MetroBridge at Boston University
Call for Applications 2019-2020 Academic Year
Deadline: April 30, 2019

Summary
The MetroBridge program at Boston University matches small and mid-size cities and towns (under 200k pop.) throughout Massachusetts and the New England region with BU students to tackle pressing challenges. Undergraduate and graduate students, under the direction of faculty experts and with the support of a program manager, complete research projects and develop new applications for local communities. MetroBridge provides the supportive infrastructure necessary for effective collaboration by matching cities to courses, developing a scope of work, offering ongoing support, coordinating site visits, and delivering a professional final product.

Apply for MetroBridge
MetroBridge is currently accepting applications from interested cities and towns for the 2019-2020 academic year. Applications and project proposals should be submitted online through our survey:

Link to Application: [www.bu.edu/ioc/metrobridge](http://www.bu.edu/ioc/metrobridge)

Cities and towns are encouraged to submit multiple ideas for projects across a range of policy and program topic areas. Proposals will go through a matchmaking process to find the ideal Boston University faculty and course to take on the project for your city or town.

MetroBridge Projects
MetroBridge is currently working with Chelsea, Everett, Milton, New Bedford, Providence, Quincy, Watertown, and Winthrop to conduct policy research or planning studies, develop new web applications, or conduct constituent surveys. Current projects include:

**Policy Research:**
- Exploring Homelessness and Housing Insecurity
- Tracking Trends in Gentrification and Displacement
- Reducing Car Dependency and Promoting Alternate Transit Options
- Developing a Revitalization Plan
- Exploring Models for Downtown Food Markets
- Exploring How to Regulate Short-Term Homeshare Rentals
- Innovating Solutions to Public Health Priorities

**Constituent Surveys:**
- Designing a Community Feedback Survey on City Service Delivery
- Studying Residents’ Experiences with Airplane Noise
**Web Applications:**
- Redesigning the City Budget Website
- Building a Taxpayer Dashboard with City Budget Information

Full project details are at: [www.bu.edu/ioc/metrobridgeprojects](http://www.bu.edu/ioc/metrobridgeprojects). MetroBridge’s report for the City of Chelsea is available here: [www.bu.edu/ioc/metrobridgereports](http://www.bu.edu/ioc/metrobridgereports).

**MetroBridge Program Timeline**
The MetroBridge program runs on the academic semester cycle, and we are accepting applications for both the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters. A timeline of key dates for both semesters is provided below for reference while developing project proposals. Fall project deliverables will be completed in January 2020, and Spring project deliverables will be finished in June 2020.

### Fall Projects
- Project pre-work: June-August 2019
- Semester: September-December 2019
- Deliverable completed: **January 2020**

### Spring Projects
- Project pre-work: October-December 2019
- Semester: January-May 2020
- Deliverable completed: **June 2020**

**Project Proposals**
The MetroBridge application asks the following questions about project proposals:

- Briefly explain a project your city/town would like assistance with during the upcoming year
- Ideally, what specific support (e.g., research, policy analysis, technical assistance) would MetroBridge provide in supporting this project?
- Why is this project important for your city/town?
- Preferred timeline for the project (Fall/Spring)

**Selection Criteria**
Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria: top-level support from city/town officials; ability to devote staff time to support project coordination; feasibility of completing the project within the 16-week semester timeline; and alignment with faculty expertise and/or learning outcomes of the Boston University course. (A full list of academic offerings is available at: [www.bu.edu/adacemics](http://www.bu.edu/adacemics).)

**MetroBridge City/Town Partner Requirements**
There is no cost associated with becoming a MetroBridge city or town partner, however we do require that key city staff contribute their time to project oversight throughout the semester. This time commitment includes availability to attend calls or meetings related to project scoping, mid-point check-ins, and final presentations. The MetroBridge program also strongly encourages city/town staff to visit the class at least once during the semester, and projects also often include a student site visit depending on the nature of the work.

**Contact Information**
Emily Robbins, MetroBridge Program Manager, is available at eroobins@bu.edu or 617-358-8084. Visit the MetroBridge website: [www.bu.edu/ioc/metrobridge](http://www.bu.edu/ioc/metrobridge).
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