

Master of Public Affairs



Admissions Day 2018



MPA Admissions Day 2018



Friday, April 6

Unless otherwise noted, programs take place at the Watson Institute,
111 Thayer Street, McKinney Conference Room

- 8:30 – 9:15 a.m.** **Breakfast**
- 9:15 – 9:35 a.m.** **Welcome and MPA Program Overview**
Edward Steinfeld, Eric Patashnik
- 9:35 – 10:10 a.m.** **Faculty Panel**
Angela Blanchard, Justine Hastings, Nick Ziegler
- 10:20 – 11:00 a.m.** **Faculty Talk**
Emily Oster, “Using Economics to Understand Public Policy”
- 11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** **Financing Your MPA**
Peter Baron
- 12:10 – 1:00 p.m.** **Lunch / Faculty Conversation: “Global Trumpism”**
Mark Blyth, Carrie Nordlund
- 1:10 – 2:00 p.m.** **Career Planning and Alumni Panel**
Gabriela Arredondo-Santisteban, MPA '17,
Alberto Morales, MPA '16, Robyn Sundlee, '16, MPA '17
- 2:10 – 2:50 p.m.** **Brown Campus Tour**
Dayton Williams, '17, MPA '18
- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.** **Faculty Research Talk**
John Friedman, “Opportunity in America: Improving
Intergenerational Mobility with Big Data”
Joukowsky Forum (First Floor)
- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.** **Current MPA Student Panel**
Emily Gell, Jon Macomber, Chris Musick,
Morgan Peterson, Alex Sun
- 5:00 – 5:15 p.m.** **Closing Remarks, Final Questions**
Steven Bloomfield, Carrie Nordlund, Eric Patashnik,
Heather Wilkerson
- 5:15 – 6:30 p.m.** **Reception with Current MPA Students and Faculty**
Watson Institute Lobby

Welcome!

Congratulations on your admission to the Master of Public Affairs program at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. This is a significant personal accomplishment. We are delighted you are joining us today!

The MPA faculty includes some of the top social scientists at Brown as well as distinguished practitioners. They share a commitment to bringing the insights from both cutting-edge research and policy experience to the classroom.

I hope you enjoy your time exploring the Watson Institute and learning more about the benefits of the MPA program. Choosing a graduate school is an important step — please let me know if I or any of the MPA staff or faculty can be of help during your decision making process.

Sincerely,
Eric Patashnik
Director, MPA Program

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MPA Program Directors

Eric Patashnik

Director, MPA Program

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Eric Patashnik teaches Foundations of Public Policy in the MPA program. He is the editor of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* and is a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Patashnik has held faculty positions at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia, the Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA, and the department of political science at Yale University. Patashnik is the author and editor of several books including *Reforms at Risk: What Happens After Major Policy Changes Are Enacted*. He is the co-author (with Alan Gerber and Conor Dowling) of *Unhealthy Politics: The Battle over Evidence-Based Medicine*.

Carrie Nordlund

Associate Director, MPA Program

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Carrie Nordlund's expertise is in political behavior, American institutions, and race and policy. Nordlund serves as the MPA program's administrative lead for curricular policy, academic policy, the Global Policy Experience, and admissions. She also teaches Communications and Public Policy in the program. Nordlund's twelve-year career in higher education includes teaching and administrative roles at the Robert F. Wagner School for Public Service at New York University. At Wagner, she was a clinical professor of public service, director of the undergraduate public policy major, and

director of the policy nonprofit graduate program. Nordlund received her PhD in political science from Brown University in 2006.

Heather Wilkerson

Assistant Director, Career Services

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Heather Wilkerson focuses exclusively on the career development of MPA students. She works with students to explore their strengths, develop their professional profiles, and create career goals. Wilkerson helps students develop all the tools needed to identify and engage with future employers as they complete the MPA program. She assists each student in obtaining a career-building consultancy. She also builds employer and alumni partnerships and works closely with Brown's career office. Wilkerson previously served as assistant director of leadership and career development for Brown Alumni Relations, where she developed programs for Brown's 70,000-plus alumni network.

Faculty Speakers

Angela Blanchard | International and Public Affairs

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Twitter: @CajunAngela

INTERESTS: Community development, disaster recovery, refugee integration

Angela Blanchard is a globally recognized expert in community development, disaster recovery, and effective long-term integration of immigrants and refugees. She is President Emerita of BakerRipley, Texas's largest community development organization. Blanchard is teaching the MPA elective, *Disaster, Displacement and Response: A Practitioner, People-Focused Lens on Urban Policy and Practice*, this semester.

Mark Blyth | Political Science, International and Public Affairs

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Twitter: @MkBlyth

INTERESTS: International finance, political economy, Europe, the politics of economic ideas

Mark Blyth's research focuses on stability and change in complex systems, particularly economic systems, and why people continue to believe stupid economic ideas despite buckets of evidence to the contrary. He is the author of several books, including *Great Transformations: Economic Ideas and Institutional Change in the Twentieth Century*, *Austerity: The History of a Dangerous Idea*, and most recently, with Matthias Matthijs (eds.), *The Future of the Euro*. He is a regular contributor to the journal of the Council for Foreign Relations, *Foreign Affairs*.

John Friedman | Economics, International and Public Affairs

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INTERESTS: Tax and budget policy, education policy, retirement policy, labor markets

John Friedman teaches Statistics for Public Policy in the MPA program. He studies the causes and consequences of inequality for kids, as well as policies to improve opportunity for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. His research brings together theory and data and harnesses large datasets to yield policy-relevant insights on topics including taxation, education, retirement, and healthcare. Friedman previously was a special assistant to the President for economic policy at the National Economic Council in the White House. He is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and is a director of the Equality of Opportunity Project.

Justine Hastings | Economics, International and Public Affairs

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INTERESTS: Public, education, behavioral, energy, and environmental economics; big data and smart policy

Justine Hastings designed the MPA program's data-driven policy specialization and is director of the Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab — a collaboration with the government of Rhode Island to use data and economics to impact policy and improve lives. Her innovative research has combined economics and large data sets to solve social problems in education, health policy, retirement policy, and household finance, as well as marketing, competition, and environmental regulation. Hastings is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She has served as an expert advisor on the Academic Research Council to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Council of Economic Advisors to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Emily Oster | Economics, International and Public Affairs

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INTERESTS: Health economics, development economics

Emily Oster teaches Economics for Public Policy in the MPA program. Her research focuses on health economics and, in particular, on discerning why people's choices about their health do not always seem rational. She works on topics ranging from vaccination to dietary choices to genetic testing. Her work has been published in top economics journals and covered in many media outlets. She is the author of *Expecting Better: Why the Conventional Pregnancy Wisdom Is Wrong — And What You Really Need to Know*. Oster is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

J. Nicholas Ziegler | Political Science, International and Public Affairs

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INTERESTS: Comparative politics of the advanced world, financial reform, European politics

Nick Ziegler teaches The Politics of Policymaking in Comparative Perspective, a core course in the MPA program. His research focuses on the politics of building long-term social institutions such as public pension systems, sustainable systems of financial governance, and robust conceptions of national identity. He is author of *Governing Ideas: Strategies for Innovation in France and Germany*, as well as articles in *World Politics*, *Daedalus*, and other journals. Ziegler has been a research fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, the German Marshall Fund, and the Max-Planck Institute for Research on Societies (Cologne).

Financing Your MPA**Peter Baron**

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Peter Baron is an assistant director in the Office of Financial Aid at Brown. He is the primary liaison to the Graduate School, and manages private loan certifications and federal aid processing for graduate students. Baron and his colleagues counsel students on financial planning, types of aid available, application requirements, and inquiries about graduate student accounts.

Career Planning and Alumni Panel**Gabriela Arredondo-Santisteban, MPA '17**

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Gabriela Arredondo-Santisteban is the chief human services, policy and systems specialist at the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals for the State of Rhode Island. Through this role she serves as a data analyst reporting on mental health and substance use services. She is also responsible for analyzing behavioral health services access for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Before receiving her MPA from Brown, Arredondo-Santisteban served as a research and evaluation assistant for the Children's Law Center, a nonprofit law firm serving children in the abuse and neglect system and families across Washington, DC. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Duke University.

Alberto Morales, MPA '16

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Alberto Morales is the data manager in the Communities Program at the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. He is responsible for evaluating data, with a focus on racial equity, to help inform program impact and strategies and grant recommendations. Before receiving his MPA, Morales served as assistant director of the Georgetown Scholarship Program, which empowers first-generation students. He has also worked on education, immigration, voter and reproductive rights, and civic engagement policies through his positions at Brown University, Voto Latino, and Latino Victory Project. Morales holds a bachelor's degree in health care management and policy from Georgetown University. He is also a 2018 New Leaders Council Chicago Fellow and an Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar.

Robyn Sundlee, '16, MPA '17

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Robyn Sundlee is a research analyst for *National Journal*. She works with their network science initiative, researching and mapping stakeholder groups for clients on policy issues including labor, energy, health care, and international relations. For her MPA consultancy, she traveled to Alaska and co-authored a report on policymaking in the Bering Strait Region for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Center for Arctic Study and Policy. Sundlee received her bachelor's degree in international relations from Brown.

Current Student Panel**Emily Gell, MPA '18**

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CONSULTANCY: The Rhode Island Innovative Policy Lab, Providence, RI

Emily Gell is interested in evaluating social programs and providing technical assistance to local governments and nonprofit service providers, particularly in the areas of homelessness, child welfare, and juvenile justice. During her consultancy, she examined how the economic and health outcomes of foster youth in Rhode Island changed after the state decreased the maximum age for youth to remain in foster care. Before coming to Brown, Gell worked as a paralegal for The Legal Aid Society's Housing Help Program and later as a researcher in the Society's Special Litigation and Law Reform Unit. Originally from upstate New York, Emily received a bachelor's degree in international relations with a concentration in history from Wellesley College.

Jon Macomber, MPA '18

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CONSULTANCY: Office of the Governor, State of Rhode Island, Providence RI

Jon Macomber is interested in veterans' issues and health care policy, particularly safety-net services such as Medicaid. Prior to the MPA program, he served for four years as a U.S. Army medic. He also worked as a Medicare counselor for the United Way of Rhode Island. During his consultancy, Macomber's primary focus was improving existing food insecurity programs in Rhode Island. He worked as a policy analyst for Governor Raimondo's director of food strategy and served on the state's Hunger Elimination Task Force. Macomber holds a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration from Rhode Island College.

Chris Musick, '17, MPA '18

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CONSULTANCY: University of Puthisastra/Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Chris Musick's policy interests include health care policy, international development, and diplomatic relations. Musick has worked as a research assistant on opioid policy with Professor Susan Moffitt. During his consultancy, he developed a strategic framework for Cambodia's first health public-private partnership and provided policy recommendations for improving the medical curriculum at the University of Puthisastra. He also interviewed hospital directors as part of an evaluation of potential placements for Cambodian medical students. Musick graduated from Brown University with a degree in biology.

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Morgan Peterson, MPA '18

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CONSULTANCY: Global Development Incubator, Washington, DC

Morgan Peterson's interests include international and domestic water policy and gender policy. She previously interned with the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank and developed the foundation for the state's climate resiliency strategy. Peterson completed her consultancy in Washington, DC at Global Development Incubator, where her main project was a deep-dive analysis of the current landscape of modern slavery in countries across Asia and Africa. She received her bachelor's degree in international relations and Spanish language from Boston University.

Alex Sun, MPA '18

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CONSULTANCY: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT

Alex Sun is interested in maritime security as well as China and Russia's strategic partnership, particularly the impact of Chinese investment in the Arctic region. During his consultancy, he attended the Arctic Frontiers Conference in Norway and interviewed a number of policy makers and Arctic policy experts. His work with the Coast Guard Academy broadened his range of experience in the maritime and international development sectors, and strengthened his research skills. Sun graduated from the Questrom School of Business at Boston University with a bachelor's degree in finance and math.

About the Master of Public Affairs Program

The Master of Public Affairs (MPA) at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs is an intensive one-year (June to May) program. Students develop the analytic, communication, and strategic leadership skills they need to tackle societal challenges.

MPA students can expect a rigorous and well-rounded curriculum, but also the flexibility to ensure they graduate with the knowledge and experience needed to succeed in their careers. Students can choose from faculty-driven policy specializations, or they can create their own, benefiting from a diverse faculty and access to a multitude of graduate offerings.

Unique to the MPA program is an emphasis on global policy — a ten-day trip to an international site is a required component of the program. The degree also requires a ten-week Policy-in-Action Consultancy in the spring. This consultancy, coupled with elective coursework in a policy specialization, provides all our students with the opportunity to develop the ideas, knowledge, and skills needed to make a difference.

Policy Specializations

The MPA program's specializations enable students to pursue deeper knowledge and gain proficiency in the methods and substance of particular policy areas.

Comparative and Global Policy

This specialization focuses on the policy settings where international rules and cross-national differences take a central place in decision-making. Courses in this specialization illuminate the conditions that shape the choice of policy goals and the design of specific instruments in different

MPA Program Schedule

13 courses total (10 credits). Ten are required core courses, and the remaining three are electives.

SUMMER

Orientation

June 4–8, 2018

Summer Sequence 1 (4 WEEKS)

June 11–July 11, 2018

- Economics for Public Policy
- Statistics for Public Policy

Summer Sequence 2 (4 WEEKS)

July 16–August 15, 2018

- Introduction to Public Policy
- Communications and Public Policy

Global Policy Experience (10 DAYS)

August 17–28, 2018

- Policy immersion at an international site

FALL

Fall Semester (REGULAR SEMESTER)

September 5–December 21, 2018

- The Politics of Policymaking in Comparative Perspective
- Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation
- Specialization Elective 1
- Specialization Elective 2

SPRING

Spring Sequence 1 (10 WEEKS)

January 7–March 22, 2019

- Policy-in-Action Consultancy

Spring Sequence 2 (6 WEEKS)

April 1–May 17, 2019

- Policy Problems of the 21st Century
- Systems Dynamics: Policy Analysis for a Complex World
- Management and Implementation in Public and Non-Profit Organizations
- Specialization Elective 3

countries. Since the interplay of political purposes and economic incentives looms large in all policy decisions, the specialization emphasizes a political economy approach, broadly understood. The specialization allows students to focus on the policy challenges that face developing countries, middle-range countries, advanced industrial democracies, or a combination. Students are also able to emphasize international perspectives on a range of domains, including industrial development and economic growth, international security, and global financial stability.

Data-Driven Policy

This specialization prepares MPA students to undertake data analytic work in government, nonprofit, and for-profit organizations. Students are introduced to a variety of programming languages used to manipulate and analyze data including Stata, SQL, and Python, and gain the tools to turn large data sets and behavioral science into improved policy. Students also acquire hands-on experience with data cleaning, analysis, visualization, and designing and implementing policy evaluations. For the Policy-in-Action Consultancy, students work in a policy lab at Brown or elsewhere to integrate data-driven research with experiential learning. Students also write a term paper that demonstrates their ability to use programming, data visualization, and empirical tools to provide systematic evidence of a public policy problem or rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of various policy solutions.

Policy Analysis

This specialization deepens students' skills in the application of economic analysis to questions of policy design, efficiency, and distribution. Students gain familiarity with cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and other applications of quantitative modeling and political economy models and become more effective critical consumers of social science research on the public and private impacts of policy decisions. Courses emphasize

valuing benefits and costs in primary and secondary markets, dealing with uncertainty, sensitivity analysis and the value of information, and understanding the dynamic between politics and markets.

Social Change and Advocacy Policy

This specialization prioritizes social justice, diversity, and ethics by using the distance between the way things are, and the way things ought to be, to shape learning and to analyze and generate policy and public interventions. Courses facilitate rigorous, critical examination and assessment of public action in analytical as well as prescriptive ways, encouraging students to think about how norms for public action emerge, and their own role, as dedicated public actors, in that process.

The specialization focuses on how power works, how change happens through policy and public mobilizations and partnerships, and how policy makers and analysts can develop not only maximally effective but more ethical and just work.

Design Your Own

Students may work with their faculty advisor to design their own specialization. Students must gain approval to take electives outside of the recommended courses from the Director of Graduate Studies.

Policy-in-Action Consultancy

The ten-week Policy-in-Action Consultancy is a hands-on, one-credit learning program designed to help students shape and implement an innovative project with a client in the nonprofit, public, or private sector. Students apply their skills to address real problems while doing work consistent with their professional goals.

Throughout the consultancy, students participate in individual faculty advising as well as professional and project management sessions. Each project culminates in a final report that can be used as a professional writing sample during the career search process. The consultancy is designed to:

- Provide a career springboard through a rigorous, practical immersion with a client.
- Deliver value for both community partners and students.
- Focus on experiential learning and creative problem solving.
- Address complex contemporary problems, explore policy and practice-based solutions, and identify strategies and recommend future approaches.
- Develop policy and practice-related solutions to address policy issues and/or enhance an organization's capacity.
- Accelerate proficiency in project management, stakeholder identification and analysis, systems and strategic thinking, and effective presentation of data.

Consultancy Requirements

The consultancy is part of coursework that starts in the summer and continues through completion of final deliverables in the spring. Students receive academic credit upon successful completion of the consultancy.

- **Summer sessions:** Career planning sessions and site preferences discussion.
- **Fall semester:** Attendance at several seminars on consultancy best practices and the selection and preparation process.

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- **Spring semester** (simultaneous with consultancy): Individual project management and analytical support meetings and professional development coaching sessions. Customized problem-solving sessions under the mentorship of Brown faculty and staff members.

Final deliverables at the end of the spring semester include:

- Comprehensive consultancy project research/analysis report including recommendations for the organization.
- Post-consultancy presentation.

Global Policy Experience

During the ten-day Global Policy Experience (GPE), students analyze and explore public policy at an international location. Summer 2018 sites will be announced soon. A core course during the fall semester, The Politics of Policymaking in Comparative Perspective, enables students to place lessons from the GPE in an analytic framework. Features of the GPE include:

- Meeting with high-level public officials to explore the political and economic dynamics affecting the world's nations.
- Exploring dynamic policy environments: past sites include Cambodia, Korea, Sweden, Brazil, Germany, and India.
- Learning how global forces are transforming policy agendas and how different nations are tackling common challenges, from poverty to pollution.

Career Services

The MPA program provides a dedicated public affairs career specialist to coach students throughout this professional program. The program offers an array of services, workshops and resources exclusively for MPA students. The careers director also conducts a career assessment to create a tailored career development plan with each student. Specific actions include:

- Coaching students individually to explore options within the public policy arena.
- Helping students identify skills and strengths in order to develop a career vision and career search plan, along with the tools to achieve that plan.
- Building promotional tools including crafting an elevator pitch, and writing targeted resumes and cover letters.
- Developing public sector and policy oriented interview skills and techniques for clinching the offer.
- Developing a networking and resource list tailored to each student.

Placement Support and Employer Relations

The MPA program offers assistance in researching career options and a robust placement support program. Additional resources include:

- Database of prospective internships, consultancies, fellowships, and employment in the nonprofit, private, and public sectors.
- Brown's ongoing development of relationships with prospective employers.

- Curated list of Brown alumni active in the policy field worldwide.
- On-campus events for prospective employers, internship managers, and alumni.
- Opportunity to attend the annual All Ivy Environmental and Sustainable Development Career Fair.
- Opportunity to attend two days of Brown- and MPA program-sponsored career networking events in Washington DC. Includes an alumni panel, alumni networking, employer visits, and attendance at the Nonprofit and Government Career Expo.
- Individual financial support consideration for career-specific symposia and events.

Master of Public Affairs Staff

Eric Patashnik, Director, MPA Program See page 4

Carrie Nordlund, Associate Director, MPA Program See page 4

Heather Wilkerson, Assistant Director, Career Services See page 5

Ellen Dessloch

Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

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Ellen Dessloch supports and promotes the MPA program, serving as editor and graphic designer for its promotional materials and website. She works on MPA recruiting and outreach, and organizes events for the program.

Melissa Nicholaus

Academic Program Manager

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Melissa Nicholaus facilitates academic advising and manages operations for the MPA program. She has been with Public Policy since 2000. She serves on the Watson Institute's committee on diversity and inclusion, is a University administrative fellow, and received the Wilson Deblois Award for outstanding contributions to graduate students and the Graduate School.

Michelle A. Turcotte

Administrative Assistant

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Michelle Turcotte provides administrative support to the MPA program, the undergraduate public policy program, and the Taubman Center. She also manages the care of 59 Charlesfield Street.

Watson Institute

The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs provides students with close access to renowned faculty, researchers, visiting scholars, and speakers. The Institute seeks to promote a just and peaceful world through research, teaching, and public engagement. The Institute's work focuses on development, security, and governance. The Institute is a community of scholars and practitioners whose work aims to help us understand and address the world's great challenges, such as globalization, economic uncertainty, security threats, environmental degradation, and poverty. From the Americas to China, from the Middle East to South Asia, the strongest theoretical models emerge through observations and analysis in the field.

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111 Thayer Street and 59 Charlesfield Street

Master of Public Affairs students have 24/7 access to both the main building at 111 Thayer Street and 59 Charlesfield Street (known as 59C). The third floor of 59C serves as a dedicated study lounge for MPA students, with several desktop computers, printer, copy machine, and scanner available for use. MPA staff reside in both 111 Thayer and 59C.

Under Construction

A fully renovated building at 63–65 Charlesfield Street and newly constructed building at 280 Brook Street are slated for occupation by the Watson Institute beginning in January 2019. Joined by a bridge, the two buildings will expand the Institute’s footprint by 31,000 square feet, adding a large commons for socializing and events, classrooms, meeting and study space, offices, and a cafe.

Living in Providence

Providence, Rhode Island’s capitol city, has been ranked one of the most livable cities in the U.S. With its many universities and vibrant arts scene, the city is one of southern New England’s premier cultural destinations.

Brown University is nestled in the midst of dynamic and historic neighborhoods on the city’s **East Side**. **Thayer Street** is a student hub with shops and many eateries. **College Hill**, adjacent to campus, is known for its historic homes and attractive residential streets. **Blackstone Boulevard**, a mile east of Brown’s campus, has a 1.7 mile walking/running path. South of campus is **Fox Point**, which has a strong Portuguese identity. **Wickenden Street**, part of Fox Point, offers eclectic shops and popular eateries. More shopping, restaurants, and housing can be found north of campus around **Hope Street**, and to the east in the area known as **Wayland Square**.

Providence is known for great food, including a number of nationally recognized restaurants. **Federal Hill**, originally an Italian outpost, has more than a dozen restaurants on Atwells Avenue. Both **DownCity** and the **West Side** of Providence have more of a city vibe.

Many options exist for living arrangements as a graduate student. Brown’s campus is bordered on three sides by residential areas with an abundance of apartments and multi-bedroom houses. Most graduate students choose to live in the neighborhoods surrounding Brown. Here are ways to investigate your options:

- **Graduate Student Community:** Sign up for the graduate student bulletin board (GSBB), which is the main channel for current graduate students to post about roommate opportunities, rentals they are moving out of, and a range of other want-to-buy/sell opportunities.
- **Brown University Auxiliary Housing:** This office operates limited Brown-owned off-campus housing for incoming graduate students, which can be a convenient option for students arriving from a distance. Most graduate students prefer to live in off-campus accommodation. This office is not just about Brown housing: staff have a wealth of experience of local neighborhoods, and knowledge of established rental opportunities.
- **The Graduate Student Wiki Housing Page** (requires Brown university login): The Grad Student Wiki is populated and updated by grad students for grad students. Here you can check out informal and unofficial advice on housing issues, neighborhoods, landlords, and the graduate experience. The Wiki offers advice and collected knowledge on many other aspects concerning life at Brown and in Providence.
- Other sources: Craigslist, Samson Realty Rentals, zillow.com

Explore Rhode Island

Rhode Island, the Ocean State, is loved for its many beaches, the historic city of Newport, and its vibrant capital city. Visitors love unspoiled Block Island, easily reached by ferry from the fishing village of Point Judith. Other parts of the state are rich in history, farms, and outdoor getaways. The Ocean State is a perfect place to explore, with 100 miles of beautiful beaches along its 400-mile coastline.

Rhode Island offers one of the nation's largest concentrations of registered historic landmarks. Centuries of American history are preserved here, from 17th-century Colonial houses and churches to the opulent mansions of Newport. Founded on religious freedom, Rhode Island boasts a number of the country's "first" churches, including First Baptist Church, located near Brown. Scores of museums are located throughout the state. An appreciation of the performing arts is evident in the state's many fine professional and community theater, dance, and musical organizations.

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