ECE Reference Sheet 2021-2022

**ECE PhD Degrees Offered**
- Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering
- Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Engineering

**PhD Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Technical Preparation Criterion (TPC)</th>
<th>Internal ECE Department Fellowship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Qualifying Exam (RPC)</td>
<td>Internal ECE Department Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Academic Teaching Requirement</td>
<td>Faculty funded Research Assistantship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Prospectus Defense</td>
<td>Faculty funded Research Assistantship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Final Defense</td>
<td>Faculty funded Research Assistantship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coursework**

**Post-bachelor PhD** (64 credits total)
- 32 credits of graduate level courses (TPC requirement: 4 courses with GPA ≥ 3.7)
- 16 credits (minimum) of research (EC900/EC991)
- 16 credits of 500- and 700-level courses

**Post masters PhD** (32 credits total)
- 8 credits of ECE 500 and 700 level courses (TPC requirement: 2 courses with GPA ≥ 3.7)
- 8 credits (minimum) of research (EC900/EC991)
- 16 credits of 500- and 700-level courses

**Salary structure and milestones**

Students will receive three different salaries as they progress through the program

1. Pre-candidacy Base pay $36,782
2. PhD-candidate Base pay plus 5% $38,621
3. Post-prospectus Base pay plus 10% $40,460

**Grading of research**

EC900 Pre-prospectus Research and EC991 Post-prospectus Research credits are graded Pass/Fail (P/F)

**Candidacy (TPC and RPC)**

**Technical Preparation Criterion (TPC)**

Students must obtain a GPA ≥ 3.7 in ECE courses used to fulfill TPC in order to achieve PhD candidacy. At least one course should have a significant component involving formulation, analysis, and solution of mathematical models.

**Post-bachelor’s PhD Students** are required to complete 4 EC graduate-level courses with GPA ≥ 3.7 within the first 3 full academic semesters.

**Post-master’s PhD Students** are required to complete 2 EC graduate-level courses with GPA ≥ 3.7 within the first 2 full academic semesters.

**Research Preparation Criterion (RPC)**

PhD Students must pass a ~1.5 hour oral examination at the end of spring semester of year 1. Three ECE faculty members (not advisor) assess the research abilities of the student in the context of a recent research article from the student’s intended field of PhD research. Students who do not pass the RPC on their first attempt are allowed a second attempt later that same summer. RPC must be satisfied by the end of that summer in order to achieve PhD candidacy.
**Academic teaching practicum**
ECE students are required to TA for two semesters as part of their academic training, typically during their second year. TA assignments are made by the associate chairs for grad and undergrad programs. 
*Students are funded as research assistants by the faculty research advisor when they do their TA training and are not paid by the department*

**Responsible conduct of research (RCR)**
PhD students are required to take the [responsible conduct of research training](https://www.bu.edu/eng/files/2021/01/ECE_PhD-Handbook-2021.pdf), typically in year 2 and 3.

**Prospectus defense**
Prospectus defense should take place within 2 years of achieving candidacy, typically in year 3. When candidacy, RCR and Prospectus are fulfilled, the student has reached Post-Prospectus status. After prospectus, students should meet yearly with their prospectus committee to review progress and advise the student. Students and committee will sign off on an advising sheet that will go into the students file.

**Additional Resources**
Vivek Goyal – ECE Associate Chair of Doctoral Programs, swan@bu.edu, (617) 353-6521
Christine Ritzkowski – Academic Programs Manager, critzk@bu.edu, (617) 353-1048

**Graduate Programs Office Administration** (617) 353-9760
Stacey Herman – Director, Graduate Programs, smherman@bu.edu
Kirstie Miller - Director of Professional Education & Corporate Relations, kimiller@bu.edu
Andrew C. Butler- Assistant Director, Enrollment Services, acbutler@bu.edu
Anthony Morejon-Assistant Director, Financial Aid, abmore@bu.edu
Denise Joseph- LEAP Program & Student Relations Manager, dejoseph@bu.edu
David Apostol- Data Analyst/Graduate Records, dapestol@bu.edu
George Zhang - Senior Program Coordinator, gzhang1@bu.edu

**ISSO Contact**
Lauren Snow, Advisor (617) 353-3565, mrodri@bu.edu

**Fellowship applications**
Jeffrey Berg (617) 358-8061 berg@bu.edu - Director, National & Intl. Scholars.
Works with students on fellowship applications and with faculty on recommendation letters.

**Professional development**
Sasha Goldman - Professional Dev & Postdoctoral Affairs
Runs professional development workshops open to PhD students [http://www.bu.edu/postdocs](http://www.bu.edu/postdocs)

**Mental Health**
Behavioral health resources: [http://www.bu.edu/shs/behavioral-medicine/behavioral-resources/](http://www.bu.edu/shs/behavioral-medicine/behavioral-resources/)

**Laboratory Injuries**
Coverage for PhD Students: [http://www.bu.edu/researchsupport/safety/rohp/](http://www.bu.edu/researchsupport/safety/rohp/) If you have questions about costs related to laboratory injuries and exposures, please contact ROHP by phone (617-358-7647) or email (rohp@bu.edu) ROHP. Complete information and procedures for reporting can be found [here](http://www.bu.edu/researchsupport/safety/rohp/).