

The Brandeis University Self Guided Tour

Thank you for visiting our campus! This self-guided tour will help you explore our University and its facilities 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 **Shapiro Admissions Center**, at the bottom of the stairs. Let the fun begin!

Facing away from the building (toward the parking lot) take a left at the bottom of the stairs. Walk toward the peripheral road (the road you drove in on!) Cross the street at the crosswalk. Turn to face the admissions center. You will now see to the left of the parking lot the Slosberg Music Center.

Slosberg Music Center, which is rumored to be inspired by the shape of a grand piano with 88 windows, is home to the music department. Inside there is a 225 seat concert hall where six student ensembles and the internationally acclaimed Lydian String Quartet perform everything from Beethoven to original student-composed electronic music. The first piano of Leonard Bernstein (faculty 1951-55) is displayed in the lobby. Each year, nearly 300 professional student performances and exhibitions take place on campus, culminating in the annual Leonard Bernstein Festival for the Creative Arts, founded in 1952 by composer Leonard Bernstein. Attendance for the arts at Brandeis last year was more than 30,000 – ten times our undergraduate population. As a non-music aside, Eleanor Roosevelt, who was also a founding faculty member of Brandeis, had a television show in Slosberg, it was on that show that JFK announced he was running for President of the United States.

To the right of the Shapiro Admissions Center is the Spingold Theatre (the roof is white and shaped like a top hat).

Spingold Theater, which was built to resemble a top hat, is home to the theatre department. The cutting-edge Brandeis Theatre company produces five productions each season. Debra Messing (Grace Adler) of *Will & Grace* and Steven Culp (Rex Van De Camp) of *Desperate Housewives* are graduates of our programs. Other theatre through the Undergraduate Theatre Collective occurs in the Shapiro Theatre – 10 shows a year!

If you look up the road, to the right of Spingold, you will see a limestone building with neon orange and a blue upside-down checkmark – it's the Rose Art Museum.

The Rose Art Museum houses the largest collection of modern art on the east coast and one of the finest collections in all of America. Admission is free to students and many intern there during the year. Students can even rent various pieces to hang in their dorm rooms for a rental fee of only \$5. The Rose Art Museum has also houses works by artists such as Marc Chagall, Andy Warhol, and Wassily Kandinsky. The Rose is noted for being one of the most daring and innovative contemporary art museums around. To the left of the Rose is the sight for our new \$10 million **Fine Arts Center** for students interested in Fine Arts and Art History. It should be completed in 2008.

Now turn away from the main road and continue walking up the footpath towards the Shapiro Campus Center. Bear left and enter the building by the bookstore.

Shapiro Campus Center. Opened in 2001, the Shapiro Campus center is the hub of student life on campus and is open to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Housing many student organizations, including Student Union, Waltham Group, Student Events, WBRS, and many others, the Campus Center continues to be the most student-centered, “out of the classroom” building on campus. Home to the Office of the Dean of Student Life, Student Activities, Student Development and Conduct, and Community Service, students primarily utilize this building for social activities and extra curricular time. It houses a cafe, student art exhibition space, rehearsal

spaces, meeting rooms, a computer library and a 250-seat undergraduate theater. The campus bookstore is in the Center as well.

Pass the café, and proceed into the main atrium. On the opposite side of the stairs is the theater. Look into the theater and then exit out the building through the doors that are on your right if you are facing the ticket booth. Turn left, and continue walking past the Louis Brandeis Statue, which is situated on the landscaped hill. Follow this path until you reach Hassenfeld Conference Center.

Hassenfeld Conference Center. The upper level of this building houses the Stein (the campus pub and restaurant) and the Hassenfeld Conference Center. The Stein offers a popular break from the standard cafeteria cuisine, where a student can remember the joy of menus and cloth napkins. “Stein nights,” held on Thursdays, are popular, featuring live music and Brandeis bands. The Stein also hosts a great program called “Take Your Professor to Lunch” which encourages students to get to know faculty members outside the classroom.

Walk down the set of stairs in front of you and Sherman Cafeteria is located to your left.

Sherman Dining Hall, on the lower level, is one of main dining facilities on campus. “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. The food is served in an “all you can eat” atmosphere.

Walk outside the doors and head towards 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 live in two of those quads including Massell. Housing is guaranteed for freshmen and returning sophomores; rooms are assigned through a lottery. However, no student who wishes to live on campus has ever been denied housing; they may simply have to go on the waitlist at the beginning of the summer. Residence hall facilities include laundry and soda machines, common areas/lounges, and a telephone and ethernet connection for each student. Main lounges are hooked up for wireless connections. Every hall also has a Community Advisor, who will go out of his or her way to organize fun activities such as barbecues, “munchies,” 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 of Massachusetts was the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice. He was 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 Brandeis. His legal career was viewed as remarkable for his defense of free enterprise and social justice, seeking protection for the “little guy” against abuses of power by big businesses and other powerful interests in society. Brandeis was often 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 barred access to students based on religion, race, ethnicity, national origin or gender. Brandeis was created to provide top quality education with open access regardless of these characteristics and chose to name itself after Justice Brandeis because of the values of social justice upon which he made his life work.

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

Chapels Field is usually bustling with student activities such as Ultimate Frisbee, softball games, and evening movie screenings under the stars (don’t forget your sleeping bag). Behind all the “activity” taking place on the field you can see the three Chapels. Brandeis is the only nonsectarian, Jewish sponsored university (with a gospel choir) in the entire world. Our relationship with the Jewish community is very important and is seen

through the Jewish traditions of education and social justice. The Chapels were built to represent our commitment to non sectarianism and to the belief that all students regardless of race, religion, gender, ethnicity or national origin would feel comfortable on campus. Three buildings representing three different faiths (Catholic, Protestant and Jewish) surround a heart shaped pond, where no chapel casts its shadow over another at anytime of day, deliberately symbolizing our respect for difference and diversity. Today, 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.

Continue up the hill, coming to a large collection of buildings on your right. Please turn right here into the Science Quad.

The Volen Center or the National Center for Complex Systems is a place where faculty and students study the brain and intelligence. The Volen Center is a physical example of the way learning has become interdisciplinary at Brandeis, and of the way walls between departments are breaking down as people collaborate in teaching and research. For instance, there's a course about the human brain taught by a biologist, a physicist, and a chemist. This interdisciplinary approach is much different from the one taken by most universities. Brandeis has traditional lab areas and special classrooms for teaching math and science within this complex, as well as the Gerstenzang Science Library and other research facilities. Many research centers make their home on campus and the beauty of the Brandeis experience is that students have many opportunities to engage in research during their undergraduate years. Check out www.brandeis.edu/research for more examples of research centers on campus.

Exit this area via the large set of stairs in front of you. After ascending the stairs, continue on the footpath. The main library is in front of you, slightly to your left. You may enter the library and explore the facilities.

Goldfarb/Farber Libraries house collections and reference resources in creative arts, humanities, government documents, Judaica, and social sciences. The Libraries' collections are continually expanded through the fundraising efforts of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee. Research materials are extremely accessible to students due to the online availability of resources. The library offers services for students including a reserve desk, listening center, computer labs, and Writing Center. The Writing Center is a great resource that many students utilize; graduate students help undergrads write and edit papers in a relaxed atmosphere.

After exiting the Library turn left and proceed along the main footpath to the Usdan Student Center. As you continue to walk, you will see the main entrance to the complex, on your left. Go under the archway, and then enter the building to your right.

Usdan Student Center contains two cafeterias, a post office, an ATM, the Student Service Bureau (where you can lease microwaves or refrigerators, sign up for newspaper delivery, and rent videos, among other things), administrative offices, and plenty of meeting spaces. It is a busy meeting place for students and faculty – especially between classes or for lunch. Usdan also houses the Hiatt Career Center, Residence Life and Student Financial Services. Services at the Hiatt Career Center are free to students and include one-on-one career counseling sessions, a network of over 25,000 internships, and assistance in writing resumes and preparing for interviews. If you'd like to explore Usdan, you'll find the cafeterias, post office, and some offices on the lower level.

Exit the way you entered and walk around Usdan turning left. Continue towards to Castle and enter the courtyard.

Usen Castle was built to look like many of the castles that one might find in Scotland; however, this castle was built from the outside-in. Therefore, one will find various pathways and stairways that will lead nowhere or will

simply end. The castle is now a National Historic Landmark and has rooms/suites for upperclassmen. Many of the rooms have spectacular views of Boston with a quirky character.

You may want to look around the Castle courtyard; just enter under one of the arches. Then exit back to the main road, and follow the outer wall of the Castle. Keep the building on your left. You will pass Chomondley's on your left.

Chomondley's (pronounced "Chumley's") is a popular coffeehouse which features live music and entertainment. Chomondley's has big, comfy couches, coffee, and ice cream...a wonderful combination on any late night. It opens in the early evening and remains open until 2:00 a.m. The student a cappella groups and bands reserve performance time here months in advance. Students can also play board games in the coffeehouse, while listening to music.

Continue past Chomondley's to the Overlook where you can view the Boston skyline (on a clear day!)

Brandeis is a great place for any student who wants a suburban campus with easy access to a large, bustling city. Boston, only 9 miles east of the campus, is easily accessible via public transportation (there's a commuter rail stop at the bottom of the Brandeis hill) or a free shuttle bus service on weekends. 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. With help from the Hiatt Career Center, students find wonderful ways to explore different career fields and make contacts before graduating.

To your left, you can see East Quad – one of the residence hall areas, and home to the Intercultural Center. The "ICC" is a testament to Brandeis' commitment to diversity; over ten student cultural clubs have office and meeting space in the Center.

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

If you were to cross the street here and take the footbridge to the other side of South Street, you would reach the Gosman Sports and Convocation Center. Gosman is one of the largest, best-equipped sports and recreation facilities in New England. It 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, and a fencing room. Each year, Gosman hosts athletic competitions (including NCAA Division III national contests), big-name concerts, and graduation. 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. Even the Dalai Lama visited as a speaker.

At the crosswalk, turn right, and walk on the sidewalk down the main road towards the University's main entrance. Continue past the information booth, up the road to the Admissions office.

We hope you have enjoyed your tour of the campus and its facilities. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact the Admission Office. Thank you for visiting Brandeis. We look forward to getting to know you better through your application for admission.

Brandeis University Admissions

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