HOW WAS MY ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

Your eligibility for need-based financial aid has been determined according to federal-government regulations and university policies governing financial aid programs. Using the information that you reported on the 2017-18 CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, the 2017-18 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, student and parent tax returns (if submitted to our office prior to review), and other supporting documentation, the Office of Student Financial Services has calculated your Expected Family Contribution, the amount of family financial resources you and your parents’(s) are expected to contribute toward your educational costs. (Note: Expected Family Contribution is not a prediction of how much cash you actually have on hand, nor a value judgment about how much you “ought” to be able to pull from your current income, nor a measure of your liquidity. Rather, it is our best estimate of your capacity to absorb some of the costs of education over time.) The Expected Family Contribution is subtracted from a standard budget of expected educational expenses, or Cost of Attendance. The difference between the Expected Family Contribution and the Cost of Attendance is your maximum eligibility for need-based assistance. Federal law prohibits a student from receiving financial assistance in excess of her/his calculated eligibility.

In most cases, your Expected Family Contribution consists of a contribution from your income and assets and a contribution from your parent(s)(s)’ income and assets. In cases of divorce or separation, a contribution is normally expected of both natural/adoptive parents for purposes of institutional scholarship and from the custodial parent (the parent with whom you live) and his or her new spouse, if he or she has remarried, for federal financial aid purposes. Unmarried biological parents who live together are considered married for purposes of institutional and federal financial aid.

HOW WAS MY AWARD DETERMINED?

Demonstrated financial need determines the amount of grant/scholarship aid that you will receive. In addition, the university expects some combination of grant, scholarship, loan, and work awards in their financial aid offers.

Financial aid may come from one or more of the sources detailed below. Your award letter assumes a level of federal aid that is frequently not finalized at the time the awards are made; therefore, if funds fall below the level anticipated, offers may have to be reduced or canceled. Your initial financial aid award is tentative and cannot be finalized at the time the award is made. You may not apply for specific endowed scholarships, generally as part of their financial aid package, as recipients of these special awards. Students may not be selected for, nor receive, institutional funds.

Eligibility for this fund is based on financial need. Generous gifts and donations from alumni, parents and friends of the university provide funds for this scholarship, including several endowed scholarships, as a symbol of the university’s commitment to future Brandeis graduates. Select students receive recognition of their achievement in the form of a financial aid package, as recipients of these special awards. Students may not be selected for, nor receive, institutional funds.

STATE SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT

The Stahl Trust Scholarship is an award from the student’s state of legal residence. Your Cost of Attendance (COA) is determined on the financial aid award letter is estimated on the basis of the information provided on the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE and FAFSA. (Please note that state scholarships require full-time enrollment.) University funds cannot replace any state funds for which a student is eligible but fail to apply. For more information about this award, please file the FAFSA prior to the deadline designated by his/her state.

GILBERT GRANT

The Gilbert Grant is funded by grants and gift funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The university awards this grant to residents of Massachusetts who are enrolled full-time and qualify for both a Federal Pell Grant and a MassGrant. The maximum award is $2,500 per year; however, awards generally do not exceed $1,000.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP

The Alumni and Friends Scholarship is a direct-gift aid from the university that a student does not need to repay. Eligibility for this fund is based on financial need. Generous gifts and donations from alumni, parents and friends of the university provide funds for this scholarship, including several endowed scholarships, as a symbol of the university’s commitment to future Brandeis graduates. Select students receive recognition of their achievement in the form of a financial aid package, as recipients of these special awards. Students may not be selected for, nor receive, institutional funds.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is generally awarded only to those students eligible for a Pell Grant. The maximum award is $4,000 per year; however, awards generally do not exceed $1,000.

The Federal Pell Grant is funded by the federal government and provided awards from $598 to $5,815 to eligible undergraduate students. (Please note that amounts will be prorated for students enrolled less than full time.) Any amount indicated on the financial aid award letter is estimated on the basis of the information provided on the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE application and the federal appropriation levels available at the time of the award. Please note that eligibility for the Pell Grant is limited to 12 semesters.

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant is a federally and institutionally funded grant program. Brandeis selects recipients who demonstrate significant financial eligibility. This grant is generally awarded only to those students eligible for a Pell Grant. The maximum award is $4,000 per year; however, awards generally do not exceed $1,000.
WHAT DO I OWE?

The Federal Direct Stafford Loan is a low-interest, long-term educational loan available to students. Loan capital is supplied directly by the federal government. The federal government also serves as the guarantor. There are two different forms of this loan: the Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan and the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.

Federal Direct Stafford Loan

Federal Direct Stafford Loan is a work program funded by Brandeis and the federal government. Students may work either at an on-campus department or office or at an approved off-campus community-service agency. The FWS allotment is not credited to the student's account. Instead, students receive a weekly paycheck based on actual hours worked. FWS awards are generally used toward indirect expenses such as books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous personal spending. Although FWS earnings are taxable, any wages earned under the FWS program will be excluded from the student's income when he or she is considered for financial aid for the following year. The Federal Work-Study allotment offered to a student represents the maximum gross earnings that he or she may receive. (In some cases, it may be possible to increase the amount of this allotment or to receive funding under the University Employment Program.) A student's actual earnings will depend upon the availability of hours involved in any given position(s).

Although the Office of Student Financial Services provides students with listings of available positions on campus, it cannot guarantee employment. Job listings can be viewed online at https://careers.brandeis.edu/studentjobs. It is the student's responsibility to secure and maintain a position that will allow him or her to fulfill the work allocation. Any work allocation not earned by the end of the academic year will be forfeited.

First-time borrowers of the Federal Direct Stafford Loan must complete the required multiyear Master Promissory Note, as well as entrance counseling online at studentloans.gov, at the beginning of their entering semester. Upon receipt of correspondence from the Office of Student Financial Services, Loan funds will be tentatively credited to the billing statement pending the completion of the documents mentioned above. Anticipated credits on a student's account will be canceled if all required forms are not completed.

Federal Work-Study (FWS)

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a work program funded by Brandeis and the federal government. Students who do not qualify for Federal Work-Study funds. Students who are not awarded University Employment or Federal Work-Study as part of their financial aid packages must wait until after October 1 to seek employment. The University Employment allotment is not credited to the student's account. Instead, students receive a weekly paycheck based on actual hours worked. A student's actual earnings will depend upon the availability of hours involved in any given position(s).

University Employment is a work program funded entirely by the university. It is available to students who do not qualify for Federal Work-Study funds. Students who are not awarded University Employment or Federal Work-Study as part of their financial aid packages must wait until after October 1 to seek employment. The University Employment allotment is not credited to the student's account. Instead, students receive a weekly paycheck based on actual hours worked. A student's actual earnings will depend upon the availability of hours involved in any given position(s).

University Employment provides students with listings of available positions on campus, it cannot guarantee employment. Job listings can be viewed online at https://careers.brandeis.edu/studentjobs. It is the student's responsibility to secure and maintain a position that will allow him or her to fulfill the work allocation. Any work allocation not earned by the end of the academic year will be forfeited.

In order to obtain a job on campus, students must be able to present identification to the University that satisfies the requirements of Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification). Appropriate forms of identification include a U.S. passport, an alien registration card, a foreign passport with employment authorization, or a driver's license with an original Social Security card or birth certificate.

WHAT DO I OWE?

Knowing your eligibility for financial aid is only half the process in determining what you will owe for a year's education at Brandeis. The Office of Student Financial Services issues billing statements prior to the beginning of each semester. Fall-semester bills will be due August 4, 2017, and spring-semester bills will be due January 2, 2018.

An interactive worksheet is available online at www.brandeis.edu/sfs/tuition-calculator/index.html to help you estimate your yearly cost. You will need to consult each semester’s billing statements for your actual costs. Please note that Brandeis estimates $2,500 in student’s student and personal expenses and that travel expenses are calculated on the basis of two round-trip airfares to the state in which the student resides. No travel expenses are included in the cost of attendance for students who are within driving distance of the campus. Books and personal and travel expenses should be considered in determining your full cost of attendance.

In order to obtain a job on campus, students must be able to present identification to the University that satisfies the requirements of Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification). Appropriate forms of identification include a U.S. passport, an alien registration card, a foreign passport with employment authorization, or a driver’s license with an original Social Security card or birth certificate.

HOW DO I PAY WHAT I OWE?

There are many options available for payment of the final balance due to the university. If you and/or your family are financially able, you may pay the balance due for each semester in full by the deadlines set by the Office of Student Financial Services. If you and/or your family cannot pay the balance due at the beginning of each semester but can set aside a certain amount of money from your monthly income to pay toward the bill, then you may wish to consider a payment plan. If you and/or your family need additional assistance, you may wish to consider a parent- or student-education loan that allows for an extended period of payment. For more information about financing options, please visit go.brandeis.edu/financing.
OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP?

WHAT IF I RECEIVE AN outside scholarship from an individual, a business, a foundation or your high school, you must report this assistance to the Office of Student Financial Services. If you receive an outside scholarship that has been awarded to you in your financial aid award letter, you must submit a written request to the Office of Student Financial Services. If you choose to decline all or a portion of your loan funds, they will not be replaced by grant assistance. All students who receive need-based aid are expected to work in order to meet a portion of their calculated need. If you choose to decline all or a portion of your work-study award, it will not be replaced with grant assistance. Although it may be possible to replace your work-study award with a student loan, failure to utilize your work-study award with a student loan, failure to meet a portion of your calculated need, any unmet federal financial need, and then the grant components of the student’s need-based award. Students receiving need-based financial aid or scholarship will not be permitted to keep outside awards in excess of the total cost of attendance.

HOW DO I DECLINE A LOAN OR WORK-STUDY AWARD?

Your financial aid is awarded only for one year at a time. If you defer enrollment for a year, you must reapply for financial aid if you wish to be considered for assistance. The amount of financial aid you receive for your enrollment year may vary from your initial financial aid award, reflecting changes in your family’s financial need from the previous year, the cost of attending Brandeis and changes in the availability of funding.

HOW WILL MY AID BE AFFECTED IF I DEFER MY ENROLLMENT?

Your financial aid is awarded only for one year at a time. If you defer enrollment for a year, you must reapply for financial aid if you wish to be considered for assistance. The amount of financial aid you receive for your enrollment year may vary from your initial financial aid award, reflecting changes in your family’s financial need from the previous year, the cost of attending Brandeis and changes in the availability of funding.

What if I wish to study abroad or change my academic program?

If you make a change to your academic program (for example, taking fewer than four standard credit courses, studying abroad or elsewhere domestically, participating in the Justice Brandeis Semester, graduating in fewer than four years, graduating in more than four years or taking a leave of absence), there may be implications for the amount and type of financial aid you can receive. If you are considering any of the above options, you should first consult your financial aid counselor to discuss the impact it may have on your financial aid eligibility.

If you withdraw from the university during a semester, you may be charged a prorated amount of tuition and fees and may be eligible for a prorated portion of your financial aid for that semester. If you withdraw during a period in which you are eligible for a refund against your student account, part or all of that refund will be used to repay financial aid programs from which funds were received for that semester.

Full information regarding the university’s withdrawal and refund policies is available in the Brandeis University Bulletin and from the Office of Student Financial Services.

WHAT IF I WISH TO STUDY ABROAD OR CHANGE MY ACADEMIC PROGRAM?

In accordance with the Tax Reform Act of 1986, if your aggregate scholarship and grant assistance exceeds tuition, required fees for course instruction or academic enrollment, and books/supplies (for which receipts have been kept), the amount in excess must be included in your taxable income. You are responsible for determining whether your scholarship, in whole or in part, should be included as taxable income.

Wages earned through the Federal Work-Study and University Employment programs are taxable wage income and must be reported on your income-tax forms if you are required to file. You will receive a W-2 Wage and Income Statement from the university by January 31 for the previous tax year.

Please contact the Internal Revenue Service or a tax preparer for further information or assistance with these tax issues.

IS ANY OF MY FINANCIAL AID TAXABLE?

Your financial aid is awarded only for one year at a time. If you defer enrollment for a year, you must reapply for financial aid if you wish to be considered for assistance. The amount of financial aid you receive for your enrollment year may vary from your initial financial aid award, reflecting changes in your family’s financial need from the previous year, the cost of attending Brandeis and changes in the availability of funding.

HOW DO I RENEW MY AID EACH YEAR?

Your financial aid is awarded only for one year at a time. You must reapply for financial aid each academic year for which you wish to be considered for assistance. The amount of financial aid that you receive after the first year may vary, reflecting changes in your family’s financial situation, the cost of attending Brandeis and the availability of funding, which may affect the amount of your Alumni and Friends Scholarship from year to year. You should expect the amount of loan in your package to increase as you progress through your academic career at the university. Continued eligibility for aid from federal sources requires that you maintain satisfactory academic progress toward your degree.

If you are currently receiving financial aid, a letter detailing the required renewal materials will be sent to you during the winter intersession. A list of required renewal documents also will be available on our website at brandeis.edu/sfs/finaid/filing.html. Renewal applications should be filed by April 1 of each year. Failure to file all financial aid application materials by the appropriate deadline may result in a limited or partial award, registration complications, and/or late fees on your student account.

WHAT WILL MY AID BE AFECTED IF I DECLINE MY AID EACH YEAR?

Your financial aid is awarded only for one year at a time. You must reapply for financial aid each academic year for which you wish to be considered for assistance. The amount of financial aid that you receive after the first year may vary, reflecting changes in your family’s financial situation, the cost of attending Brandeis and the availability of funding, which may affect the amount of your Alumni and Friends Scholarship from year to year. You should expect the amount of loan in your package to increase as you progress through your academic career at the university. Continued eligibility for aid from federal sources requires that you maintain satisfactory academic progress toward your degree.

If you are currently receiving financial aid, a letter detailing the required renewal materials will be sent to you during the winter intersession. A list of required renewal documents also will be available on our website at brandeis.edu/sfs/finaid/filing.html. Renewal applications should be filed by April 1 of each year. Failure to file all financial aid application materials by the appropriate deadline may result in a limited or partial award, registration complications, and/or late fees on your student account.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions or problems related to your financial aid, student account, student loans or student employment, please contact our office at sfs@brandeis.edu or 781-736-3700.