

# Boston University Financial Assistance

## Guide to Your Financial Aid

2026/2027

Welcome to the Boston University Community!

We encourage you to share this information with anyone helping you with college expenses. If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of your financial aid, we are here to help!

### Next Steps for Admitted Students

- ✓ Carefully review your financial aid and information provided on your [MyBU portal](#).
- ✓ Pay the enrollment deposit by the deadline listed on your admissions decision.
- ✓ Monitor your MyBU To-Do list for any additional documents requested for the processing of your financial aid award.



## How Financial Aid Awards are Determined

### What is included in my award?

Eligibility for Boston University need-based financial aid is based on information reported on your CSS Profile. Eligibility for federal student aid is based on information reported on your FAFSA.

Your award includes your eligibility for both BU need-based scholarship as well as Federal and State financial aid. Not all sections of this guide may apply to your award, please see the relevant sections for your specific award.

Most awards will also include a Student Work expectation, for students to help contribute to the cost of their education. On-campus positions all pay at least \$15/hour and most students work between 5-15 hours per week.

Domestic first-year students who have not previously attended college and meet all application requirements will receive a need-based financial aid award that does not include loans. While student loans are not part of the financial aid package, they can still be a [valuable resource when investing in your education](#). Families may choose to use reasonable educational borrowing to help cover expenses.

**If you do not have eligibility for BU need-based scholarship based on your CSS Profile information, you will receive your eligibility for Federal Direct Student Loans.** You can choose to accept the federal loans as part of your financing plan.

### How is my award determined?

Your total need-based financial aid cannot exceed your demonstrated financial need and may include grant, scholarship, student loans, and student employment. Recipients of the BU Promise Scholarship will receive funding from one or more of these sources, the total of which will meet 100% of your demonstrated BU need without loans. This does not mean that BU need-based aid will cover 100% of your billed costs; you should review your award and BU's cost of attendance to determine what your specific cost will be.

When calculating your financial aid award, we subtract your family contribution from BU's cost of attendance. For the 2026/2027 academic year, total expenses for a student in university housing are \$98,419 and are [detailed on our website](#). Aid from all sources, including loans, cannot exceed the **total** cost of attendance, which includes billed and non-billed expenses.

Early Decision Admits receiving a BU Need-Based Scholarship – Your award was calculated based on the previous year's (2025/2026) cost of attendance. Your award will be updated for the 2026/2027 cost of attendance once it is available. No additional action is required from you to receive this update to your award. If you did not receive a BU Need-Based Scholarship, the annual cost of attendance update will not result in a new financial aid award.

You and your family are responsible for covering the difference between the total billed expenses and your financial aid (not including student work), as well as repaying loans borrowed towards the cost of education. To help plan for these expenses, [visit our website](#).

### What will my award look like in future years?

With the BU Scholarship Assurance, the total amount of BU scholarship aid is guaranteed for each of your undergraduate years for a maximum of 8 semesters. The names of individual BU awards may change from year-to-year, but the total dollar amount of your BU financial aid will not be less than the amount received in your initial year. Your aid cannot exceed your cost of attendance and you must meet academic requirements. Good news! Your BU scholarship aid will increase each year by the same percentage rate as any future tuition increase.

What does this mean? If BU tuition goes up 3.5%, then your BU scholarship will also be increased by 3.5%. It is important to know that this increase may not be for the same dollar amount as the tuition increase, since it is a percentage, and it also does not include any increase in the cost of dining plans and BU housing. Your total annual cost will likely increase each year. For more important information on how to plan for the cost of all four years, visit our "[Just Admitted to BU?](#)" website.

BU uses a unique calculation to determine your demonstrated financial need over 4 years when calculating your initial award. The calculation assumes that certain younger siblings will enroll in college and older siblings in college will graduate. This calculation allows us to offer you an award in your first year that takes these future changes into account. As a result, your aid will not increase in future years because of siblings entering college, but it also won't decrease if a sibling enrolled in college graduates.

BU Undergraduate Need-Based Aid is applicable only towards courses contributing to an undergraduate degree at BU. Students enrolling in a BA/MA program at BU will need to plan for covering the expenses of the Masters' components of their degree. Degrees must be conferred sequentially, for more information on [BU's policy for co-terminal](#) degrees visit the BU website.

### How to Renew your award?

If you already have a BU need-based scholarship, you will only need to re-file the FAFSA annually to re-apply for your federal and state aid. No need to complete the CSS Profile as your BU aid is automatically renewed with BU Scholarship Assurance!

If you have not received BU need-based aid in previous years and would like to be considered, you will need to apply as a new applicant. Please complete the FAFSA, CSS Profile, and submit an Appeal for Financial Assistance Reconsideration including parent tax returns and w-2s.



## Appeal for Reconsideration of the Initial Need-Based Aid Decision

Before you decide to enroll at BU, we strongly recommend that you plan to finance BU based on the initial award offered with your admission decision. BU Scholarship Assurance guarantees your award for up to eight semesters and is an important planning tool in making your enrollment decision.

If you have had a significant change in circumstances that will impact your plan for this year, BU Financial Assistance can review an appeal for reconsideration prior to your enrollment deposit deadline. Please submit a complete appeal as soon as possible during your appeal review window. We **cannot** consider any additional appeals after you have deposited for enrollment during your first year.

For more [information and instructions on submitting an appeal](#), as well as frequently asked questions, please visit our website. **Please do not email your appeal or supporting documents.** Appeals received via email **will not** be reviewed. We also **cannot** access documents submitted through **IDOC**.

Your enrollment deposit must be paid by the date stipulated by BU Admissions regardless of the status of any financial aid appeal unless you receive approval for a deposit extension from BU Admissions.

## The BU Promise Scholarship

[The BU Promise](#) stipulates that BU will meet 100% demonstrated financial need, without loans, for all domestic first-year students who have not previously attended college and meet all application requirements. Starting in 2026/2027, admitted first-year students with total household incomes under \$200,000 and typical assets can anticipate a financial aid award with a parent contribution of no more than \$20,000.

Families with total household incomes under \$75,000 and typical assets will receive financial aid that covers Full Tuition + the standard Housing and Meal Plan cost. BU need-based financial assistance does not cover more expensive housing options. If students elect to live in more expensive housing, they will be responsible for the difference in cost.

## Transfer Students and BU Need-Based Scholarship

Your award includes your eligibility for both BU Need-Based Scholarship as well as Federal and State financial aid. These amounts were calculated based on the 2026/2027 Cost of Attendance with the information submitted on your CSS Profile and FAFSA.

Your total need-based financial aid cannot exceed your demonstrated financial need and may include grant, scholarship, federal direct loans, and student employment. Visit our website for more information on [Federal Direct Loan terms](#). With BU Scholarship Assurance, your BU Need-Based Scholarship will increase each year by the same percentage rate as any future tuition increase.

You and your family are responsible for covering the difference between the total billed expenses and your financial aid as well as repaying loans borrowed towards the cost of education. To help plan for these expenses, [visit our website](#).

## How to Maintain Your Eligibility

Sometimes plans change, which is ok! If you are planning to make any of the following changes to your enrollment, let us know so we can help you plan any potential changes to your award as a result.

- **Enrollment** - To be eligible for renewal of any financial aid under the BU Scholarship Assurance, you must be enrolled in at least 12 credits each semester. Reducing your enrollment to below 12 credits could result in a loss of part or all your aid.
- Changing your housing status from **Resident** to **Commuter** status.
- Name, Address, Housing, or Degree status.

**Maintain satisfactory academic progress** - To be eligible for renewal of financial aid, you must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 and complete 75% of your attempted courses. Satisfactory academic progress will be reviewed at the beginning of each academic year. Boston University also requires that students meet this same standard for credit-based loan certification, including federal, state, and private educational loans.

Once classes begin, students who withdraw or take a leave of absence during the first semester of the academic year will not be eligible for financial aid until they have completed at least 12 credits with a minimum GPA of 2.00, unless extenuating circumstances are documented.

Eligibility for federal funding is limited to 6 years of full-time undergraduate enrollment. Eligibility for University and state grant is limited to 8 semesters of full-time undergraduate enrollment.

**Notify BU Financial Assistance of receipt of additional aid** - Federal regulations require that your total financial aid not exceed your demonstrated financial need. You must promptly inform BU Financial Assistance in writing of any additional aid you receive from any source, either within or outside of Boston University, including scholarships, grants, tuition remission, tuition benefits, ROTC, educational loans, or other aid. If you receive any additional aid, your need-based scholarship will be reduced if your total aid from all sources exceeds your demonstrated financial need. Visit our website for more information on how to report [outside scholarships](#).

Please be aware of any deadlines or requirements to re-apply for Federal or State grants in subsequent academic years. If you do not receive state grant funds for which you are otherwise eligible, those funds will not be replaced with BU funds.

Fulfill your financial obligations to the University. Your financial aid may be canceled if you do not complete registration and settle your account by each semester's payment deadline.

## Merit Awards

If your award includes a Boston University Merit-based award, congratulations on your selection!

Your merit award will be automatically renewed if you meet all of the renewal conditions outlined in this guide as well as any [specific renewal requirements](#) listed for your award. Some merit awards include additional requirements to those listed in this guide, such as an annual 3.0 GPA and residing in on-campus housing.

**Study Abroad** – BU Merit awards are available only for academic year study abroad programs operated by Boston University. Tuition-based scholarships will be updated to match the tuition portion of the study abroad program fee if it is less than the standard BU tuition.

## BU Community Leaders Scholarship

Boston University enjoys a dynamic engagement with the City of Boston. Boston University's commitment to meet, without loans, the full demonstrated financial need of any admitted Boston public high school graduate is a strong and tangible component of that engagement.

This award is offered with a [few unique requirements and features](#) established to enhance the quality of students' learning experiences and maximize their success at BU:

- A mentor, who is a Boston University faculty or staff member, is provided for each recipient and serves throughout the student's entire undergraduate enrollment as a resource and support.
- Recipients must maintain a 2.00 cumulative grade point average and successfully complete at least 12 credits each semester.

## College of General Studies

For students admitted into the College of General Studies, your spring term financial aid award has been posted to your MyBU Applicant Portal.

Your summer term financial aid award will be posted to your MyBU Portal prior to the start of your summer term and the BU-funded aid amounts will be identical to the amount you received for the spring.

Please visit the CGS website for more information on [the College of General Studies](#) and [Finances for First-Year CGS Students](#).

## Davis UWC Scholars Program

The BU Davis Scholarship recognizes your outstanding achievements and does not need to be repaid. The scholarship is covered by the BU Scholarship Assurance, so long as you maintain full-time enrollment and meet all other renewal requirements outlined in this guide.

As a BU Davis Scholarship recipient, you are required to live in BU housing for the duration of your undergraduate studies.

## BU CAS Global Gateway Program with Verto

For students admitted into the BU CAS Global Gateway Program with Verto, your spring financial aid award will renew for both the Fall and Spring semesters of subsequent academic years if you meet the renewal requirements outlined in this guide.

BU CAS Global Gateway Program with Verto admits are encouraged to attend a Verto Education Experience in the Fall semester prior to enrolling at BU in the Spring. [Financial aid and](#)

[financing options for the Verto Experience](#) are available through Verto Education. Once enrolled at BU, your BU Financial Aid will be guaranteed for up to 8 semesters of undergraduate enrollment.

## Scholarships and Grants

Scholarships and grants do not have to be repaid. BU scholarships are made possible in part by generous gifts from alumni and friends of the University. At any time during the academic year your Boston University Scholarship may become a 'named' scholarship if you meet the conditions of an award endowed by a specific donor.

## Student Employment

Students are encouraged to work part time during the academic year to contribute to the cost of their BU education. Your award may include Federal Work-Study or estimated Total Student Work. Students can work on campus regardless of if they received Federal Work-Study or are paid by BU instead. There are many work opportunities on campus, for more information on work opportunities, [visit our website](#).

## Loans

Unlike scholarships and grants, loans must be repaid. For more information on specific loan programs including Federal Direct Student Loans, Massachusetts No Interest Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, and other credit-based loans, [visit our website](#).

## Net Price and Planning to Manage BU Expenses

In order to plan for both the direct and indirect expenses of BU, please view our [Planning Calculator](#) which will provide your Net Price with your financial aid.

By calculating your net price, you can plan for both billed expenses by BU, such as tuition, food, and housing, as well as associated expenses that students should plan for but are not directly billed by BU, like books and personal expenses.

Use our [planning information](#) to view next steps in planning for your expenses and to learn how to set realistic goals to limit your borrowing and ensure that any debt you accumulate as a BU undergraduate results in manageable repayments. Get tips on how to minimize your expenses and maximize your resources by being proactive in all aspects of your money management.

## 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 financial aid will not be disclosed to your parent or guardian without your consent. Via the MyBU Student Portal you can 1) Consent to the release of certain information to a parent 2) Establish guest 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](#).

Visit our website at <https://www.bu.edu/finaid>.

**Questions? Ask Buzz!** Available for general questions any time of day.

**LiveChat** – financial aid counselors are available to answer your questions via live chat Tuesday & Thursday from 10AM-1PM (EST). Just visit the

[financial aid website](#) and ask BUzz to “Speak with a Representative.”

[MyBU Student 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. If our telephone lines are busy, we suggest that you call back later in the week.

**Email** [finaid@bu.edu](mailto:finaid@bu.edu). In most cases you will get a response within 5-7 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 anyone helping you with college expenses.

**Meet** with a Financial Assistance representative in person or virtually during one of our new student open house events in the spring. We can’t wait to welcome you to BU!

