



Financial Assistance

Guide to Your College of General Studies

First-Year Federal/State Financial Aid - 2021

We are pleased to offer you a Boston University financial aid.

- Your Spring Semester 2021 financial aid has been posted to the MyBU portal.
- Your Summer Semester 2021 financial aid will be available in April 2021.

For more information about:

- The College of General Studies, visit CGS at bu.edu/cgs/admissions.
- Finances for first-year CGS students, visit BU us at bu.edu/finaid/apply/cgs-boston-london.

Next Steps

Acknowledge the spring semester in Boston portion of your financial aid through the MyBU portal. Pay careful attention to all instructions. Acknowledging your financial aid affirms that you understand and agree to the terms and conditions specified in this guide.

Pay the required nonrefundable enrollment deposit by the date stipulated by BU Admissions. The deposit deadline may differ from the deadline to acknowledge the spring semester portion of your aid. Your financial aid may be withdrawn if you do not acknowledge your award and pay the enrollment deposit by the specified deadlines.

You will be notified if documentation is needed to verify family income to finalize your financial aid and credit funds to your student account.

How Financial Aid Awards Are Determined

Your eligibility for federal financial aid is based on your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

- Federal financial aid eligibility is based on the information you report on your FAFSA and formulas enacted by the US Congress.
- Funding provided to Boston University from the federal government for the Federal Work-Study program is very limited.
- State grants are also based on the information you report on your FAFSA and on your state of residence, state eligibility requirements, and the availability of state funds.

For more information, visit bu.edu/finaid. Follow the links to the "State Grants" page.

How to Maintain Your Eligibility

Financial aid terms and conditions are subject to change in subsequent years.

1. Maintain satisfactory academic progress. To be eligible for renewal of any financial aid, you must complete at least 12 credits in each semester of the prior academic year. To be eligible for federal and state funds, you must meet the following grade point average (GPA) requirements: after completion of one academic year, a minimum GPA of 1.70; after completion of two years, a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00. Enrollment at other institutions is not considered in these determinations. Boston University also requires that students meet this same standard for credit-based loan certification, including federal, state, and private credit-based loans.

Awards are usually offered for the full academic year, and academic progress is reviewed at the end of each academic year. However, summer financial aid will be canceled, and summer loans (federal, state, and private) will not be certified, if a full-time student fails to earn at least a 1.00 grade point index (GPI) or fails to successfully complete at least 8 credits during the spring semester.

Once classes begin, students who withdraw or take a leave of absence during the spring semester will not be eligible for federal/state financial aid until they have completed at least 12 credits, with a minimum GPA of 2.00, in their first semester of enrollment, unless extenuating circumstances are documented. Eligibility for federal funds is limited to 6 years of full-time undergraduate enrollment.

1. Apply for federal and state financial aid every year. Application materials for the 2021/2022 academic year will be available in October 2020. Renewal of federal/state financial aid is contingent upon your meeting all eligibility criteria. The type and amount of future aid will depend on your calculated financial need and the availability of those federal/state funds. Academic requirements for renewal of federal and state funds are stated above. Applicants who did not receive BU need-based scholarship aid in a prior year for whatever reason are welcome to apply for it in subsequent years. A minimum annual GPA of 2.50 for the prior academic year and a minimum of 12 successfully completed credits each semester of the prior academic year are required for you to be considered for a BU need-based scholarship for the first time.
2. Fulfill your financial obligations to the University. You cannot receive financial aid and have an outstanding balance due from a prior enrollment period. Thus, you must promptly pay any remaining balance owed.

Summer Financial Aid

The summer semester portion of your award offer will be issued and posted to your BU web account in April of 2021. Your summer aid will be identical to your spring award.

Federal Grant Programs

For more information about the Federal Pell Grant, go to bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/scholarships-grants/federal-grants.

Federal Loans

Beyond the base level of Direct Student Loan listed on your initial notification, you can borrow an additional \$2,000 at your discretion. For more information about Federal Student Loans, go to bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/loans/student-loans.

State Scholarships/Grants

For more information about scholarship and grant programs from your state of residence, go to bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/scholarships-grants/state-grants.

Massachusetts No Interest Loans

For more information about the Massachusetts No Interest Loan program, go to bu.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/loans/student-loans/ma-no-interest-loan.

Contacting BU Financial Assistance

We will be happy to assist you and your family with questions about the application process, eligibility criteria, and financing options. Beginning on the first day of class, information about your specific aid application, eligibility, and award will not be disclosed to your parent or guardian without your consent. Via the Student Link you can: 1) Consent to the release of certain information to a parent 2) Establish ShareLink access for a parent to view certain academic and financial information. For more information, review the Boston University Policy Regarding Release of Information to Parents and Guardians, available at bu.edu/reg/academics/ferpa.

Visit our website at bu.edu/finaid.

MyBU Portal is where you see any next steps that may be required of you and upload any materials you need to submit to us.

Call 617-353-2965, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET. If our telephone lines are busy, we suggest that you call later in the week, before noon or after 2 p.m. ET.

Email at finaid@bu.edu. In most cases you will get a response within two business days. Please include your name and Boston University ID number in any email communication. BU Financial Assistance will routinely address communications to students at their BU email account. We urge you to check your email account frequently and forward information to any family member helping you with college expenses.

Fax to us at 617-358-2792. Our receipt of documents by fax can be confirmed only after two business days.

Meet with a Financial Assistance representative during one of our new student open house events. Meet with your assistant director at any point throughout the year to help you and your family plan how to manage your educational expenses. Schedule an appointment through your Handshake account at bu.edu/finaid/contact-us.

Tuition Remission

At Boston University, tuition remission **may** cover up to 100 percent of tuition for 8 semesters in a degree program for unmarried dependent children of eligible most full-time employees who have an assignment of at least a nine-month duration. An employee's spouse, and employees who are students themselves, may also receive tuition remission benefits. Amounts are not guaranteed and students should advise BU Financial Assistance if the actual benefit amount approved by BU Human Resources will differ from that stated on the financial aid award notification. The employee must apply for this benefit prior to the beginning of each semester.

Application forms are available at BU Human Resources and online at bu.edu/hr. If you indicated on your financial aid application that you expect to receive tuition benefits through Boston University or through another institution, our estimate of those benefits, based on the information **you report** to us, may be included on the enclosed award notification.

What If I Withdraw or Take a Leave of Absence from the University?

Notification of withdrawal and requests for a leave of absence should be made in writing to the University Service Center, 881 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, or faxed to 617-358-1819. For more information, call 617-358-1818 or go to bu.edu/usc.

For information about what happens to your financial aid if you withdraw or take a leave of absence, go to bu.edu/finaid/apply/special-circumstances/withdrawal-and-leave-of-absence.