Financial Information

Master's degree programs vary considerably in the extent to which they are eligible for financial support from the Graduate School or degree program. Typical awards for day students include scholarships for part or all of their tuition charges. Part-time employment and student loans are possible sources of support. Students in some master's programs may be able to obtain work as an instructional aide.

Financial Support

Tuition Scholarships

Scholarships to cover part or all the costs of tuition are available to both new and continuing students. Since perception of academic merit is the sole criterion for the award of tuition scholarships, they are not subject to taxation under federal tax law at this time.

Loans

Federally underwritten loans are another resource for students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Some funds are available through the Perkins Direct Student Loan Program. Stafford loans can be arranged for a larger number of graduate students. Applicants for these loans are required to submit both the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Washington University Family Financial Profile (FFP). The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences determines eligibility and processes loan applications for all full-time master's students in daytime programs. For more information about applying for loans, please visit the Graduate School's Financial Information pages (http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/prospective_students/financial-information).

Instructional Aides

These are awarded to eligible students based on curricular needs of departments and programs and are not guaranteed in advance. Students can be assigned to assist a faculty member in teaching a course. The duties of instructional aids vary widely across the disciplines. They may include assisting faculty in the preparation, instruction and grading of an undergraduate course, in monitoring the laboratory segment of an undergraduate course, or in tutorial responsibilities.

Financial Costs

Tuition Charges and Refunds

The maximum tuition fee is the equivalent of 12 semester hours. Students who enroll for 9 or more hours per semester are automatically regarded as full-time students and are charged a flat full-time rate. Students enrolled for fewer than 9 units are charged on a per-unit basis. The tuition rate is subject to annual change.

Requests for refund of tuition paid by a student who is withdrawing from a degree program should be made by submitting a Withdrawal Form to the Graduate School office. Requests for refund of tuition paid by a student who is withdrawing from a specific course should be submitted in writing to the Graduate School Registrar. The last date of class attendance is ordinarily used in determining the amount that can be refunded. Students withdrawing within the first two weeks of classes will receive a full refund; those withdrawing before the end of the fourth week pay 20 percent; those withdrawing before the end of the eighth week pay 40 percent. There is no refund after the eighth week of the semester except for reasons of health. Such reasons must be certified or verified by Student Health Services, in which case the university will make a prorated refund of tuition if notice of withdrawal is received before the end of the 12th week of the semester. Students who have had their full tuition remitted for them by their School or by a third party will not receive any refund.

Health Fees

All full-time students in Arts & Sciences are charged a mandatory health fee. This fee gives access to Student Health Services. In addition, they must either enroll in the student health insurance plan or present proof of comparable coverage. Both the health fee and the health insurance premium are subject to annual change.

Academic Fees

The academic fees discussed below apply to students who wish to maintain their degree candidacy during semesters in which they do not enroll for course work or research hours and to students eligible for full-time status despite enrollment for fewer than 9 semester hours. These fees are subject to change annually. Note that students receiving financial assistance from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, such as instructional aides, are required to maintain full-time student status by registering either for at least 9 semester hours or for master's continuing student status.

Students who have completed the semester hours required for their graduate degree and who continue to make full-time progress toward completing that degree may register for continuing student status, which incurs a fee in most Schools but does not confer course credit. Students in this category are granted, without additional charge, normal use of laboratories, libraries, and other university facilities. The course number that confers continuing student status is also used by students who register for fewer than 9 semester hours in any term and wish to maintain full-time standing.

Master's nonresident status likewise incurs a fee and does not confer course credit. It is the required registration for students who have acquired full-time employment. “Nonresident status” does not imply geographical location but implies less than full-time involvement in graduate study; this registration is used only
by part-time students. Students in this category can make normal use of most university facilities.

Students deciding how to register need to consider the consequences of part-time student status. Nonresident students have no financial aid from the university, no student health insurance or access to Student Health Services, no deferment of any federal student loans they have, and no right to rent university-owned housing. Also, most international students are required to maintain full-time status.