

## Office of Financial Assistance

### Guide to Your Merit Award

2008/2009

**C**ONGRATULATIONS 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 or grant, 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 your family.

If you have also been awarded Boston University need-based financial aid, we have enclosed the *Guide to Your Financial Aid Award*. It explains how your need-based eligibility was determined and provides information on need-based grant, loan, and Federal Work-Study awards, including required conditions and renewal criteria.

Information on how to contact the Office of Financial Assistance is included on the last page of this guide. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns. We will be happy to assist you.

#### How to Accept Your Award

We encourage you to accept the enclosed award offer online at [www.bu.edu/finaid](http://www.bu.edu/finaid). If you do not have online access, return the paper copy of the enclosed award notification after placing an "X" in the "YES" column of each award you wish to accept and an "X" in the "NO" column of each award you wish to decline. Make sure to complete and sign the statements on the reverse side of the notification letter and return one copy by the deadline indicated. Accepting your award offer affirms that you understand and agree to the terms and conditions specified in this guide. **If you are an entering student, you must also pay the required nonrefundable enrollment deposit by the date stipulated by the Office of Admissions. This deposit deadline is separate from the deadline for accepting your award. Your award may be withdrawn if you do not meet the deadlines specified for accepting your financial aid award and submitting your enrollment deposit. If you choose to defer your admission, you will forfeit all award offers from Boston University.**

#### Need-Based Financial Aid

If we received a CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from you, any federal, state, and University need-based aid for which you are eligible is also listed on your Financial Aid Award notification. If you did not apply for need-based aid, you may still do so by submitting a FAFSA and PROFILE and sending written notification to the Office of Financial Assistance that you wish to be considered for need-based aid. If you want to be considered for federal aid alone, you need to submit only the FAFSA. If eligible, you will be con-

sidered for those funds that remain available at the time your complete application is received. For questions about need-based aid, please contact the Office of Financial Assistance.

#### Renewal of Merit and Need-Based Aid

*Students who receive both merit and need-based aid must meet renewal criteria for each award.* For renewal of merit awards, students must earn the annual grade point average (GPA) stipulated in their award notification during the preceding two semesters of the academic year, and meet the other 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 grant aid will be offered provided financial need, satisfactory academic progress, and other eligibility criteria are met.

For renewal of need-based aid, students must submit all application materials by the stipulated deadline and continue to demonstrate calculated need. For other conditions, please refer to the guide enclosed with your need-based aid award. If you meet the criteria for renewal of one award but not the other, you will receive only the award for which you qualify.

#### Study Abroad

Boston University grants are available only for enrollment during the academic year and for study abroad programs operated by Boston University. The Supplemental University Grant and Federal Work-Study are not available for study abroad. Your grant will be reduced if study abroad charges are less

than those for Boston-based study. Tuition-based scholarships will be reduced proportionally if the tuition portion of the program fee is less than the regular tuition. In addition, if the budget of your study abroad program is lower than the budget of the Charles River Campus, your financial aid may be adjusted. 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. Credit-based loans may be used for summer enrollment.

## 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 eight (8) semesters of undergraduate enrollment.
- 2. Satisfactory Academic Progress:** To be eligible for renewal of your Boston University scholarship or grant, you must complete 12 credits in each of the two prior semesters you were enrolled. You must also achieve a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.30 for the same period unless you have been notified of different requirements. Please note that the following awards require the achievement of a higher renewal GPA: Trustee Scholarship, 3.50 GPA; University Scholarship and Engineering Scholars Award, 3.20 GPA; Dean's Scholarship, 3.00 GPA. Minimum GPA requirements for other merit awards are stipulated in the cover letter enclosed with your award notification. Physical Development Program (PDP) courses, enrollments prior to full-time matriculation, during the summer, or at other institutions are not considered in these determinations. Also, Boston University requires that students meet federal satisfactory academic progress standards for 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 scholarships/grants 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. Students who withdraw or take a leave of absence during any semester after the beginning of classes will not be eligible for renewal of their merit award until they have completed at least 12 credits per semester while maintaining the minimum GPA required for their award over one full academic year.
- 3. Disciplinary Standing:** To retain eligibility for a Boston University academic 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 was imposed.
- 4. Receipt of Additional Aid:** You must promptly inform the Office of 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, prepaid tuition, ROTC, or other aid. If you receive an additional award, your University 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. Any need-based aid you receive in addition to your merit award could be reduced if you receive additional aid from within or outside of Boston University. 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 in each semester) in a University degree program during the academic year. **Merit awards cannot be used for summer enrollment.**
- 6. Residence:** All University-funded scholarships that are equal to or greater than tuition are contingent upon residence in University-owned 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, 985 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 100, 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 the University. Promptly pay any remaining balance owed.
- 8. Renewal:** Your award will be renewed provided you meet all of the conditions detailed here and in other communications regarding your award. If you wish to be considered for other University-administered financial aid, you may obtain application materials from the Office of Financial Assistance in the December preceding the academic year for which you wish to apply.
- 9. Eligibility:** To receive federal, state, or University aid—including merit awards—students must:
  - not be in default on a federal educational loan or owe a refund on a federal educational grant;
  - not be ineligible due to a drug conviction;
  - have a valid Social Security number, and (if male and born after 1960) be registered with the Selective Service, and be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or eligible non-citizen, unless you are an international Trustee Scholar, University Scholar, or Engineering Scholar.

\*The Boston University residential system is extensive, and offers a wide variety of living options. You may start as a freshman in a large dormitory-style residence where you will have the opportunity to live with other freshmen and meet students from all over the country and the world. By the time you achieve upper-class status and develop a smaller, closer group of friends, you may wish to select suite-style residences, brownstones, and apartments in response to your changing living needs.

## Additional Sources of Funds

### Loans

You and your family may find it necessary or convenient to extend the period of payment for educational expenses not covered by the award(s) you have received. 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 Direct Stafford Loan*. *Subsidized loans* are available to students with calculated unmet financial need. *Unsubsidized loans* are available to students who do not have unmet financial need. Credit-based loan programs available to Boston University families include, *but are not limited to*, the Federal Direct PLUS Loan, the Undergraduate MEFA (Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority) Loan, the MEFA Student Alternative Loan, the Education Finance Partners Loan, the Sallie Mae Signature Student Loan, the Citibank CitiAssist Loan, and the Citizens Bank Undergraduate Loan. These programs, as well as *TuitionPay*, the monthly payment program, are described in *Financing Options for Your Education*, the Boston University publication which is mailed to all entering students. *This list of programs is not exhaustive and BU families are welcome to select other credit-based loans not listed here.* This information and an online calculator designed to help you select appropriate borrowing options are available at [www.bu.edu/finaid](http://www.bu.edu/finaid).

### Part-time Student Employment

Students wishing to supplement their University scholarship may consider part-time work. The Boston University Student Employment Office ([www.bu.edu/seo](http://www.bu.edu/seo)) maintains a comprehensive listing of available part-time positions and

will assist students in locating appropriate employment. Wages in the Boston area are relatively high, and many students earn over \$2,000 during the academic year.

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

Students who withdraw or take a leave of absence before the first day of classes will have their total award for that semester canceled, and are eligible to receive full credit for tuition and fees, excluding nonrefundable deposits and application fees. Students who withdraw or take a leave of absence on or after the first day of classes will have their charges adjusted based on the University's standard tuition refund schedule. Notification of withdrawal and requests for a leave of absence should be made in writing to: Boston University, University Service Center, 881 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, or faxed to 617-358-1819. For further information, please call 617-358-1818 or visit [www.bu.edu/usc](http://www.bu.edu/usc).

## Possible Tax Liability

Scholarship funds received that exceed the costs 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 taxable amounts to the Internal Revenue Service.

International students receiving merit awards may have charges posted to their student account to cover the cost of this tax liability.

## Introducing the Office of Financial Assistance

**Executive Director:** Christine W. McGuire

**Associate Directors:** David W. Janey, Julie Wickstrom

**Senior Assistant Directors:** Meredith Barnhart, Liberty Collom, Rebecca Zazoff

**Assistant Directors:** Jonathan Brett, Phil Dardeno, Patricia Fidler, Christopher Hart, Kim Prestridge

**Senior Financial Aid Advisors:** Alberto Elysee, Reine Leary, Alison Loffredio, Zachary Wermer

**Financial Aid Advisors:** Nicholas Balk, Joshua Bordis, James Christensen, Christine Monaco

**Peer Coordinators:** Peter George, Justin Siken

**Peer Counselors:** Samantha Arsenault, Richardson Bosquet, Katie Bouts, Joshua Burris, Spencer Cook, Patrick Doyle, Sarah Doyle, Meghan Dupras, Nathalie Edouard, Lisa Frumin, Fahim Hamid, Steven Hein, Angela Kalogerakos, Chris Kramer, Dan Loperfido, Katie Lowry, Emely Melendez, Seth Naramore, Hersh Parekh, Antonia Roberts, Lauren Santini, Vanessa Tanicien, Jessica Wilkinson, Lillian Wong

## Visit Us Online at [www.bu.edu/finaid](http://www.bu.edu/finaid)

For additional information about financial assistance at Boston University, visit us online at [www.bu.edu/finaid](http://www.bu.edu/finaid).

### Contacting the Office of Financial Assistance

You may e-mail us at [finaid@bu.edu](mailto:finaid@bu.edu) and, in most cases, receive a response within 48 hours. Please include your name and Boston University ID number in any e-mail communication. The OFA will routinely address communications to students at their Boston University e-mail accounts, and we urge you to check your e-mail account frequently and forward information to your family as appropriate. The OFA staff can be reached by telephone at **617-353-2965**, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., ET. We will be happy to assist you with any questions. During especially busy periods, we suggest that you call later in the week, before noon, or after 2 p.m., ET.

*When you call, our staff will be happy to help you navigate the application process and understand financial aid eligibility criteria, merit award criteria, and financing options.*

### Corresponding with the Office of Financial Assistance\*

When writing to the Office of Financial Assistance, please address your correspondence to the Assistant Director responsible for your application. The name of your Assistant Director, based alphabetically on the first two letters of your last name, is as follows:

A to CL	Kim Prestridge	LB to OK	Christopher Hart
CM to GO	Jonathan Brett	OL to SH	Patricia Briggs
GP to LA	Phil Dardeno	SI to Z	Patricia Fidler

*\*We recommend First-Class U.S. Mail when submitting materials directly to the Office of Financial Assistance. Our receipt of certified mail cannot be confirmed by the Office of Financial Assistance because it is signed for at the University Mailroom.*



BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
881 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215

Boston University's policies provide for equal opportunity and affirmative action in employment and admission to all programs of the University.