Boston University – Metropolitan College

Principal Investigator: Julian Borges jyborges@bu.edu
Co-Investigator/Advisor: Wesley Chen wesjchen@bu.edu
Project Title: BU Coin: Pilot Implementation of a Boston University-Native Blockchain Currency Payment System
Institution: Boston University – Metropolitan College
Requested Funding: $975,000
Project Duration: 12 months
Proposed Start Date: August 1, 2025

🔷 Budget Table

Category	Cost Estimate (USD)	Justification
Personnel		
PI – Julian Borges (Full-year appointment)	$280,000	Project strategy, design oversight, compliance, reporting, stakeholder alignment
Blockchain Dev Lead / Contractor	$150,000	Wallet design, smart contracts, backend dev, and token architecture
UI/UX Design Consultant (6-month contract)	$60,000	Build user-facing student wallet and admin interface
Legal/Compliance Advisor (Part-time retainer)	$40,000	Oversight for HIPAA, FERPA, and fintech compliance
Research Assistants / Interns (stipends)	$20,000	Support modeling, documentation, data analysis
Subtotal – Personnel	**$550,000**	
Development & Infrastructure		
Wallet and Smart Contract Engineering	$90,000	Token design, issuance protocols, secure wallet functions
System Backend, APIs, and Middleware	$60,000	Payment routing, ledger syncing, user/session management
Campus Systems Integration	$40,000	Connect to bookstore, dining, event systems
Security Architecture + Penetration Testing	$35,000	Protect data, ensure integrity, audit chains
Cloud Hosting (12-month)	$20,000	Deployment and scaling via compliant cloud platforms
Subtotal – Development	**$245,000**	

Category	Cost Estimate (USD)	Justification
Program Operations & User Engagement		
Stakeholder Workshops (Admin, IT, Finance)	$15,000	Gather feedback, train decision-makers, resolve friction
Student Outreach Campaign + Support Materials	$10,000	Explain BU Coin usage, access, and benefits
Pilot Activation Events and Evaluation	$25,000	Run, test, iterate pilot scenarios and system behavior
Campus Incentives and Reward Distribution	$15,000	Student token rewards for usage, testing, and feedback
Conference Travel and Publication Dissemination	$10,000	Present pilot outcomes, publish results, share findings
Subtotal – Engagement	**$75,000**	
Contingency Reserve (10%)	**$90,000**	For unanticipated technical, legal, or outreach needs
TOTAL PROJECT COST	**$975,000**	