

# 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
<b>Personnel</b>		
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
<b>Subtotal – Personnel</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>	
<b>Development &amp; Infrastructure</b>		
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
<b>Subtotal – Development</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>	

Category	Cost Estimate (USD)	Justification
<b>Program Operations &amp; User Engagement</b>		
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
<b>Subtotal – Engagement</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	
<b>Contingency Reserve (10%)</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	For unanticipated technical, legal, or outreach needs
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$975,000</b>	

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