



## Introduction

A Brandeis education will open a world of opportunities for your son or daughter. It is an investment that will pay dividends over the course of his or her entire life. Consequently, like any other investment, you should examine all available options when considering the cost of the University. Just as you do not have to pay for a home or car all at once, you may also choose to finance your son or daughter's education.

Before looking at the actual costs of the University, you should first consider applying for financial aid. Many who have thought they would not be eligible for financial assistance, or that such assistance would not offer significant help, have been pleasantly surprised.

Upon determining the total cost of your son or daughter's Brandeis education, you should consider that any significant expense is best funded with a combination of income from the past, present, and future. Income from the past that has been earmarked for education should be the first source you draw upon for payment of the bill. Other savings and investments should also be considered, although not entirely exhausted.

Present income should be the next source from which you draw upon. If you cannot pay the final balance due at the beginning of each semester, but can set aside a certain amount of money from monthly income to pay the bill, you may wish to consider the interest-free monthly payment option.

If upon combining your savings and current earnings you are still unable to cover the charges due for each semester, you may want to consider an educational or commercial loan. This guide is to help families make an educated choice about borrowing to pay for higher education costs. It contains information on types of loans available to students and parents, including qualifications and repayment terms. It also provides helpful advice on determining your borrowing needs and comparing loan features.

## Determining Financial Need

The following worksheet may be helpful to estimate your out-of-pocket expenses. Please remember that Federal loans, including the Federal Direct PLUS Loan, will be disbursed equally over each semester. Begin by totaling your tuition, room and board expenses, and fees. Then, subtract any scholarships, grants, or loans to arrive at your estimated out-of-pocket expenses due to the University.

**Expense Planner**

- Enter your estimated expenses.

Tuition	\$	+	
Room	\$	+	
Board (Meal Plan)	\$	+	
Required Fees	\$	+	
Optional Fees	\$	+	
<b>A. Total Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>=</b>	

- Enter your financial assistance. Use amounts provided from your award notice.

Grants/Scholarships	\$	+	
Brandeis Loan	\$	+	
Federal Direct Stafford Loan*	\$	+	
Federal Perkins Loan	\$	+	
<b>B. Total Financial Assistance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>=</b>	

*(Do not include work-study)  
\*Deduct 10% net origination fee and interest rate rebate from Stafford Loan amount.*

- Subtract Total Financial Assistance from your Total Estimated Expenses to arrive at your amount due to Brandeis University.

A. Total Estimated Expenses	\$	
B. Total Financial Assistance	\$	=
<b>C. Due to Brandeis</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>=</b>

Please keep in mind that loans take several weeks for approval and will not be deducted from your outstanding balance until Brandeis University receives confirmation of approval.

## Evaluating Loan Features

The following are some of the important factors to consider in evaluating borrowing options:

**INTEREST RATE:** Interest is money paid to the lender for the use of borrowed funds. Comparing interest rates is a helpful indicator of the relative cost when comparing two loans.

**FIXED VS. VARIABLE RATE:** While most education loans feature variable interest rates, some have interest rates that are fixed for the life of the loan. Interest charged on variable rate loans is subject to change, varying from monthly to annually. The interest rate is normally tied to an index such as Prime Rate, U.S. Treasury Bills, LIBOR, or another rate that may fluctuate over time. In evaluating a variable rate loan, you should understand how frequently your payment may change, and whether there is any cap on how high the interest rate may go.

**LOAN FEES:** In addition to interest, many loans have additional fees that are either added to the loan amount or deducted from the loan proceeds. These may be referred to as Origination fees or Guarantee fees.

**ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (APR):** The APR reflects the total cost of borrowing money over the life of the loan, considering not only the interest rate, but also the effect of other fees on the total cost of repaying the amount financed.

**REQUIRED MONTHLY PAYMENT:** For many families, the amount of the monthly payment is an important factor in choosing a loan. To estimate the monthly payment required to repay a ten thousand dollar loan, please refer to the Monthly Payment for a \$10,000 Loan column of the loan matrix inside.

**GRACE PERIOD:** The grace period is the payment-free period that follows the student's graduation, withdrawal, or dropping below half-time enrollment status.

## Credit Considerations

Like other forms of borrowing, most education loans are subject to credit approval. Many lenders use automated credit "scoring" models to determine your creditworthiness. Your credit score is determined by many factors, most notably your record of past credit use. Although credit qualifications and processes vary, two important primary considerations are:

**CREDIT HISTORY**  
A track record of timely repayments on other debts indicates that an applicant is likely to continue to manage future credit obligations well.

**SUFFICIENT INCOME TO MEET PAYMENTS**  
Lenders will typically review an applicant's current income and compare it to his/her monthly debts. After deducting fixed monthly obligations (including rent or mortgage, car loans, education loans, and payments on other consumer loans and credit cards) from after-tax income, there must be sufficient resources to pay everyday living expenses such as food, clothing, utilities, transportation, insurance, etc.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please call the phone numbers or visit the websites in the last column of the loan matrix inside.

See inside for detailed information on borrowing options for parents and students.



## Additional Information

**OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES:**  
MS 027, 415 South Street  
Waltham, MA 02454-9110  
Phone: 781-736-3700  
Fax: 781-736-3719  
E-mail: sfs@brandeis.edu  
[www.brandeis.edu/offices/sfs](http://www.brandeis.edu/offices/sfs)

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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of Excellence in Educational Financing

125 Summer Street, Suite 300  
Boston, MA 02110  
800-449-MEFA (6332)  
[www.mefa.org](http://www.mefa.org)



2007-08

**Brandeis University**

## Guide to Financing

**Financing options for families with students attending Brandeis University.**

# Brandeis University Financing Options

Brandeis University recommends the following loan programs based on their competitive interest rates, their flexible deferment and repayment options, and their exceptional customer service. Students and families are advised to compare the loans listed below with other private loan products to determine the loan that best suits their needs. Brandeis University will certify and process any non-federal private loan application submitted by a student or parent. Please be advised that Brandeis University is a participant in the Direct Lending Program and, thus, can only process Stafford Loans and PLUS Loans through the federal government.

PROGRAMS	WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?	WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS?	BORROWER BENEFITS? CONDITIONS OF REPAYMENT?	MONTHLY PAYMENT FOR A \$10,000 LOAN	HOW TO APPLY?
<p><b>Interest-Free Monthly Payment Option</b> Administered by Tuition Management Systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available to students, parents, guardians, family, friends, etc.</li> <li>Every student and family, regardless of need or financial standing, is eligible to use the Monthly Payment Option.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Minimum: None.</li> <li>Annual Maximum: Cost of attendance minus financial aid/scholarship/resources.</li> <li>Aggregate Maximum: None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 monthly payments beginning August 1, 2007.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 equal payments of \$1,000.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Tuition Management Systems at 888-216-4238 or visit <a href="http://www.mefa.org/brandeis">www.mefa.org/brandeis</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEFA Undergraduate Loan</b> Low cost loan program widely available to families of students attending Massachusetts colleges and universities as well as Massachusetts residents attending colleges and universities outside of the Commonwealth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary borrower may be parent, legal guardian, spouse or any creditworthy individual.</li> <li>Student must be enrolled at least half-time in a degree granting program at an eligible non-profit college or university.</li> <li>Canadian and other international students must have a primary borrower who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and submit tax returns.</li> <li>Student must attend a Massachusetts college or university, OR student or borrower must be a resident of Massachusetts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Minimum: \$2,000 (\$1,500 at public college and universities).</li> <li>Annual Maximum: Up to cost of attendance minus other financial aid received.</li> <li>Aggregate Maximum: None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repayment begins within 45 days after loan is fully disbursed.</li> <li>Deferment option available. Visit <a href="http://www.mefa.org">www.mefa.org</a> or contact MEFA at 800-449-MEFA (6332).</li> <li>20 year repayment term with up to 5 year deferral period added to the 20 years.</li> <li>No prepayment penalty.</li> <li>100% tax deductibility of interest payments may be available. ** Visit <a href="http://www.mefa.org/heo">www.mefa.org/heo</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As low as \$76.80 with the Fixed Rate Option.</li> <li>As low as \$84.30 with the Variable Rate Option.</li> <li>No minimum payment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply online at <a href="http://www.mefa.org">www.mefa.org</a></li> <li>Call 800-449-MEFA (6332)/brandeis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)</b> Federally-insured parent loan. Brandeis University is a participant in the William D. Ford Direct Loan program, therefore all PLUS loans are processed by Brandeis University.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borrower must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a graduate student or,</li> <li>parent or legal guardian of a dependent, undergraduate student.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Borrower must be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.</li> <li>Borrower must not have adverse credit history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Minimum: \$2,000 per year (\$1,500 at public colleges and universities).</li> <li>Annual Maximum: Up to cost of attendance minus other financial aid received.</li> <li>Aggregate Maximum: None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repayment of principal and interest begins 60 days after loan is fully disbursed.</li> <li>Monthly payment amount is dependent upon amount borrowed; minimum is \$50 a month.</li> <li>Repayment extends up to 15 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$120.80 Standard Repayment (minimum of \$50/month).</li> <li>\$94.99 Extended Repayment (minimum of \$50/month).</li> <li>\$65.83 Graduated Repayment (minimum of \$25/month).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact the Brandeis University Office of Student Financial Services at 781-736-3700 or visit <a href="http://www.brandeis.edu/offices/sfs">www.brandeis.edu/offices/sfs</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEFA Student Alternative Loan</b> Available to students attending Massachusetts college and universities as well as Massachusetts residents attending colleges and universities outside of the Commonwealth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student borrower must be enrolled at least half-time in a degree granting program at an eligible non-profit college or university.</li> <li>Canadian and other international students must have a primary borrower who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and submit tax returns.</li> <li>A co-borrower is required for students that earn less than \$18,000 per year.</li> <li>Student must attend a Massachusetts college or university, OR student or co-borrower must be a resident of Massachusetts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Minimum: \$2,000 per year (\$1,500 at public colleges and universities).</li> <li>Annual Maximum: Up to cost of attendance minus other financial aid received.</li> <li>Aggregate Maximum: None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 year repayment period with up to 4 year deferral period added to the 20 years.</li> <li>Deferment details available at <a href="http://www.mefa.org">www.mefa.org</a>.</li> <li>Repayment begins 6 months after student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half-time.</li> <li>Co-borrower release option: Co-borrower may be released if the first 48 consecutive payments are made on-time and the student borrower is a creditworthy U.S. citizen or permanent resident at the time the release is requested.</li> <li>100% tax deductibility of interest payments may be available. ** Visit <a href="http://www.mefa.org/heo">www.mefa.org/heo</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As low as \$93.60 (assuming current interest rate of 8.63% and four year deferment).</li> <li>No minimum payment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply online at <a href="http://www.mefa.org/brandeis">www.mefa.org/brandeis</a></li> <li>Call MEFA at 800-449-MEFA (6332)</li> </ul>
<p><b>CitiAssist® Loan</b> Administered by The Student Loan Corporation, a subsidiary of Citigroup, Inc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student may be enrolled less than half-time, half-time, or full-time.</li> <li>Co-signer required for students who earn less than \$18,000 per year.</li> <li>If required, co-signer must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Minimum: None.</li> <li>Annual Maximum: Cost of attendance minus other financial aid received.</li> <li>Aggregate Maximum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$20,000 for Undergraduate students.</li> <li>\$50,000 for Graduate students.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repayment extends up to 20 years for Undergraduate students and 20 years for Graduate students.</li> <li>Payments are not required while student attends college at least half-time and during the 6 month grace period.</li> <li>0.25% E-Z Pay interest rate reduction for borrowers who have payments automatically deducted from a bank account. Borrowers must receive their statements electronically to qualify for E-Z Pay rate discount.</li> <li>0.50% interest rate reduction for borrowers who make their first 48 consecutive payments on-time.</li> <li>Co-signer release option available to creditworthy graduates after 48 consecutive on time payments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest-only payments available for up to four years.</li> <li>\$110.73 at lowest interest rate (7.75%)</li> <li>\$133.76 at standard interest rate (8.00%)</li> <li>\$173.52 at highest interest rate (12.25%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Citibank at 800-967-2400, or</li> <li>Apply online at <a href="http://www.studentloan.com/schools/brandeis">www.studentloan.com/schools/brandeis</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEFA Graduate Loan</b> Available to graduate/professional students attending Massachusetts colleges and universities as well as Massachusetts residents attending colleges and universities outside of the Commonwealth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student must be enrolled at least half-time in a degree granting program at an eligible non-profit college or university.</li> <li>Canadian and other international students must have a primary borrower who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and submit tax returns.</li> <li>Student must attend a Massachusetts college or university, OR student or co-borrower must be a resident of Massachusetts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Minimum: \$2,000 (\$1,500 at public colleges and universities).</li> <li>Annual Maximum: Up to cost of attendance minus other financial aid received.</li> <li>Aggregate Maximum: None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 year repayment term with up to 5 year deferral period added to the 20 years.</li> <li>Deferment details available at <a href="http://www.mefa.org">www.mefa.org</a>.</li> <li>Repayment begins 6 months after student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half-time.</li> <li>No prepayment penalty.</li> <li>100% tax deductibility of interest payments may be available. ** Visit <a href="http://www.mefa.org/heo">www.mefa.org/heo</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As low as \$81.10 with the Fixed Rate Option.</li> <li>As low as \$93.30 with the Variable Rate Option.</li> <li>No minimum payment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply online at <a href="http://www.mefa.org/brandeis">www.mefa.org/brandeis</a>.</li> <li>Call MEFA at 800-449-MEFA (6332)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Graduate Access® Loan</b> Administered by The Access Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. citizen/national or eligible non-citizen.</li> <li>Enrolled at least half-time in an eligible graduate-level degree program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Minimum: \$1,000 per year.</li> <li>Annual Maximum: Up to the total cost of attendance minus other financial aid received.</li> <li>Aggregate Maximum: None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repayment extends up to 20 years.</li> <li>Repayment begins 9 months after graduation or student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time.</li> <li>Graduated repayment options available.</li> <li>0.25% interest rate reduction for automatic debit.</li> <li>0.50% interest rate reduction after 48 on-time payments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$122.00 or \$128.00 (assuming 10 year repayment).</li> <li>\$84.00 or \$92.00 (assuming 20 year repayment).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Access Group at 800-282-1550, or</li> <li>Apply online at <a href="http://www.accessgroup.org">www.accessgroup.org</a>.</li> <li>Lender Code: 808851</li> </ul>

\* Annual Percentage Rate (APR) reflects both the accruing interest and the effect of borrowing the Origination fee and paying the expected monthly payment over the term of the loan. APR will vary based on graduation date and presence of co-borrower.

\*\* Consult a tax advisor for more information.