

# BU's BEST

Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training

## EXPERIENCE FAQ for Trainees

**1. In what career areas are EXPERIENCES available?**

There are internship opportunities in the following broad career areas:

- a. Business/Administration
- b. Science Policy
- c. Industry Research and Development
- d. Teaching Intensive Careers
- e. Science Communication
- f. Intellectual Property Law/ Technology Transfer

**2. Can graduate students AND postdocs participate?**

Yes! Both grad students and postdocs are eligible. At the time of application the applicant must be at least a 4th year bio-medical doctoral student (post-qualifying exam) or postdoctoral research scientist conducting research at Boston University.

**3. Who pays for the internship? How are trainees compensated during the internship?**

Your salary source will not change during the EXPERIENCE as you should be making the same progress on research project as you would without the EXPERIENCE.

**4. Will my health insurance be affected?**

No. Your health insurance should remain the same since the salary source is the same.

**5. How long does an internship last?**

The length and hours vary by EXPERIENCE site. BU's BEST has set up the EXPERIENCES to be 5-10 hours a week so that these EXPERIENCES do not interfere with laboratory project completion. When the hours are used is up to the trainee, the faculty mentor, and the EXPERIENCE host.

**6. When will the internships start?**

As the workforce moves rapidly so does BU's BEST EXPERIENCES. We expect to have rolling application processes and start dates. We will post EXPERIENCES as they become available on our website ([bu.edu/BEST](http://bu.edu/BEST)).

**7. How do I apply for the internship?**

The application process consists of two phases – 1) an internal application wherein trainees are chosen by BU's BEST EXPERIENCE team, and 2) evaluation of the internal candidates selected by EXPERIENCE providers.

Besides completing an online application, trainees must also submit the following documents as a single PDF file uploaded to the online application.

- a. Signed and scanned P.I. Consent Form (blank form available at: [http://www.bu.edu/best/files/2015/12/BEST\\_PI\\_internship\\_agreement\\_v2.pdf](http://www.bu.edu/best/files/2015/12/BEST_PI_internship_agreement_v2.pdf)).
- b. Tailored one or two page resume
- c. Summary page of a personality assessment

**8. If my application is chosen am I guaranteed an EXPERIENCE spot?**

There is no guarantee that trainees who pass the internal review will be chosen by an EXPERIENCE site since each provider will make the final placement decision.

**9. Can international trainees participate in BU's BEST EXPERIENCES?**

International students on F-1 and J-1 visas are eligible to participate in some EXPERIENCES. Postdocs on F-1, J-1, and H1-B visas are likewise eligible.

**10. Can I "keep projects going" in my lab by coming in on nights and/or weekends while doing my internship?**

Yes! This is a requirement so that the time spent on your internship does not negatively affect your time to degree, your publication records, and/or your relationship with your faculty mentor. You also must meet with your faculty mentor to develop a set of realistic goals and expectations for your effort in the lab during the internship period. At the end of this conversation your faculty mentor will have to sign a consent form.

**11. Do I need to report my time in an BU's BEST EXPERIENCE on my Annual Effort Report?**

The US government recently stated that predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees paid on any federal grants (NIH, NSF, DoD, etc) are expected to engage in career development activities. This means that even if you are paid by your faculty mentor's federal research grant you are not expected to devote 100% of your effort to working at the bench. For more information see

[http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_magazine/previous\\_issues/articles/2014\\_12\\_17/caredit.a1400315](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2014_12_17/caredit.a1400315)

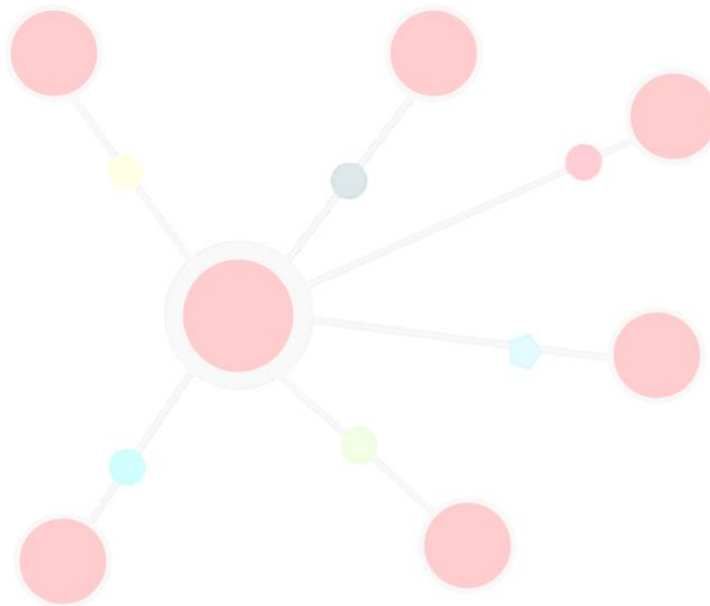
**12. I'm on a federally funded individual fellowship (ex. NIH F-31, NIH F-32, NSF GRFP). Can I still do an internship?**

Yes. The government policy mentioned in FAQ #11 grants you the ability to engage in career exploration and professional development as a fellowship awardee. If you have any questions you should contact the program officer at the funding institution. If you are funded by a non-federal fellowship (for example, AHA) you should discuss your eligibility with your program officer before applying.

**13. What if I get accepted into a non-BU's BEST EXPERIENCE on my own? Would you like to know about it?**

Absolutely! Most of these are very competitive, so congratulations! We would like to know about these in order to better track outcomes with the NIH as they are compiling data about graduate and postdoc career outcomes.

If you have a question that is not answered here please contact Dr. Chelsea Epler at [bubest@bu.edu](mailto:bubest@bu.edu).



**14. Is there a place I can go for more information about BU's BEST EXPERIENCES?**

You can log on to [bu.edu/best](http://bu.edu/best) or email the BU's BEST Director, Chelsea at [bubest@bu.edu](mailto:bubest@bu.edu).

If you have a question that is not answered here please contact Dr. Chelsea Epler at [bubest@bu.edu](mailto:bubest@bu.edu)

