



# Financial Assistance

## Guide to Your Merit Award

### 2014/2015

Congratulations on your receipt of a Boston University merit award! We are pleased to provide you with this guide, which includes information on how to accept your scholarship, the conditions of your award, and other sources of assistance available for financing the cost of attending Boston University. We encourage you to share it with any family member helping you with college expenses. If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of your merit award, please refer to the back page of this guide, where you will find information on how to contact BU Financial Assistance.

#### Next Steps

- **Accept your award offer** online at [bu.edu/finaid/apply/incoming/next-steps](http://bu.edu/finaid/apply/incoming/next-steps). Please pay careful attention to all instructions. Accepting your award offer affirms that you understand and agree to the terms and conditions specified in this guide. If you choose to defer your admission, you will forfeit all award offers from Boston University.
- **If you are an entering student, pay the required nonrefundable enrollment deposit** by the date stipulated by BU Admissions. The deposit deadline may differ from the deadline for accepting your award. **Your award may be withdrawn** if you do not accept your award **and** pay the enrollment deposit by the specified deadlines.

#### Renewal of Merit Aid

For renewal of merit awards, you must meet all the conditions outlined in this guide or other correspondence. An application for renewal of a merit award is not required; however, if your merit award is revoked because renewal conditions are not met, you may apply for a need-based Boston University financial aid award. Your application will be given priority consideration and need-based scholarship aid will be offered, provided financial eligibility, satisfactory academic progress, and other eligibility criteria are met.

#### Study Abroad

Boston University merit awards are available only for academic year study abroad programs operated by Boston University. Tuition-based scholarships will be reduced proportionally if the tuition portion of the study abroad program fee is less than the regular BU tuition. If you meet other eligibility criteria, federal and state financial aid and credit-based loans may be used for study abroad programs not operated by Boston University.

#### Conditions of Your Merit Award

Terms and conditions of all awards are subject to change.

1. **Duration:** Eligibility for any Boston University scholarship or grant is limited to a maximum of 8 semesters, consecutive or nonconsecutive, of undergraduate enrollment.
2. **Satisfactory Academic Progress:** To be eligible for renewal of your Boston University merit award, you must complete at least 12 credits in each of the two semesters of the preceding academic year you were enrolled. You must also achieve the minimum grade point average (GPA) stipulated in the letter provided with your award notification and at [bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/scholarships-grants/merit-based/renewal-criteria-by-scholarship](http://bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/scholarships-grants/merit-based/renewal-criteria-by-scholarship). Physical Development Program (PDP) courses and enrollments prior to full-time matriculation, during the summer, or at other institutions are not considered in these determinations. Also, Boston University requires that you meet federal satisfactory academic progress standards for federal, state, and private credit-based loan certification. Awards are usually offered for the full academic year, and academic progress is reviewed at the end of each academic year. However, spring semester financial aid, including scholarships, will be canceled, and spring semester state and private loans will not be certified, if a full-time student fails to earn at least a 1.00 grade point index (GPI) or fails to successfully complete at least 8 credits during the fall semester. If you withdraw or take a leave of absence during any semester after the beginning of classes you will not be eligible for renewal of your merit award. After you have completed at least 12 credits per semester while maintaining the minimum GPA required for your award over one full academic year, an appeal requesting that the award be reinstated will be considered.
3. **Disciplinary Standing:** To retain eligibility for a Boston University merit award you must be in good disciplinary standing. Any award cancellation resulting from a disciplinary issue will be effective in the same semester the sanction is imposed.

4. **Receipt of Additional Aid:** You must promptly inform BU Financial Assistance in writing of any additional award you receive from **any source**, either within or outside of Boston University, including scholarships, grants, loans, tuition remission, or other aid. If you receive an additional award, your BU merit award will **not** be reduced provided your total tuition awards do not exceed your actual tuition charges, and the total of your awards from all sources does not exceed your total cost of attendance. In the instance of multiple tuition awards, the University reserves the right to replace any merit award with an honorary scholarship for a reduced amount. Any ROTC award will replace other BU merit awards.
5. **Enrollment Status:** You must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credits per semester) in a BU degree program during the academic year. **Merit awards cannot be used for summer enrollment.**
6. **Residence:** Freshmen and any student with a University-funded merit award equal to or greater than tuition must reside in University-owned housing. For more information about living on campus, go to [bu.edu/housing](http://bu.edu/housing). Requests for exceptions to the on-campus residency requirement will be considered by the University Housing Committee only for residence with a spouse, parent or guardian, or minor child. Such requests, accompanied by a written statement of consent from your parent or guardian if you are not married, should be sent to: Boston University, Housing Committee, 25 Buick Street, Boston, MA 02215. **If allowed, exceptions could result in a decrease in the amount of your award.**
7. **Financial Obligations to the University:** Your University merit award cannot be renewed if you have an outstanding balance due from a prior enrollment period at BU. Promptly pay any remaining balance owed.
8. **Federal Eligibility:** To receive a Boston University merit award, students must not be in default on a federal or state educational loan or owe a refund on a federal educational grant and must not be ineligible due to a drug conviction. Students who are US citizens or eligible non-citizens must have a valid Social Security number, and (if male and born after 1960) be registered with the Selective Service.

## Additional Sources of Funds

### Loans and Tuition Payment Plan

You and your family may find it necessary to seek out additional financing options to help cover Boston University expenses. There are a number of loans available to students and parents for this purpose. Most students who meet citizenship requirements are eligible for a *Federal Stafford Loan*. *Subsidized loans* are available to students with calculated unmet financial eligibility. *Unsubsidized loans* are available to students who do not have unmet financial eligibility. Information about educational loans, the Tuition Payment Plan, and online calculators designed to help you identify appropriate borrowing options is available at [bu.edu/financial/types-of-aid/loans](http://bu.edu/financial/types-of-aid/loans).

### Part-time Student Employment

Students wishing to supplement their University merit award may consider part-time work. The Boston University Student Employment Office ([bu.edu/seo](http://bu.edu/seo)) maintains a comprehensive listing of available part-time positions and will assist you in locating appropriate employment. Wages in the Boston area are relatively high, and many students earn over \$2,000 during the academic year.

## Merit-Based Scholarships and Awards

For more information about merit awards and scholarships, go to [bu.edu/financial/types-of-aid/scholarships-grants/merit-based](http://bu.edu/financial/types-of-aid/scholarships-grants/merit-based).

## Possible Tax Liability

Scholarship and grant funds received in excess of tuition, books, and supplies, and all Federal Work-Study earnings, must be included as income on your tax return. It is your responsibility to track and report any taxable amounts to the Internal Revenue Service.

## Contacting BU Financial Assistance

We will be happy to assist you and your family with questions about the application process, eligibility criteria, and financing options. Beginning on the first day of class, information about your specific aid application, eligibility, and award will not be disclosed to your parent or guardian without your consent. Via the Student Link you can 1) consent to the release of certain information to a parent, and 2) establish Share Link access for a parent to view certain academic and financial information. For more information, review the Boston University Policy Regarding Release of Information to Parents and Guardians, available at [bu.edu/reg/ferpa](http://bu.edu/reg/ferpa).

**Visit** our website at [bu.edu/financial](http://bu.edu/financial).

**Call** 617-353-2965, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ET. If our telephone lines are busy, we suggest that you call later in the week, before noon or after 2 p.m. ET.

**Email** at [financial@bu.edu](mailto:financial@bu.edu). In most cases you will get a response within two business days. Please include your name and Boston University ID number in any email communication. BU Financial Assistance will routinely address communications to students at their BU email account. We urge you to check your email account frequently and forward information to your family as appropriate.

**Mail** your correspondence to the assistant director responsible for your application. The name of your assistant director, based on the first two letters of your last name, is listed at [bu.edu/financial/contact-us](http://bu.edu/financial/contact-us). We recommend First Class US mail when submitting materials directly to BU Financial Assistance. Certified mail is discouraged.

**Fax** to us at 617-358-2792. Our receipt of documents by fax can be confirmed *only* after two business days. Faxes of more than 10 pages are discouraged.

## What If I Withdraw or Take a Leave of Absence from the University?

Notification of withdrawal and requests for a leave of absence should be made in writing to the University Service Center, 881 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, or faxed to 617-358-1819. For further information, call 617-358-1818 or go to [bu.edu/usc](http://bu.edu/usc). For information about what happens to your financial aid if you withdraw or take a leave of absence, go to [bu.edu/financial/special/wtloa.html](http://bu.edu/financial/special/wtloa.html).