



Financial Assistance  
**Guide to Your Merit Award**  
(For International Students)  
2025/2026

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

### **NEXT STEPS**

- [Acknowledge your scholarship offer](#) and pay careful attention to all instructions. Acknowledging your scholarship offer affirms that you understand and agree to the terms and conditions specified in this guide.
- **If you are a new 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 scholarship. **Your scholarship may be withdrawn** if you do not acknowledge it and pay the enrollment deposit by the specified deadlines. If you choose to defer your admission, you will forfeit your scholarship(s).

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

*Scholarship terms and conditions 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 scholarship, 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 [on our website](#). Physical Development Program (PDP) courses are not considered in these determinations. Scholarships are usually offered for the full academic year, and academic progress is reviewed at the end of each academic 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 scholarship. After you have completed at least 12 credits per semester while maintaining the minimum GPA required for your scholarship over one full academic year, an appeal requesting that the scholarship be reinstated will be considered.
3. **Disciplinary Standing:** To retain eligibility for a Boston University academic scholarship you must be in good standing according to the Code of Student Responsibilities and the Academic Conduct Code. 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 additional aid, your BU scholarship will **not** be reduced provided your total tuition scholarships 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 scholarships, 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 scholarships cannot be used for summer enrollment.**
6. **Residence:** All first-year students are required to reside in University-owned housing, as are all other students who receive a University-funded merit-based scholarship equal to or greater than tuition, except CFA artistic scholarships. For more information about living on campus, [visit our website](#). 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 Athletic Scholarships, College of Fine Arts Scholarships, the Trustee Scholarship or the 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-based scholarship 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.