

Financial Aid

All applicants for financial aid should submit a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** available in the Office of Financial Aid, located in the lower level of the Gallagher Center, or on the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

To receive federal financial aid, students must not owe any refunds on federal Pell grants or other awards paid, or be in default on repayment of any student loan. All federal programs require the recipient to be enrolled as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program at the university, a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen (federal definition) and, if applicable, registered with the selective service. Students must make satisfactory academic progress to maintain eligibility for federal aid. Students on NU's warning and probation status are eligible for federal and institutional aid. The maximum allowable period of time to receive financial aid is indicated on the satisfactory academic progress chart on page 13.

Before receiving payment, students must sign a Statement of Educational Purpose and a Certification Statement on Overpayment and Default (both found on the FAFSA). Students enrolled in a program of study abroad approved for credit by Niagara University may be considered enrolled at Niagara for purposes of applying for federal student aid. Students must have a valid Social Security number.

All federal programs are contingent upon actual Congressional appropriation.

Student Employment Programs

Graduate Resident Director Assistantships (GRD)

Each year, a limited number of graduate resident director assistantships are awarded under the auspices of the university's student life division. These positions offer qualified graduate students an opportunity to work with staff and residents in developing and promoting an extracurricular environment conducive to maximum student growth in a residential setting. The GRD is primarily responsible for the overall administration and supervision

of the assigned hall and staff. This responsibility includes the adjudication of minor policy violations and the implementation of educational and social programming within the building. GRDs are expected to focus their efforts on creating a hall environment that enhances the academic learning, personal development, physical comfort, and safety and security of each resident student.

Candidates must possess a bachelor's degree, have prior residence hall staff experience, and be accepted into a graduate program at NU. The GRD position is a 10-month live-in position with opportunities for summer employment and housing.

Awards are made for one year and are renewable for a second term upon demonstration of satisfactory performance. Remuneration for service includes:

- (1) a stipend of \$6,100.
- (2) annual tuition waiver for up to 18 hours of graduate studies at Niagara University.
- (3) partially furnished living facilities.
- (4) a meal plan.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Dean of Student Affairs
O'Shea Hall, Niagara University
Niagara University, NY 14109

Federal Work Study Program (FWSP)

Application Procedures: Application is made through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Eligibility for FWSP is determined on the basis of financial need. A separate job application is required for placement purposes only. Forms are available in the financial aid office.

Selection of Recipients and Allocation of Awards: Niagara University makes employment reasonably available to all eligible students in the institution who are in need of financial aid. In the event that more students are eligible for FWSP than there are funds and/or positions available, preference is given to students who have great financial need and who must earn a part of their education expenses.

Award Schedule: Niagara University arranges jobs on campus, or off campus,

with public or private nonprofit agencies. The program encourages community-service work and work related to students' course of study.

Factors considered by the financial aid office in determining whether, and for how many hours, the recipient may work under this program are: financial need, class schedule, and academic progress.

Level of salary must be at least the federal minimum wage; maximum wage is dependent on the nature of the job and applicant qualifications. Students are paid biweekly.

Rights and Responsibilities of Recipients: Satisfactory job performance.

Grant Programs

Students who enroll in study-abroad or off-campus programs will have the amount of any Niagara University scholarship, grant or tuition remission limited to the difference between Niagara University charges and the direct cash payment by Niagara University to the study-abroad or off-campus program.

Tuition Scholarships

Niagara University offers a limited number of full or partial tuition scholarships for a two-year master's program.

The scholarships are granted on the basis of scholastic achievement and individual departmental criteria.

Applications should be written and contain a rationale and pertinent supporting documents. Scholarship requests should be sent to the director of the MBA program, the dean of the College of Education, or the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Graduate Assistantships

NU offers a limited number of graduate assistantships in various departments on campus to qualified matriculated students in one of NU's master's degree programs. Awards are made for one year and are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory performance. Awards include tuition remission up to 18 credit hours per academic year (fall and spring semesters) and a stipend of \$6,000 per

year. Recipients are responsible for all fees. Duties, requiring 400 hours of service per semester to the department, are assigned by the department head.

Candidates should submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Associate Director of Financial Aid
Niagara University
Niagara University, NY 14109

Religious Reduction

Tuition discount offered to members of a Roman Catholic religious order.

Federal Loan Programs

Federal Perkins Loans

Niagara University participates in the Federal Perkins Loan Program which provides loan money to graduate students. The loans are repayable beginning nine months after termination of schooling at a 5 percent interest charge. Graduate students may borrow up to \$6,000 per year, with a cumulative maximum of \$40,000 for both undergraduate and graduate education. Awards are based on exceptional financial need and available funding.

Loan repayment is deferred during periods of at least half-time study, during service in the armed forces, and several other periods.

Further details of the program may be requested from the financial aid office. Application is made through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Federal Stafford Student Loans

Graduate students who have been accepted as matriculated students and are enrolled at least half time at Niagara University may apply for a loan through the Federal Stafford Student Loan Program. Eligibility is based on students' cost of attendance and financial need.

Graduate students may borrow up to \$8,500 per year on a subsidized basis. Students can borrow up to an additional \$10,000 per year on an unsubsidized basis (loan accrues interest during in-school periods).

The maximum aggregate amount a student can borrow for graduate and undergraduate education is \$138,500.

(Only \$65,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.)

The interest rate is set by the federal government at a fixed rate of 6.8 percent effective July 1, 2006. Depending on your lender, there may be a 3 percent origination/insurance fee deducted from the loan amount. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to begin the application process for this loan. First-time borrowers are required to attend an entrance interview. Exit interviews are required at graduation or withdrawal from the university.

The federal student aid ombudsman of the U.S. Department of Education helps borrowers resolve disputes and solve other problems with federal student loans. The ombudsman office is where borrowers can turn after trying other ways to resolve a student loan dispute. Contact the ombudsman by:

Telephone: 877-557-2575 (toll free)
202-377-3800 (toll call)

Fax: 202-275-0549

Mail: U.S. Department of
Education
FSA Ombudsman
830 First Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20202-5144

Online: www.ombudsman.ed.gov

E-mail: fsaombudsmanoffice@ed.gov

Federal PLUS Loans for Graduate Students

As of July 1, 2006, eligible graduate students can borrow under the PLUS Loan Program up to their cost of attendance minus other estimated financial assistance. Requirements include a determination that the applicant does not have an adverse credit history, repayment beginning on the date of the last disbursement of the loan, and a fixed interest rate of 8.5 percent in the FFEL program. Loan amounts may be reduced by four percent as an origination/insurance fee depending on your lender. Applicants for these loans are *required* to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid



(FAFSA). They also must have applied for their annual loan maximum eligibility under the Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan program before applying for a graduate PLUS loan.

NU Student Emergency Loan Program

An emergency student loan fund has been made available by Niagara University which enables students to borrow amounts up to \$500 on a short-term emergency basis at a nominal service charge. The office is located in the lower level of the Gallagher Center.

State Programs

**Please note that New York state currently defines full time as 12 credit hours per semester for all New York state financial aid programs.*

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

The Tuition Assistance Program is an entitlement program. There is neither a qualifying examination nor a limited number of awards. The applicant must:

- (1) Be a New York state resident and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien.
- (2) Be enrolled full time* and matriculated at an approved New York state postsecondary institution in an approved program of study.
- (3) Meet income eligibility requirements. All income data are subject to verification with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.
- (4) Not be in default on any government guaranteed student loan.

Students apply annually by first completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and then linking to Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) at www.hesc.org.

The amount of the TAP award is scaled according to net taxable income. Award schedules are subject to state appropriation. Current schedules are available in the financial aid office.

All students applying for state financial assistance, such as TAP, must meet the minimum standards for satisfactory academic progress and program pursuit as listed below in order to comply with section 145-2.2 of the New York State Education Department's regulations and to continue their eligibility for state financial assistance.

The state education department's regulations concerning program pursuit are as follows: a student must achieve a passing or failing grade in the following percentages of a full-time program (which is a minimum of 12 credits a term) in each semester he/she receives TAP in order to continue to be eligible for TAP payments in the subsequent semester. The percentages are:

First year of TAP payment: 50 percent of full-time program must be completed.

Second year of TAP payment: 75 percent of full-time program must be completed.

Third and fourth years of TAP payment: 100 percent of full-time program must be completed.

If the graduate TAP recipient received TAP as an undergraduate, the number of undergraduate TAP payments received determines what level of program pursuit the first-time graduate student must meet. For example, if the graduate recipient has already received four or more undergraduate TAP payments, he/she would be at 100 percent program pursuit level through each semester of graduate study.

Students must meet both the program pursuit requirements and the following satisfactory academic progress requirements in each term of TAP payment in order to continue TAP eligibility. Students not complying with the state standards for program pursuit and satisfactory academic progress will have their

eligibility reestablished only after evidencing ability to successfully complete an approved program.

Canadian Higher Education Loan Program

CanHELP Graduate Loan

The International Education Finance Corp. has developed the credit-based CanHELP Graduate Loan which is available to Canadian citizens who are enrolled at least half time in TERI-approved institutions in the United States.

Regardless of your present income and personal assets, you may borrow from \$1,000 up to \$20,000 (U.S. funds) annually. Depending on the total amount borrowed, you may take up to 25 years to repay.

All non-U.S. applicants require a U.S. co-signer. For more information and an application, go to www.internationalstudentloan.com or call (866) 229-8900.

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

The Ontario Student Assistance Program offers financial assistance to help students from lower income families meet the costs of postsecondary education. OSAP assistance is intended to supplement financial resources of students and their families. (A student must be a

Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada or a protected person.) Assistance is based on financial need as established by the federal and/or provincial governments and as determined by the Ontario Student Assistance Program. The amount of loan students are eligible to receive is based on the information they provide.

Online application is recommended as there are no application fees; Web site (osap.gov.on.ca) is available 24 hours a day, and students can get an on-the-spot estimate of the amount of funding they may receive.

For complete details, access the OSAP Web site at osap.gov.on.ca.

Canadian Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP) — Form RC96

The Lifelong Learning Plan allows individuals to withdraw up to \$10,000 a calendar year from their registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) to finance full-time training or education. To participate in the LLP you must be an RRSP owner with a qualifying RRSP plan. To make an LLP withdrawal, use Form RC96 (Lifelong Learning Plan Request to Withdraw Funds from an RRSP).

Form RC96 can be accessed on the Web site www.cra.gc.ca along with detailed program information.

Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress for Federal and New York State Aid — Graduate Definition for Master's Programs in Education, Business, and Arts and Sciences

At the completion of this full-time semester	1	2	3	4	5	6
A student must have completed this number of hours	6	12	21	30	45	60
A student must have the required QPA	2.5	2.6	2.75	3.0	3.0	3.0

Calendar: Semester

A student may have the above standards waived once as a graduate student if a special waiver is certified and documented by the university. For information about the process of filing for a waiver, please contact the Office of Financial Aid.