



Exchange Fact Sheet 2020-2021



Term Dates: <http://www.bu.edu/reg/dates/>

Term	Classes Start	Classes End	Final Exam Period
Fall 2020	September 2	December 10	December 15-19
Spring 2021	January 19	April 29	May 4-8

Contact Information

Program Manager for Exchanges <i>inbound and outbound</i>	Sage Suorsa ssuorsa@bu.edu
Office Contact Information	Boston University Study Abroad 888 Commonwealth Avenue, 2nd Floor Boston, MA 02215 USA Phone: +1 617 353 9888 Fax: +1 617 353 5402
Office Hours	Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm Closed on weekends and public holidays. A 24/7 answering service can be reached at the phone number above.
Websites	Boston University: www.bu.edu BU Study Abroad: www.bu.edu/abroad For International Exchange Students: www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound
International Students and Scholars Office <i>Visa documents and immigration questions</i>	Boston University International Students and Scholars Office 888 Commonwealth Avenue, 2nd Floor Boston, MA 02215 USA Phone: +1 617 353 3565 Fax: +1 617 358 1170 Email: isso@bu.edu

Applications

Detailed information on the application process can be found at: www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound/admissions

Nomination Deadlines	Fall Semester or Academic Year: March 1 Spring Semester: September 15
Application Deadlines	Fall Semester or Academic Year: March 15 Spring Semester: October 1
Application Procedure	<i>Please see the website above</i> Students should complete the online application form and upload all required documents to their application. All documents can be uploaded to the application form with the exception of the passport photocopy. Passport copies should be submitted via SecureMail .
Language Requirements	Boston University is unable to accept any exchange student who does not meet the minimum English language requirements to attend. Requirements can be viewed by clicking on “English Proficiency Testing Results” section at http://www.bu.edu/admissions/apply/international/application-instructions/
Application Outcome	Accepted students will be notified within 2-3 weeks of the application deadline via email with a copy to the home university coordinator.
Intensive English Program	An intensive English language program (CELOP) is available to students whose English proficiency does not meet BU’s standards for exchange students. Details can be found at http://www.bu.edu/celop/ . Please note that CELOP is not part of the exchange program.

Acceptance to BU

Detailed information on the application process can be found at www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound/admissions

Acceptance Procedures	As noted above, accepted students will be notified by email. Once students have been accepted, the Program Manager for Exchanges will send their information to the ISSO for visa documents (Form DS-2019) to be issued. This process can take several weeks.
Acceptance Packet	Students will receive detailed acceptance information via email. In addition, a packet will be sent to the home university that contains the Form DS-2019 and instructions for the student’s J-1 visa application. The home university should distribute this information to each student so that the student can apply for the visa as early as possible.
Medical Forms	Students will receive a packet of medical forms via email that must be completed by a doctor and submitted to BU Student Health Services by the start of the semester.

Visas

The Program Manager for Exchanges will send visa information in the students' acceptance packets. For more information please see the Immigration & Visas section at: www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound

Visa Type	Exchange students who are not U.S. citizens must have a J-1 visa to study at BU.
Visa Application	<p>Detailed instructions for the visa application will be included in the packet sent to the home university along with the necessary Form DS-2019 and official acceptance letter.</p> <p>The same instructions can be found here: http://www.bu.edu/isso/travel-visas/apply-for-a-visa/</p>
ISSO Check-In	Soon after arrival at BU, exchange students must complete a check-in process at the International Students and Scholars Office at 888 Commonwealth Ave. 2 nd floor.
Immigration Status	Students should review the guidelines for maintaining their status provided here: http://www.bu.edu/isso/immigration-status/maintaining-status/ . Any questions should be directed to the ISSO at isso@bu.edu .
Working in the U.S.	<p>Students should review the information here: http://www.bu.edu/isso/employment-internships/</p> <p>Further questions about eligibility to work in the U.S. should be directed to the ISSO.</p>
Visa Dates and Student Travel Plans	<p>The visa start and end dates will roughly coincide with semester dates. Students traveling on a J-1 visa can enter the U.S. up to 30 days before their visa start date and must depart the U.S. within 30 days after their visa end date. More information on entering the U.S. can be found here: http://www.bu.edu/isso/travel-visas/entering-the-u-s/.</p> <p>If students plan to come to the U.S. more than 30 days before the visa start date, they must enter as a tourist, then leave the country and re-enter on the visa within the 30-day window. <i>Separate information may apply to students coming to the U.S. early for a CELOP or summer program.</i> Further questions should be directed to the ISSO.</p>
U.S. Passport Holders	Any student who has a U.S. passport must enter the U.S. using that passport when they come to study at BU. They must not obtain a visa or enter on a foreign passport.



Arrival and Orientation

Exchange students participate in the Boston University Orientation program for all new students. Orientation information will be provided to all accepted students, either in their acceptance packet or via email. For more information please see the Accepted Students section at: www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound

Arrival Dates	Students should arrive in time to attend BU Orientation (dates below). On-campus housing is available for move-in on the first day of orientation for students who have registered for orientation. Students who are not attending orientation can move in a few days later.
BU Orientation Dates	Fall 2020: late August TBD Spring 2021: Mid-January TBD
Orientation Program Details	Details about BU Orientation will be posted online at http://www.bu.edu/orientation . A special section will be included with information specifically for international students.
Airport	The closest airport to BU is Boston Logan (airport code BOS). From Logan Airport, students can take public transportation into the city: they should take the free airport shuttle bus to the MBTA 'Airport' (subway) station or the free SL1 bus to MBTA 'South Station' (subway). From there, they should take the subway inbound (towards downtown), switch to the Green Line (outbound), then take the Green B line to the Boston University stops. The ride will cost approximately \$3.00 and will take about one hour. http://www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-from-logan/transportation-options/taking-the-t/
Other Transportation	Taxis are also available from Logan Airport. The trip to Boston University will cost \$40-\$50 or more and will take 30-40 minutes.
Checking In	Students attending Orientation should check in at the George Sherman Union (GSU) at 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. Students not attending Orientation can proceed directly to their off-campus or on-campus housing.
ISSO Check-In	All international students must check in with the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) soon after arriving. The ISSO is located in the same office as Study Abroad: 888 Commonwealth Avenue, 2 nd floor.



Academics

Boston University is home to over 250 academic programs, managed by almost 20 schools and colleges. Exchange students have the opportunity to take classes across most of the BU curriculum, including our College of Arts and Sciences, College of Communication, College of Engineering, and Questrom School of Business.

Additional information under the Academics section at: www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound

Course Descriptions	http://www.bu.edu/phpbin/course-search/
Class Schedule	The class schedule for the upcoming semester is available online to accepted students only. A BU student account is required to log in to view the schedule.
Credits and Full-Time Status	Most BU classes are worth 4 credits. Students must register for at least 12 Boston University credits per semester to maintain full-time status, though a typical course-load is 16 credits. The maximum course load 18 credit hours per term.
Contact Hours	Classroom-based courses are typically assigned 1 credit per 1 scheduled contact hour per week. Each credit assigned includes an expectation of at least 2 hours of independent student effort per week for successful completion of the course. Additional information can be found here: http://www.bu.edu/policies/credit-assignment-to-academic-courses/ .
Restrictions	<p>Not available to exchange students: All classes in the...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School of Medicine • School of Dental Medicine • School of Law • Kilachand Honors College <p>Very limited availability to exchange students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate courses in some programs (communications, business, psychology, and economics, among others). Qualified students who meet all pre-requisites can try to gain entry, but space is limited. • Fine Arts courses – often available to BU Art majors only.
Course Registration	Registration for BU courses is done online in the months before the student arrives at BU. Detailed instructions will be sent in the students' acceptance packets. Some courses do not offer online registration; for these, the Program Manager for Exchanges will provide registration assistance. Students can modify their class schedules during the Add/Drop period at the beginning of the semester.
Class Types	Most BU classes are one-part ("independent"), though some are multi-part and may include a lecture, discussion, and/or lab component. Students should pay attention to this when registering to ensure that they register for all components of each class.
Assessment and Grading	Students may refer to http://www.bu.edu/reg/grades/explanation-of-grades/ for an explanation of the grading system. BU classes involve graded homework, quizzes, essays, and exams throughout the semester as well as a large presentation, research paper, or exam at the end of the semester. Final grades represent a weighted average of these components. Many professors also consider class participation when assigning grades.

Transcripts	After completion of a semester at BU, an official transcript will be sent to each exchange student's home university and an unofficial copy will be sent directly to the student. We try to do this within 6 weeks after the end of the semester. Students can order additional transcripts at http://www.bu.edu/reg/grades/ordering-a-transcript/
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BU Housing and Dining

BU maintains a variety of on-campus housing options. Exchange students are guaranteed on-campus housing at BU. Students who opt to live off-campus are responsible for finding their own housing.

Housing information can be found under the Housing & Dining section at: www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound

On-Campus Housing	Most students live in a room with one roommate and shared bathroom facilities. Students can request another style of accommodation on-campus (single room, apartment, or suite style) but these housing options are in high demand and exchange students should be prepared for the probability that they will be assigned to dormitory-style housing with a roommate. On some occasions, accommodation may be provided in a hotel for the semester if all on-campus rooms are full. All on-campus housing is close to class locations and easily accessible by public transportation.
Off-Campus Housing	Students can choose to rent an apartment in the city of Boston alone or with a roommate. Students must arrange that housing on their own. BU Study Abroad does not provide assistance with off-campus housing placements and cannot vouch for the validity of any private housing contract. Craigslist is a good resource for Boston apartments: http://boston.craigslist.org/ .
Housing Guarantee Payment	All students who will live in on-campus housing must pay a non-refundable Housing Guarantee Payment before they can be assigned to a room. Instructions for making an international payment can be found here: http://www.bu.edu/studentaccountingservices/your-bill/payment-options/ .
Dining Plans	All exchange students (whether living on- or off-campus) have the option of purchasing a BU Dining plan. Details of the plans are available here: http://www.bu.edu/housing/dining/
On-Campus Dining	BU maintains several on-campus dining facilities which range from large cafeteria-style spaces with a broad variety of offerings, to small restaurant-style options including Starbucks. Dining points or convenience points may be used at these venues. More information on the dining options on campus can be found here: http://www.bu.edu/dining/ .
Fees	Students pay for their housing and dining through their online student accounts (Student Link). Housing and Dining fee schedules can be found here: http://www.bu.edu/housing/living/rates/
Convenience Points	In addition to or instead of a dining plan, students can purchase BU convenience points. These points are loaded onto the students' ID cards ("Terrier Cards") and can be used to purchase food and supplies at on-campus venues. More details can be found here: http://www.bu.edu/housing/dining/convenience/

Medical Insurance

All exchange students are required to purchase Boston University Student Health Insurance. This is a reflection of Massachusetts State Law and exceptions are rare. Please see the Finances section of: www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound

Plan Details	Please see the Student Accounting Services site for details: www.bu.edu/studentaccountingservices/resources/medical-insurance/
Cost	The cost for coverage in 2019-20 was approximately \$930 per semester, and for AY 2019-20, the cost was approximately \$2,000.

Student Services at BU: Useful Links

More information on the following services can be found at the websites below and in the Student Life section of: www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound

Academic Policies <i>Credits, registration, grading, transcripts</i>	www.bu.edu/academics/policies
Athletics	www.bu.edu/athletics
Counseling and Mental Health	www.bu.edu/shs/behavioral
Disability Services	www.bu.edu/disability
Fitness and Recreation	www.bu.edu/fitrec
Health Services	www.bu.edu/shs/
Residence Life, Housing, and Dining	www.bu.edu/housing
Student Accounting Services <i>Fees & Payments for Housing, Dining, Insurance, etc.</i>	www.bu.edu/studentaccountingservices
University Police/Emergency Contacts	www.bu.edu/police

