Funding for Graduate Students

Welcome to Oregon State University and the start of your Graduate education! The Graduate School and The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships are here to help you understand the financing and funding opportunities available to help make your dreams of a graduate degree become a reality.

Federal Financial Aid

Applying for federal financial aid is easy, and done online by completing a FAFSA application through a secure website, fafsa.gov. FAFSA stands for FREE Application for Federal Student Aid and the new application is available every January 1st. It is completed using your tax information from the previous year. This application will qualify you to participate in Direct Lending programs available to Graduate students. As of July 1, 2012, Graduate students are no longer eligible for Subsidized Direct Loans due to changes in federal legislation. The types of loans available are:

Unsubsidized loans are not need-based and begin to accrue interest when they are disbursed. They also have a fixed interest rate and payments are deferred until 6 months after graduation or stoppage in at least part-time enrollment. The interest rate can be found at [https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates) Maximum available per year-$20,500.

Graduate PLUS loans are credit based and require an application for approval. They are not need-based and begin to accrue interest when they are disbursed. They also have a fixed interest rate and the loan will be deferred while you are enrolled at least part-time. The interest rate can be found at [https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates) Maximum available varies per year based on remaining need.

Assistantships

The most common form of student support, graduate assistantships are employment-based appointments where students, in exchange for their service, receive a stipend, tuition remission, and an institutional contribution toward the health insurance program available only to graduate assistants. Teaching and research assistantships are offered on a competitive basis and are generally administered by the academic departments.

Fellowships & Scholarships

Fellowships and scholarships for graduate study are awarded on the basis of academic merit and/or financial need. Fellowships usually provide a stipend and, in some cases, tuition support and a research allowance. Scholarships usually cover direct educational expenses, such as tuition and fees. Some fellowships and scholarships are awarded institutionally, either by the Graduate School or by an academic college, department committee, or graduate program, while others are awarded by external agencies such as the National Science Foundation. Visit the Graduate School Funding Your Education webpage for information and links. [http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/faculty/gradfellowintro.html](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/faculty/gradfellowintro.html)