Setting Up Electricity, Telephone Service, Gas Service, etc.

Acceptable Forms of Identification when you are new to the US.

As a general rule, you need to present two forms of identification to set up any of the above. In the U.S., it is common for companies to ask for a Social Security # or a Driver’s License. Since most of you will not have these immediately upon entering the U.S., you may want to present the following:

(The International Students & Scholars Office is always willing to write you a letter when necessary and to speak to a utility company on your behalf.)

- Passport
- Credit Card
- If no credit card available, you may also use your UMass Lowell ID along with your passport
- Students may also want to show their Admissions Letter
- Visiting Scholars may want to present their UMass Lowell Invitation Letter

If living in Lowell – To set up Electric & Gas Service for your apartment:

**National Grid – 978-725-1000**  (Toll-free # is 1-800-322-3223)

You can also do the set up on-line [www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com), visit the “Services Orders” link of this site to Start and Stop Services.

There are two Electric companies that service Massachusetts. They are National Grid and N*Star. As a general rule most of the towns surrounding Lowell would be covered by the National Grid mentioned above and Boston and surrounding Boston area towns would be covered by N*Star or a combination of both.


To set up Electric Service if you live in Boston or some of the towns surrounding Boston. You can also set up service by visiting the “Accounts Management” link of their website to start or stop service. This company does not set up gas – that would still be National Grid at 1-800-322-2223.
To set up Telephone, Internet, Cable Television


If living in Lowell and most areas surrounding Lowell

Verizon, for other areas in Massachusetts, http://www.verizon.com – 1-800-870-9999

Bank Accounts

One of the first things that you will need to do when you arrive in the area is to open a bank account. There are many banks in the Lowell area, some of which offer special student accounts. Information about banking services can be obtained from bank staff at the branch offices. In addition to the banks listed at the end of this section, you can also go to the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce website and search for additional local banks at http://www.glcc.biz/Members_Cat.aspx?CAT=33

To open a bank account, you will need:

- Passport
- UML ID number or proof of enrollment
- Foreign address
- Local address
- Your deposit (a sum of money required to open the account)

When you open your bank account, make sure to ask any questions you may have about purchasing and payment protocol in the US. Also, have them clarify all fees and rates they may charge for certain transactions. For example, most banks will charge a fee for use of non-bank ATMs.

Note that some businesses prefer certain methods of payment over others and may restrict what they accept from their customers. Methods of acceptable payment in the US include:

- Cash
- Credit or debit card (e.g. Visa, Discover, Mastercard)
Check

Money Order

Note: **You do not need to have a Social Security # to open a bank account.** Until you obtain a Social Security #, **you simply need to complete Form W-8 at the bank.** All banks have this form. Some bank tellers are not aware of it, so you may need to inform them. The International Students & Scholars Office will assist you with the Social Security Application process upon your arrival.

*The following local bank listings and locations are suggestions only. Visit their respective websites for more information.*

**Bank of America** (There is a Bank of America ATM on every campus.)
[http://www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com)
Phone: 1-800-841-4000
- 501 Bridge Street, Lowell, MA 01850
- 199 Plain Street, Lowell, MA 01852
- 2 Summer Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824
- 986 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876
- 464 Boston Road, Billerica, MA 01821
- 724 Chelmsford St., Lowell, MA 01851
- 310 Daniel Webster Highway Nashua, NH 03060

**CitiBank**

ATM Locations
- 7-Eleven, Inc., 64 Mammoth Road, Lowell, MA 01854
- 7-Eleven, Inc., 55 Chelmsford Street, Lowell, MA 01851
- 7-Eleven, Inc., 7 Spit Brook Road, Nashua, NH 03063
- 7-Eleven, Inc., 314 Boston Road, Billerica, MA 01821

**Lowell Co-Operative Bank**
[http://www.lowellcoop.com](http://www.lowellcoop.com)
- 18 Hurd Street, Lowell, MA 01852, Phone: 978-458-4598
- 691 Rogers Street, Lowell, MA 01852, Phone: 978-458-6351

**Sovereign Bank**
[http://www.sovereignbank.com](http://www.sovereignbank.com)
- 794 Rogers Street, Lowell, MA 01852, Phone: 978-452-3346
- 489 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852, Phone: 978-458-4065
- 1 Wood Street, Lowell, MA 01851, Phone: 978-446-3550
Credit cards are widely used in the US. You may receive offers from banks, stores or in the mail to apply for one. Although they are convenient, they do come with some costs, which include interest rates and fees attached for late payment. Make sure you carefully read all terms of agreement and verify all details before accepting any offers. You have the right to refuse any offer you do not want or are unsure about.

Mail – Post Offices

The U.S. Post Office most convenient to the campus is listed below (it is close to the UMass Lowell Athletics Facility/Tsongas Arena on East Campus) and reachable by campus shuttle:

155 Father Morissette Boulevard, 
Lowell 978-934-0997

Opened 7:30am – 5:30pm on Monday – Friday
Saturday – 7:30 – 2:00pm

Things to Remember:

• Be sure to put your name on the mail box of your new apartment
• Every time you move, provide the International Students & Scholars Office with new address
• Complete a Change of Address card at the Post Office. It will cost $1. You can do this in person or on-line through a credit card payment, as per information below.

The US Postal Service official website is, http://www.usps.com/

You can take care of many postal service transactions at above site, including changing your address on-line by paying a $1 fee through credit card. Check the section of “All Products & Services” section of their website for a list of all on-line services.

Calling Cards
Prepaid calling cards are an inexpensive way to call overseas and can be used with a payphone, cell phone or landline. Calling cards are available at many locations in the United States, including convenience and discount department stores.
One of the most student recommended calling card companies is http://www.nobelcom.com. You can purchase a prepaid calling card from the United States to over 200 countries worldwide.

You can also purchase a calling card plan from one of the telephone companies. The issuing company bills you at a later date. Some major credit card companies will offer a calling card option when you apply. To apply for a calling card, call any of the telephone companies listed in the phone book. The major companies are AT&T (1-800-222-0300); MCI (1-800-950-5555); and Sprint (1-800-877-7746).

Transportation Via Bus to Closest Shopping Centers

1. Take Broadway Bus #6 (South Campus) or Pawtucketville Bus #7 (North Campus), inbound to Kennedy Center Train Station, Lowell
2. From the front of Dugan Hall Bus Stop on Broadway Street, at UML South Campus, Take outbound bus from the Kennedy Center Train Station to shopping center of choice:
   o Tewksbury Bus (Bus #12) goes to Rte. 38 Shopping
     • Stores Located on Rte. 38 in Tewksbury, MA
       o Market Basket Grocery Store, Pets Plus, Donna’s Donuts, Homegoods, Walgreens, Tewksbury Paint & True Value, Main Street Liquors, Friendly’s Ice Cream & Restaurant, Advance Auto Parts, Farm Valley Foods, Blockbuster Video, Walmart (further down the street from this shopping Center – ask bus driver), Dollar Tree,
   o North Chelmsford Bus to Westford Street (Bus #5) or Middlesex Street (Bus #17) goes to Drum Hill Shopping
     • Stores Located on Drum Hill Rd. Lowell, MA
       o Walmart, Payless Shoes, Dunkin Donuts, Radioshack, Sears, Carvel Ice Cream & Bakery, GameStop, FedEx, Quiznos, Autozone, I Party, Sherwin Williams Paint & Wallpaper, Small World Communications, Starbucks, Panera, Moe’s Southwest Grill, D’Angelos, Damien’s Dancewear, Applebees, Verizon Wireless, McDonald’s, Mattress Giant, Taylor Rental, Annie’s Bookstore, Bank of America ATM, Paper Store, CVS/Pharmacy, Market Basket Grocery Store, etc.
   o Burlington/Lahey Bus (Bus #14) will go to Burlington Mall
     http://www.simon.com/mall/?id=146
3. Bus Fares - $1.00 each way
4. Student Monthly Pass - $20.00 (can be purchased at the Kennedy Center Train Station)
Transportation Via Train from UML

1. Take Broadway Bus #6 (South Campus) or Pawtucketville Bus #7 (North Campus), inbound to Kennedy Center Train Station, Lowell
2. Train ticket may be purchased at the front desk to the left when you enter the station
3. Fares:
   - $6.75 each way
   - $13.00 round trip
4. Train goes inbound to North Station Boston, MA stopping at North Billerica, Haverhill, Wilmington, Anderson/Woburn, Mishawum, Winchester Center, Wedgemere, & West Medford
5. www.mbta.com

Transportation Via Bus to Social Security Office

1. Take Broadway Bus #6 (South Campus) or Pawtucketville Bus #7 (North Campus), inbound to Kennedy Center Train Station, Lowell
2. Take Downtown Circulator Outbound Bus (Bus #9) to downtown Lowell
3. Bus drops off at Lowell District Court
4. Walk to the end of the road with the Lowell District Court on your right hand side to Warren Street
5. Social Security Office is located at 151 Warren St., .16 miles from Lowell District Court

Bicycle Rentals

UML Rec Center
978-934-3401
Daily Rentals Only

Goodale’s Bike Shop
www.goodalesbikeshop.com
14-B Broad Street
Nashua, NH 03064
603-882-2111

**Bicycle Shops**

**Chelmsford Cyclery**

[www.chelmsfordcyclery.com](http://www.chelmsfordcyclery.com)
30 Chelmsford St
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-1528

**Foxco**

[www.foxcobikes.com](http://www.foxcobikes.com)
1794 Bridge Street
Dracut, MA 01826
978-458-9261

**UML Recreation Center (Rec Ctr)**

All international students and scholars are eligible to use the campus Rec Center.

100 Pawtucket Street
Lowell, MA 01854
978-934-2348

**Hours:**

Monday – Thursday 6:30am-11:00pm
Friday – 6:30am-9:00pm
Saturday – 9:00am-8:00pm
Sunday – 12:00pm-10:00pm

*Schedule changes for breaks and summer

**OTHER Shopping Information**

*Some of the following are not reachable by public transportation*

**Used Furniture Stores in Lowell**

Angel’s Above Thrift Shop
99 Mammoth Rd., Lowell
978-452-4833

*Sometimes receives furniture & house wares
No Delivery

L&N New & Used Furniture
604 Middlesex St., Lowell
978-323-4455

*Furniture Only
Offers Delivery

Fi Office Inc.
122 Western Ave., Lowell
978-275 6465
*Mainly Office Furniture

Offers Delivery

**Other Used Furniture Stores close to Lowell**

Goody Thrift Store

762 Boston Road, Billerica

978-667-5666

Shanks Mare Thrift Shop

306 Boston Rd., Billerica

978-663-9933

All Saints Thrift Shop

10 Billerica Road, Chelmsford

978-250-1765

Salvation Army Thrift Shop

625 Main St., Wilmington

978-988-9488

*Sells dishes, kitchen utensils, etc.

**Shopping – Furniture & House wares**
Wal-Mart

www.walmart.com

333 Main Street
Tewksbury, MA
978-851-6265

66 Drum Hill Rd
Chelmsford, MA
978-452-3831

Bed, Bath & Beyond

www.bedbathandbeyond.com

Burlington Gateway Shopping Ctr.
3 Abbott Park
Burlington, MA
781-272-4588

Macy’s

www.macys.com

1300 Middlesex Turnpike
Burlington Mall
Burlington, MA
781-272-6000

**Crate and Barrel**

[www.crateandbarrel.com](http://www.crateandbarrel.com)
Burlington Mall
Burlington, MA
781-270-3600

**Homegoods**

[www.homegoods.com](http://www.homegoods.com)
1900 Main Street
Tewksbury, MA
978-851-3767

**Office Supplies**

**Staples**

[www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com)
265 Chelmsford St
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-1828
Stadium Plaza
10 Main St
Tewksbury, MA 01876
978-851-0600

**Drugstores**

**CVS Pharmacy**

[www.cvs.com](http://www.cvs.com)

1815 Middlesex Street
Lowell, MA
Store Phone: 978-458-4621
Pharmacy: 978-458-4621

199 Plain Street
Lowell, MA
Store Phone: 978-454-9822
Pharmacy: 978-454-9822

35 Merrimack St
Lowell, MA
Store Phone: 978-454-1000
Pharmacy: 978-454-1000

**Walgreens**

[www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com)

54 Plain St

Lowell, MA

Store: 978-453-3640

Pharmacy: 978-453-7538

1200 Bridge St.

Lowell, MA

Store Phone: 978-453-8900

Pharmacy: 978-453-0820

**Supermarkets**

**La Utuadena Market**

11 Concord Street

Lowell, MA

978-459-4440
Kos Kong Supermarket
1519 Middlesex Ave
Lowell, MA
978-453-9935

One Stop International Market
35 Bridge Street
Lowell, MA
978-459-6199

Palika Bazar
1290 Westford Ave
Lowell, MA
978-441-1505

Phnom Penh Market
179 Chelmsford St
Lowell, MA
978-452-5852

That Luang Market
1126 Middlesex Ave
Lowell, MA
978-452-6940

**Demoulas Market Basket**
11 Wood Street (Broadway Street)
Lowell, MA
978-458-8015

331 Fletcher Street
Lowell, MA
978-458-6952

1235 Bridge Street
Lowell, MA
978-454-0361

**Hannaford Supermarket**
[www.hannaford.com](http://www.hannaford.com)
199 Plain Street
Lowell, MA
978-411-6900
777 Rogers Street
Lowell, MA
978-466-7862

66-2 Drum Hill Shopping Center
Chelmsford, MA
978-459-9304

**Battambang Supermarket**
152 Church St
Lowell, MA
978-454-1128

**Used Car Dealers**

**David Ducharme’s Auto Sales**
(978) 459-3329
190 Lincoln St, Lowell, MA

**Karman Auto Sales**
(978) 459-7307 915
Pawtucket St, Lowell, MA
Hamel Brothers Service Incorporated
(978) 458-8888
157 Pawtucket Blvd, Lowell, MA

Gervais Kia - New & Used Cars
(978) 454-5696
24 Reiss Ave, Lowell, MA

Lowell Used Auto Sales
(978) 454-6644
131 Tanner St, Lowell, MA

Ira Jeep
(978) 863-0001
732 Rogers St, Lowell, MA

Star Motors
(978) 454-2232
124 Gorham St, Lowell, MA

Advanced Auto Sales
(978) 319-4588
511 Middlesex St, Lowell, MA
Deals on Wheels
(978) 970-2260

886 Middlesex St, Lowell, MA
Chelmsford Street Auto Sales
(978) 452-9154
202 Chelmsford St, Lowell, MA

Belvidere Motors
(978) 452-2922
65 Rogers St, Lowell, MA

Unique Auto Sales & Service
(978) 654-6950
658 Broadway St, Lowell, MA

Louis Garage Automobile Sales
(978) 459-2848
263 Appleton St, Lowell, MA

Moes Twins Auto Sales
(978) 319-4581
147 Cambridge St, Lowell, MA

Scenic Auto Sales
(978) 452-3136
859 Gorham St, Lowell, MA

Chelmsford Street Motors
(978) 459-2222
360 Chelmsford St, Lowell, MA

Scenic Motors
(978) 453-2945
220 Tanner St, Lowell, MA

Bay State Auto
(978) 458-9431
418 Chelmsford St, Lowell, MA

Jarek's Auto Sales
(978) 452-3104
248 Tanner St, Lowell, MA
Massachusetts Public Education for Students K-12

Finding the Right School for Your Child

- For International Students & Scholars with children the state of Massachusetts does provide free public education
- According to where you live your child will be placed in the appropriate school
- Upon your arrival you should plan to visit the Family Resource Center in your town to discuss your child’s education
  - Lowell Massachusetts Family Resource Center
    - Mr. John Descoteaux, Coordinator
    - Family Resource Center
    - Lowell Public Schools
    - Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Office
    - Edith Nourse Rogers School
Be sure to bring your child, their birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of address is Lowell, MA (utility bill, rent bill, etc.) If there is no proof of address you must collect a letter from the City Hall with the homeowner or resident to prove that you reside at the address. If you do not live in the town of Lowell you will need to contact the Family Resource Center in your own town which can be found at http://www.doe.mass.edu/.

For all information on Lowell Public Schools visit http://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/.

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System Test – MCAS

All students from 3rd Grade and up are required to take the MCAS Test. Information on the MCAS Test can be found at http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/.

Taking the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment – MEPA

Before your child enters Lowell Public Schools they will be assessed to determine whether or not they are exempt from the MEPA Test. For more information on the MEPA Test visit http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/mepa/default.html.