



## 2025 Graduate guide to financial aid with Student Financial Services

[sfs.mit.edu](https://sfs.mit.edu)  
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**Welcome to MIT from the Student Financial Services team! We put together a quick guide to help you navigate your financial aid resources while you are here at the Institute.**

We provide financial aid and customer service to all MIT students. If you have a question about money while you're at MIT, we can help. We manage student loans, military and Veterans benefits, sponsored billing, federal work-study, and other forms of aid, as well as billing and payments.

Most forms of graduate financial assistance are granted for merit and funding typically comes from an individual academic department.

If you are not fully funded by your department, you may decide to take out a student loan (and Federal Work-Study if you're a domestic student) for the difference between the cost of attendance and your other funding sources. You can begin the process by submitting your information to us and we will determine your maximum loan and Federal Work-Study eligibility for the academic year.

### Domestic students

When we review information for domestic students, we automatically determine eligibility for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan and Federal Work-Study. If eligible, we list this as part of your financial aid. If you have additional loan eligibility, we will reflect the maximum amount that you are able to borrow in your financial aid portal. You can then select the lender of your choice and apply directly with them to take out a loan.

### International students

When we review information for international students, we determine the maximum amount that you can borrow. We will reflect the amount in your financial aid portal. You can then select the lender of your choice and apply directly with them to take out a loan.

### Funding for students in need

MIT provides assistance to graduate students experiencing financial hardships arising from a variety of circumstances. If you find yourself in need of additional support as a new or returning graduate student, visit the Financial Assistance and Grants page on the Office of Graduate Education website. [oge.mit.edu/finances-employment](https://oge.mit.edu/finances-employment)

### When to apply

#### Incoming students

If you are an incoming student, you may start your application after you have enrolled and set up your Kerberos account. The application process opens in March.

#### Returning students

You may apply as soon as the Graduate Information Finance Form (GIFF) opens in March.



## How to apply for loan eligibility and Federal Work-Study

1. Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Use MIT's school code: **002178**
2. All students must fill out the Graduate Information Finance Form (GIFF). **[sfs.mit.edu/forms](https://sfs.mit.edu/forms)**
3. Submit your graduate department offer letter in the MIT Online Financial Aid Portal. Please do not email your offer letters.
4. Once you submit the GIFF, your offer letter, and the FAFSA if applicable, your loan counselor will review your application and determine your eligibility for student loans and if you are a domestic student, Federal Work-Study.
5. You'll be notified by email when your eligibility is ready to be viewed in the financial aid portal. Please see the key dates and deadlines for notification information.
6. Once you have your eligibility, the team recommends creating a budget so that you have a good sense of how much money you will need. In particular, you should focus on rent and personal expenses. Our loan counselors are happy to help with this! **[sfs.mit.edu/contact](https://sfs.mit.edu/contact)**
7. You are now all set to apply for any supplemental loans if you have remaining loan eligibility.

## Key dates

- March:** Fill out the Graduate Information Finance Form and submit your graduate department offer letter. **[fadata.mit.edu](https://fadata.mit.edu)**. Fill out the FAFSA if you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- April:** Initial release for those who have applied by March 31. You will see your loan and Federal Work-Study eligibility.
- After mid-April:** Aid eligibility is released weekly on Thursdays for those who submit all requirements by the previous Monday.
- May 15:** If applying for private loans or the Graduate PLUS loan, submit your application after May 15.
- August 1:** Fall bill due. **[sfs.mit.edu/how-to-pay](https://sfs.mit.edu/how-to-pay)**
- September:** If you have a credit on your student account, you may request a refund one week after registration. Please note you must have a U.S. bank account to receive a refund and be signed up for direct deposit. **[sfs.mit.edu/how-to-pay](https://sfs.mit.edu/how-to-pay)**
- January 2:** Spring bill due. **[sfs.mit.edu/how-to-pay](https://sfs.mit.edu/how-to-pay)**

## Contact us

SFS loan counselors are happy to help you with the loan application process. Counselors are available for individual appointments, visit **[sfs.mit.edu/contact](https://sfs.mit.edu/contact)** to find your counselor. They are assigned by the first letter of your last name.

You can also reach out to the team at **[getaloan@mit.edu](mailto:getaloan@mit.edu)**.