

Funding Your Graduate Education

Fellowships and Assistantships

Most merit-based assistance (graduate teaching assistantships, graduate research assistantships, and fellowships) is awarded through the schools or programs. Applicants who would like to be considered for assistantships and fellowships should consult the appropriate School Information section for further information. If you are applying for a fellowship/assistantship, answer "yes" to this question on the Application for Graduate Admission and, if required by your school or program, submit a separate fellowship/assistantship application and/or other materials. Many schools have deadlines for fellowship/assistantship applicants that are earlier than their general admission deadlines; if this is the case with your school, all application materials are due by the stated deadline. Applications received after the deadline will be considered for these awards only if funds remain available.

For priority consideration for work-study awards, U.S. students applying for Federal loans should complete and submit the Federal Work-Study Application provided on the Office of Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships website (see below).

For general information on funding your graduate education for non-school-based fellowships and for Federal Work-Study, visit the Office of Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships website at www.gwu.edu/~fellows or request our brochure *Graduate Funding Opportunities*.

phone: 202-994-6822; fax: 202-994-8845

e-mail: gradfell@gwu.edu

Loan Assistance

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) oversees the processing of all need-based and alternative loans for students who have been admitted to a GW graduate degree or approved graduate certificate program. Graduate students seeking Federal work-study funds should contact the Office of Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships (see above). Federal programs require U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status and at least half-time attendance. If you have questions regarding loan assistance, please contact:

Office of Student Financial Assistance
The George Washington University
2121 Eye Street, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20052
202-994-6620
finaid@gwu.edu
gwired.gwu.edu/finaid-g/

Because OSFA receives a very high volume of calls, it is best to e-mail the office with specific questions. Generally, the best times to call are anytime on Wednesdays and Thursdays or on Friday mornings.

Federal Stafford Loan Program (FSLP)

The FSLP may provide up to \$20,500 per academic year, to a total of \$138,500 (including undergraduate and graduate loans). The subsidized Federal Stafford Loan provides up to \$8,500 a

year, while the unsubsidized loan provides up to \$20,500, less any subsidized amount awarded. The unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan is available to students who do not meet the financial need requirements of the subsidized FSLP. Although the interest rate for both types of loans is the same, the student is liable for interest on the unsubsidized loan while enrolled in school.

Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Work-Study Program

To be considered for these programs, applicants must first be eligible to receive a full subsidized Federal Stafford Loan. Funding is limited.

Graduate PLUS Loans

To qualify for the Graduate PLUS Loan, you must first have applied for the maximum Stafford loan for which you are eligible. The Graduate PLUS loan cannot be processed until after the Stafford loan has been certified. You must also complete a Graduate PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and submit a GW Loan Questionnaire. You may apply for the cost of education less the maximum Stafford loans for which you qualify and any other financial aid you have been offered.

Alternative Loans

A variety of credit-based consumer loans are available to supplement other sources of aid. You should compare rates, fees, and repayment options when choosing between the programs available. Students can borrow up to the cost of education less any other aid offered (including Stafford and Graduate PLUS loans).

As with any consumer loan, the student should be aware of all fees and repayment options before applying. The OSFA will be pleased to provide school certification for any alternative loan program you choose.

TO APPLY FOR LOAN ASSISTANCE

The following forms must be submitted to be considered for Stafford loans for Fall 2008, Spring 2009, and Summer 2009.

1. 2008–09 GW Loan Questionnaire
2. 2008–09 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
3. Master Promissory Note (MPN) for Stafford loans

If you answer "Yes" to question #18 on the Application for Graduate Admission, a packet containing the loan information and a GW Loan Questionnaire will be mailed to you by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Any additional documentation will be requested as needed.

Please note that if you will be enrolling in Spring or Summer 2008, you need to request 2007–08 forms.

The FAFSA should be completed on the Web at fafsa.ed.gov, designating The George Washington University (code number 001444) as a recipient. If you are unable to submit the FAFSA electronically, you may contact OSFA to have a paper version sent to you. The program begins accepting information on January 1.

In order to have a loan processed before classes begin, all application materials must be on file in OSFA by:

- May 1 for fall semester
- October 1 for spring semester
- March 1 for summer semester

All paper documents must be submitted to the GW Processing Center in the envelope provided with the GW Loan Questionnaire.