



## Graduate School Planning Tips- Funding Sources

Different types of financial aid exist for graduate school. Opportunities may be based within the university, federal government, or private organizations and will vary based on your area of interest and type of degree sought.

### Funding based in graduate program or university

- **Fellowships & Grants:** generally requires an application and when granted, the recipients receive a “stipend” or awarded money. The recipients may be obligated to conduct research or particular duties outlined by the fellowship or grant.
- **Research Assistantships:** money awarded in exchange for the recipients research assistance, usually within their graduate studies area.
- **Teaching Assistantships:** money awarded in exchange for the recipients teaching of college courses, usually within their graduate studies area.
- **Administrative Assistantships:** position that contains a stipend for the completion of administrative task in an academic or student affairs university office. Graduate students in programs like Student Personnel or Counseling usually apply for this type of financial aid.

### Federal government/volunteer

- **GI Bill:** Affords Veterans money to finance undergraduate or graduate studies.
- **Military:** Can often get support for graduate and professional education in exchange for a commitment to future military service.
- **Volunteering:** [AmeriCorps](#) offer a one-time educational stipend to accepted volunteers who complete a 9-month service commitment. Peace Corps and other similar programs offer combined graduate school and service opportunities.
- **Public Service and Student Debt:** [Analysis of Existing Benefits and Options for Public Service Organizations](#)
- **Loans:** Parents or students may borrow money under the federal loan program upon meeting certain qualifications. The loans tend to have lower interest rates than private sector loans and require repayment. [Read more.](#)

### Private sector

- **Banks/Credit Unions:** Parents or students may qualify for a private education loan. Loans must be repaid with interest.
- **Employer Sponsorship:** Some organizations fund additional education. The catch is they usually expect you to continue working for them after you complete your degree to recoup their investment.

#### *Additional resources*

- [Financial aid: Loan Analyzer](#)
- [Fellowship options](#)
- [Loan forgiveness programs](#)
- [Peterson's Graduate Scholarships & Financial Aid resources](#)

Need help starting your graduate school search? Schedule a [career consultation appointment](#) with the University Career Center & The President's Promise. Get started mapping your [career action](#) plan today!