

About ILI

The International Language Institute of Massachusetts (ILI) is a private, not-for-profit language school located in beautiful Northampton, Massachusetts. Northampton is a quintessential New England town only a few hours from Boston and New York City. Northampton is served by Bradley International Airport, with connections to other airports throughout the country.



Since 1984, ILI has earned a distinguished international reputation for its excellent language and teacher training programs. ILI's mission is to promote intercultural understanding by providing quality language instruction and teacher training. We are accredited by the American Council of Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) and the International Association of Language Centres (IALC). We are members of the American Association of Intensive English Programs (AAIEP).

Living *with an* American Family



A Guide for International Students



The International
Language Institute
of Massachusetts
25 New South St. Northampton, MA 01060
www.ILI.edu 413.586.7569



The INTERNATIONAL Language
Institute of MASSACHUSETTS

WELCOME!

MORE INFORMATION



WELCOME to Northampton and the International Language Institute of Massachusetts (ILI)! We're thrilled you've chosen ILI for your Intensive English Program. Your decision to study English in the U.S. is complemented by living with a host family. Beyond lectures and textbooks, your most enriching experiences will occur outside the classroom, fostering valuable communication skills and cultural understanding.

Northampton, the vibrant cultural hub of Western Massachusetts, boasts a dynamic community of 30,000 residents. With fourteen colleges and universities contributing to the area's rich cultural tapestry, the Pioneer Valley offers a blend of urban amenities amidst picturesque rural landscapes. Renowned as the #1 small 'arts' town in the U.S., Northampton promises a wealth of cultural, business, and recreational opportunities.



DOWNTOWN NORTHAMPTON offers the area's best locally-run music venues, restaurants, pubs, coffee shops, book stores, and even a nationally renowned ice cream shop. With the colleges nearby, you have access to world-class libraries, museums and other cultural events such as readings, lectures and film festivals.

FOR AREA HAPPENINGS, check out:

- ➔ www.explorenorthampton.com
- ➔ www.valleyvisitor.com
- ➔ www.artsnightout.org
- ➔ www.iheg.com
- ➔ www.northamptonma.gov

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Some Social Customs

LIKE ALL PEOPLE, Americans have unique social customs. A few are mentioned below, but it is not possible to list them all. By observing and asking questions, you can learn about others.

TIME:

In American culture, punctuality is valued. Arriving promptly for scheduled events, such as classes or social engagements, demonstrates respect for others' time and is appreciated.



INFORMALITY & GREETINGS:

American interactions are often casual, with the use of first names common. When meeting someone, a handshake and a simple "hello" or "pleased to meet you" suffice. Responding to "How are you?" with "Fine, thank you, and you?" is typical.

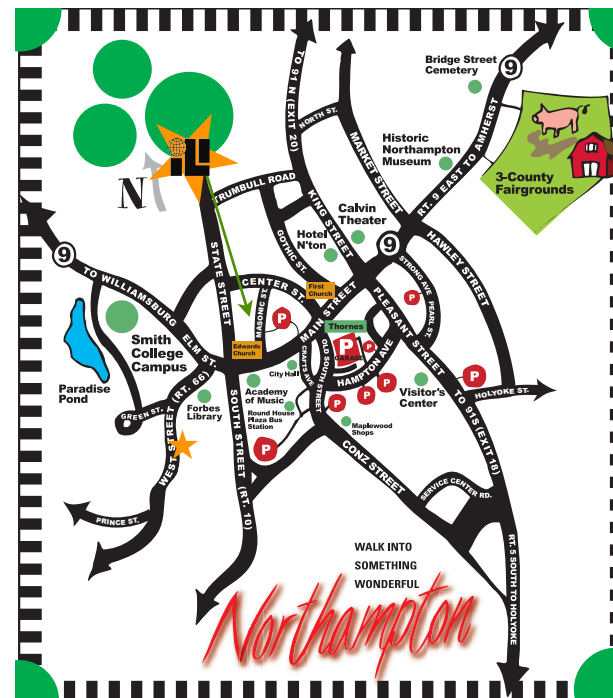


INVITATIONS:

Americans may express general friendliness like "You must come and see us," but a formal invitation includes specific details like time, date, and location. Responding with either a "yes" or "no," and honoring commitments, reflects courteousness. Declining graciously with a "no, thank you" is polite, while accepting and not attending is considered impolite.



ABOUT LIVING IN NORTHAMPTON



"This small city offers more restaurants and shops, certainly more galleries, theaters and performance venues than most urban centers dozens of times its size. Add two rivers, mountain views, landscaped parks and meadow walks, and you begin to see why people call it paradise."

- The Boston Globe

What to Expect in Your Home-stay

Living with a host family in the USA is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in American culture while experiencing genuine hospitality. Your host family will not only provide you with a comfortable living space but also offer invaluable support and insights into daily life in the US. Embrace this enriching experience, build meaningful connections, and create lasting memories during your stay.

Hosts:

- Carefully selected to ensure warmth and support
- Friendly, caring, eager to learn about your culture
- Don't hesitate to ask questions or share your plans
- Regular check-ins ensure any issues are promptly addressed

Families:

- Diversity is celebrated; no "typical" family
- Expect parents with full-time jobs and varied structures
- Everyone pitches in with housework, fostering a sense of community

Meals:

- Relaxed breakfasts and lunches, often self-prepared
- Dinner is a shared, main meal, fostering family bonding
- Your dietary preferences are valued and accommodated

Etiquette:

- Offer to help with household tasks and communicate openly
- Share any allergies or discomforts, ensuring a comfortable stay
- Always inform your host if you won't be joining for dinner

Pets:

- Many families have pets; inform of any allergies beforehand



Household Tasks:

- Collaboration in housekeeping and chores promotes a supportive environment
- Be responsible for your own space and help when needed

Miscellaneous:

- Smoking indoors is not common; ask your host for designated areas
- Embrace the religious diversity of the area
- Remember, no alcohol for under 21s
- Leave your room as you found it and show gratitude with a thank-you note
- Stay connected with your host post-stay; they'll appreciate it!

Contact Amy Ben-Ezra, Home-stay Coordinator

E-mail: amy@ili.edu