Thank you for visiting our campus! This self-guided tour will help you explore our university and its grounds at your leisure. Brandeis students tend to be very friendly, so if you want to learn more about a building or about the University, just stop someone and ask. This tour follows the route that our tour guides use; it should take you approximately an hour to complete. Be mindful of the terrain, there are many hills along the route.

The tour begins at Admissions. Let the fun begin!

From the front steps of Admissions you can see a building with many windows going all around.

Slosberg Music Center, built in the shape of a grand piano with 88 windows to represent the 88 keys on a piano, is home to the music department. Inside you will discover a 225 seat concert hall where eight student ensembles and the internationally acclaimed Lydian String Quartet perform everything from Beethoven to original student-composed electronic music. Additionally, there are practice rooms open to all students including both music majors and non-music majors. The first piano of acclaimed composer Leonard Bernstein (faculty 1951-55) is displayed in the lobby. Each year, nearly 300 professional and student performances and exhibitions take place on campus, culminating in the annual Leonard Bernstein Festival for the Creative Arts, founded in 1952 by Bernstein himself. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who was also a founding faculty member of Brandeis, had a television show in Slosberg, and it is said that on that show JFK confirmed he was running for President of the United States.

Cross the street and look to your left. Over the lawn you will see a white building with tall glass windows - You are just a few hundred feet from the acclaimed Rose Art Museum!

The Rose Art Museum houses the largest collection of modern art in New England. Admission is free to students and many intern there during the year. For a fee of $10 per semester, Brandeis students can rent a piece from the Student Loan Collection to hang in their room. The Rose Art Museum houses works by artists such as Marc Chagall, Andy Warhol, and Wassily Kandinsky. Recent acquisitions in 2012 have included works by Bruce Conner and Mark Bradford. As one of the most daring and innovative contemporary art museums the Rose regularly showcases new and innovative exhibitions. It also hosts regular artist talks and its permanent collection is frequently used as a teaching tool both in and outside of the classroom.

Proceed up the main sidewalk and look to your left. You are walking next to the great lawn.

The Great Lawn is one of students’ favorite expanses of green on campus. Here you will typically see students doing their homework, playing frisbee, or just catching some afternoon sunshine between classes. It is also the setting for our activities fair, which takes place at the beginning of each semester, when over 260 clubs recruit first-years and continuing undergrads to their groups.

Continue up the path into the Shapiro Campus Center, the big green building in front of you.
The Shapiro Campus Center opened in 2002 and is the hub of student life on campus. The SCC is open to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Many student organizations, including Student Union, Waltham Group, Student Events, WBRS (a radio station), the newspaper offices, BTV offices, and many others can be found within the campus center. It continues to be the most student-centered, “out of the classroom” building on campus. Although it is also home to the offices of the Dean of Student Life, Student Activities, and Department of Student Rights and Community Standards, students primarily utilize this building for social and extra curricular activities. It also contains Einstein Bros. Cafe, the campus Brandeis Bookstore, student art exhibition space, rehearsal spaces, meeting rooms, a computer library and the 250 seat Carl J. Shapiro Theater. This theater is home to the Undergraduate Theatre Collective, our student run theatre organization. They produce, act in and build sets for over ten shows a year, ranging from straight plays to musical theater to sketch comedy!

The open space you have entered is the main atrium. Once you pass the Carl J. Shapiro Theater on your left, exit the building through the rear doors. Turning left and looking through the trees you will see a set of stairs leading up to a white building. This is the Faculty Club.

The Faculty Club is a restaurant that is open to faculty and students alike and is on the student meal plan. The Student Union hosts a program called “Take Your Professor to Lunch”, which encourages students to get to know faculty members outside the classroom. The Student Union distributes vouchers to the students in order to cover the cost of the meal. This opportunity aides in fostering Brandeis’ legacy of strong professor-student relationships. Mitch Albom, a Brandeis alum, wrote the famous book Tuesdays with Morrie, which chronicles his time with Morrie Schwartz, his life-long mentor and Brandeis professor.

Hassenfeld Conference Center: The Hassenfeld Conference Center serves as a space for lectures, performances, career fairs, and Hillel Shabbat (one of the weekly Jewish holidays) dinner, which is open to the entire student body. The Stein offers a popular sit-down style dining restaurant. “Stein nights,” held every Thursday, feature a combination of live music, trivia, karaoke, bingo, the sports game of the day, and movies. From Thursdays through Saturdays, between 10pm and 3am, the Stein transforms into Ollie’s Eatery, a diner featuring favorites such as milkshakes and waffle fries.

Walk down the set of stairs in front of you toward a basketball court. Sherman Dining Hall is on your left.

Sherman Dining Hall is one of main dining facilities on campus. It is an all-you-care-to-eat buffet style option. Sherman is unique in that it is the only integrated kosher (Jewish dietary law) cafeteria in the country, where all students can eat together in the same place. Options include grilled foods, a sandwich station, a salad bar, pizza, a stir fry bar, omelet stations, a gluten free section, a crepe station, vegan and vegetarian options, as well as a large dessert selection. Furthermore, students can submit recipes from home and receive notice as to when these coveted meals will be served in Sherman.

Walk outside and head toward the center of the Massell Quad where you will see Yakus Pond.

Massell Quad: There are ten on-campus residential quadrangles ranging from traditional residence halls to suites, townhouses, and apartments. First-year students will live in one of two first-year quads including Massell. Housing is guaranteed for first years and returning sophomores. After the first year students receive lottery numbers and select their rooms accordingly. 85% of the undergraduate students, including two-thirds of the junior and senior classes, choose to live on campus and many do so for all four years! Residence hall facilities include laundry machines, common areas and lounges. Every hall also has a Community Advisor, an upperclassman paraprofessional who organizes fun activities such as barbecues, movie nights, and trips to
promote a warm community environment.

Walk up the steps next to Hassenfeld and turn left. Walk along the footpath, keeping the statue of Justice Louis Brandeis on the right, and continue up the hill. Stop in the plaza in front of the Louis Brandeis Statue.

**Louis Brandeis Statue:** Louis Dembitz Brandeis was the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice. Louis Brandeis (pronounced Lou-ee) was recognized as a brilliant jurist and a champion of the liberal Progressive Party in the early to mid-20th century. He was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Wilson in 1916 and served until his death in 1941, seven years before the founding of the university. He had a remarkable legal career, notable for his frequent defense of free enterprise and social justice. He sought protection for individual rights against abuses of power by big businesses and other major interests in society. Brandeis was known as “the people’s attorney.”

Brandeis University was founded in 1948 by the American Jewish community because at the time, many elite institutions of higher education either practiced quota systems or prevented access to students based on religion, race, ethnicity, national origin or gender. Brandeis was created to provide top quality education to students with bright minds regardless of race, religion and national origin. Founders chose to name the university after Justice Brandeis, who made social justice his life’s work.

Continue up the path a few steps and look to your left.

**Chapels Field** is usually bustling with student activities ranging from sports events, such as Quidditch practice, to concerts, such as Springfest. The three chapels on Chapel’s Field represent three different faiths and surround a heart shaped pond. They are built in such a way that no chapel casts its shadow over another chapel, symbolizing our respect for pluralism and diversity. The university has added a Muslim Prayer Room to campus and has connections with various other religious groups off-campus to address the spiritual needs of all. In total, the Brandeis community represents seventeen recognized world religions.

As you continue up the hill, you will find a large complex of buildings on your right. Welcome to the Science Center.

**The Carl J. Shapiro Science Center** is home to many of our undergraduate science programs. The center is comprised of three main centers, the Gerstenzang Science Library (commonly referred to as G-Zang by students), and other research facilities. The first center is the **Brandeis University National Center for Behavioral Genomics** which focuses on brain function and behavior in addition to finding therapeutic strategies for brain disease and dysfunction. The second is **The Volen Center**, or National Center for Complex Systems, in which faculty and students study the brain and intelligence. This center’s staff specialize in artificial intelligence, cognitive science, and various neuroscience topics (examples include experimental psychology, computational neuroscience, and cellular and molecular neurobiology). The final center is **The Brandeis Materials Research Science and Engineering Center** which focuses on developing the relationship between biology and materials science via a top-down and bottom-up method. Each center was founded with interdisciplinary study in mind. In fact, a few classes are taught by faculty of varying disciplines – one class is even taught by three professors – a biologist, a chemist, and a physicist. This interdisciplinary approach is different from the instruction methods at most universities. Beyond the centers, faculty and students from many departments collaborate in research, in the classrooms and in the labs. The Leo Gerstenzang Complex has traditional lab areas as well as special classrooms for teaching math and science. Brandeis Students have many opportunities to engage in research during their undergraduate years. In fact, since 2003, undergraduate students have co-authored over one hundred and thirty published articles. Visit [www.brandeis.edu/research](http://www.brandeis.edu/research) for more examples of research centers on campus.

Continue walking up the hill past the science center. **The Library is in front of you.**

**Goldfarb/Farber Libraries** house ever growing collections and reference resources in creative arts, humanities, government documents, Judaica, and social sciences. Research materials are extremely accessible to students due to the online availability
of resources, and additional resources are made available through the Boston Library Consortium and the Interlibrary Loan system. The library offers services for students including a listening center, computer labs, study rooms, a media lab that helps students edit their films and soundtracks, as well as the Writing Center. The Writing Center assists students in all aspects of writing their papers, from brainstorming to editing. Recently, a new café was added to the Green Room section of the library.

Walk on the path to the right of the library. The Usdan Student Center will be on your right.

**Usdan Student Center** contains an *a la carte* style dining hall, a post office, an ATM, the Student Service Bureau (where you can lease microwaves or refrigerators, sign up for newspaper delivery, and rent movies, among other things), administrative offices, and a variety of meeting spaces. It is a busy meeting place for students and faculty – especially between classes or at meals. The convenience store, also located inside Usdan, is open until 2am seven days a week and has everything from laundry detergent to midnight snacks available. Usdan also houses the Hiatt Career Center, Academic Services, Department of Community Living, and Student Financial Services. Services at the Hiatt Career Center are free to students and alumni. Services include one-on-one career counseling sessions, a network of over 25,000 internships, assistance in writing resumes and cover letters, and interview prep. Usdan is also home to the study abroad offices – over a third of the Junior class goes abroad every year! If you’d like to explore Usdan, you’ll find the dining hall, post office, and some offices on the lower level.

Continue on the Castle pathway. Eventually on your left will be a large bell. Past that is the Castle Lookout.

**Castle Lookout Point:** Brandeis is a great place for any student who wants a suburban campus with easy access to a large, bustling city. Boston, only nine miles east of the campus, is easily accessible via public transportation (there is a commuter rail stop at the bottom of the Brandeis hill) and a free shuttle bus service is available Thursday through Sunday. Many students enjoy attending sporting and cultural events in the city along with fabulous shopping and fine dining. In addition to taking advantage of social opportunities in Boston, Brandeis students also use the city as an amazing resource for internships and fieldwork. Many students will intern at hospitals, medical research labs, financial offices, the State House, and in various other fields.

To your left and below, you can see East Quad, home to another sophomore residence hall area and the Intercultural Center. The **Mandel Center for the Humanities** was created as an interdisciplinary building that specifically combines subjects in order for students to have a better understanding of the major themes of the human experience. The Center’s courses include languages, literature, philosophy, history, anthropology, sociology, and are intended for undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and visitors. This building regularly hosts an interdisciplinary seminar taught by several professors from different areas of study. Classes in this building are taught in a round-table setting as well as in lecture halls.

At the end of the sidewalk between the Library and Usdan, turn right, as you walk along, you will see a large castle. Walk between the two sections of the Castle you see in front of you.

**Usen Castle** may seem out of place on our campus, and, in fact, it predates the university. The castle was built to look like many of the castles that one might find in Scotland; however, this castle was built based on rough exterior sketches drawn from the outside of an already-existing castle. As a result, the castle is filled with architectural mishaps including rogue staircases, trapdoors, and oddly shaped rooms. While it is now a national historic landmark, the castle is also a residence hall with singles, doubles, and suites available for students in their sophomore year. With its quirky character and spectacular view of Boston, the castle makes for a unique living experience.
“ICC” is yet another testament to Brandeis’ commitment to diversity; over ten student cultural clubs have offices and meeting spaces in the Center.

On the other side of the lookout area of the castle is Chums. If you look in the window, you may even be able to see a knight in shining armor!

Chomondley’s ("Chums") is a popular coffeehouse that features live music and entertainment. Chomondley’s has big, comfy couches, board games, coffee, and ice cream, and it is open until 1 am on week nights, and 2 am on weekends. Student comedy, a cappella, and other performance groups reserve performance times here months in advance. Free events, such as concerts, are held at Chum’s on a regular basis. Chums has gained national popularity through the TV show Friends, which was written by Brandeis alums Marta Kauffman and David Crane. It is said that they based the coffeehouse in the show, Central Perk, on their experiences at Brandeis and in Chums.

Walk back past Chomondley’s to the main road and turn left. Walk down the hill and follow the road to the crosswalk.

Gosman Sports and Convocation Center: If you were to cross the street here and take the footbridge to the other side of South Street, you would reach Gosman. Gosman is one of the largest, best-equipped sports and recreation facilities in New England. Gosman was, until recently, the practice facility for the Boston Celtics. The complex is a state-of-the-art facility for all students, not just varsity athletes. The 70,000 square-foot field house contains basketball, volleyball, tennis, and squash courts, a six-lane indoor track, batting cages, workout rooms complete with personal trainers, and a fencing room. Each year, Gosman hosts athletic competitions (including NCAA Division III national contests), big-name concerts, and the graduation ceremony. Since it has opened, performers have included Adam Sandler, Jerry Seinfeld, Live, Blues Traveler, Counting Crows, Ben Harper, Indigo Girls, John Mayer, and The Steve Miller Band. The Dalai Lama and former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton visited as speakers.

Stoneman Public Safety, Stoneman is the campus police headquarters. Brandeis is committed to the safety of its students, and this is evident in many ways. Around the campus you may have noticed blue light phones. These are emergency lines that alert the campus police directly. If a student is feeling unsafe at any time, they can call public safety and they will be escorted to their destination. Furthermore, students can submit their cell phone numbers, and in the case of an all-campus emergency, will be sent a text message with information. The alert will also go to land lines and an all-campus siren.

Golding Health Center and Mailman Psychological Counseling Center The Health Center offers confidential health services. In the case of an emergency, there is a nurse or doctor on call at all times. The Brandeis Emergency Medical Corps (BEMCO) is a student-operated, certified EMT service, trained to respond to student’s calls 24/7. Lastly, the Mailman Psychological Counseling Center offers students twelve free sessions a year. These sessions roll over from year to year.

At the crosswalk, turn right, and walk on the sidewalk down the main road towards the University’s main entrance. Continue to the information booth and take the stairs behind the booth back up toward the Admissions building.

We hope you enjoyed your tour! Please feel free to return to the Admissions center if you have any additional questions, want to pick up any printed materials, or would like the contact information for a particular counselor, coach, or department. Furthermore, we can assist you with restaurant recommendations in the Waltham area. Moody Street is home to a variety of delicious options for a quick bite or a full meal. Otherwise, have a safe trip home and good luck with your college search. We hope to see you again soon!