



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences



Financing Your Master's Degree

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Financing Your Master's Degree

As you pursue your graduate studies, you should carefully consider your financial resources and investigate additional sources of support as master's students do not typically receive full funding from the University. While some master's programs are able to offer a limited number of master's fellowships, many are not in a position to do so. For this reason, students should explore every available source of funding, including non-Harvard sources.

Students are encouraged to visit gsas.harvard.edu/financial-support/funding-aid for an overview of financial aid resources, policies, and procedures.

Office of Financial Aid staff are available to assist you in determining how to secure adequate resources to pursue your graduate education. You may make an appointment with your financial aid officer by contacting gsasfinaid@fas.harvard.edu or 617-495-5396.

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

Richard A. and Susan F. Smith Campus Center 350

1350 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02138-3846

Know Your Costs

In estimating expenses and formulating a realistic budget, you should measure your total cost of attendance against your available resources. For the 2017–2018 academic year, the cost of attendance ranges between \$77,370 and \$83,100, which includes tuition, health fees, and estimated living expenses (Please note: this cost will increase for the 2018–2019 academic year).

► 2017–2018 Cost of Attendance

	10 Months (September–June)	12 Months (July–June)
Tuition*	\$44,816	\$44,816
Health Fees	\$4,272	\$4,272
Modest Living Expenses (Books, Housing, Food, Miscellaneous)	\$28,650	\$34,380
Total	\$77,738	\$83,468

*The **Computational Science and Engineering (CSE)** master's programs have a different tuition structure than other degree programs in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences: tuition for the master of science (SM) and the first year of the master of engineering (ME) degrees will be \$51,232 in 2017–2018. Tuition for the second research year of the ME program will be \$25,616. In 2018–2019, the tuition for the new master of science (SM) degree in **Data Science** will be the same as the tuition for the first year of the CSE master's degree. Tuition for the third semester of the Data Science SM program will also be charged at the same rate as the first year tuition rate.

Those bringing a partner or dependent will need at minimum an extra:

	10 Months (September–June)	12 Months (July–June)
Partner*	\$10,690	\$12,828
First Child**	\$7,080	\$8,496
Each Additional Child	\$5,640	\$6,768

*See *Students with Families* on the following page for information about dependent health insurance.

**Child expenses assume you are coming with a partner. If you are a single parent, you may need additional resources.

► Billing

Students will be billed for tuition and mandatory fees on a per term basis. Tuition charges are posted to the student account in July for the fall term and December for the spring term. All charges to the student bill must be paid in full before a student is allowed to register.

For a fee of \$35 per term, you can enroll in the Monthly Payment Plan, which allows you to pay charges for tuition and mandatory fees in four installments each semester. Visit sfs.harvard.edu/monthly-payment-plan for more information.

Information about payments from a sponsor or a third party can be found at sfs.harvard.edu/third-party-billing.

► Harvard University Health Services

Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) provides care exclusively for members of the Harvard community. The Harvard University Student Health Program (HUSHP) is comprised of the Student Health Fee and the Student Health Insurance Plan.

Student Health Fee

The Student Health Fee (SHF) for 2017–2018 is \$1,142 per year for single students. SHF covers most services available at HUHS.

Student Health Insurance Plan

In addition to the SHF, resident students must sign up for medical insurance coverage. Harvard offers the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP), which includes a prescription drug benefit. SHIP costs \$3,130 for the 2017–2018 academic year.

Students with Families

Married students or students with dependents who are enrolled in SHF and SHIP may arrange for family health coverage. The 2017–2018 premium for family coverage is \$6,776 for a spouse, \$3,580 for the first child, and \$1,802 for the second or more children.

Students who are not citizens or permanent residents of the US are required to enroll in SHIP. All J-1 exchange visitors and their J-2 dependents must have health insurance coverage to maintain legal status in the US.

Waiving Coverage

Students may waive SHIP if they can verify that they have equivalent medical insurance with a US-based carrier. Students receiving Harvard or Harvard-administered tuition grants are not reimbursed for the cost of another

insurance policy. Please note that University-funded fellowships for tuition and medical fees cover charges for Harvard-contracted insurance and health services. Grants are reduced by the amount of the fee if students choose to waive Harvard health insurance fees by selecting alternate coverage. For further details see hushp.harvard.edu/waive.

Coverage for Leaves of Absence/Withdrawal

Students may apply for four months of additional coverage when taking leaves of absence or withdrawing from the University. The additional coverage starts on the last day of student coverage, and important time restrictions apply. Review the policy at hushp.harvard.edu/policies-and-forms.

Housing

Housing opportunities vary widely by location, size, amenities, and conditions. Before signing a lease, consider rent amount and fees, apartment condition, utilities (including heat), furnishings and appliances, landlords/management companies, and pets. Below is a guide to the various housing options:

2016	Cambridge*	Harvard University Housing**	GSAS Residence Halls***
Studio	\$1,670–\$1,811	\$1,806	Small Rooms: \$6,976–8,012
1 Bedroom	\$2,118–\$2,206	\$2,092	Large Rooms or Suite: \$10,000–10,956
2 Bedroom	\$2,726–\$2,811	\$2,657	
3 Bedroom	\$3,401–\$3,650	\$3,265	

*Includes all Cambridge neighborhoods and represents average calendar year rents per listings by brokers, local landlords, and various websites. Costs range depends on whether or not utilities are included.

**All Harvard University Housing properties include heat and electric.

***Rates for GSAS Residence Halls are for the 10-month academic year and require additional meal plan purchase.

On the Internet, you can access cost of living calculators that provide average prices in the Boston/Cambridge area for housing, groceries, transportation, and more. Some allow you to compare the cost of living in your current city with the Boston/Cambridge area.

► Budget Worksheet

A budget worksheet can help you develop a budget and determine how much you will need to finance your expenses. Incoming students should estimate expenses from arrival date to June 30, 2018. Continuing students should estimate expenses from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Subtract the total estimated resources from the total estimated expenses to calculate the amount you may need to finance.

$$\underline{\hspace{10em}} - \underline{\hspace{10em}} = \underline{\hspace{10em}}$$

Estimated Resources/Income Estimated Expenses Amount needed to finance

Estimated Resources/Income	Amount	Estimated Expenses	Amount
Grants		GSAS Tuition	
Scholarships		GSAS Student Health Fee	
Fellowships		GSAS Student Health Insurance	
Resident Tutor		Books and Academic Supplies	
Research Assistantships		Computer/Technology	
Income from Work		Research Supplies/Equipment	
Spouse Income from Work		Rent	
Savings		Utilities: heat, electric/gas	
Trusts and Investments		Internet Access	
Gifts/Loans from Family/ Friends		Cell Phone	
Other Resources		Food/Meal Plan	
		Out of Pocket Medical Expenses	
		Dental Expenses	
		Prescriptions	
		Research Travel	
		Conference Fees	
		Professional Membership Fee	
		Dependent Care	
		Other Expenses	
TOTAL RESOURCES:		TOTAL EXPENSES:	

Types of Assistance

While some merit-based fellowships and scholarships are available in some departments, GSAS has limited financial assistance available to master's students. If you indicated interest in financial aid on the Supplemental Data Form in your application for admission, you will be considered for the sources of aid for which you are eligible. If available resources allow us to make you a financial award, you will receive a Notice of Financial Support at the time of admission.

► Fellowships

Some post-baccalaureate fellowships are available for entering and first-year graduate students who are US citizens and permanent residents, including:

- National Science Foundation Fellowships (NSF)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)
- Fannie and John Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowships
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships (NDSEG)
- Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships
- The National GEM Consortium

The GSAS Fellowships Office provides guidance on the fellowships process and on professional development. Fellowships include the Critical Language Scholarship Program, which is a summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for American students, and the Women Techmakers Scholars Program, which supports women studying computer science, computer engineering, or a closely related technical field. For detailed information and a full list of fellowship opportunities please consult gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships.

The Committee on General Scholarships administers some fellowships that students may be eligible for. Fellowships may be competitive and deadlines vary through the fall. A list of fellowships and specific information and application forms are available at scholarships.harvard.edu.

► Federal Programs

The US Department of Education offers several aid programs for graduate students who are US citizens or permanent residents, including the Federal Work-Study (FWS) and the Ford Federal Direct Loan programs. These programs are available to US citizens and permanent residents.

Students interested in federal student aid should:

- Contact the GSAS Office of Admissions and Financial Aid to request a GSAS Federal Aid Application Packet. This packet contains information that will help guide the student through the application process and assist GSAS in promptly determining federal aid eligibility.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.ed.gov. The GSAS FAFSA School Code is E00470.

First-time borrowers to any federal loan program will be required to complete a Master Promissory Note and participate in Loan Entrance Counseling prior to the first disbursement of their loans.

Given the multiple parties involved in awarding federal aid, it is best to begin the process well in advance of when the funds will be needed. This is especially important for students in traveling scholar status, since it is more challenging to complete the application process from overseas. For complete information on federal aid, please visit the Federal Student Aid website at studentaid.ed.gov.

Federal Work-Study Program

Federal Work-Study provides eligible students with employment opportunities to help pay education expenses.

Your financial aid officer will review your Federal Aid Application and, if you are eligible, will set you up with a work-study earnings ceiling, which is the maximum amount you are allowed to earn in a given year. If the earnings limit is exceeded, you may be asked to relinquish other aid. Earnings are monitored so that total resources do not exceed the cost of education. It is the student's responsibility to report receipt of any financial resources not noted at the time the original earnings limit was set.

Once students have been notified of their Federal Work-Study eligibility, they are free to begin job searches. The Harvard University Student Employment Office (SEO) maintains a database of open positions at seo.harvard.edu. To complete the awarding process, students who have secured work-study jobs must complete a Federal Work-Study Referral Form, available on the SEO website.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

Eligible students may borrow up to \$20,500 per year, with a lifetime borrowing limit of \$138,500 (including any Federal Direct Loans for both undergraduate and graduate education). The interest rate for 2017–2018 is 6% with an origination fee of 1.069% deducted from the loan. The loan is disbursed in two equal parts, typically once a semester.

Unsubsidized loans accrue interest immediately and continue to accrue until the loan is repaid; borrowers may elect to make interest payments while enrolled or have the accruing interest added to the outstanding loan balance. Repayment begins six months after graduation or when a student drops below half-time enrollment.

Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan

In addition to an unsubsidized loan, graduate students can also apply for a Grad PLUS Loan with the annual limit determined by the student's cost of attendance, minus any other financial aid received, with no aggregate limits. The interest rate for 2017–2018 is 7% with an origination fee of 4.276%.

Similar to the unsubsidized loan, Grad PLUS loans accrue interest immediately and continue to accrue until the loan is repaid; borrowers may elect to make interest payments while enrolled or have the accruing interest added to the outstanding loan balance. Repayment begins six months after graduation or when a student drops below half-time enrollment. Students must demonstrate good credit.

Additional Resources

► Private Loans

Students interested in obtaining a private loan to finance their graduate study can review a list of programs available to US citizens and international students at sfs.harvard.edu/private-loan-options. This is not a comprehensive list of lenders and students are free to use any lender that they choose.

► Student Employment

If you did not qualify for Federal Work-Study, part-time employment may be an attractive opportunity to help defray costs. The Harvard University Student Employment Office maintains listings of opening both on- or off-campus at seo.harvard.edu. You may also check with your department to see if there are any openings related to your field of study.

► Dudley House Fellows

Dudley House fellows organize intellectual, cultural, athletic, and social activities at Dudley House, the graduate student center. Fellows work closely with the faculty deans, house administrator, GSAS administrators, and each other to engender a sense of community and enrich graduate student life.

Fellows receive up to 10 meals per week in the Dudley House dining hall, guaranteed housing in a GSAS residence hall if they wish to live in one, and a \$3,000 stipend. Assistant fellows may receive a small stipend as compensation. Applications for Dudley fellow positions are available in January for the following academic year. For additional information, e-mail Susan Zawalich, Dudley House administrator, at zawalich@fas.harvard.edu or call 617-495-2255.

► Subsidized Transportation

The MBTA Semester Pass Program provides bus, link, and commuter rail passes for the fall and spring terms, October through January and February through May. GSAS students can purchase semester MBTA bus and link passes at a 50 percent discount by completing the MBTA Semester Pass form by the deadline. The cost will be added to your term bill. Once available, student purchasers will receive an e-mail to pick up their passes in Cambridge or in the Longwood Medical Area. Visit gsas.harvard.edu/mbta for more details.

Financial Aid Calendar 2017–2018

JULY 1 • Deadline to file non-resident form for the 2017–2018 academic year.

JULY 10 • Fall Student Account bill sent via e-mail. This includes any outstanding balance from the previous year, fall term tuition and fee charges, and residence hall and meal plan charges, if applicable. **Term bill balance must be zero prior to registration.**

AUGUST 24 • Orientation and Registration for incoming students.

DECEMBER 1 • Deadline for filing non-resident application for spring term.

DECEMBER 10 • Spring term bill sent via e-mail. This includes outstanding fall term charges, spring term tuition and fee charges, and spring residence hall and meal plan charges, if applicable. **Term bill balance must be zero prior to registration.**

JANUARY 22 • Spring term begins; spring registration and study card deadline for students returning from non-resident status during the fall term.

MAY 1 • Graduating students wishing to access federal loans should contact their financial aid officer no later than this date. Federal loan processing can take up to 10 business days.

MAY 12 • Last day that graduating students can receive Federal Title IV loans. Students should contact their financial aid officer before May 1 if they wish to receive Federal loans.

Last day that graduating students can earn Federal Work Study funds.

MAY 24 • Commencement day

JUNE 30 • End of the 2017–2018 financial aid year. Students who wish to continue working Federal Work Study positions must complete federal student aid applications for the 2018–2019 year before working past this date.

Last day for continuing students to submit time sheets for Federal Work Study positions.

Useful Websites and Contact Information

GSAS Admissions and Financial Aid

gsas.harvard.edu/financial-support/funding-aid, 617-495-5396

Harvard University Health Services

huhs.harvard.edu, 617-495-2008

Student Health Insurance

hushp.harvard.edu, 617-495-5711

Committee on General Scholarships

scholarships.harvard.edu, 617-496-9367

GSAS Fellowships Office

gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships, 617-495-1814

GSAS Residence Halls

gsas.harvard.edu/housing, 617-495-5060

Harvard University Housing

huhousing.harvard.edu, 617-496-7827

Harvard International Office

hio.harvard.edu, 617-495-2789

Payroll (TF and RA)

oc.finance.harvard.edu/services/central-payroll, 617-495-8500 option 4

Registrar

registrar.fas.harvard.edu, 617-495-1543

Scholarships/Sponsored Billing

sfs.harvard.edu/gsas, 617-496-8050

Student Affairs

gsas.harvard.edu/student-life/resources, 617-495-1814

Student Billing Information

sfs.harvard.edu, 617-495-2739

Monthly Payment Plan

sfs.harvard.edu/monthly-payment-plan, 617-495-2739

Student Employment

seo.harvard.edu, 617-495-2585

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