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 (FAFSA) submitted on your behalf, 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: Your 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 Cost of Attendance is your maxim um eligibility for need-based assistance. Federal Pell grants and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants are the only forms of federal aid available to students who meet federal government criteria. You may not declare yourself independent for reasons other than those outlined on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Even though you may meet federal criteria for independence and therefore receive federal funds as an independent student, the university requires parent information from all students unless they are orphaned or wards of the court (or were wards of the court until age 18) and may, in fact, expect a parent contribution before waiving any institutional funds.

In most cases, your Expected Family Contribution consists of a contribution from your income and assets and a contribution from your parent(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. Please note that, in determining eligibility for assistance, all assets are assumed to belong to the parent who reports the interest and/or dividends earned from those assets on his or her tax return. The formulas used to determine your eligibility expect all students to use 20-25 percent of their assets each year for educational expenses. Thus, a student’s Expected Family Contribution has been based upon the assumption that the information (and financial aid application) you submitted has been accurately and truthfully reported to us. The university may request verification of certain application items, including, but not limited to, your parent(s) income and assets, your academic-year residency status (i.e., living on campus or commuting from home/relative’s home) and your sibling(s) enrollment in another postsecondary institution. Please be advised that any changes to the information originally provided to us may result in a revision of your Expected Family Contribution.

If you have qualified to have your aid eligibility determined as an independent student, you may not have an expected parent contribution. In order to be considered independent, you must meet federal criteria for independence (or have been confirmed as an independent student) and therefore receive federal funds as an independent student; the university requires parent information from all students unless they are orphaned or wards of the court (or were wards of the court until age 18) and may, in fact, expect a parent contribution before waiving any institutional funds.

Demonstrated financial need determines the amount of grant/scholarship assistance for which you will be eligible. To determine your eligibility for a grant, you must be a U.S. citizen, be an undergraduate or graduate student, be enrolled in coursework necessary to begin a career in teaching (or plan to complete such coursework), have a 3.5 cumulative GPA (or have scored in the 75th percentile or higher), and complete annual entrance counseling, as well as a TEACH Grant Agreement to Sign (TGAS). The TEACH Grant does not complete the four-year service obligation within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which the TEACH Grant was awarded. The TEACH Grant will be converted to a Direct Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. This loan must be repaid to the U.S. Department of Education, with interest charged upon the assumption that the information provided on the FAFSA is correct.

The Federal Pell Grant is funded by the government and provides 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 Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program is funded by the federal government and provides up to $3,724 per year to students who intend to teach full-time in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. To be eligible for this grant, a student must be a U.S. citizen, be an undergraduate or graduate student, be enrolled in coursework necessary to begin a career in teaching (or plan to complete such coursework), have a 3.5 cumulative GPA (or have scored in the 75th percentile or higher), and complete annual entrance counseling, as well as a TEACH Grant Agreement to Sign (TGAS). The TEACH Grant does not complete the four-year service obligation within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which the TEACH Grant was awarded. The TEACH Grant will be converted to a Direct Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. This loan must be repaid to the U.S. Department of Education, with interest charged upon the assumption that the information provided on the FAFSA is correct.

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WHAT DO I OWE?

The Federal Direct Stafford Loan is a low-interest, long-term educational loan available to students. Loan capital is supplied 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. Please note that a student cannot receive Federal Direct Stafford Loan(s) for more than 150 percent of the published length of his or her program. Borrowers of the Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan do not have to pay the interest that accrues while they are in school; instead, the federal government forgives the interest on this portion of the loan. Borrowers of the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan are assessed interest on the loan from the time the loan funds are disbursed. The interest may be deferred and capitalized. For the 2016-17 academic year, the interest rate on both versions of the Stafford Loan was 3.76 percent, and the origination fee, which is deducted from the gross amount of the loan, was 1.069 percent. Repayment of the principal of the loan is deferred while a student is enrolled in school at least half-time. Once a student enters a period of at least half-time enrollment, he or she enters a grace period of six months. Repayment begins at the conclusion of the grace period.

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.

University Employment

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.

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.

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.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY (FWS)

Federal Work-Study (FWS) 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 upon 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. 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.

To determine your full cost of attendance, you will need to consult each semester’s billing statements for your actual costs. Please note that Brandeis estimates $2,500 for a student’s tuition 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 commute or drive the length of the campus. Books and personal travel expenses should be considered in determining your full cost of attendance.

You may wish to consider a parent- or student-education loan that allows for an extended period of repayment. For more information about financing options, please visit go.brandeis.edu/financing.

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 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.
WHAT IF I RECEIVE AN OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP?

If you receive an outside scholarship from an individual, a business, a foundation or your high school, you must report this assistance to the University. Please send copies of your scholarship award letters directly to the Office of Student Financial Services. The federal government requires that outside scholarships be included in need-based aid packages. They may not be used to replace your or your family’s contribution. Any outside award amount will first reduce the need-based self-help (loan and/or work) used to meet institutional 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?

In order to decline a loan or work-study allotment 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 borrow in order to meet a portion of their calculated eligibility. 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 will usually result in forfeiture of the amount allotted to you.

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.

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/afs/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 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.

IS ANY OF MY FINANCIAL AID TAXABLE?

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.
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.