

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Public/private	Private
Student-faculty ratio	12:1
% faculty part-time	46
% faculty female	25
% faculty minority	9
Total faculty	106

SURVEY SAYS...

Diverse opinions accepted
in classrooms
Great library staff

STUDENTS

Enrollment of law school	836
% male/female	47.7/52.3
% full-time	100
% minority	21
% international	3
# of countries represented	14
Average age of entering class	23

ACADEMICS

Academic Experience Rating	95
Profs interesting rating	99
Profs accessible rating	97
Hours of study per day	4.94

Academic Specialties

Corporation securities law, intellectual property law, international law, health care, litigation and dispute resolution, taxation, banking, and finance law.

Advanced Degrees Offered

LLM (taxation) 1 to 4 years, LLM (banking and financial law) 1 to 3 years, LLM (American law) 1 year, LLM (intellectual property law) 1 year.

Combined Degrees Offered

JD/MBA 4 years, JD/MBA (health care management) 4 years, JD/MA (international relations) 3.5 years, JD/MS (mass communication) 3.5 years, JD/MA (preservation studies) 3.5 years, JD/MPH (public health) 3.5 years, JD/MA (philosophy) 3 years, JD/LLM (taxation) 3.5 years, JD/LLM (banking) 3.5 years.

Academics

The Boston University School of Law boasts “an incredibly open and welcoming learning environment” along with “many dual-degree options.” The writing program and mandatory first-year moot court program are “very strong.” “BU sets it up so that 1Ls only have two ‘real’ (i.e., graded) classes first semester,” explains one student. “This way, they give us a huge buffer zone. By the time second semester rolled around, we knew what to do, and only then did we take finals for the classes that went ungraded first semester. The system really helped me do well without becoming disheartened.” “I don’t think there is a law school in the country that could possibly be better than BU for the overall law school experience,” adds a 2L.

BU’s “incredibly personable” professors “love to teach.” “They encourage debate and [a] thorough understanding of the material,” explains one student. They “put 150 percent into every single class” and in return “expect a lot out of you which makes you work harder.” Their “quirky teaching styles . . . make even tedious subjects interesting,” leading one professor to “sing to us about restitution to the tune of ‘SexyBack’ by Justin Timberlake,” says an impressed 1L. Not surprisingly, the faculty is “very approachable outside of the classroom,” and students find it “very refreshing to have such a small-school feel at such a large university.”

The “dedicated” and “very responsive” administration “constantly” solicits feedback and “doesn’t pull any punches.” Deans are “genuine” and “willing to speak with students about any issue.” The Career Development Office is “well organized” and “friendly.” Whatever career you want, “There is someone who can point you in the right direction.” “The best firms from New York and Boston” interview here, and “A number of students” secure “big law” jobs. “Even students who don’t finish in the top third” after the first year “have excellent chances of being recruited by the top firms in the Northeast.” “There is a strong sense of commitment” to public interest law as well.

The “aging building” is BU’s one big drawback, and most students agree that it “isn’t exactly up to par with its very high academic excellence.” The good news is that there have been “many improvements to the Law Tower.” The “small” library is “old” yet “lacks the classic law-library feel.” The “newly renovated” classrooms are “modern” but “nothing that’ll blow you away.” That said, there is “wireless Internet throughout” and “The chairs are very comfortable,” not to mention the “fantastic” views of the city “from the tower.” Despite the building’s aesthetic issues, most students agree that “at the end of the day, would you rather have a nice library that you’ll never use or would you rather have outstanding, engaging, entertaining professors who bring the law alive?”

Life

“Considering that everyone is brilliant and comes from great undergrads, the school has a surprisingly congenial atmosphere,” observes a 1L. Students are mostly “willing to help each other” and “Everyone shares outlines.” Nevertheless, there are some “hyper-competitive” types “trying to prove that their application was the one that Harvard inadvertently rejected.”

Having “a great time out in the city” is easy. “There’s never a lack of things to do to avoid doing work,” says one student. “You would have to be a social pariah not to enjoy the social life.” Those that “thought partying was done when law school started” are pleasantly surprised to find otherwise. “There’s this little hole-in-the wall bar across the street called the Dugout” that “is absolutely infamous at BU,” particularly when final exams end. The location “right along the Charles River” is tremendous. It’s easy to “grab a meal at someplace local,” and “There’s lots to do right in the area.” Fenway Park is “five-minute walk.” On the other hand, “Housing is horrible for what you pay.”

BU “attracts a group of people from different walks of life.” “There are people who just graduated college, but there are also people who are quite a few years out.” “Members of the student body can be a little odd,” though “Politically, there is a good mix.” There are “quite a few international students” as well. “There are a lot of gay students, and the faculty is very receptive” to their concerns. It’s all shapes and sizes on campus with “plenty of Northeastern preppies,” “snappy, funky dressers,” “bikers and punk rockers,” and other “loads of quirky characters.” Some think BU “could do more to encourage racial diversity.” Other students point out that BU is very integrated ethnically: “Everyone forms one big multicolored bundle of love.” “I have never had so many multiracial friends in my life,” proclaims a 2L. “Really, you should see us in a bar, it’s like the beginning of a bad joke: ‘So a Chinese guy, an Indian, a Jew, and an Italian exchange student are sitting in a bar . . .’”

Getting In

Academic credentials of incoming students are very high. BU’s admitted students at the 25th percentile have LSAT scores of 163 and GPAs of 3.52. Admitted students at the 75th percentile have LSAT scores of 166 and GPAs of 3.83.

Clinical program required	No
Legal writing course requirement	Yes
Legal methods course requirement	No
Legal research course requirement	Yes
Moot court requirement	Yes
Public interest law requirement	No

ADMISSIONS

Selectivity Rating	89
# applications received	6,016
# applicants accepted	1,576
# acceptees attending	269
Average LSAT	165
LSAT Range	163–166
Average undergrad GPA	3.68
Application fee	\$75
Regular application	3/1
Regular notification	Rolling
Rolling notification	Yes
Early application program	No
Transfer students accepted	Yes
Evening division offered	No
Part-time accepted	No
LSDAS accepted	Yes

Applicants Also Look At

Boston College, Columbia University, Fordham University, Georgetown University, New York University, The George Washington University, University of Pennsylvania.

International Students

TOEFL required	
of international students	Yes
Minimum paper TOEFL	600
Minimum computer TOEFL	250

FINANCIAL FACTS

Annual tuition	\$34,674
Books and supplies	\$1,206
Room and board (off-campus)	\$11,008
Financial aid application deadline	3/1
% first-year students receiving some sort of aid	84
% receiving some sort of aid	83
% of aid that is merit based	7
% receiving scholarships	50
Average grant	\$16,500
Average loan	\$30,528
Average total aid package	\$35,000
Average debt	\$80,509

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Career Rating	97	Grads Employed by Field (%)	
Rate of placement (nine months out)	99	Academic	5
Average starting salary	\$135,000	Business/Industry	5
State for bar exam	MA, NY, CA, NJ, IL	Government	11
Pass rate for first-time bar	93	Judicial clerkships	10
Prominent Alumni		Private practice	65
Judd Gregg, U.S. Senator; William S. Cohen, former Secretary of Defense; David Kelley, executive producer; Gary F. Locke, former Governor of Washington State; Honorable Sandra L. Lynch, U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit; Edward Brooke, former U.S. Senator; Martha Coakley, Massachusetts Attorney General; Shari Redstone, president, National Amusements.		Public Interest	4