



# Financial Assistance For International Students

## Introduction

International Students & Scholars (ISS) offers several financial aid programs, which are available only to non-immigrant student visa holders. Students classified by the USCIS as Permanent Residents or Refugees should consult the SIUC Financial Aid Office for information on financial aid programs available to them.

## Tuition Award Scholarships

Grantees are selected on the basis of their academic achievements, involvement in SIUC activities or services, and financial need. Undergraduate tuition awards cover part of the tuition (not fees) for one or more semesters; graduate tuition awards cover the full amount of tuition.

### *Eligibility Requirements*

- You must have completed one year of study at SIUC prior to the semester for which you request the scholarship.
- Undergraduate and graduate applicants must possess a minimum of 3.5 GPA.
- Students receiving awards must carry a full time course load during the term(s) covered by the award.

### *Application Dates*

- Applications for the undergraduate and graduate awards will be available from International Students and Scholars each spring semester. Students must apply for the tuition scholarship for the upcoming summer, fall and spring semesters. Notice of application dates are published online in the [The International Dateline](#).

## Student-to-Student Grants

STS Grants are awarded each semester to undergraduate international students on the basis of academic achievement. Awards range from \$100 to \$300 for one semester. The grant is funded by the STS fee, which is charged to undergraduate students.

### *Eligibility Requirements*

- You must have completed at least one semester at SIUC.
- You must be an undergraduate full-time student.
- Your GPA must be at least 2.0.
- **You must have paid the STS fee for the semester in which you apply.**

### *Application Dates*

- Applications will be available beginning in the third Week of each semester (second week in summer). Exact dates will be announced in [The International Dateline](#).

## **Student Work Referrals (On campus employment only)**

Most international students will be eligible to hold on-campus student jobs, which pay the prevailing minimum wage. Work Referral forms are obtained from ISS.

### ***Eligibility Requirements***

- You must be a F-1 student in status with USCIS
- You must be enrolled as a full time student

### ***Application Procedure***

- Secure a student Work Referral from ISS. You must bring the following items with you:
  - Valid I-20
  - Valid Passport
  - I-94 Card
- Take work referral to hiring department
- Go to International Tax Office

### ***Restrictions***

- International students may work a maximum of 20 hours per week while classes are in session. During breaks you may work full time (37.5 hours per week) if work is available.
- You may be eligible for employment if you are a less than full time student in your final term.

## **Short-Term Emergency Loans**

Short-Term Emergency Loans are available through ISS in cooperation with the Financial Aid Services. These loans must be repaid in approximately 60 days, and applicants must have a confirmed source of funds from which the loan can be repaid (e.g. assistantship, scholarship, student job, check deposited with Bursar). Loans are normally for up to \$550 if funds for repayment are specifically documented. Due to limited funds, short-term loans may not always be available. Consult with ISS for more information.

## **Departmental and Collegiate Financial Assistance**

Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships are offered by most academic departments to their graduate students. Many campus administrative offices also hire graduate assistants – a list of these offices can be obtained from the Graduate and Professional Student Council. A Graduate Assistantship carries a tuition waiver and a monthly stipend in return for approximately 10-20 hours of work per week, in jobs such as teaching or research assistants. A Fellowship carries the same benefits but does not require the recipient to work. Current or prospective graduate students should contact their academic department or the appropriate office for information on eligibility for these awards – it is important to apply early. (Check with academic department to see if they have scholarships.)

Undergraduate Assistantships are similar to Graduate Assistantships but are limited in number. A list of these positions can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office web site (<http://www.siu.edu/~fao/>).