

# Financial Aid FAQ

## Graduate Students

2020-2021

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

1. Apply for a FSAID online at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)
  - A FSAID is used to electronically sign Federal Student Aid Documents, including FAFSA and MPN
2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](https://www.fafsa.ed.gov) (after October 1, 2019)
  - 2020-2021 FAFSA (August 2020 start date)
  - Chatham's school code: 003244
  - Federal Student Aid Information Center (FAFSA and FSA ID helpline): 800-433-3243
3. Complete the Federal Direct Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling at [www.studentloans.gov](https://www.studentloans.gov)
  - An MPN is a promise to repay document for the Stafford loan. It is also where you agree to the terms and conditions of the loan.
  - Entrance Counseling ensures that you understand your rights and obligations as a borrower.



### WHAT IS THE STAFFORD LOAN?

- A federal loan that is available to students who meet the following three criteria:
  1. Enrolled at least half-time (six credits)
  2. US citizen or eligible non-citizen
  3. Not in default on prior federal loans
- The lender is the US Department of Education
- As a graduate student, the Stafford loan is unsubsidized – meaning it does accrue interest while you are enrolled in school
- Fixed interest rate of 4.3% – as of July 2020
- Origination fee of 1.059% (retained by lender) - as of October 2019
- May borrow up to \$20,500 per academic year
- Loan is automatically deferred while you are enrolled at least half-time
- Six-month grace period after graduation
- Lifetime borrowing limit of \$138,500, which includes loans borrowed as an undergraduate
- Apply online at [www.studentloans.gov](https://www.studentloans.gov)

### HOW CAN I RECEIVE ADDITIONAL LOANS FOR EDUCATIONAL COSTS & LIVING EXPENSES?

1. Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan
  - Credit-based
  - Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance minus other aid received, including the Stafford loan
  - The lender is the US Department of Education
  - 5.3% interest rate – as of July 2020
  - 4.236% origination fee (retained by lender) – as of October 2019
  - Must be enrolled at least half-time
  - Loan is automatically deferred while you are enrolled at least half-time
  - Apply online at [www.studentloans.gov](https://www.studentloans.gov)
2. Private Alternative Loans
  - Credit-based
  - May have a variable interest rate, which will be determined based on your creditworthiness when you apply
  - More information at [www.chatham.edu/admission-and-aid/graduate](https://www.chatham.edu/admission-and-aid/graduate)

## HOW CAN I FIND CHATHAM FELLOWSHIPS, ASSISTANTSHIPS, OR ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Students enrolled in graduate studies at Chatham University may apply for a limited number of graduate assistantships through our [Chatham University Graduate Assistantship](#) program. All of these assistantships involve education-related service to the University. It is our goal not only to provide financial assistance, but also to offer students the opportunity to enhance their professional skills and experience through these assistantship opportunities.

Full-time students in the following programs will have the opportunity to apply: accounting, biology, business administration, counseling psychology, creative writing, film and digital technology, food studies, interior architecture, landscape architecture, and teaching

For more information, contact the Office of Admission at 412-365-1825.

For information regarding on-campus employment opportunities, contact the Office of Career Development at [careers@chatham.edu](mailto:careers@chatham.edu) or 412-365-1209.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Chatham does not offer grants or scholarships at the graduate level. We do maintain an outside scholarship database on [my.chatham.edu](http://my.chatham.edu) for all deposited and current students.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ATTEND A CHATHAM GRADUATE PROGRAM?\*

<b>Tuition per credit</b>	\$987 to \$1,017
<b>College fee per credit</b>	\$30
<b>Total cost per credit</b>	<b>\$1,017 to \$1,047</b>

\*Please see program website for exact cost.

## WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY AWARD LETTER?

- The award letter is sent after your FAFSA is received by the Office of Financial Aid
- Award letters are sent electronically via Chatham's eAward system
  - You will receive an e-mail notification once your award letter is ready to view
- The award letter will detail your financial aid eligibility and Cost of Attendance

## OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Chatham University  
Office of Financial Aid  
Braun Hall  
Woodland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

[www.chatham.edu/financialaid](http://www.chatham.edu/financialaid)  
[financialaid@chatham.edu](mailto:financialaid@chatham.edu)  
412-365-2781  
412-365-1871 (fax)

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE OF ADMISSION 412-365-1825 [admission@chatham.edu](mailto:admission@chatham.edu)

OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCOUNTS 412-365-2719 [studentaccounts@chatham.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@chatham.edu)

- Billing
- Corporate Payment Options
- Tuition Installment Plan
- eRefunds (direct deposit)
- Health Insurance

OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE 412-365-1518 [reslife@chatham.edu](mailto:reslife@chatham.edu)

- On-campus housing options and prices

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR 412-365-2963 [registrar@chatham.edu](mailto:registrar@chatham.edu)

- Registration
- Loan deferment paperwork
- Enrollment Verification
- VA Educational Benefits