



Boston University Financial Assistance

2015/2016 Guide to Your Boston University Financial Aid Award

This Guide includes important information about your award. We encourage you to share this information with any family member helping you with college expenses.

How to Acknowledge Your Award

Acknowledge your award online at bu.edu/studentlink. Please pay careful attention to all instructions. Acknowledging your financial aid award affirms that you understand and agree to all terms and conditions specified in this guide.

How to Pay Your Bill with Your Aid Award

The projected cost of attendance is listed at bu.edu/finaid/aid-basics/cost-of-education/undergraduate. Your bill will be viewable on the Student Link by mid-July. Tuition and fee charges will be listed along with charges for room and board if you will be living in BU-owned housing. Any awards listed on your Financial Aid Award notification as “to be credited to student account” will appear as pending credits. Federal Perkins and Federal Stafford Loans, if included in your award, will appear as “pending items” until you complete a promissory note and other requirements. Your actual Stafford Loan credit will be less than the amount borrowed because of an origination fee charged by the U.S. government. If Federal Work-Study is included in your award offer, please note that since you will be paid weekly as you earn this money, you cannot apply Federal Work-Study to the balance due on your invoice. Student Accounting Services (bu.edu/studentaccountingservices) provides full instructions on how to settle your account. If your aid exceeds your billed charges, your account will display a credit balance. Any credit on your account will be available to you as a refund on or after the first day of classes. Go to bu.edu/studentaccountingservices/resources/refunds to request a refund.

Scholarships and Grants

Scholarships and grants are gifts that do not have to be repaid. Boston University need-based scholarships may be replaced at any time by a comparable amount of BU funds from endowed sources to meet fund restriction requirements. Scholarship renewal amounts are based on the total gift aid received in the prior year, calculated financial eligibility and availability of funds. Amounts awarded from particular programs may vary. Recipients of the Charles River Housing Grant are required to live in BU-owned housing on the Charles River Campus. For more information on specific award programs, go to bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/scholarships-grants.

Student Employment

Students are encouraged to work part time during the academic year. There are many work opportunities on campus even if you did not receive a Federal Work-Study award. For more information on work opportunities, go to bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/student-work-opportunities.

Loans

Unlike scholarships and grants, **loans must be repaid**. For more information on specific loan programs including Federal Stafford Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Massachusetts No Interest Loans, and on credit-based loans such as Federal PLUS Loans, go to bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/loans.

Appealing for Reconsideration of Your Need-Based Aid Decision

All appeal petitions are carefully reviewed and every effort is made to assist qualified students who fully document extenuating circumstances. Funding is limited. Requests for additional assistance should be submitted within ten (10) days of your receipt of the initial decision. Go to bu.edu/finaid/apply/special-circumstances/reconsideration and learn more about the appeal process, likely outcomes, required documentation, and frequently asked questions.

A limited amount of assistance for the spring 2016 semester is available for eligible applicants who submit a Spring Semester Application for Undergraduate Financial Aid. This is an opportunity for those with changed (such as a loss of employment) and/or other extenuating family circumstances to present that information for consideration. Application forms are available starting in September at bu.edu/finaid/forms-calculators/forms/application-forms and they are due by **November 2, 2015**.

How to Maintain Your Eligibility

To maintain your eligibility for financial aid you must comply with the following:

1. **Provide all information requested by BU Financial Assistance.** Federal regulations and University policy require verification of information used to determine a student's eligibility for financial aid. Boston University participates in the U.S. Department of Education's Quality Assurance Program; your application could be randomly selected for review. In addition, some students may be asked to provide documentation verifying the status of household members, the enrollment in college of siblings, or other information reported on the FAFSA and PROFILE. If any requested information is not provided, your award will be canceled. If discrepant information is identified that reduces your eligibility, your award – *need-based scholarship first* – will be reduced.
2. You must promptly submit all documentation necessary to process any state grant for which you are eligible. If you did not apply for a state grant for which you are otherwise eligible, those funds will not be replaced with a Boston University scholarship. Generally, if you receive a state grant that BU did not anticipate or is for a greater amount than we anticipated, your BU need-based scholarship will be reduced. If the state grant received is less than we estimated, your BU need-based scholarship will be increased.
3. **Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress.** To be eligible for renewal of **any** financial aid, you must successfully complete at least 12 Boston University credits each semester in the prior academic year. For renewal of BU need-based financial aid for the same period, you must also maintain a **2.00 cumulative grade point average** (GPA). Go to bu.edu/finaid/eligibility/satisfactory-academic-progress for complete information on academic renewal requirements for BU need-based financial aid. To be eligible for federal and state funds, students must meet the following GPA requirements: after completion of one academic year, a minimum GPA of 1.70; after completion of two years, a *cumulative* GPA of at least 2.00.

Boston University requires that students meet these same standards for state and private education loan certification. In determining eligibility for financial aid the calculation of GPA does not include Physical Development Program (PDP) courses. Enrollment prior to full-time matriculation at BU, at other institutions, and courses not completed by June 1, 2015 are also not considered in these determinations. The London summer term is considered only for students admitted to the College of General Studies January Boston-London program. Other BU summer enrollment is considered only upon appeal.

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 will be canceled 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. Students who withdraw during the fall semester after the beginning of classes are ineligible for financial aid for the spring semester, unless extenuating circumstances are documented. Eligibility for federal funds is limited to six years of full-time undergraduate enrollment. Eligibility for BU need-based scholarships and state grants is limited to four years of full-time undergraduate enrollment.

4. **Inform BU Financial Assistance of any additional awards.** Federal regulations require that your total financial aid not exceed your calculated financial eligibility. Therefore, 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, tuition benefits, VA benefits or other aid.

If you receive an additional award from outside BU, your need-based financial aid will be reduced only if your total aid, from all sources, exceeds your calculated financial eligibility. Any necessary reduction will be made first to self-help, (i.e., need-based student loan or Federal Work-Study). Need-based scholarships and grants will only be reduced if the outside award exceeds your total self-help. If you receive an additional award submit a copy of the official donor agency award notification to BU Financial Assistance.

5. **Inform BU Financial Assistance promptly of changes,** including any changes in your family income or assets, or in your name, address, enrollment, or degree status, or if you withdraw or take a leave of absence from the University. If you reduce your course load to less than full-time (12 credits), you may lose part of or your entire aid award. Speak with your academic advisor and the assistant director (bu.edu/finaid/contact-us) responsible for your aid application before reducing your course load.
6. **Apply for financial aid every year.** Application materials for the 2016/2017 academic year will be available starting in January 2016. Renewal is contingent on your meeting all eligibility criteria. **The type and amount of financial aid for which you are eligible in the future will depend on your calculated financial eligibility and the availability of funds.** Changes in family financial circumstances, such as income, the number of household members, or the number of undergraduate siblings attending college, can significantly affect your eligibility for financial aid. Your financial eligibility may go up or down. If your eligibility remains the same and you meet all renewal criteria, your award will be commensurate with prior years' awards.
7. **Fulfill your financial obligations to the University.** Your financial aid offer may be canceled if you do not complete registration and settle your account by the payment deadline. Your future aid applications will not be considered if you owe BU a balance for a prior enrollment period. If you pay a prior semester balance late, your aid application could be denied if all available funds are committed before your payment is made. Therefore, you must promptly pay any balance due in excess of the semester portion of any grants, scholarships, or loans.
8. The terms and conditions of awards are subject to change in subsequent years.

What if I Withdraw or Take a Leave of Absence from the University

Undergraduate student withdrawals and leaves of absence should be arranged at the University Service Center, 881 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. For further information, call 617-358-1818 or go to www.bu.edu/usc/leaveandwithdrawal. For information about what happens to your financial aid if you withdraw or take a leave of absence, go to bu.edu/finaid/apply/special-circumstances/withdrawal-and-leave-of-absence.

Contacting BU Financial Assistance

We are happy to assist you and your family with questions about the application process, eligibility criteria and financing options. However, information about your specific financial aid application, your eligibility, and your award will not be disclosed to your parent or guardian without your consent. Via the StudentLink you can 1) consent to the release of certain information to a parent and, 2) establish ShareLink 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/req/ferpa.

Visit our website at bu.edu/finaid.

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 finaid@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 share financial aid information with any family member helping you with college expenses.

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/finaid/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.