

## What to expect in your financial aid appointment

In your financial aid appointment, you are expected to be an active participant during the appointment. Your financial aid counsellor is there to assist you in finding a solution that works for you. You must be prepared for your appointment to maximize the time with your financial aid counsellor. Below are some things you should prepare before your financial aid appointment.

### Before your appointment

#### Review your budget

- Be prepared to review your expenses, income, and debt with the financial aid counsellor. If you need help with creating a budget, visit our [Frugal Scholar page](#) for some tips.

#### Come up with a financial plan

- After reviewing your budget, you should come up with a [financial plan](#), which helps you lists your goals and track your spending habits so you can develop a solid plan to achieve your goals. [The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada](#) has some valuable tips on how to make one.
- Once you have established your financial plan:
  - Review your goals and your budget to see if there is an expense you could lower (e.g. spending \$10 less on groceries or skipping the daily \$2 coffee at the coffee shop). Each small expense can add up. Making small adjustments in each category could make a difference.
  - Try to develop an alternative financial plan (Plan B).
  - Confirm resources with your parents/guardian before going to the appointment

#### Provide supporting documents (if applicable)

- Depending on your circumstance, a financial aid counsellor may ask for supporting documents. Such documents may include but are not limited to the following:
  - Medical or disability statement/notes/document
  - Bank statements
  - Reports or documents to support your situation
  - Current lease

#### Update your financial aid application (if applicable)

- Information in your financial aid application must be as accurate as possible. If there are changes to your situation or additional information, you can [update your financial aid profile in Minerva](#) on the day of your appointment.
- Please familiarize yourself with the [committing fraud](#) section from our website.
- Do ensure to review other important information about [student responsibilities](#).

Kindly inform our office of any inability to attend the appointment with at least 24 hours' notice. Please call 514-398-6013 or email us at [student.aid@mcgill.ca](mailto:student.aid@mcgill.ca). If you are late for your appointment, the Financial Aid Counsellor will not be able to accommodate you and you will need to reschedule for a later date.

Kindly check in as you arrive as this lets us know you are here. You must present a valid [McGill student ID](#) card during the check-in process.

## During your appointment

Here are some things to expect during your financial aid appointment:

### Be prepared to answer questions

- Your financial aid counsellor will ask you questions to clarify the information on your financial aid application. For the financial aid counsellor to assess your application fully, you may be asked to provide:
  - Personal information or circumstances that impact your financial situation
  - Information about your financial situation such as credit card limits, credit card balances, or/and bank account balances.

### Discussing your budget and financial plan

- Your financial aid counsellor will go through your budget and your financial plan.
- Based on your budget and financial plan, your financial aid counsellor may provide suggestions for lowering your budget.
- Your financial aid counsellor will help guide you find solutions to your financial situation. Some solutions may include exploring other funding options, such as
  - Government aid
  - A student line of credit
  - Part-time work such as the [Work Study program](#) or working full-time in summer
  - (For graduate students) approaching the faculty for additional funding opportunities