Information for SFU Undergraduate Students Requesting U.S. Federal Direct Loan Funding

This is a general overview of the application steps and disbursement process for SFU Undergraduate Students requesting U.S. Federal Direct loan funding. Refer to our [U.S. Students page](/#u.s-students) and/or [Undergraduate FAQ page](/#undergraduate-faq) for additional details.

Be aware that Pell Grants are not available to students attending foreign institutions. Additionally, there are limits on the amount of subsidized and unsubsidized loans that you may be eligible to receive each academic year (annual loan limits). There are also limits on the total amounts that you may borrow for undergraduate and graduate study (aggregate loan limits). The actual loan amount you are eligible to receive each academic year may be less than the annual loan limit.

### DEPENDENT STUDENTS

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**NOTE:** If the total loan amount you receive over the course of your education reaches the aggregate loan limit, you are not eligible to receive additional loans. However, if you repay some of your loans to bring your outstanding loan debt below the aggregate loan limit, you could then borrow again, up to the amount of your remaining eligibility under the aggregate loan limit.

### INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

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**NOTE:** If the total loan amount you receive over the course of your education reaches the aggregate loan limit, you are not eligible to receive additional loans. However, if you repay some of your loans to bring your outstanding loan debt below the aggregate loan limit, you could then borrow again, up to the amount of your remaining eligibility under the aggregate loan limit.

Undergraduate funding limits alone are insufficient to cover an international student’s educational and living costs. Students typically must secure a U.S. Direct Parent PLUS loan and/or a private loan to address your remaining financial need. Students whose parent is willing - but unable - to secure a Parent PLUS loan may be eligible for additional unsubsidized loans. In this case, the student should contact SFU Financial Aid and Awards for more information.

Although loan proceeds may be disbursed on the first day of classes, the funds will be applied towards your outstanding balance first (tuition, fees, etc.). Students should also be aware that Athletic Scholarships are not disbursed until later in the term; and that first-year, first-time borrowers will not receive any loan disbursements until 30 days after the first day of classes. Therefore, some students may not have sufficient funds available to them for books and living expenses at the beginning of the term – and will need to plan accordingly.
[1] Initiate the application process.

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT:**

- **FASFA** - a Free Application for Federal Student Aid each year
- **MPN** - a Master Promissory Note each year
- **SFU Application** – a completed “UGRD Direct Lend Application,” by mail (or drop off) to Financial Aid and Awards.

We require your original, signed application. Faxed, scanned or emailed applications are not accepted.

**IN ADDITION,** 1st-time borrowers must complete their online:

- **Entrance Counselling**

**IN ADDITION,** males aged 18-25 must be registered for:

- **Selective Service**

**IN ADDITION:**

- A parent of a dependent student may apply for Parent Plus funding. See page 4 for details.


Within 4-6 weeks of all the required information being completed/submitted (without ANY missing information), Financial Aid and Awards will complete your initial assessment. You will be notified in detail via email to your SFU email account (default). If you have not yet set up an SFU email account, we will use your alternate email.


You have the right to accept or decline all or part of the amounts being offered. You do not need to accept the entire loan amount being offered to you. We recommend that you borrow an amount based on your needs.

**ALL STUDENTS REQUESTING LOAN FUNDING MUST SUBMIT:**

- **SFU Statement of Borrower Loan Confirmation** – a completed “UGRD Statement of Borrower Loan Confirmation” by mail (or drop off) to Financial Aid and Awards.

We require your original, signed application. Faxed, scanned or emailed applications are not accepted.

On receipt of your completed Statement of Borrower Loan Confirmation, SFU Financial Aid and Awards will produce an official Award Letter notifying you of your award and the anticipated disbursement dates. The letter will be sent to your SFU email account (default). *If you have not yet set up an SFU email account, we will use your alternate email.*

The Award Letter can be included to satisfy requirements for ‘proof of funds available or means of support’ for your Study Permit/Visa application.

- Loan funds are NOT disbursed prior to the first day of classes. Check your award letter for the anticipated disbursement dates.

- **FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-TIME BORROWERS:** The first disbursement is delayed by 30 days after the start of classes to first-year, first-time borrowers. This applies to subsidized and unsubsidized disbursements but not to parent PLUS or private loan disbursements (if applicable). Check your award letter for the anticipated disbursement dates.

- Loan funds are NOT disbursed in a lump-sum payment. One- and two-term loans will be divided into two equal disbursements. Three-term loans will be divided equally into three disbursements.

- Loan funds are NOT disbursed unless you meet all the eligibility requirements.

- Disbursed amounts are the Net USD amounts converted to Canadian Dollars. The loan funds are disbursed by SFU directly into your SFU student account and applied to any outstanding fees first. If applicable, a refund (in Canadian dollars) will be forwarded to you via direct deposit (recommended) or a cheque will be issued for you to pick-up. (NOTE: Gross USD amounts - loan fees = Net USD amounts)


- An Information Release/Privacy Indicator is a service within the Student Center in the SFU Student Information System that allows you to regulate access to your personal information.

- If you wish to authorize someone (such as a parent) to access your Financial Aid (or other) information, please see detailed instructions here. Ensure you use code FO5 for Financial Aid.

- If your parent applies for Parent PLUS funding, we do recommend you authorize your borrowing parent access to your Financial Aid information.

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OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS

https://www.sfu.ca/students/financialaid/undergrad.html

Canadian and International students can apply each term for a variety of needs-based or merit-based programs. In addition, the Undergraduate Open Scholarship may be granted automatically. As a trimester institution, students can submit an application for each program listed below on a term by term basis, click here to view the application deadlines.

- The **Work-Study** program is an excellent opportunity to earn a supplemental income while gaining valuable experience connecting with various members of the SFU community.

- A **Bursary** is non-repayable, supplemental funding awarded on the basis of an assessed financial need.

- **Scholarship** funding is awarded on a competitive basis to acknowledge outstanding academic achievement.

- **Awards** acknowledge distinguished intellectual, cultural, social or athletic contributions/achievements to University life and/or the community.

- The **SFU Service Awards** recognize outstanding unpaid service to the University community and/or the community at large, leadership and volunteer work.

- The **Undergraduate Open Scholarship** recognizes and supports continuing undergraduate students who are highly qualified academically and awards scholarships to students on a term by term basis.
2019-2020 Academic Year
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

U.S. Federal Direct Loan Program:
PARENT PLUS LOANS

Information for a Parent Requesting
U.S. Federal Direct PLUS Loan Funding

This is a general overview of the application steps and disbursement process for the parent of a SFU dependent undergraduate student requesting U.S. Federal Direct loan PLUS funding. For full eligibility requirements and program details, refer to https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/plus.

It is helpful to be aware of the following before completing your Parent PLUS Application:

- The PLUS application generates a credit check.
  - Your credit check must be approved to be eligible for PLUS funding.
  - If your credit check is not approved, go to the following web page for information on how to qualify: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/plus#adverse-credit
  - If you are unable to obtain a parent PLUS loan, the student may be eligible for additional unsubsidized loans. In this case, the student should contact SFU Financial Aid and Awards for more information.

- If a PLUS loan disbursement generates a refund, who will receive the cheque? During the PLUS online application, you will be asked a question about whom the refund should be credited.
  - If you answer that the student should receive the refund, the funds will be issued to the student by SFU Student Accounts.
  - If you answer that you should receive the credit, the refund will go to you, the parent borrower.
    All refunds to the parent borrower will be mailed home to the address on the PLUS loan application. In this case, be advised of the following:
      - You should use an actual address on your PLUS application as courier companies do not deliver to a P.O. Box.
      - The student will be emailed additional documentation to complete & submit to SFU Financial Aid and Awards.

[1] Initiate the application process:

☐ Student initiates application process as noted on Page 2.
☐ Parent to submit a PLUS Application.
☐ Parent to submit a PLUS Master Promissory Note.
☐ Parent to notify SFU Financial Aid and Awards via email to usloans@sfu.ca that he/she has applied for U.S. Federal Direct loan PLUS funding. Please include your dependent student’s full name and student number [if known] in your email.
☐ Student and Parent to discuss whether or not to have a F05 Privacy Service Indicator in place so Parent can discuss Parent PLUS application with Financial Aid and Awards staff.
**[2] Receive and review your aid offer:**

- Financial Aid and Awards will email the parent the amounts he/she is eligible to borrow. The email will be sent to the email address indicated on the PLUS application. Attached to the email will be a “Parent PLUS Statement of Borrower Loan Confirmation,” which you must complete if you want to borrow U.S. Federal Direct loan PLUS fund.

- Please note the amount offered is the maximum according to the Cost of Attendance, based on your dependent student’s educational and living expenses. You are not required to accept the full amount offered to you. **We recommend that you accept a lesser amount and to encourage your child to apply for SFU Bursaries.**
  - Since SFU Bursaries are based on demonstrated financial need, if you borrow all of the Cost of Attendance, your dependent student will not demonstrate financial need since all of their financial costs have been covered through the U.S. loan program.
  - SFU Bursaries are a supplemental, non-repayable source of funding. However, you should be aware that your dependent student may not be awarded a bursary every term he/she applies.
  - After your dependent student has received their bursary notification for the term, you can choose to increase the amount of Parent PLUS funding if your child continues to experience financial hardship. Please contact our office to request a reassessment and further Parent PLUS funding to be issued.

**[3] Accept the amount you want to borrow:**

**ALL PARENTS REQUESTING FUNDING MUST SUBMIT:**

- **SFU Parent PLUS Statement of Borrower Loan Confirmation** – a completed “Parent PLUS Statement of Borrower Loan Confirmation” by mail (or drop off) to Financial Aid and Awards. **We require your original, signed statement. Faxed, scanned or emailed statements are not accepted.**

On receipt of your completed Statement of Borrower Loan Confirmation, SFU Financial Aid and Awards will book the loan in the U.S. system. You will be contacted by your servicer at that time with confirmation.

**[4] Disbursement of funds. What you need to know:**

- Loan funds are NOT disbursed prior to the first day of classes.

- The first disbursement is delayed by 30 days after the start of classes to first-year, first-time student borrowers. This applies to subsidized and unsubsidized disbursements but not to parent PLUS or private loan disbursements (if applicable).

- Loan funds are NOT disbursed in a lump-sum payment. One- and two-term loans will be divided into two equal disbursements. Three-term loans will be divided equally into three disbursements.

- Loan funds are NOT disbursed unless the student meets all the eligibility requirements.

- Disbursed amounts are the Net USD amounts converted to Canadian Dollars. The loan funds are disbursed by SFU directly into the student’s SFU student account and applied to any outstanding fees first. If applicable, a refund (in Canadian dollars) will be forwarded to the student or to you, the parent borrower (whichever you requested in your PLUS application). (NOTE: Gross USD amounts - loan fees = Net USD amounts)