

# Welcome and History

On behalf of the Dean of Students and Residence Life, thank you for your interest in Boston University's Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) program, a profound educational initiative that increases the impact of teaching and research through residential interactions between professors and undergraduates.

Our program dates to 1974, when then-president John Silber commissioned an endeavor to add an intellectual dimension to the residential experience. In its infancy, the FIR program had a single goal: to provide opportunities for students and faculty members to interact on an informal, day-to-day basis outside the classroom. Today, FIRs represent the vanguard of the University's faculty in that they are more uniquely positioned than any other faculty members to pioneer the inventive, collaborative, and creative elements that make "One BU" possible. Indeed, they are the gatekeepers who can unlock doors to meaningful experiences with undergraduates, experiences that mark the distinctive elements of a Boston University residential education.



# The Faculty-in-Residence Program

Expanding the Classroom for Over 35 Years

## Submitting Your Application

A goal of the FIR program is to select as diverse a group of faculty as possible. Recruitment of new FIRs occurs via faculty residents who have colleagues they believe would add important dimensions to the program and from administrators who recommend faculty. Positions do not necessarily open each year. However, when vacancies occur, they are generally filled during the summer pending approval by the Dean of Students and the University Provost.

To apply, please submit the following to Boston University Residence Life/Residential Education at the address below:

- A cover letter declaring your interest in the program, addressed to **Faculty-in-Residence Search Committee**
- A curriculum vitae or résumé
- A letter of recommendation and support from the dean of your school or college

Your application will be kept on file. If you have questions about the FIR program, please contact **Residential Education** at 617-353-3540.

Boston University Residence Life  
Residential Education  
19 Deerfield Street, 2nd Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215



“I am constantly amazed at how easy it is to develop relationships with these students and at how long they last across a student's collegiate experience, and beyond.”

BRYAN STONE, Warren Towers  
Associate Dean, School of Theology

## Goals and Eligibility Requirements

The FIR program expands the Boston University classroom by providing a residential experience that is interdisciplinary, innovative, and meaningful. Toward this end, FIRs:

- Serve as role models, resources, and advocates for the students with whom they live and learn;
- Cultivate interactions with undergraduates that empower students to grow, develop, and refine their values;
- Integrate curricular and co-curricular activities across the University's schools and programs; and
- Blaze trails toward the synthesis of knowledge and experience—trails that are provocative, innovative, collaborative, and emblematic of "One BU."

In order to qualify for consideration, FIRs must be full-time professors at the assistant professorial rank or above. Additionally, we request that all FIRs have at least two years of full-time teaching experience at Boston University.



**“There’s a ‘specialness,’ a daily reward, really, to being able to see students outside the classroom—where they live, where they eat, where they mix with one another—and to having some influence, sometimes small, sometimes bigger, in their lives.”**

ED DOWNES, 10 Buick Street  
Associate Professor, College of Communication



## Expectations and Compensation

FIRs maintain visibility as vital members of the Residence Life community. Indeed, FIRs need to be available, approachable, and accessible to students on a consistent basis. As a result, FIRs:

- Maintain their campus apartment as their primary residence;
- Actively publicize and host three specified “open hours” in their apartment per week for students within the residential community;
- Strategize with their residence hall director or area director to selectively attend Wednesday night resident assistant staff meetings and Tuesday night Residence Hall Association meetings each semester; and
- Attend select Admissions Open Houses, Parent Receptions during Orientation, Official Move-in at their residential community office, and Dean of Students/Residence Life events.

FIRs seek to fuse curricular and co-curricular activities, the very same innovative approach that defines the unique Boston University advantage, by:

- Serving as an interdisciplinary faculty resource to select specialty communities across campus and
- Coordinating at least one educational, interdisciplinary program for their residential community each semester.

FIRs also work within a larger support structure that consists of fellow FIRs, residence hall directors, and area directors. Toward this end, FIRs:

- Meet with their residence hall directors and area directors monthly to discuss ongoing community issues, brainstorm programming initiatives, and assess progress;
- Attend the FIR dinner meetings each semester; and
- Serve as active members of one of the following working groups: the FIR Advisory Board, the New FIR Mentor & Orientation Team, the FIR Ongoing Education & Training Team, or the FIR Recruitment & Selection Team.

FIRs are provided an on-campus apartment, a partial meal plan, and, perhaps most importantly, the opportunity to fully understand and appreciate the lives of students outside the classroom. Limited funding is available to assist FIRs in fulfilling the expectations that are set forth each year.

## Program Highlights

- Watching Monday Night Football with residents during open hours
- Providing a test kitchen during open hours that will decide the menu items to be served in campus dining rooms
- Coordinating a hike to Mt. Chocorua, New Hampshire, to educate residents on the impact that tourism has on rural economies
- Organizing an election results party that includes commentary about key issues from social workers, religious leaders, political scientists, and others
- Facilitating a community service excursion with the Education House that shows participants the value of occupational therapy to inner-city schools
- Taking a fishing trip out of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and bringing a colleague who tells tales of early New England trade history



**“I have created a welcoming home environment where the students see themselves as a family.”**

KAREN JACOBS, 33 Harry Agganis Way  
Clinical Professor of Occupational Therapy, Sargent College