

## **GSE School-Based Financial Aid FAQ**

### **How do students finance a Fordham degree?**

There are two types of financial aid options that graduate students may apply for to help finance a Fordham degree; one is GSE School-based aid (institutional aid), and the other is Federal-based financial aid (i.e., student loans); both will require that a [FAFSA](#) be on file for the academic year. **Fordham University's Federal School Code is #002722.**

### **What is Federal Financial aid?**

Federal financial aid consists of federal student loans, such as Graduate PLUS Loan and Private Educational Loans, available to help finance a Fordham degree. Students may apply for these loans via the [Graduate Financial Aid website](#).

### **Which office should a student contact if they have questions about Federal-based aid?**

Fordham University's Office of Financial Aid oversees the federal aid process for students. Students who wish to apply for federal aid and have questions regarding the process should contact their offices at 718-817-3800 or may email [financialaid@fordham.edu](mailto:financialaid@fordham.edu).

### **Are there payment plan options that students can enroll in to help offset the out-of-pocket costs?**

Students may enroll in Fordham's monthly payment plan offered by Nelnet. The Fordham University Monthly Payment Plan, offered by Nelnet, is a payment plan by which a student or parent, guardian, or sponsor of a student can make monthly payments for out-of-pocket expenses. For more information, please view the [Monthly Payment Plan](#) option available to students.

### **What are other sources of funding that students may seek?**

External sources of funding are another resource that students may seek to help finance their degree. However, these are outside scholarships and must be sought by students. Please review this link for external sources of funding. Please review this link for [External Sources of Funding](#).

### **Can I apply for Federal-based aid (student loans) as an international student?**

International students may apply for a private loan requiring a US co-signer. If you are interested in private loans and want to learn more about the process and payment options, please visit the [Graduate Financial Aid website](#). Please also feel free to reach out to the Office of Student Financial Services at 718.817.3800, which handles student loan processes. Students may also contact the [University's Office of International Services](#) to see if they can provide additional resources.

### **What is GSE School-based Aid?**

GSE School-based aid consists of graduate assistantships, merit/need-based scholarships, donor-based scholarships, and grant-funded programs. For more information, please view the [GSE Scholarships](#) webpage.

### **What is the GSE School-based aid policy?**

Per GSE aid policy, students must meet merit and demonstrate financial need, as evidenced via FAFSA. All students may apply for a graduate assistantship and merit/need-based scholarships if students meet the requirements. Some GSE scholarships are for incoming students only, and some scholarships are not renewable.

### **Which office should a student contact if they have questions about GSE School-based Aid?**

The GSE Office of Financial Aid oversees the department's institutional school-based student financial aid programs. Students who wish to apply for GSE School-based aid and have questions about the process may contact the GSE Financial Aid Office at 212-636-7611 or email [gsefinancialaid@fordham.edu](mailto:gsefinancialaid@fordham.edu).

### **What are Graduate Assistantships?**

Graduate assistantship awards are work-study funding that provides tuition remission to help support students in financing their degrees. There are specific award allocations based on programs and requirements.

### **What are the eligibility requirements for Graduate Assistantships?**

GA-ships are based on merit, demonstration of financial need, as evidenced by FAFSA, and full-time status. Students must meet the following requirements: be enrolled in a minimum of 9 to 12 credits in any degree program within the Graduate School of Education during the fall and

spring semesters and 6 to 9 credits during the summer semester; and meet minimum GPA requirements: 3.5 undergraduate GPA or 3.75 graduate GPA.

### **How are Graduate Assistantships packaged?**

GA-ships are packaged a year in advance for fall and spring semesters. **Summer graduate assistantships are very limited and are, therefore, packaged separately.** Students who are selected for a GA-ship position will be awarded a one-course tuition remission for the semester they are considered for.

### **What type of scholarships does GSE provide?**

GSE provides merit and need-based scholarships and a limited number of donor-based scholarships with specific requirements that students must meet to apply.

### **What are the eligibility requirements for a GSE merit and need-based Scholarship?**

GSE scholarships are based on both merit and financial need. To be eligible for GSE School-based scholarships, students must: maintain enrollment in two courses per the summer, fall, and spring semesters; demonstrate financial need by completing a FAFSA; and meet minimum GPA requirements: 3.5 undergraduate GPA and 3.75 graduate GPA.

Only U.S. citizens and **Eligible Non-Citizens** (as determined by FAFSA) are eligible to apply for and receive merit and need-based scholarships.

### **How are GSE scholarships packaged for students?**

**For incoming students,** GSE scholarships are packaged depending upon a student's start term. For students with a summer start term, awards will be packaged for the summer, fall, and spring semesters. For students with a fall start term, awards will be packaged for both fall and spring semesters.

**For continuing students,** GSE scholarships can be packaged for one full year or a semester, depending upon a student's application submission.

### **What are GSE Donor-Based Scholarships?**

Donor-based scholarships are often named after a donor to honor parents, professors, or other important people in one's life. Donor-based scholarships have specific criteria that must be met based on the benefactor's directives. In addition, all scholarships are awarded based on the availability of funding. More information can be found in our [GSE Donor-Based Scholarship FAQ's](#).

### **Is there a GSE School-based Aid deadline for admitted students?**

There is no financial aid application deadline for new students; however, awards are issued based on the availability of funds. GSE school-based aid applications will be reviewed once the Admissions Office has officially notified a student of their acceptance into a degree program.

### **Can a student apply for GSE School-based aid after they have been admitted into a program?**

Incoming students must apply for school-based aid during the admissions application process by completing the GSE School-based supplemental form embedded within the admissions application. Incoming students may contact the director of GSE Financial Aid, Anisa Torres-Sanchez, if a student is not sure they completed the GSE School-based aid supplemental form during the admissions application process.

### **Can continuing students reapply for GSE School-based Aid?**

Continuing students may reapply for a Graduate Assistantship and the GSE Opportunity and Excellence Scholarship each academic year by the **February 1st** deadline. Late applications will not be considered.

### **How do continuing students reapply for GSE School-based aid (Graduate Assistantship/Scholarship)?**

Continuing students may re-apply for GSE School-based aid by completing an application via the Fordham portal. All continuing students will be emailed when applications become available for each new academic year.

### **When are continuing students notified about their school-based aid decisions?**

The deadline for students to reapply for school-based aid is February 1st. Scholarship decisions will be made by mid-March (if a student's FAFSA is on file), and graduate assistantship decisions will be made by mid-April for summer GA-Ships and mid-June for fall/spring GA-ships.

### **As an international student, can I apply for School-based Aid?**

International students may apply for a Graduate Assistantship if they meet the GPA and credit requirements. International students are not eligible to apply for financial need-based scholarships because non-citizens cannot file for FAFSA, a requirement for need-based scholarships. **Eligible Non-Citizens** (as determined by FAFSA) are eligible to apply for and receive a graduate assistantship and need-based scholarships. International students can also apply for GSE donor-based scholarships.