Information About Financial Aid

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Master of Science in Education
Financial Aid

The Master of Science in Education Program office awards the scholarships and graduate assistant positions listed on this page.

The next page has information about other types of financial aid, including federal and private student loans. The office of Student Financial Services can help with these other types of aid.

Graduate Assistant Positions

Being a graduate assistant entails working part-time (2-3 days per week) in the Master of Science in Education office. This work may include general office work or special projects as assigned.

Up to three positions are awarded each year, and graduate assistants typically start in either the summer or fall quarter. Compensation for the graduate assistant positions includes a one-course-per-quarter tuition remission as well as a $2,400 quarterly stipend.

There is no separate application for graduate assistant positions; applicants who would like to be considered should indicate their interest in the “Financial Aid and Awards” section of the online application form.

Those being considered for a graduate assistant position will interview with Master of Science in Education staff. Those selected for the position are typically notified in March or April.

Scholarships

Each year the Master of Science in Education Program awards a limited number of partial tuition scholarships. These scholarships are awarded based upon academic merit.

We also offer a number of named scholarships which are specifically designated for certain groups by the donor. Examples include the Fitzgerald Fellowship, which is awarded to an Elementary Teaching candidate and the Lorraine Morton Scholarship, which is designated for an Elementary or Secondary Teaching candidate. You can see the details of the scholarships we offer on the financial aid page of our website.

Students who meet the early admission deadline are typically notified about scholarship awards in March or April.
Student Loans

Student loans are available to help finance the cost of graduate education. These loans may be either federal or private. The amount borrowed must not exceed the cost of attendance. The calculated cost of attendance includes tuition and a living allowance of approximately $8,214 per quarter. Students need not borrow this full amount but are not allowed to borrow more than this amount. To be eligible for student loans of any type a student must fulfill one of the following three conditions:

- be currently enrolled in courses
- intend to enroll in courses
- have been enrolled during the entire loan period (if you are seeking a loan for a past quarter)

International Students: Not all lenders offer loan programs for international students. Those that do require a creditworthy co-signer who is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

Federal Student Loans

To be eligible for federal student loans, a student must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be accepted as a matriculated (degree-seeking) student
- Be either a citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- Be planning to enroll at least half-time (2 credits or more per quarter)
- Be in good standing on any prior federal loans (check the status of prior federal loans)

Available federal loans include subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans and the Federal GradPLUS Loan. The maximum you may borrow in Stafford loans is $20,500 for any nine month period. Students who receive their full Stafford allowance and need additional funds may borrow a supplemental GradPLUS loan. You may borrow up to the full cost of attendance (minus any other financial aid) in GradPLUS loan funds.

The Loan Application Process

To determine your eligibility for federal student loans you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). When completing the FAFSA use school code 001739. You must fill out a new FAFSA each academic year, even if you will be enrolled in the same program as you were the previous year. To ensure that funds are available for your first day of class we recommend you complete your FAFSA at least six weeks prior to your first quarter as a student.

In May matriculated students who have completed their FAFSA and received their NetID and password will receive an email award notice at their Northwestern email address which will contain further instructions for completing their loan requirements.

Once you receive your award email you will have access to a loan “To Do” list on CAESAR (the student registration and financial system). This list will help to guide you through the rest of the loan process.

Private Loans

Students who are not eligible for federal loans may apply for a private alternative loan.

Once you select the loan program that meets your needs you should complete the application process directly on the lender’s website. When you are approved your lender will contact Northwestern to request confirmation that you are a student here. Your loan funds will then be scheduled for disbursement.

Additional Resources

All questions can be directed to the Evanston Office of Graduate Financial Aid. Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30am to 5:00 pm.

Evanston Office of Graduate Financial Aid
555 Clark Street - third floor
Evanston, IL 60208
(847) 491-8950
gradfinaid@northwestern.edu

- Priority dates and deadlines for loans
- Tuition billing and payment
- Loan deferment
- Loan forgiveness/cancellation