



Financial Assistance  
**Guide to Your Merit Award**  
(For International Students)  
2017/2018

*Congratulations on your receipt of a Boston University merit award! We are pleased to provide you with this guide, which includes information about how to acknowledge your scholarship and the conditions of your award. We encourage you to share this information with any family member helping you with college expenses.*

### **NEXT STEPS**

- **Acknowledge your award offer** online at [bu.edu/finaid/apply/newstudents/next-steps](http://bu.edu/finaid/apply/newstudents/next-steps). Please pay careful attention to all instructions. Acknowledging 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 acknowledging your award. **Your award offer may be withdrawn** if you do not acknowledge your award and pay the enrollment deposit by the specified deadlines.

### **CONDITIONS OF YOUR MERIT AWARD**

*The terms and conditions of all awards are subject to change.*

1. **Duration:** Eligibility for any Boston University scholarship is limited to a maximum of 8 semesters, consecutive or non-consecutive, of undergraduate enrollment.
2. **Satisfactory Academic Progress:** To be eligible for renewal of your Boston University merit award, you must complete 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 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, enrollments prior to full-time matriculation at Boston University, during the summer, or at other institutions are not considered in these determinations. Awards are usually offered for the full academic year, and academic progress is reviewed at the end of each academic year. However, awards will be canceled for the second half of the academic year if a full-time student fails to earn at least a 1.00 grade point index (GPI) or fails to successfully complete at least eight credits by mid-year. 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 academic merit award you must be in good disciplinary standing. Any merit award cancellation resulting from a disciplinary issue will be effective the same semester the sanction was 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.
5. **Enrollment Status:** You must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credits per semester) in a BU undergraduate 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, University Housing Committee, 25 Buick Street, Boston, MA 02215.
8. **Eligibility:** International students may be considered for the Trustee Scholarship or Presidential Scholarship. Consideration for other merit awards is extended only to U.S. citizens, permanent residents or eligible non-citizens. International students will not be considered for federal, state or BU need-based financial aid.

## **PART-TIME STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

Boston University, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), and the sponsoring agencies of international students all impose rules on and procedures for the employment of international students. International students are prohibited from working off campus. As each student's situation is different, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the BU International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) at 617-353-3565 and the BU Student Employment Office (SEO) at 617-353-3594 concerning your employment options.

## **POSSIBLE TAX LIABILITY**

Scholarship funds received, in excess of tuition, books, and supplies, must be included as income on your tax return. As an international student receiving a merit award you may have charges posted to your student account to cover the cost of this tax liability.

## **CONTACTING BU FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Contact BU Financial Assistance at [finaid@bu.edu](mailto:finaid@bu.edu) or at **617-353-2965** if you have questions about your merit award. Please identify yourself as an international student and in any communication, please include your name and Boston University ID number. When writing to BU Financial Assistance, please address your correspondence to Ken Kowalczyk, Senior Assistant Director.