Financial Information

Financial Aid

All students accepted for admission to the Graduate School of Art who have applied for financial aid are automatically considered for available fellowships and scholarships, as well as partial-tuition remission art scholarships. MFA awards range from 25 percent to 100 percent of tuition. Scholarships are awarded by the Graduate Admissions Committee, and awards are based on separate considerations of academic excellence and financial need.

An application for financial aid will have no effect on the admission decision. The Graduate School of Art strives to provide aid to as many fellows as possible. Financial aid packages most often consist of a combination of fellowships or scholarships, assistant in instruction positions, and loan assistance.

Merit-based scholarships, including the Ernestine Betsberg and Arthur Osver Scholarship, the McMillan Graduate Scholarship, and the Henrietta Wahlert Graduate Scholarship, are also awarded, based on the strength of the student’s application and portfolio. No additional application is necessary.

In addition, universitywide fellowships and scholarships are available that require a separate application. These opportunities include the Spencer T. Olin Fellowship for Women, the Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship, and the McDonnell International Scholars Academy.

Students are awarded assistant in instruction (AI) positions based on the strength of their applications and portfolios. Assistants in instruction work about 10 hours per week and earn up to $2,000 per semester. Students are paid on a biweekly schedule for work completed. Assistants in instruction are limited in number for first-year MFA candidates; notification of this award will be included in any scholarship offer. All second-year MFA candidates are eligible for assistant in instruction positions.

Admissions and awards of financial aid are for the specific academic year, but accepted applicants may request deferment of admission for up to one year. Fellowship, scholarship, and assistant in instruction awards are renewable for the second year of study. Students must reapply for loan assistance each year. Instructions for applying for financial aid are available on our Financial Aid webpage.

Tuition Payment Policy and Billing Procedures

Full-time students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours. Graduate students may not be enrolled in more than 16 credit hours following the add/drop deadlines for the semester without the approval of the director of the Graduate School of Art.

The university reserves the right to change the fees stated or to establish additional fees at any time without prior written notice. Whenever fee changes or additions are made, they become effective with the next payment due.

If a student withdraws from the program, a written request for a refund must be submitted to the director of the Graduate School of Art for consideration. Approval is required to officially withdraw from the university. Tuition adjustments will be processed based on information received and according to Washington University policies as stated on the Student Accounting website. Material fees for Graduate School of Art courses will not be refunded after the fourth week of classes. For any student whose medical condition makes attendance for the semester impossible or medically inadvisable, the university will make a pro rata refund of tuition as of the date of withdrawal when that date occurs prior to the 12th week of classes, provided the condition is verified by the university’s Student Health Services or a private physician. The date of withdrawal may correspond to the date of hospitalization or the date on which the medical condition was determined.