



## Financial Assistance Guide to Your Merit Award (For International Students) 2009/2010

*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 accept your scholarship and the conditions of your award. We encourage you to share it with your family.*

### **HOW TO ACCEPT YOUR AWARD**

We encourage you to accept the enclosed award offer online at [www.bu.edu/finaid/applicantlink](http://www.bu.edu/finaid/applicantlink). 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 any award you wish to decline. Make sure to complete and sign the statements on the reverse side of the Financial Aid Award notification and return it by the deadline indicated. Accepting your award offer affirms that you understand and agree to the terms and conditions specified in this guide and in any other correspondence from Boston University regarding your award.

**If you are an entering student, you must also pay the required nonrefundable enrollment deposit by the date stipulated by BU Admissions. The deposit deadline may be different from the deadline for accepting your award. Your award may be withdrawn if you do not comply with both of these conditions by the specified deadlines. If you chose to defer your admission, you will forfeit all award offers from Boston University.**

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

*(The terms and conditions of all awards are subject to change in subsequent years.)*

- 1. Duration:** Eligibility for any Boston University scholarship is limited to a maximum of eight (8) undergraduate semesters. Your award will be renewed in subsequent years if you meet all conditions detailed below and in other University correspondence.
- 2. Satisfactory Academic Progress:** To be eligible for renewal of your merit award, you must complete 12 credits in each of the two (2) previous semesters for which you were enrolled. You must also achieve at least a 3.50 GPA for a Trustee Scholarship and a 3.20 GPA for a University Scholarship and Engineering Scholars Award. 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, spring semester awards 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 eight (8) credits during the fall semester. Students who withdraw or take a leave of absence after the beginning of classes for any semester, will be ineligible for renewal of their merit award until they complete at least 12 credits with the minimum GPA required for their award.

**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.

- 3. 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, prepaid tuition or other aid. If you receive an additional award from **within**

Boston University, your need-based aid will be reduced proportionally. 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 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 Boston University undergraduate 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. For more information about living on campus, go to [www.bu.edu/housing/index.html](http://www.bu.edu/housing/index.html). 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. 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 to the University. Promptly pay any remaining balance owed.
8. **Student Eligibility:** International students may be considered for the Trustee Scholarship, the University Scholarship, and the Engineering Scholars Award. 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 International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) at 617-353-3565 and the Student Employment Office (SEO) at 617-353-3594 concerning your employment options.

## **STUDY ABROAD**

Boston University merit awards are available only for enrollment during the academic year and for study abroad programs operated by Boston University. Tuition-based scholarships will be reduced proportionally if the tuition portion of the program fee is less than the regular tuition. If you qualify, some credit-based loans may be used for study abroad programs not operated by Boston University.

## **POSSIBLE TAX LIABILITY**

Scholarship funds received, which exceed the costs of tuition, books, and supplies, must be included as income on your tax return. International students receiving merit awards may have charges posted to their student account to cover the cost of this tax liability.

## **CONTACTING BU FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Contact us via e-mail at [finaid@bu.edu](mailto:finaid@bu.edu) or call us at **617-353-2965** if you have questions about, your merit award. Please identify yourself as an international student and include your name and Boston University ID number in any e-mail communication. When writing to BU Financial Assistance, please address your correspondence to Ms. Julie Wickstrom, Associate Director for Awarding.