

To: Prospective international students
From: Robert A. Brown, University President
Jean Morrison, University Provost
Date: November 20, 2017
Subject: U.S. Presidential Election Results

We are reaching out to you in the wake of the extraordinary and contentious presidential election that took place earlier this month in the United States. The results, as you are likely aware, have generated serious concern among many of our citizens and communities, because of the divisive and alarming language from the campaign that is still echoing around the country and the world. We want to reassure you that Boston University remains a steadfastly inclusive and safe community. As a student, you will always be welcome here, no matter your race, ethnicity, gender identification, sexuality, disability, religion, or national origin.

We will never tolerate nor stand for prejudice, bigotry, or hatred of any kind, subtle or overt. Important conversations and discussions, formal and informal, have been taking place on campus since the presidential campaign began in an ongoing effort to foster greater understanding between differing viewpoints. That free, safe, and civil exchange of ideas and points-of-view is one of the cornerstones of the Boston University community, along with the embrace of diversity and robust global engagement.

Each year, we welcome to Boston University thousands of international students from around the world. Just as our campus remained a welcoming and open place in the aftermath of the devastating terrorist attacks in September 2001, it is even more so today. In fact, we recognized early in our history the importance of understanding the worlds' cultures and societies and as a result, Boston University was one of the first universities in the United States to send students to live and study abroad. Every semester, thousands of BU students take advantage of the opportunity to study in, and learn about, other cultures outside of their own.

As President Robert A. Brown stated in [his letter](#) to the community in the immediate aftermath of the election: "Like our country, Boston University will flourish if we adhere to the enduring principles that have defined our community for 150 years: respect for all people and their right to free expression, adherence to the rule of law, and respect for reasoned arguments and scientific findings. Finally, the strength of our community also depends on our commitment to civility in debate and discussion which can lead to mutual understanding."

Boston University was founded as a beacon of freedom. We are proud of this heritage, now more than ever. We welcome and encourage you to join us in building an even stronger, more vibrant and just society.