

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

Macalester's long-standing commitment to internationalism includes a significant financial aid fund for qualified international students. Applicants for financial assistance should be aware that all awards are based on need and that the competition for these funds is extremely keen. Candidates applying for assistance are required to fill out the **International Student Financial Aid Application** and the **International Student Certification of Finances**. Submit these forms by November 15 for Early Decision I, January 2 for Early Decision II, or January 15 for Regular Decision. Please complete each question on the form completely and provide all documentation required. Describe any anticipated changes in your family's situation (including retirement, change of job or reduction in revenue) that may affect your ability to fund your education. All monetary figures on the form should be calculated in U.S. dollars.

Because Macalester enrolls a significant number of international students, there is a high level of competition for financial aid. Although our financial aid budget is substantial, it is **not** unlimited. As a result, one of the factors considered in determining admission is financial need. In other words, your chances of being admitted are better if you need less financial aid. For this reason, we advise you to realistically estimate your available financial resources on your financial aid application form. **Underestimating** will negatively affect your chances for admission, but **overestimating** will leave you unable to afford all four years at Macalester.

Frequently asked questions:

If I am offered a scholarship award from Macalester, am I eligible to receive it for more than one academic year?

Yes. Your initial award, which is established when you are admitted to the college, is reviewed at the end of each year you attend Macalester. As long as you continue to qualify for aid and remain in good academic standing, your award is renewed for the following year.

Can I work to help pay for my education at Macalester?

Yes. All students who qualify for financial assistance are offered part-time campus work as part of their financial aid package. On average, students work 10-12 hours per week in an office or department at the college during the academic year. Macalester also offers a limited number of full-time summer jobs to interested students, but these positions are not guaranteed. Off-campus work must be approved by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Are educational loans available to international students?

Yes. GATE loans are included in some international student financial aid packages at the discretion of the Financial Aid Office. International students may also apply for a SELF loan, which is administered by the state of Minnesota. To qualify for SELF loans, international students must have a U. S. citizen or permanent resident sign the note. Additional information is available through the Macalester Financial Aid Office. You may also wish to explore opportunities for loans through government, non-profit and private sources in your home country.

Will I have a better chance of being admitted to Macalester if I offer to pay for my first year and apply for financial aid after I have matriculated?

No. **Macalester is unable to consider applications for financial aid from international students after they have begun their studies at the college.** All candidates are required to submit an accurate and thorough assessment of their financial situation as part of their application for admission to the college.

Should I pursue outside scholarships and, if I receive them, do I need to notify Macalester?

Yes. All applicants are encouraged to pursue any source of funding that may help them to realize their goal of an education at Macalester. Money is often available through local, national, regional and global foundations. To maximize your chances of receiving financial assistance from Macalester, it is imperative that you provide us with details of any outside assistance you have obtained.

Does Macalester offer special or honorary scholarships to international students?

All financial aid awards for international students are based on need. Because the international admissions process at Macalester is highly competitive, all students who receive financial aid have exceptional academic and personal records. In this sense scholarships to international students are based on merit as well as need.