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# Financial Aid and Scholarships

## Financial Support for Graduate Students

At San Diego State University, a variety of federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs designed to substantially reduce or eliminate economic barriers to the pursuit of graduate study are available to students admitted to advanced degree curricula. While federal and state aid programs are only available to United States citizens and eligible noncitizens, institutional aid programs and university scholarships address the unique financial needs of individual students across a broad range of economic and academic circumstances.

On-campus programs for advanced degree students at San Diego State University include appointments as graduate teaching associates, graduate assistants, research assistants, and student assistants as well as tuition and fee assistance, fellowships, scholarships, grants, and forgivable loans.

Eligibility requirements and award amounts often differ by discipline and experience, and some opportunities are available only to students admitted to doctoral programs. Nominations for almost all of these awards originate with the chair or director of the department or school of the degree program for master's degree students or the coordinator of the doctoral program for students pursuing either the Ph.D. or Ed.D. degree. The Division of Graduate Affairs administers most of these programs for the university. The graduate dean must approve most awards and appointments and determine whether the applicant is in good standing with the university. Continuing and prospective students interested in specific information about any of these on-campus programs are invited to write or visit the Division of Graduate Affairs at San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-8220. The phone number is 619-594-5213. The Division of Graduate Affairs is located in Student Services East, Room 1410. Information is also available at <http://aztecgrad.sdsu.edu>.

### Financial Aid

Information about all state, federal, and institutional aid programs is available from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships located in Student Services West, Room 3605. The phone number is 619-594-6323. Information about the available programs as well as the academic standards that a student must maintain to remain eligible for such aid can be accessed at <http://www.sdsu.edu/financialaid>.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is all you need to begin the application process. You may apply by visiting <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

Applications are reviewed and aid awarded throughout the year based on available funding. To receive first priority evaluation of your eligibility for all financial aid programs, complete the FAFSA by March 2 and, by April 1, submit all financial aid documents requested. An application and documents submitted after these dates will receive second priority evaluation and aid awarded based on available funding at the time.

### E-mail and the Internet

The SDSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships uses e-mail and the Internet to communicate with aid applicants about documentation needed, disbursement holds, and awards. Go to the SDSU WebPortal at <http://www.sdsu.edu/porta> and select E-mail/Address Update to make sure there is a valid e-mail address on record for you. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships home page and secure website, *AidLink*, have been enhanced to streamline the application and award process for SDSU students. Use *AidLink* at <http://www.sdsu.edu/financialaid> to view your personal financial aid information, download and print documents you need to submit, activate your student loan, and more.

## Tuition Assistance Program for Out-of-State and Foreign Students

In California, all students are required to pay a registration fee based on the number of units of enrollment. In addition to this fee, nonresidents of California, including international students, pay tuition that currently amounts to \$372 per unit of enrollment. The California State University (CSU) makes every effort to keep student costs to a minimum. Tuition and fees listed in published schedules or student accounts may need to be increased when public funding is inadequate. Therefore, the CSU must reserve the right, even after initial tuition and fee payments are made, to increase or modify any listed fees, without notice, until the date when instruction for a particular semester has begun. All CSU listed fees should be regarded as estimates that are subject to change upon approval by The Board of Trustees.

For graduate students of superior scholastic achievement, the university may provide assistance by waiving all or part of the cost of out-of-state tuition. The number of students receiving tuition waivers is limited.

To be eligible for this program, an applicant must be a permanent resident or a citizen of the United States or a nonresident who is a citizen and resident of a foreign country. Assistance is provided on a semester-by-semester basis. Domestic non-residents are only eligible for one year. International students may qualify for a continuation beyond their first year.

For more information, new students should contact the chair or director of the department or school of the Master's program to which they have been admitted. Students pursuing a Ph.D. should consult the program director. Departmental nominations should be submitted to the Division of Graduate Affairs.

### Fee Assistance Program

For most students pursuing the Ph.D. degree, the university has some scholarship funds available to offset in whole or in part the cost of the state-mandated registration fees. Like the tuition assistance program, awardees must participate in the teaching program of the university. Information regarding this support is available from the directors of the doctoral programs.

## Graduate Scholarships

San Diego State University awards scholarships to students to recognize and encourage individual talents, academic excellence, leadership skills, and the determination to succeed in spite of significant hardships. Scholarships are also awarded to students to support participation in SDSU approved study abroad programs, community service programs, and faculty approved conference attendance that is part of a student's SDSU curriculum. All students, regardless of nationality, citizenship, residency status, area of study, or grade point average are encouraged to apply for as many scholarships as possible.

Applications and specific requirements are available on the SDSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website at <http://www.sdsu.edu/financialaid>. Deadlines vary and new SDSU scholarship opportunities are added to the website throughout the year. The main SDSU scholarship application filing period is November through early February for awards paid in the following academic year. A second filing period extends from early March through April. Applications accepted August through October offer awards paid in the current academic year.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships coordinates the SDSU scholarship application and awarding process with the committees from the various academic departments and organizations responsible for selecting recipients. Scholarship funds are provided by private donors, corporations, professional associations, and SDSU alumni.

## Other Scholarship Resources and Links

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website also lists resources and links to outside scholarship information and free search websites.

### National Fellowships

The Office of Academic Scholarships receives annual announcements of the Fulbright, Marshall, Kent, Rotary, and other national fellowship programs. Since each campus is limited in the number of applications it may endorse, students interested in fellowships of this type are encouraged to discuss their applications with their designated campus adviser and with members of the university faculty who have themselves held these fellowships. Since test scores from the Graduate Record Examinations General Test are required, students should take this examination well in advance of the deadline date for the submission of applications. The GRE may be scheduled through the Testing Services office located in Student Services West, Room 2549. The telephone number is 619-594-5216. Additional information is available online at <http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/testofc>.

### Graduate Equity Fellowship Program

The Graduate Equity Fellowship program provides support for economically disadvantaged graduate students, especially from groups who are underrepresented within their respective disciplines. Only legal residents of California who can demonstrate significant financial need are eligible. Recipients must be classified or conditionally classified graduate students and must enroll for a minimum of six units of coursework each semester they hold the fellowship. Fellowships range from \$500 to \$2,000 for an academic year depending on demonstrated need. Students may receive awards for a maximum of two academic years but they must apply each year. Interested students should complete a Graduate Equity Fellowship application available at [http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/gra/financial\\_aid.aspx](http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/gra/financial_aid.aspx) and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

### Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program

The Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program provides financial assistance to graduate students who show promise of becoming strong candidates for California State University instructional faculty positions. The purpose of the program is to increase the pool of individuals with the qualifications, motivation, and skills to teach the diverse student body in the California State University. It is a competitive program directed by the CSU but open to doctoral students across the country. Through the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, the CSU offers loans and faculty sponsorship to full-time students pursuing doctoral degrees who are interested in a teaching career at a CSU campus. The program provides loans of up to \$10,000 per year up to a total of \$30,000 within five years. Loan forgiveness is 20 percent of the loan forgiven for each year of full-time postdoctoral teaching at a CSU campus and faculty sponsorship from a CSU faculty member. The CSU does not guarantee a faculty position to any participant in the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program. However, it is expected that upon completion of their doctoral studies, participants will be qualified to compete for CSU faculty positions. Applications are available at all CSU campuses; our campus has a Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program coordinator in the Division of Graduate Affairs. You may also obtain an application and information at <http://www.calstate.edu/hr/cdip/>.

### California Pre-Doctoral Program

The California Pre-Doctoral Program is designed to increase the pool of potential faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of California State University (CSU) students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. The program places a special emphasis on increasing the number of CSU students who enter doctoral programs at one of the University of California (UC) institutions. Announcements and application forms for the program are circulated each year in early December through the Division of Graduate Affairs. Eligibility is limited to junior, senior, and graduate students who are enrolled in a degree-seeking program at any one of the CSU campuses at the time of application. Applicants must also be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Application and additional information is available at <http://www.calstate.edu/PreDoc/index.shtml>.