Scholarships and Student Aid

Financial Aid Information for US Graduate/Professional Students

The primary source of financial aid for citizens and permanent residents of the US is through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Graduate/professional students are eligible to apply for unsubsidized Direct Loans from the US government as well as Grad PLUS Loans. Detailed information on how to apply, who can apply, annual borrowing limits, deadlines and how funds are received is available at www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/government/us/governmentloans.

The application process for US Direct Loans is different for students attending a foreign school. All of the steps have to be completed each academic year in order to receive US Direct Unsubsidized and/or Grad PLUS Loans (with the exception of Entrance Counseling, which is only done once).

Student must complete the following steps at https://StudentAid.gov:
- Student completes the 2020 - 21 FAFSA Form
- Student completes a Loan Agreement (Master Promissory Note) for Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans
- **First time US Direct Loan borrowers** complete Loan Entrance Counseling
- Student completes the US Direct Unsubsidized Loan application in Minerva (log into Minerva >> Financial Aid/Awards tab >> Financial Aid Menu >> Apply for US Direct Loans)

Student must complete the following steps each academic year (if applying for Grad PLUS Loan) at https://StudentAid.gov:
- Student must be receiving maximum amount of US Direct Unsubsidized Loan (see procedure above)
- Student applies for PLUS Loan for Graduate School (this initiates the required credit check)
- Student completes a Loan Agreement (PLUS MPN for Graduate/Professional Students)
- **First time PLUS Loan borrowers** complete Entrance Counseling (if also a first-time Direct Loan borrower, it is possible to complete combined Entrance Counseling)
- Student completes the US Grad PLUS Loan application in Minerva (log into Minerva >> Financial Aid/Awards tab >> Financial Aid Menu >> Apply for US Direct Loans) (can be combined with Direct Loan application above)

As of March 29, 2015 the following options are available to any borrower whose PLUS Loan credit check is denied:
- secure an approved endorser (must pass the credit check) or
- appeal based on extenuating circumstances

In either case, the PLUS loan applicant (not the endorser) will be **required** to complete PLUS Credit Counseling via https://StudentAid.gov. Please note that this is **not** the same as Entrance Counseling.

All of the above steps for Direct Loan and Grad PLUS Loan should be completed by **June 1**. Applications are processed on a rolling basis. **Late applications cannot be assured of obtaining loan documentation in time to obtain immigration approval or that loan funds will be disbursed by the tuition fee payment deadline.**

Notification/Disbursement of US Direct Loans
- Students are advised of loan offer(s) by letter (sent via email) listing loan type and the **Gross amount** of each loan in US currency. This letter can be used for proof of financial capacity for immigration purposes.
- Students log into Minerva to view loan offer(s) and disbursement schedule. The loan amount(s) in Minerva is the **Net amount** of the loan after the US Dept. of Ed. origination fee has been assessed and is in US currency.
- Students are advised to “accept” or “decline” each loan offer in Minerva. **No loan should be left in an “offered” status in Minerva.**
- Students must be registered full time prior to the disbursement date. If not, disbursement will be delayed.
Notification/Disbursement of US Direct Loans (cont’d)

- Loan amounts will be converted into Canadian funds upon disbursement.
- US Direct Loan funds will be disbursed to student’s fee account in Minerva:
  - Fall-late August: All students
  - Winter-early January: All students
  - Spring-late April: PhD students years 1 to 5
  - MDCM students years 1 to 3

Students whose loan(s) will not be disbursed by the fee payment deadline can apply for a Tuition Payment Deferral. More information can be found at www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/awards-assistance/tuition-fees-payment-deferral.

Regarding Thesis Away status for Graduate and professional students:
- By US government regulation McGill Graduate students are not eligible for US Direct Loans if research, work, internship, externship or special studies is performed in the US. The only exception to this regulation is if a PhD student is conducting independent research (for not more than one academic year) in the US during the dissertation phase, under the guidance of the Faculty and the research can only be performed in the US.
- Furthermore, McGill Graduate students should communicate with Scholarships and Student Aid via us.studentaid@mcgill.ca if they intend to pursue any portion of their program in the US or a foreign country.

US Direct Loan Program and Student Exchanges:
- McGill students going on an exchange can receive US Direct Loans only if attending a school that participates in the U.S. Direct Loan program, and the school is located outside of the U.S. For more information, please refer to our website at www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/government/us/regulations-us-loan-recipients/study-abroad-and-exchange

US Dept. of Education regulations affecting eligibility for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program:
- Nursing students (undergraduate and graduate levels) are not eligible for Direct or PLUS Loans.
- Graduate students are no longer eligible for subsidized Direct Loans but remain eligible for unsubsidized Direct Loans and Grad PLUS loans.
- As per regulation #34 CFR 600.51(d), students taking online courses are not eligible to receive US Direct and/or PLUS Loans through McGill.

The Scholarships & Student Aid Office offers several financial aid programs for entering and in-course students. Students need to apply for US government financial aid in order to be eligible to apply for McGill Financial Aid. More information can be found by using the following links:

- Work Study Program (entering and in-course students) www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/workstudy/
- In-Course Financial Aid (entering and in-course students) www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/scholarships-aid/graduate#mcgill

PLEASE DIRECT ALL US FINANCIAL AID QUERIES TO:
us.studentaid@mcgill.ca

DUE TO QUEBEC LAW (BILL65) RELATING TO PERSONAL CONFIDENTIALITY, WE ARE UNABLE TO DISCUSS PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN THE STUDENT.

NOTE TO STUDENT: PLEASE ADVISE PARENTS, SPOUSE OR ANYONE WHO MAY CONTACT THE SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENT AID OFFICE ON YOUR BEHALF THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO DISCUSS YOUR SITUATION UNLESS YOU PROVIDE WRITTEN CONSENT.