

Boston University – Metropolitan College

Principal Investigator: Julian Borges

Co-Investigator/Advisor: Wesley Chen

Project Title: BU Coin: Pilot Implementation of a University-Native Blockchain 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 | |

Principal Investigator Role Justification

Julian Borges will serve as the **Executive Lead and Architect** of the BU Coin project, overseeing every stage from system design to pilot delivery. The role is akin to a **founder or chief innovation officer** responsible for:

- Designing token logic and backend systems
- Leading stakeholder engagement and governance strategy
- Ensuring compliance with fintech, education, and data laws
- Authoring evaluation reports and managing external communications
- Supervising contractors, legal advisors, and student interns

The **requested compensation of \$280,000** reflects:

- Full-time commitment for 12 months
- Oversight of multi-disciplinary innovation
- Benchmark alignment with digital transformation and ed-tech innovation leadership in higher education or comparable sectors