GENEALOGICAL ESSENTIALS
Classes start Fall, Spring, and Summer

Boston University’s four-week, online course in Genealogical Essentials is designed specifically for genealogy enthusiasts who seek to improve their research skills and develop a better understanding of best practices in the field. Students will learn how to define specific genealogical concepts and terms; how to effectively locate and search public records; and how to optimize their search techniques for online research.

Genealogical Essentials serves as excellent preparation for BU’s Certificate Program in Genealogical Research.

IDEAL FOR
• Hobbyists and enthusiasts who are currently conducting genealogical research, but who seek more formal training
• Serious students new to the field of genealogy

TOPICS
Laying the Foundation
• Recognizing clues in current family information
• Understanding basic best practices
• Introducing the Genealogical Proof Standard

Tools and Techniques
• Using certain tools for efficiency and communication
• Evaluating and documenting sources
• Learning search techniques

Immigration and Evidence
• Identifying clues to origins
• Assessing information
• Examining a complete case

Discovering Answers
• Applying what you’ve learned
• Correlating information
• Identifying persons in a photo

PREREQUISITES
Students should be computer literate; have access to broadband or high-speed Internet; and be comfortable with:
• Microsoft Word®
• Digital file saving and retrieving
• Citing sources and creating footnotes using Word®

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Melinde Lutz Byrne, FASG
A fellow and vice president of the American Society of Genealogists, Melinde Lutz Byrne is one of only 50 living genealogists elected to the Society based on the quality and quantity of their published work. A cultural anthropologist and archivist, she is also vice president of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council CEO of the Graceful Companies, and a Donald Lines Jacobus Award Winner. A national lecturer and noted author of numerous books, including volumes I and II of The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635, Byrne is editor of the New Hampshire Genealogical Record and co-editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.