



## Exchange Fact Sheet 2024-2025



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

Term	Classes Start	Classes End	Final Exam Period
Fall 2024	September 3	December 10	December 16-20
Spring 2025	January 21	May 1	May 5-9

## Contact Information

<b>Program Manager for Exchanges</b> <i>inbound and outbound</i>	Sage Suorsa <a href="mailto:ssuorsa@bu.edu">ssuorsa@bu.edu</a>
<b>Office Contact Information</b>	Boston University Study Abroad 888 Commonwealth Avenue, 2nd Floor Boston, MA 02215 USA Phone: +1 617 353 9888 Fax: +1 617 353 5402
<b>Office Hours</b>	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. *BUSA employees work hybrid remote/in-office schedules, so advance reservations are required for in-person appointments.
<b>Websites</b>	Boston University: <a href="http://www.bu.edu">www.bu.edu</a> BU Study Abroad: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/abroad">www.bu.edu/abroad</a> For International Exchange Students: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound">www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound</a>
<b>International Students and Scholars Office</b> <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: <a href="mailto:issogac@bu.edu">issogac@bu.edu</a> *Visit <a href="http://www.bu.edu/isso">www.bu.edu/isso</a> to review their appointment scheduling process

# Applications

Detailed information on the application process can be found at: [www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound/admissions](http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound/admissions)

<b>Nomination Deadlines</b>	<b>Fall Semester or Academic Year: March 1</b> <b>Spring Semester: September 15</b>
<b>Application Deadlines</b>	<b>Fall Semester or Academic Year: March 15</b> <b>Spring Semester: October 1</b>
<b>Application Procedure</b>	<i>Please see the website above</i> Students should complete the online application form and upload all required documents to their application only <b>after</b> receiving the nomination confirmation e-mail from BUSA. All documents can be uploaded to the application in .jpg or .pdf format.
<b>Language Requirements</b>	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: (*Duolingo English Test is now accepted) <a href="http://www.bu.edu/admissions/apply/international/application-instructions/">http://www.bu.edu/admissions/apply/international/application-instructions/</a>
<b>Application Outcome</b>	Accepted students will be notified within 2-3 weeks of the application deadline via email, with a copy to the home university coordinator.
<b>Intensive English Program</b>	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 <a href="http://www.bu.edu/celop/">http://www.bu.edu/celop/</a> . 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](http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound/admissions)

<b>Acceptance Procedures</b>	As noted above, accepted students will be notified by email. The Program Manager for Exchanges will send information for accepted non-US citizens to the ISSO for visa documents (Form DS-2019) to be issued. This process takes several weeks after decisions are sent.
<b>Acceptance Packets</b>	Students will receive their DS-2019 form electronically, along with instructions on how to apply for the J-1 visa. BU distributes this information as soon as the forms are available so students can apply for the visa as early as possible. Official acceptance letters will be sent separately via e-mail.
<b>Medical Forms</b>	All admitted students will be notified which medical forms must be completed by a doctor and submitted to BU Student Health Services (not BU Study Abroad) by the start of the semester.

# Visas

The Program Manager for Exchanges and/or the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) will email students' visa information. For more information, please see the Immigration & Visas section at: [www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound](http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound)

<b>Visa Type</b>	Exchange students who are not U.S. citizens must have a J-1 visa to study at BU.
<b>Visa Application</b>	Detailed instructions for the visa application will be included in the email sent directly to students, along with the necessary Form DS-2019 and official acceptance letter. The same instructions can be found here: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/isso/travel-vhttp://www.bu.edu/reg/dates/isas/apply-for-a-visa/">http://www.bu.edu/isso/travel-vhttp://www.bu.edu/reg/dates/isas/apply-for-a-visa/</a>
<b>ISSO Check-In</b>	Soon after arrival at BU, exchange students must complete a check-in process with the International Students and Scholars Office (either in-person, or electronically, as instructed.)
<b>Immigration Status</b>	Students should review the guidelines for maintaining their status here: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/isso/immigration-status/maintaining-status/">http://www.bu.edu/isso/immigration-status/maintaining-status/</a> Any questions should be directed to the ISSO at <a href="mailto:issogac@bu.edu">issogac@bu.edu</a> .
<b>Working in the U.S.</b>	Students should review the information here: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/isso/employment-internships/">http://www.bu.edu/isso/employment-internships/</a> *Regular on-campus employment is not permitted. Further questions about eligibility to work in the U.S. should be directed to the ISSO.
<b>Visa Dates and Student Travel Plans</b>	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: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/isso/travel-visas/entering-the-u-s/">http://www.bu.edu/isso/travel-visas/entering-the-u-s/</a> .  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 and re-enter on the visa within the 30-day window. <i>Further questions should be directed to the ISSO, especially regarding early arrival for a CELOP or summer program.</i>
<b>U.S. Passport Holders</b>	Any student who has a U.S. passport <b>must</b> enter the U.S. using that passport when they come to study at BU. They <b>must not</b> 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 via email. For more information please see the Accepted Students section at: [www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound](http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound)

<b>Arrival Dates</b>	All 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 and applied for BU housing.
<b>BU Orientation Dates</b> (previous year until current dates available)	<b>Fall 2024:</b> August TBD, 2024 <b>Spring 2025:</b> January TBD, 2025
<b>Orientation Program Details</b>	Details about BU Orientation will be e-mailed and also posted online at <a href="http://www.bu.edu/orientation">http://www.bu.edu/orientation</a> . A special section will be included for with information specifically for international exchange students.
<b>Airport</b>	The closest airport to BU is Boston Logan International (airport code BOS). From Logan Airport, students can take the free SL1 bus to South Station. At South Station, board the MBTA Red Line subway train inbound (towards downtown). Switch at Park Street station to the Green Line ('B' train outbound to Boston College; upstairs), and ride to the Boston University stops. The ride will take about one hour. <a href="http://www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-from-logan/transportation-options/taking-the-t/">http://www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-from-logan/transportation-options/taking-the-t/</a>
<b>Other Transportation</b>	Taxis are available directly from Logan Airport, \$40-\$50 (including tip); 30-40 minutes. <a href="#">Uber and Lyft ride shares</a> also pick up at Logan Airport.
<b>Checking In</b>	Visit <a href="https://www.bu.edu/housing/">https://www.bu.edu/housing/</a> for information on how and when students can check-in to BU residences. Students are responsible for arranging their own accommodations prior to their move-in day. <b>Fall '24 = August TBD. Spring '25 = January TBD *Reservations are required.</b>
<b>ISSO Check-In</b>	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 <sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound)

<b>Course List with Descriptions</b>	<a href="http://www.bu.edu/phpbin/course-search/">http://www.bu.edu/phpbin/course-search/</a>
<b>Class Schedule</b>	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.
<b>Credits and Full-Time Status</b>	Most Boston University classes are worth 4 credits. Exchange students must register for at least 12 BU credits per semester to maintain full-time status, though a typical course-load is 16 credits. The maximum course load exchange students may carry is 18 credit hours per term.
<b>Contact Hours</b>	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: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/policies/credit-assignment-to-academic-courses/">http://www.bu.edu/policies/credit-assignment-to-academic-courses/</a> .
<b>Restrictions</b>	<p><b>Not available to exchange students: All classes in the...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School of Medicine</li> <li>• School of Dental Medicine</li> <li>• School of Law</li> <li>• Kilachand Honors College</li> </ul> <p><b>Very limited availability to exchange students:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Fine Arts courses – often available to BU Art majors only.</li> </ul>
<b>Course Registration</b>	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 and via e-mail. 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.
<b>Class Types</b>	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.
<b>Assessment and Grading</b>	Students may refer to <a href="http://www.bu.edu/reg/grades/explanation-of-grades/">http://www.bu.edu/reg/grades/explanation-of-grades/</a> 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.

<b>Transcripts</b>	After completion of a semester at BU, students can access unofficial copies of their transcripts by logging into their student account. Students can arrange to have an official version of their transcript sent to their home institution (\$8, paper or electronic copy) by visiting <a href="http://www.bu.edu/reg/grades/ordering-a-transcript/">http://www.bu.edu/reg/grades/ordering-a-transcript/</a>
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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, though their first choice of residence may not be assigned. 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](http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound)

<b>On-Campus Housing</b>	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 nearby hotel for the semester (or part of the semester), if all on-campus rooms are full. All on-campus housing is close to class locations and easily accessible by public transportation.
<b>Off-Campus Housing</b>	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 can be a good resource for Boston apartments for a wary student. <a href="http://boston.craigslist.org/">http://boston.craigslist.org/</a>
<b>Housing Guarantee Payment</b>	All students who will live in on-campus housing must pay a <b>non-refundable</b> Housing Guarantee Payment before they can be assigned to a room. Instructions for making an international payment can be found here: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/studentaccountingservices/your-bill/payment-options/">http://www.bu.edu/studentaccountingservices/your-bill/payment-options/</a> .
<b>Dining Plans</b>	All students assigned to BU dorms must purchase a BU Dining plan. Students living off-campus have the option to purchase one. Details of the plans are available here: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/housing/dining/">http://www.bu.edu/housing/dining/</a>
<b>On-Campus Dining</b>	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: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/dining/">http://www.bu.edu/dining/</a> .
<b>Fees</b>	Students pay for their BU housing and dining through their online student accounts (Student Link). Housing and Dining fee schedules can be found here: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/housing/living/rates/">http://www.bu.edu/housing/living/rates/</a>
<b>Convenience Points</b>	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: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/housing/dining/convenience/">http://www.bu.edu/housing/dining/convenience/</a>

## 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](http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound)

<b>Plan Details</b>	Please see the Student Accounting Services site for details: <a href="http://www.bu.edu/studentaccountingservices/resources/medical-insurance/">www.bu.edu/studentaccountingservices/resources/medical-insurance/</a>
<b>Cost</b>	The cost for basic coverage was approximately \$1,260 per semester in 2023-2024. Amount will be higher if summer semester is included.

## 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](http://www.bu.edu/abroad/inbound)

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

