

# Financial Assistance

The Office of Financial Assistance awards scholarships and assistantships on a competitive basis to new and continuing graduate students who are admitted unconditionally to a graduate program or have removed the conditional status. Awards range from partial tuition support to full tuition support that may include a stipend. In general, financial assistance is available within these broad categories:

- Scholarships
- Fellowships
- Assistantships
- Loans

Students interested in financial assistance should apply according to these deadlines:

## February 1

Deadline to apply for the Caterpillar Master's Fellowship for students who will begin study in the following summer or fall terms.

## March 1

Deadline to apply for assistantships for the upcoming academic year.

Students interested in financial support must complete the Financial Assistance section on the *Application for Graduate Admission*. In some cases, i.e., Caterpillar Fellowship, UPS Scholarship, and others, special applications must also be completed.

## Assistantships

Graduate assistantships are available in most departments that offer graduate work and also in certain administrative areas. Academic departments award assistantships for research, teaching assistance, and other academic activities, annually or semi-annually, on a competitive basis, with scholastic ability and evidence of special qualifications being the most important criteria. Full-time graduate assistants are required to work 20 hours each week for the assigned department, and, in return, receive a stipend and waiver of 100% of actual tuition costs, with a maximum tuition award per academic year. Part-time graduate assistants are required to work 10 hours each week for the assigned department, and, in return, receive a stipend and waiver of 50% of actual tuition costs, with a maximum award per academic year. Detailed information

on eligibility and policies is available at [www.bradley.edu/grad](http://www.bradley.edu/grad) or in the Graduate School, 118 Bradley Hall.

## Other Scholarships

Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity (ICEOP): This scholarship of up to \$10,000 annually (a maximum of \$20,000 total for master's degree students) provides financial assistance to Illinois residents who are members of traditionally underrepresented racial minority groups (Black, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, or Alaskan Native) to pursue and complete graduate or professional degrees at Illinois institutions of higher education. Descriptions of eligibility and application procedures are available from the Graduate Office.

For more information regarding additional scholarship opportunities, contact the Graduate School in 118 Bradley Hall, or 677-2375.

## Caterpillar Masters Fellowships

Caterpillar Masters Fellowships are awarded annually on a competitive basis to outstanding students who have graduated from an accredited university, demonstrated superior academic achievement, and are committed to research or creative production. The Fellowships provide: an annual stipend between \$8,000 and \$12,000 in addition to a full tuition waiver, an educational environment that provides a unique transition for students preparing for doctoral degrees or professional degree programs, innovative curricula designed for business, industry, and public sector needs, a student-selected project guided by a faculty mentor, interdisciplinary teamwork on problem-solving research, and flexibility to adapt specific interests and aspirations of students.

## Loans

**Federal Direct Subsidized Loans:** Graduate students, both full and half time, are eligible to borrow up to \$8,500 each academic year under this program. For additional information contact the Financial Assistance Office, Swords Hall, (309) 677-3089.

**Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans:** This loan program offers long-term educational loans to qualified graduate students. Students are eligible to borrow up

to \$10,000 each academic year. For additional information the Financial Assistance Office, Swords Hall, (309) 677-3089.

**USX Loans:** The USX Foundation makes loans available to full-time students studying in the fields of business, computer science, and engineering. Loans may not exceed \$2,000 in an academic year and are made at an annual rate of 7%. For additional information contact Financial Assistance, 100 Swords Hall, (309) 677-3089.

## International Students

International (F-1) students are eligible to apply for Graduate Scholarships, Graduate Assistantships, and the Caterpillar Master's Fellowship only. No separate application form is required for Graduate Scholarships. Caterpillar Master's Fellowship applications are considered for fall applicants only. See the application form for details and deadlines.

For more information, visit [www.bradley.edu/grad](http://www.bradley.edu/grad) or the Office of Financial Assistance, 100 Swords Hall, where applications, eligibility requirements, policies, and specific program details are available.

## Deferred Payment Plan

The University offers a Deferred Payment Plan that requires payment at registration of 25% of the total tuition due. This payment may be made in the form of financial aid, cash or check, credit card, or a combination. The balance is charged a one-time deferment charge of 4% and is payable in three equal installments beginning approximately one month after registration.

A late fee of \$20 per month is assessed for each payment not received by the date stipulated on the deferred payment agreement. For further information contact the Controller's Office, 103 Swords Hall, Bradley University, Peoria, IL 61625; (309) 677-3120.

Employees who work for employers who pay a percentage of their tuition costs contingent upon successful course completion may be eligible for a full semester's deferral if the employer is enrolled and approved in this program. Under this program tuition payments are deferred until the 60th day after the end of the semester. A \$40 fee must be paid by the student at the time of enrollment to participate in this special deferral program. Students should check with their employer to find out if their company is enrolled in the program.

## Cooperative Education/ Internship Program

Graduate students may gain career-related work experience by participating in Bradley's Cooperative Education/Internship Program. Cooperative education/internship experiences are related to students' academic and career interests and provide opportunities for professional development that integrate classroom theory with supervised work experience. Students have a choice of two options to follow. The part-time option allows students to attend classes while working part time with a local employer. The full-time option allows students to work full time during an academic

semester or summer. Both options correspond with the academic calendar.

While on a full-time cooperative education/internship assignment, students are considered to have full-time student status, making normal progress toward a degree in a recognized university program and are entitled to all student privileges at Bradley University if they are registered for a credit or noncredit course at the university.

Newly admitted graduate students must be unconditionally admitted to a degree program in order to qualify, and continuing students must have at least a 3.0 gradepoint average in graduate courses. Graduate students do not receive graduate credit for cooperative education/internship experience; graduate assistantships do not count as cooperative education/internship experience.

In order to be referred to an employer or participate in a cooperative education/internship work assignment, students must be attending Bradley University. They also must be either registered for a minimum of three hours of non-cooperative education/internship credit or be on a full-time cooperative education assignment. A work assignment will not be approved retroactively. Although every effort is made to assist students in obtaining a cooperative education/internship position, no student is guaranteed referral or placement.

Eligibility for employment of nonimmigrant (F-1) students is defined on an individual basis according to regulations set forth by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), formerly referred to as INS—the Immigration and Naturalization Service. For clarification of eligibility criteria and how it applies to you, please contact the Multicultural Student Services Office or consult the BCIS Web site at [www.immigration.gov](http://www.immigration.gov).