

BU Photonics Center Shared Labs Superuser Program

Introduction

Under the ratified Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Boston University and the Graduate Student Union, graduate students' compensated work is subject to specific guidelines, including maximum weekly hours and minimum salaries. To comply with these requirements, participation in the **Superuser Program** is entirely voluntary and separate from official employment duties.

This program provides graduate students with professional development opportunities, fostering collaboration, peer-to-peer learning, and technical skill-building within the BU Photonics Center Shared Labs.

Purpose and Objectives

The **Superuser Program** is designed to:

1. **Foster Collaboration:** Build a culture of shared knowledge and mutual support in the labs.
 2. **Enhance Professional Skills:** Develop technical, teaching, and leadership skills for academic and professional growth.
 3. **Promote Peer Education:** Facilitate high-quality training for lab users.
 4. **Support Professional Development:** Offer recognition and tangible benefits for contributions to the Shared Labs.
-

Eligibility and Rewards

Eligibility Criteria

To become a Superuser, students must:

- **Demonstrate Proficiency:** Have expertise with a specific lab instrument.
- **Apply:** Contact the respective instrument manager to express interest and gain approval based on skill and lab needs.
- **Commit:** Dedicate a minimum of 10 hours annually to training and lab support.

Tiered Reward System

Superusers are eligible for annual **Professional Development Travel Awards** based on their contributions:

- **Tier 1:** 10–20 hours/year → \$400 award.
- **Tier 2:** 20–30 hours/year → \$800 award.
- **Tier 3:** Over 30 hours/year → \$1,200 award.

These travel awards are made available to all approved **Shared Labs Superusers** and are offered in recognition of their contributions to training and peer education in the labs. They are provided

in addition to the Photonics Center travel awards, which all graduate students in the center are eligible to apply for. This ensures that Superusers receive additional support and recognition for their unique role in the Shared Labs.

Guidelines and Expectations

Becoming a Superuser

1. Application Process:

- Identify the instrument(s) you are proficient in.
- Reach out to the instrument manager to discuss your qualifications and receive approval.

2. Training and Preparation:

- Complete any required training and collaborate with lab managers to understand your responsibilities.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Primary Task:** Train fellow graduate students and users on specific instruments, emphasizing proper use and safety.
 - **Support Role:** Provide guidance and uphold lab standards.
-

Benefits and Opportunities

Beyond travel awards, Superusers gain:

1. **Skill Development:** Enhance technical and teaching abilities.
 2. **Networking:** Build connections within the BU Photonics community.
 3. **Career Preparation:** Develop leadership and mentorship experience valued in academia and industry.
 4. **Recognition:** Receive formal acknowledgment for your contributions in the form of a Certificate at the end of the academic year.
-

Key Program Highlights

- Participation is **voluntary** and independent of employment obligations under the CBA.
 - Hours contributed are documented and rewarded through a transparent system.
 - Superusers play a vital role in maintaining a collaborative and efficient lab environment.
-

Next Steps

If you are interested in becoming a Superuser or learning more about the program, please contact your respective instrument manager found on BUPC Shared Labs website.