. *There are no afternoon lessons (lessons 5 & 6) on Fridays.

What is the maximum/average class size?

The maximum class size is 15 students. Our average class size is 10-12 students.

What levels are offered and how fast does a student progress from level to level?

There are 6 levels: Beginner, Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, Upper-Intermediate, and Advanced. For each level, there are two 10-week cycles of curriculum. Students usually advance levels after 10 weeks of study (or up to 20 if more study is required), depending on the student. How fast a student progresses depends on many factors, including whether the student attends class everyday, arrives on time, completes all homework assigned, and most importantly, speaks only English inside and outside the classroom.

Are textbooks included in the fees?

LSI does not charge a materials fee to its students because first, the books change if a student advances and changes levels, and second, the books rotate with each 10 week curriculum. Therefore, instead of making students buy many books, LSI gives students books to use in class and take home with them every day free of charge for the duration of their course, but students may not write in them or keep them, and must return them in good, clean condition at the end of their program. Students do have the option of purchasing textbooks to write in and keep, if they choose, and simply need to tell the office staff they would like to purchase books.

Do you receive a free certificate once the course has ended?

Yes, as long as the student meets the minimum academic and attendance requirements. The minimum attendance requirement is 80%. The minimum academic requirements will be explained to students on their first day of school. Nearly all LSI students graduate with a certificate.
Can I switch my course type/length once I have started it, or decide to add an additional course?

Students are always welcome add more to their originally booked program! Students may add extra lessons (for example, afternoon lessons or individual lessons) and extra weeks (extending the course length) at any time after arrival. To do so, please speak with the office Registrar. For questions about changing course type, decreasing the number of lessons per week, or decreasing the number of weeks, please ask the Registrar or refer to the Cancellation & Refund Policy for details.

When are the school holidays?

All LSI USA schools are closed for the following holiday dates in 2014: January 1, 20, February 17, April 18, 21, May 26, July 4, September 1, October 13, November 27, 28, December 22 – 26, and January 1, 2015.

What is a typical class time table like?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Standard 20</th>
<th>Intensive 30 with Conversation, IELTS / TOEFL iBT / TOEIC Exam preparation, or Business English / EAP/ Cambridge Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 to 10:50</td>
<td>Lessons 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 to 11:10</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Lessons 3 &amp; 4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50 to 1:50</td>
<td>LUNCH/FINISHED</td>
<td>LUNCH/BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50 to 4:05</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lessons 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FINISHED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORIENTATION

What time should I arrive on my first day and what should I bring?

On the first day, students should arrive promptly at 8:45 am. They should bring their original passport (no copies), US address, and a pen. During the 3-part orientation, students will 1) complete registration paperwork, 2) take a placement test, and 3) receive a brief introduction to the school and city. Orientation will finish about 12:30. Intensive 30 students with afternoon courses will have a lunch break and begin their course the same day. Standard 20 students without afternoon classes are finished and will begin their course the next morning.
AIRPORT TRANSFER

Who meets me at the airport and where?

Prior to your departure from your home country, LSI will send an Airport Transfer Confirmation which explains the pick-up procedure, including information on where to meet and how to identify the driver, and instructions and 24/7 emergency phone numbers to call if you can't find the driver or need help.

Are airport transfers available?

Yes, airport transfers from Boston Logan International Airport to your accommodations are available for $105 per transfer. When booking an airport transfer, please let us know the date & time of arrival, the flight number & prefix, and the airport of departure & arrival at least one week in advance.

What alternative transport is there from the airport to the City or my host family accommodation?

Taking a taxi in Boston is very safe and simple. White Boston taxis are available outside each terminal.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Bus System

Boston’s public transportation system is called the MBTA. For details, including fare prices, visit www.mbta.com. The MBTA includes buses and the "T", which is the name of the subway in Boston.
Other Travel Options

In addition to Boston's public transportation and taxis, there are a few more ways to get around the city. Bicycles and cars are available for rent. The Commuter Rail is available for travel to nearby suburbs of Boston. For cities like New York or Washington, DC, which are farther away, there are several train (like Amtrak) and bus (like Megabus or Bolt Bus) options.

PAYMENTS/ CANCELLATIONS/ REFUNDS

How do I pay for my LSI course?

LSI accepts payment by credit card or wire transfer. To pay by credit card, you can use the online application form on the web site, or you can ask the Registrar to email you a Credit Card Authorization Form. To pay by wire transfer, you can find instructions on your invoice or ask the Registrar for the details. After arrival, if you want to add more courses or weeks, LSI can also accept payment by cash or check.

Can I receive an invoice?

Yes, LSI automatically sends an invoice and confirmation for every booking, once confirmed.

What are your payment terms and conditions?

The LSI Worldwide Terms & Conditions are printed on back of the Enrollment Form, and they are also available online at http://www.lsi.edu/en/terms.shtml.

How do I cancel a course and will I get a refund for the course and/or the accommodation?

If you are interested in dropping or shortening your course or accommodations--either before or after arrival--please inform an LSI Staff Member, and they will be happy to explain the LSI USA
Cancellation & Refund Policy. All students will receive a copy of the policy before arrival, with their confirmation and invoice, and after arrival, on their first day. In addition, the Cancellation & Refund Policy is available online at www.lsi.edu/en/terms.shtml.

**WHAT MAKES LSI BOSTON SO SUCCESSFUL?**

**Interactive Classroom Techniques**

To make the learning process as engaging and enjoyable as possible, we use a variety of communicative teaching techniques, including pair work, group work, role plays, projects, games, activities, etc. We also try to incorporate a variety of media supplements, like audio/CDs, video/DVDs, and computers/web sites. Using such a variety of methods gives students the opportunity to hear and use the English language in many different ways.

**Like A Family**

Students feel at home at LSI because they can see that we care. LSI is large enough to provide a variety and flexibility of options, but small enough to remember that excellent customer service is our #1 priority. LSI recognizes that each person is an individual with different personalities, needs, and desires, and we strive to treat all students with respect and meet their needs to the best of our ability. Everyone who studies at LSI Boston comments on the family-like atmosphere of our school.

**Well Established**

LSI has over 40 years of experience, and maintains accreditation by several organizations.

**Value for Money**

LSI’s goal is to provide each student with a quality education. We do this by tailoring our course options to each student's needs.

**International Atmosphere**

Between September 2012 and September 2013, LSI Boston hosted students from more than 40 different countries! One of our students' favorite parts about LSI is the opportunity to learn about not only US culture, but also to meet people from around the world and learn about their cultures as well.

**Excellent Location**

LSI is conveniently located close to the heart of downtown Boston, and is an easy walk from dining, entertainment, shopping, major transportation routes, and major attractions.
Careful Assessment

On the first day of school, all new students take a placement test with four parts: structure (grammar, vocabulary, and reading), writing, speaking, and listening. Then, students are placed into the level appropriate for them. Students receive regular feedback on their progress with weekly written tests and oral scores, and receive progress reports every 10 weeks. This way, students stay informed about where they are improving and where they need to do more work. In addition, students attending LSI for ten weeks or longer take an exit test that they can compare to their original placement test to see how much they've improved since their first day! Upon successful completion of their course, students receive a “Certificate of Completion”.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Can I open a bank account?

Yes. If students have questions on how to do so, simply ask an LSI staff member for help. We can also direct you to a bank within a short distance from the school.

Who can I talk to if I have a problem? Can I speak my own language?

If you have a problem, please tell any LSI staff member, and they will direct you to the correct person who can help. Be sure to speak with us right away if there is a problem, and don't wait, so that we can help resolve your issue as soon as possible. Although our LSI staff does speak a variety of languages other than English, we may not speak your specific language. Normally, even low level students can communicate with LSI staff without trouble. If a student's level is very low, then we can try asking a more advanced student to translate, or we can try using Google to translate.

What happens if I get sick?

If you get sick, please let an LSI staff member know. If you need to find a doctor, we can try to help you work with your insurance company to find one and make an appointment. Remember that all students are required to have health insurance (and remember to bring your insurance card and insurance company contact information to the US with you!). IMPORTANT: You need to make sure before going to the doctor that they accept your insurance, or you may receive a very expensive bill! If you need to stay home from school because you are not feeling well, please contact the school in the morning to let them know. If you need to miss school for a doctor's appointment, please get a note from your doctor and bring it to the LSI staff.
FAQs

Can I get a job while I am studying at LSI?

No, students studying at LSI USA schools are not eligible to work. Please also refer to the answer to the above question "Do you offer work experience?".

Do you offer insurance?

Yes, students may purchase medical insurance through the LSI USA schools. For information and prices, please see the website or ask the office staff. LSI strongly encourages its students to purchase a health and accident policy before arrival, as all students are required to have health insurance while visiting the United States. Any student who does not purchase insurance through LSI must provide proof of their own insurance policy for the office staff to photocopy on their first day.

Can I arrange work experience through LSI?

No, students studying at LSI USA schools are not eligible to work. Please also refer to the answer to the above question "Do you offer work experience?".

Can I take a holiday during my course?

In accordance with US Immigration Law and LSI rules, students must meet several requirements in order to qualify for a vacation or holiday break. 1. The student must have completed the equivalent of an academic semester. LSI defines an academic semester as 26 weeks of the Standard 20 or Intensive 30 program. 2. The student must have four weeks of course remaining in his or her program. 3. The student must meet the minimum attendance and academic requirements. In addition to these minimum requirements, the following rules also apply: 1. Students are only eligible for one vacation per academic semester. 2. While students may take a vacation of one week minimum to three weeks maximum, the granted weeks must all be taken at the same time, as there is only one vacation allowed. 3. All requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to approval by the Director and Assistant Director. In certain circumstances and emergency situations, students may be eligible for a short break at the Assistant Director's/ Director's discretion.

Do I need a visa to study at your school?

We always recommend that students come on a proper visa, and it’s up to the student to make that decision. While the majority of our students come on an F-1 student visa, some choose otherwise. Unless otherwise instructed by the authorities, at the present time LSI will accept enrollments of individuals in any course of study should they present themselves at the school with a visa other than an F-1. In this case, the individual assumes all responsibility for the maintenance of their legal immigration status in the United States. Persons with tourist visas are allowed to study at the school if their reason for being in the US is tourism and their course is incidental to this. The student should be aware that if he or she chooses to travel on a tourist visa or visa waiver but tells immigration that he or she is coming here to study, the immigration officer at the Port of Entry (airport) may ask for a student visa which the student does not have. In this case, the student may not be allowed entry to the United States. Please use this link for any other questions regarding visas: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html.
How much spending money should I bring?

Although the amount of money that students spend on food, transportation, activities, and shopping varies from person to person, LSI can offer the following general guideline: For students who have booked accommodation through LSI with a half-board option (two meals per day), then they should allow an extra $125-$175 spending money per week. For students who have booked accommodation through LSI with a breakfast only or no meal option, or who have booked their own accommodation, then they should plan on bringing a little more spending money.

If you have any additional questions that we have not answered please contact us at...

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Fax Number: +1 617 542-1790
Email: info-bos@lsi.edu
Website: www.lsi.edu

We hope to see you soon!

Accreditation and Membership