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 parent(s) are expected to contribute toward your educational costs. (Note: the 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 your 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 your Cost of Attendance in order to determine the amount of need-based assistance. Federal law prohibits a student from receiving financial aid 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)’ 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.

Married 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 person 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. This assumption that the Expected Family Contribution has been based upon the assumption that the information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid application has been reported accurately to us. The university may require you to provide verification of application items, including, but not limited to, your current family income and assets, your academic-year residency status (i.e., living on campus, off campus or commuting from home/relative’s home) and your sibling’s enrollment in an undergraduate program at 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 must not have an expected parent contribution. In order to be considered independent, you must not be a dependent student as defined by the 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 parental information from all students unless they are orphans or wards of the court (or were wards of the court until age 18) and may, in fact, expect a parent contribution before awarding any institutional funds.

HOW WAS MY AWARD DETERMINED?
Demonstrated financial need determines the amount of grant/scholarship aid and federal or institutional loans that you will receive. To determine financial need, the Alumni and Friends Scholarship is direct gift aid from the university that a student does not need to repay. Eligibility for this fund is based on the financial need. Generous gifts and donations from alumni, parents, friends and others who support funds for financial aid offers for scholarships, including several endowed scholarships, as a symbol of their commitment and dedication to future Brandeis graduates. Select students receive recognition of their achievements, generally as part of their financial aid package, as recipients of these special awards. Students may not apply for specific endowed scholarships; recipients of these awards will be selected and notified by the university.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP
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FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)
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.

FEDERAL PELL GRANT
The Federal Pell Grant is funded by the federal government and provider 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 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 fails to apply. Therefore, if you have additional funds you will need to file the FAFSA prior to the deadline designated by your state.

GILBERT GRANT
The Gilbert Grant is funded provisionally by Brandeis University through the Massachusetts State Scholarship Program. This grant is designed to help students who are in financial need. Awards generally do not exceed $1,000.

STATE SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT
The State Scholarship/Grant is an award from the student’s state of legal residence. The cost of Attendance 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 fails to apply. Therefore, if you have additional funds you will need to file the FAFSA prior to the deadline designated by your state.

PHOTO: This statue of Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis stands at the center of campus. Justice Brandeis was a champion of civil rights and liberties. While he lived, he wanted to make a Brandeis education financially possible for all students. To honor that wish, the university that bears his name. While Louis D. Brandeis stands at the center of campus, his personal contributions to his alma mater are reflected in the university’s commitment to excellence and its goal of providing exceptional educational opportunities to all students.
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 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 Subsidized Stafford Loan funds 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 on this loan 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 ceases 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.

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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 Program or Federal Work-Study as part of their financial aid packages must apply for Federal Work-Study. Fall-spring-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 for a 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 do not travel during the course of the term. Books and personal and travel expenses should be considered in determining your full cost of attendance.

If the net cost to you and your family is positive, there will be a balance due for each semester that must be paid by the deadlines set by the Office of Student Financial Services. The balance due indicated on each bill must be paid prior to the start of the semester to avoid assessment of late fees and so that you may register. If the net cost is zero or negative, no payment should be due from you or your family. A refund of any credit balance may be requested only after all funds are finalized/actual (e.g., all loan promissory notes are signed and you have registered. Checks for credit refunds will not be available until at least 10 days before the start of each semester; therefore, you should budget your finances accordingly for payment of off-campus living expenses, books, transportation and so on.
If you 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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Brandeis University is committed to providing its students, faculty and staff with an environment conducive to learning and working and where all people are treated with respect and dignity. Toward that end, it is essential that Brandeis be free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race; color; ancestry; religious creed; gender identity and expression; national or ethnic origin; sex; sexual orientation; age; genetic information; disability; Vietnam-era veteran, qualified special, disabled veteran, or other eligible veteran status; or any other category protected by law. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President of Human Resources, Bernstein-Marcus building, 781-736-4464.

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