SUMMARY
Founded in 2019, the Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences (CDS) is a transdisciplinary, degree-granting academic unit that augments existing programs who remain under the traditional university organizational structure. We are propelling data sciences into the future and are actively recruiting faculty, admitting students, and moving to a new state-of-the-art building.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Boston University (BU) is one of the largest private institutions in the US with 34,000+ students, 10,000+ faculty and staff, spread across 17 schools and colleges covering everything from Fine Arts to Medicine. The mission of CDS is to be an integrative cross-cutting academic unit, facilitating the movement of ideas, research, and educational programs across the University and building bridges between established departments, schools, and colleges.

THE BU CDS VISION
Our aim is nothing less than to democratize access to computing and data sciences. We do this by preparing a more diverse cohort of learners for rewarding computing careers, by catalyzing faculty research in disciplines that are yet to be transformed by the advent of machine learning and AI, and by bringing data-driven innovation to bear on societally relevant challenges that are often overlooked by industry. Through experiential learning programs, powered by BU Spark! (a technology incubator and experiential learning lab focused on interdisciplinary computing and data science projects), we help students realize their potential by providing access to resources, knowledge, and expert networks to support their innovation and applied learning journeys.

A DISTINCT ORGANIZATION
The model of CDS is nationally unique. Distinct from the existing cognate academic units at BU, CDS augments and complements these departments without transplanting them under a new school or college. This organization recognizes the importance (and preserves the diversity) of the established academic and professional cultures. Today, faculty from across the many schools and colleges at BU participate in this new dynamic initiative - providing access to resources, benefits, and a broad community of data scientists.
The CDS community is comprised of both faculty from cognate units and tenured and tenure-track faculty appointed through CDS with shared interests in the many aspects of data science. As such, CDS is a self-governing autonomous academic unit and not merely a division or institute that acts as an administrative overlay to coordinate the priorities of other academic units. Providing an academic home that is distinct from those supporting the core disciplines that comprise data science allows CDS to recruit truly interdisciplinary faculty who identify more with how data science scholarship is pursued as opposed to what scholarship is leveraged by data science.

**CONNECTING TISSUE**

We are the home for data science at BU, a deeply inclusive, collaborative and cooperative place with porous boundaries. A hub for data science, CDS is the convener and amplifier of university-wide interdisciplinary research centers and labs, such as the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing, an incubator that accelerates data-driven research in various disciplines by leveraging BU's strengths in existing centers and new initiatives focused on data science, artificial intelligence, software engineering, computational science, cloud computing, digital health, data privacy, cybersecurity, and the nexus of computing, society, and law.

**HUBS FOR IMPACT**

Rather than clustering faculty, students, and programs around computing and data subspecialties (eg. machine learning, data mining, cloud computing), we center on thematic areas of impact, currently around Equity, Sustainability, Health, and Civic Tech. Much of our work is done through co-Labs that involve faculty, students, and external partnerships around applied research, curricular, and co-curricular collaborations. The experiential learning component of these collaborations is delivered through the BU Spark! program leveraging a shared infrastructure and staff support.