Welcome and History

On behalf of the Dean of Students and Residence Life, thank you for your interest in Boston University’s Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) program, a profound educational initiative that increases the impact of teaching and research through residential interactions between professors and undergraduates.

Our program dates to 1974, when then-president John Silber commissioned an endeavor to add an intellectual dimension to the residential experience. In its infancy, the FIR program had a single goal: to provide opportunities for students and faculty members to interact on an informal, day-to-day basis outside the classroom. Today, FIRs represent the vanguard of the University’s faculty in that they are more uniquely positioned than any other faculty members to pioneer the inventive, collaborative, and creative elements that make “One BU” possible. Indeed, they are the gatekeepers who can unlock doors to meaningful experiences with undergraduates, experiences that mark the distinctive elements of a Boston University residential education.

Submitting Your Application

A goal of the FIR program is to select as diverse a group of faculty as possible. Recruitment of new FIRs occurs via faculty residents who have colleagues they believe would add important dimensions to the program and from administrators who recommend faculty. Positions do not necessarily open each year. However, when vacancies occur, they are generally filled during the summer pending approval by the Dean of Students and the University Provost.

To apply, please submit the following to Boston University Residence Life/Residential Education at the address below:

- A cover letter declaring your interest in the program, addressed to Faculty-in-Residence Search Committee
- A curriculum vitae or résumé
- A letter of recommendation and support from the dean of your school or college

Your application will be kept on file. If you have questions about the FIR program, please contact Residential Education at 617-353-3540.

Boston University Residence Life
Residential Education
19 Deerfield Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

“I am constantly amazed at how easy it is to develop relationships with these students and at how long they last across a student’s collegiate experience, and beyond.”

BRYAN STONE, Warren Towers
Associate Dean, School of Theology
Goals and Eligibility Requirements

The FIR program expands the Boston University classroom by providing a residential experience that is interdisciplinary, innovative, and meaningful. Toward this end, FIRs:

- Serve as role models, resources, and advocates for the students with whom they live and learn;
- Cultivate interactions with undergraduates that empower students to grow, develop, and refine their values;
- Integrate curricular and co-curricular activities across the University’s schools and programs; and
- Blaze trails toward the synthesis of knowledge and experience—trails that are provocative, innovative, collaborative, and emblematic of “One BU.”

In order to qualify for consideration, FIRs must be full-time professors at the assistant professorial rank or above. Additionally, we request that all FIRs have at least two years of full-time teaching experience at Boston University.

Program Highlights

- Watching Monday Night Football with residents during open hours
- Providing a test kitchen during open hours that will decide the menu items to be served in campus dining rooms
- Coordinating a hike to Mt. Chocorua, New Hampshire, to educate residents on the impact that tourism has on rural economies
- Organizing an election results party that includes commentary about key issues from social workers, religious leaders, political scientists, and others
- Facilitating a community service excursion with the Education House that shows participants the value of occupational therapy to inner-city schools
- Taking a fishing trip out of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and bringing a colleague who tells tales of early New England trade history

There’s a ‘specialness,’ a daily reward, really, to being able to see students outside the classroom—where they live, where they eat, where they mix with one another—and to having some influence, sometimes small, sometimes bigger, in their lives.

ED DOWMES, 10 Buck Street
Associate Professor, College of Communication

I have created a welcoming home environment where the students see themselves as a family.

KAREN JACOBS, 33 Harry Agganis Way
Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy, Sargent College