

730 Commonwealth Avenue
Brookline, MA 02446
bu.edu/innovate

Social Impact Internship Overview

Innovation skills and an entrepreneurial mindset are built by experiencing problems first hand and practicing problem solving first hand. That is why starting in Spring 2022, Innovate@BU will provide up to (6) \$5,500 stipends to support students embedded in participating nonprofits for 8 weeks in the summer.

The Social Impact Internship makes it possible for current BU students to accept unpaid internships at local Boston nonprofits and social benefit organizations, while devoting part of their time to learning about the innovation problem solving process at the BUild Lab.

Through this program, eligible students will be placed at participating hosts for 30hrs a week, and will spend 1 day a week at the BUild Lab, learning about identifying, developing and executing solutions. At the end of the 8-week internship, students will present solutions on the problems they have identified from their time in both the internship and through the weekly workshops.

Host Qualifications:

In order to be eligible to host an intern paid for by Innovate@BU for the summer, hosts must provide the following:

- Any nonprofit organization applying must be able to show proof of official status in MA.
- Any Social Impact startups must meet the following criteria:
 - For-profit companies with <\$10MM in funding
 - Have less than <\$2MM in annual revenue
 - Are not led/founded by current BU students
- Must produce a valid job description for up to 30hrs of work per week
- Must be willing to provide feedback in a midway and final review of the internship and projects presented by interns. (roughly one hour each meeting)
- Are not headquartered at the Build Lab
- Interns may not be the spouse, child, grandchild, sibling, niece, nephew, or spouse of a child, grandchild, sibling, niece, or nephew of any employee of the hiring company

Internship Role Requirements¹:

- Must be a current, full-time enrolled undergraduate or graduate student at BU

¹ *International students who meet program requirements are welcome to apply. Since the award is a non-service based scholarship, international students are not required to obtain U.S. off-campus employment authorization in order to participate.*

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(enrolled for both preceding spring and following fall semesters) from any school/college

- Remain in good disciplinary standing during the internship program. We reserve the right to rescind or seek repayment of the stipend if a student fails to maintain good disciplinary standing during their program participation.

Important Dates:

Application Opens: February 25

Application Closes: March 20

Interns Placed or Approved by: April 1

Payment & Reimbursement Process:

Option 1: Innovate@BU will hire the students and pay the students in weekly installments throughout the 8 weeks up to \$5500. Host agrees to notify Asst. Director of Operations if there is a disruption in student attendance.

Option 2: Innovate@BU will reimburse the company at the end of the summer internship period.

Innovate@BU will reimburse hosts only for wages paid to students up to \$5,500 and only at the conclusion of the internship. For a host to receive reimbursement, it must:

- Pay the student as a W-2 employee on a regular basis
- Provide proof of wages/taxes paid in the form of paycheck stubs and/or a payroll summary. All interns must be paid at least a minimum wage in accordance with state law
- Complete a W-9 form and submit it with a payroll summary to Boston University Innovate@BU, % Lisa Lavina, lrlavina@bu.edu, Associate Director of Operations

FAQ for Companies

- **What is Boston University Innovate@BU?** Innovate@BU is a University-wide initiative to enable all BU Terriers to become drivers of innovation in their own lives, careers, and communities. Through its physical home on campus, the BUIld Lab IDG Capital Student Innovation Center, Innovate@BU provides experiential learning programs that foster an entrepreneurial mindset by teaching innovation, communication, and collaboration skills.

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- **How will hosts be paired with students?** Students will apply for the program and Innovate@BU will vet students for eligibility and then organize interviews between vetted students and hosts.
- **Can I determine my intern's schedule?** To a degree, yes. Students who participate in this program are required to attend a workshop once a week at the BUild Lab. It will be the same day every week. Beyond that, host organizations are welcome to set whatever hours work best for them and the student during the standard work week.