

Is there financial aid for graduate students?

While most governmental grant aid is targeted to undergraduate students, some opportunities exist for graduate students.

Here are some suggestions:

- Identify some graduate schools of interest to you and talk to the financial aid administrators there.
- Talk to your employer about any educational benefits offered to employees. Employers may provide up to \$5,250 per year in educational assistance to each employee tax-free for undergraduate or graduate courses, often regardless of whether the education is job related. Check with your employer for more information.
- Become familiar with student loan and work-study programs by reviewing a copy of *Paying for College: State & Federal Financial Aid Guide*, including the following:
 - Federal Perkins Loan
 - Federal Stafford Loan (both subsidized and unsubsidized)
 - Federal PLUS Loan
 - SELF Loan (state)
 - State Work Study
 - Federal Work Study
- Learn about federal tax benefits. The American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit provide up to \$2,500 and \$2,000 respectively per student for qualified education expenses for undergraduate as well as graduate education. The credit is subtracted from what you own in taxes. Additional information on federal tax benefits, such as the Student Loan Interest Deduction and the Tuition and Fees Deduction, can be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service by calling 800-829-3676 or at www.irs.gov/publications/. See publication 970, "Tax Benefits for Education".
- Look into health profession loan forgiveness programs administered by the state and federal governments. For information on state programs, contact the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care of the Department of Health at (651) 201-3870 or (800) 366-5424 for non-metro calls or www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/loans/. For information on federal programs, call 800-275-4772, email flrpinfo@hrsa.gov, visit <http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/> or write to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Student Loans and Scholarships, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.
- Talk to the department chairperson or dean at the school where you plan to pursue graduate study to learn about:
 - departmental or institutional grants and scholarships
 - teaching and research assistantships
 - fellowships or traineeships
 - internships and summer jobs
 - employment funded by a grant
- Explore other references on paying for college, including the library and websites:
 - Council of Graduate Schools: www.cgsnet.org
 - Student Gateway to the U.S. government: www.students.gov
 - U.S. Department of Education: www.studentaid.ed.gov
 - Minnesota Office of Higher Education: www.getreadyforcollege.org/paying