

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL AID

Information for Admitted International Financial Aid Recipients



**Northwestern University**

## Travel to and From Campus

### WELCOME!

On behalf of the admission and financial aid office, congratulations on your admission to Northwestern! As an international aid recipient, you will likely have a number of questions prior to your commitment. We have outlined some topics here to help you get started, but we also want you to know that we are here to assist you now and throughout your time at Northwestern.



### Cost of Attendance

Northwestern uses standard costs for the academic year to help determine your financial aid eligibility. Please visit [our financial aid website](#) for a full breakdown and explanation of these costs. Be sure to review the section that explains the difference between direct and indirect costs. This will also help you plan a budget for your first year at Northwestern.

### Start-up Grant

As a first year student, we recognize that you will have costs necessary to help get you established as a Northwestern student. After you commit to Northwestern, we will email additional information in mid-May regarding your eligibility to receive a one-time start-up grant to help with costs like SEVIS fees and a computer purchase your first year.

### Travel Costs

Your financial aid includes one round trip flight per year, which we will book and pay for you. This does not appear on your financial aid notice.

For Northwestern's winter recess, you will have the option to either have us book an additional flight home and back to campus or you can select the continuous housing option on your housing application, which will allow you to stay in your residence hall during recess. You will need to decide which option you prefer at the time you submit your housing application.

### Housing and Meals

We use the cost of a basic double room and full meal plan for the room and board amount. Should you select a more expensive single room, your out of pocket expenses will increase. Be sure to select the continuous housing option on your housing application if you need to stay on campus over the winter recess period. Your financial aid will cover this additional cost. University Housing remains open for all students during Thanksgiving and Spring break.

### Student Employment

Working on campus is not a requirement to receive your grant assistance. However, many international students have chosen to work and been able to find work on campus to help them cover their personal costs. On-campus employment will not impact your financial aid eligibility. On campus jobs will not be available until a student has enrolled and must be pursued and secured by the individual student. To learn more, visit [Northwestern's International Student Career Planning Guide](#).

### Health Insurance

International students are required to enroll in the NU/Aetna health insurance plan. For students receiving need-based financial aid, the cost is covered by Northwestern in the form of a grant and is already included in your financial aid. To learn more, visit [our Student Health Insurance website](#).

### Tax Liability

Northwestern pays U.S. federal taxes on behalf of our international students whose grant assistance exceeds tuition. Therefore, you will not owe Northwestern nor the federal government any funds for federal taxes for this income. However, students who do file state or federal tax documents will be responsible for any remaining tax liability as a result of their filing.

### Aid Renewals

Your Northwestern Grant amount will be renewed each year at the same level with adjustments for increases to annual tuition and room and board costs. You will not need to submit new financial application materials in future years.

### Contact Us

If you have any questions please let us know!

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