Financing Your Education

**Merit scholarships for Incoming SIS students**
Merit scholarships and assistantships are offered to a small percentage of incoming students at the time of admission only. If you did not receive notification of an award in your admissions letter, please review the resources on this page for alternative ways of funding your graduate education.

**Employer Matching Program**
Newly admitted SIS students can apply to have their employer educational benefits matched by SIS for up to $2,500 each semester of their graduate study for a maximum of four consecutive semesters. The total SIS contribution will not exceed the maximum annual contribution from your employer and will be no greater than $5,000 each academic year. Availability and amount of support is budget-contingent. Students who are already receiving merit awards from SIS are not eligible for this program. To apply for Fall 2014, please complete the form below and return all required documents to the SIS Graduate Admissions Office via fax or email by April 10, 2014.

**Work-Friendly Schedule**
At AU, you have the opportunity to study part-time or full-time, with the freedom to adjust each semester as your needs evolve. With many classes offered once per week in the evening, SIS students supplement their financial resources by working in their field, or even at AU. Full-time university staff members receive tuition remission benefits. Information on full and part-time employment at AU can be found on the HR website.

**Funding Resources for First and Second-Year SIS Students**
First and second-year SIS graduate students are eligible to apply for University-wide scholarships and SIS-specific funding in support of their study abroad, research, and practicum. For enrolled SIS students, the Office of Merit Awards offers support for national fellowship applications including Fulbright, Boren, and PMF. The National Scholarship Directory is a valuable resource to help students secure external funding.
Financing Your Education

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program is a federal program allowing qualifying borrowers to forgive the remaining balance due on their eligible federal student loans while employed full time by certain public service employers such as non-profits and government agencies.

Loans, Payment Plans, and Need-Based Financial Aid
Federal need-based financial aid is primarily in the form of unsubsidized loans for eligible students. Graduate Direct PLUS Loans finance up to the cost of attendance minus other financial aid. Private educational loans are also available. AU’s American Installment Plan offers monthly installment tuition plans. For more information on these programs, contact AU Central at (202) 885-8000 or via email at aucentral@american.edu.
How to Apply for Federal Financial Aid
New Graduate Students at American University or First-Time Borrowers

**FAFSA**
- Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)](https://www.fafsa.gov) online at www.fafsa.gov
- Register a PIN to sign your FAFSA at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- You will receive a [Student Aid Report (SAR)](https://www.pin.ed.gov) from the Federal Processor. Review and make any changes online using your PIN

**Award Letter**
- American University will provide you a [Financial Aid Award Letter](https://myau.american.edu) in your student portal at [myau.american.edu](http://myau.american.edu)
- Click on the "Finances" link, and "Financial Aid: Accept My Award Package" under the "Personalized Links" Column
- Review your award amount and accept/decline your award
- You may reduce the amount by clicking on "Loan Reduction Request" under the "Personalized Links" Column

**Counseling Session & Promissary Note**
- Visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) to complete a Department of Education [Entrance Counseling Session and Master Promissary Note](https://www.studentloans.gov). The counseling session explains your rights and responsibilities as a recipient of federal financial student aid. The Promissary note lists the terms of your loan, how much money you have decided to borrow, and the earliest possible date that the loan can be disbursed
- American University will be notified electronically when you have completed these steps

**Your Account**
- Financial aid will be credited to your student account once the funds arrive
- To receive remaining funds to use for living expenses or other miscellaneous educational expenses you may fill out an [Online Refund Request Form](https://myau.american.edu) at myau.american.edu
## Estimated Cost of Attendance 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition per credit hour</td>
<td>$1,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIS Program fee per semester</td>
<td>$750 (full-time students*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$500 (part-time students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU Sports Center fee per semester</td>
<td>$65 (full-time students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$30 (part-time students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU Technology fee per semester</td>
<td>$120 (full-time students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$40 (part-time students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Activity fee per semester</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU-Sponsored health insurance**</td>
<td>$1,680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students registered for 9 or more credit hours per semester are considered full-time students

** 2014-2015 health insurance rates have not yet been released. Please visit the Health Center’s website for more information regarding health insurance and rates: [www.american.edu/ocl/healthcenter/index.cfm](www.american.edu/ocl/healthcenter/index.cfm)
SIS Employer Matching Funds Program Application Fall 2014

First Name ______________________ Last Name ______________________ AU ID ______________

SIS Program ______________________

Employer Name and Location ____________________________________________________________

Job Title ________________________

Amount of Employee Educational Benefits Available to You for Academic Year 2014-15:

   $____ Summer 2014   $____ Fall 2014   $____ Spring 2015

Is the same amount of educational benefit available to you for Academic Year 2015-16 to the best of your knowledge?  __Yes  __No

Type of Employee Educational Benefits (i.e. tuition support, books, fees) ______________________

Payment Method:    __Paid to me upfront upon registration     __Paid directly to the university

                       __Reimburse afterwards     __Other, please specify:

What are the conditions associated with your educational benefits, if any?  For example, does your employer require you to register for a certain number of credits or maintain a certain level of academic performance before reimbursing you?

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please ensure that all documents listed below are submitted to the SIS Graduate Admissions Office:

- Completed SIS Employer Matching Funds Program Application Fall 2014
- Official documentation from your employer, supervisor, or HR department demonstrating 1) your status as an eligible employee at the organization in good standing, and 2) documentation of the employee benefits available to you (with specific amount if available) starting summer or fall 2014. Please note that if approved to receive SIS employer matching fund, you will be asked to provide final approval and evidence of funds (e.g. copy of check or direct deposit) from your employer.

All documents must be emailed to sisgrad@american.edu by April 10, 2014 with subject line “Employer Matching Program Application.”