

# Instructions for LEAP (Late Entry Accelerated Program) Applicants

## Program Information

The LEAP program enables students with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a liberal arts or other field to satisfy undergraduate engineering requirements and earn a master's degree in aerospace, biomedical, computer systems, electrical, manufacturing, mechanical engineering, and photonics. Graduates of the program are prepared for immediate professional employment or doctoral-level study. Part-time or full-time study is possible.

The core curriculum consists of regular undergraduate courses covering topics such as computer programming, electric circuit theory, signals and systems, electronics, logic design, probability and statistics, and other science or mathematics courses as individually necessary. Full-time students with appropriate preparation in mathematics, science, and engineering-related subjects may complete the undergraduate phase of the program in one year. After successfully completing the core curriculum, students have sufficient background to select an appropriate major and to start graduate work by advancing to one of the master's programs listed above. During the last phase of the program, students take standard courses leading to the master's degree in their chosen field.

## Academic Counseling

Individually tailored programs of study are arranged for each participant after conference with his or her faculty advisor.

## Eligibility

Students who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in the liberal arts or another field that does not qualify them for direct admission to any of the College's Master of Science programs are eligible to apply to LEAP. For admission consideration, applicants must have completed at least one semester of college-level calculus and received a grade of B or higher. All students must submit general GRE scores at the time of application to LEAP. All applicants whose native language is not English must submit either an International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) or a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) unless they have been studying in an English-speaking country for a minimum of two years. An IELTS score of 6.0 or higher is required for admission. A TOEFL score of 550 or higher on the written exam or a score of 213 or higher on the computer-based exam is

required for admission. If a student takes the new Internet-Based Test (iBT), a total score of 84 is the required minimum total. The scores on the individual sections should be, at a minimum: Reading—21, Listening—18, Speaking—23, and Writing—22.

## Criteria for Selection

Participants are selected on the strength of their academic preparation, the degree to which the program matches their career goals and aspirations, and evidence of their commitment to the program.

## Support Services

The full range of Boston University services, including the Center for Career Education and Counseling, the Housing Office, and Student Health Services is available to LEAP participants.

## Financial Assistance

Generous financial assistance is available to full-time LEAP students who demonstrate need via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or refugees. International students are not eligible for LEAP financial aid and must present financial documentation with their application. LEAP scholarship support is available for a maximum of seven semesters. An application for financial assistance will be mailed to you upon your acceptance into LEAP. Detailed information on available aid and procedures for applying may be obtained by contacting the Manager of LEAP and Financial Aid at 617-353-9772; Email: [leap@bu.edu](mailto:leap@bu.edu).

## Application Deadlines

The Admissions Committee will meet on a continuing basis to review completed applications and to render prompt admission decisions. Admission into LEAP will be granted for September, January, May, or July entrance. While there is no formal deadline, applicants are urged to submit the completed application as early as possible prior to the intended semester of enrollment. All materials submitted as part of the application become the property of Boston University, and neither originals nor copies will be returned.

## Application Requirements

1. A completed Application for Admission form (3 pages) indicating major field of study and degree program desired, and area of specialization if known.

2. A nonrefundable application fee of \$70, payable to Boston University by check or money order. Make certain your name and birthdate appear clearly on the check. Check must be drawn on a U.S. bank.
3. A certified copy and official English translation of an academic transcript (if original is not in English) from each college or university you have attended. Transcripts should be submitted in an envelope sealed and signed by the registrar.
4. A minimum of two letters of recommendation, preferably from individuals you have known well and who can reflect upon your most recent academic or work experience and who are qualified to speak of your potential for success in the program.
5. Statement of purpose (essay).
6. A résumé if available.
7. General Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (**use code 3105**, no department code is necessary). A GRE score is valid for six years. The six-year expiration date is based on January for fall applicants and October for spring applicants. For example, if an applicant is applying for Fall 2008, a GRE test taken prior to January 2002 is expired.
8. International students must submit an International Student Data Form (included in this application).
9. If your native language is not English, you must submit results for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), iBT, or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). These exams are valid for two years. The two-year expiration date is based on January for fall applicants and October for spring applicants. For example, if an applicant is applying for Fall 2008, a language test taken prior to January 2006 is expired.

Please request that your recommendations be returned to you in the enclosed envelopes, sealed, and signed across the seal. Mail your complete application to: LEAP Admissions Committee, College of Engineering, Boston University, 48 Cummington Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02215.

If you have further questions now or at any stage of the application process, please feel free to contact the program manager at 617-353-9772, via e-mail at [leap@bu.edu](mailto:leap@bu.edu), or by fax at 617-353-0259.