

St. John's University
Office of Student Financial Services
Federal Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate or Professional Students
2021-2022

Applications for Federal Direct PLUS Loans for graduate and professional students are processed online through the U.S. Department of Education student loan website at <https://studentaid.gov>.

- The borrower must sign in to the website using his/her FSA ID (the same FSA ID that was used to sign the student's FAFSA) in order to apply. If the borrower does not already have a FSA ID or has forgotten it, a new one may be obtained by following the link to the FSA ID site (www.fsaaid.ed.gov).
- Once signed in, the borrower must click on "Request a PLUS Loan" to begin.

PLUS PROCESS CONSISTS OF FOUR EASY STEPS:

Step 1: Personal Information: Personal information of student borrower.

Step 2: Student & Loan Info:

- Select **2021-2022** as the Award Year.
- Select "**NEW YORK**" as the School State and "**SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY**" as the school name.
- Enter a requested loan amount.
 - The borrower enters a specific amount to borrow for the school year or may elect to borrow the maximum amount for which he/she is eligible. The maximum amount the PLUS borrower may request is included in the St. John's 2021-2022 Financial Aid award information.
 - If the borrower later determines that he/she does not need the entire amount applied for, he/she may cancel or reduce an un-disbursed loan at any time. A disbursed Federal Direct PLUS loan for Graduate or Professional students may be cancelled or reduced within **thirty days** of the date of disbursement. St. John's Loan Change Form is available online at www.stjohns.edu/services/financial.
 - The amount the borrower chooses to apply for will not affect the result of the application.
 - *When choosing an amount, the borrower should borrow only what is really needed and remember that loans must be repaid.*

Step 3: Review Application

Step 4: Credit Check & Submit: Authorize the review of credit history and submit the application.

Please note: Effective March 29, 2015 your credit check is valid for 180 days; therefore, you should not apply for a loan before May 1st.

Additional Step for New Direct PLUS Loan Borrowers :

All new Direct PLUS Loan borrowers must complete a separate PLUS Loan for Graduate or Professional Students Entrance Interview at <https://studentaid.gov>.

When will the borrower be notified of the result of the application and credit check?

- The borrower will be notified **immediately** of the result.
- If approved, the borrower will be directed to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) if a Federal Direct PLUS MPN has not been completed previously.
- Beginning in 2021-22, all Direct Loan borrowers will be required to confirm they have completed the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement (ASLA). This process is designed to assist borrowers in understanding the financial responsibility of funding their education. **This is a yearly required process for all Direct Loan borrowers.** St. John's must receive confirmation of completion of this process before it can disburse federal Direct Loan funds. Please go to <https://studentaid.gov> to complete the process. You will need your FSA ID to log in and complete the process.
- **PLEASE NOTE: The US DOE has postponed the ASLA requirement for the 2021-2022 award year.**

What are the options for the borrower denied for a Federal Direct Loan for Graduate or Professional Students?

- PLUS borrower can opt to provide documentation of extenuating circumstances and appeal the decision.
- PLUS loan borrower can opt to obtain an endorser with a more favorable credit history to act as a co-signor. The endorser must complete a process, similar to the original application, either online or through the mail. The online process requires that the endorser have a FSA ID. The borrower who has been denied will automatically be mailed a paper Endorser Package. Both processes require that the endorser know the Loan Reference ID which will be provided to the denied borrower via email or can be viewed by the denied borrower when signed onto <https://.studentaid.gov>.
- *Please note: There is now a regulatory provision that requires special loan counseling for any PLUS Loan applicant who has an adverse credit history but who qualifies for a PLUS Loan through the process for reconsideration due to extenuating circumstances or by obtaining an endorser for the loan. If you are required to complete this special loan counseling you will be notified by the US Department of Education and directed to the student loans website at <https://.studentaid.gov> . Any PLUS Loan with this requirement **cannot** be processed until counseling is completed.*

How will the student receive the loan funds?

- Once an application has been approved and a MPN has been properly completed, the student will be given credit by St. John's for the amount approved for disbursement less all applicable fees.
- The approved amount will automatically be split equally between the fall and spring semesters.
- Funds will be disbursed by the federal government to the student's St. John's account at the beginning of each semester according to the disbursement schedule set by St. John's.

What is the interest rate on federal loans?

The interest rate for all federal PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2021 will be calculated annually by the federal government based on the 10-year Treasury note index.

What fees, if any, are associated with these loans?

An origination fee of the total loan is assessed and deducted prior to loan disbursement. Origination fees are determined by the U.S. Department of Education. Since the origination fee is deducted before the federal government disburses the loan to St. John's, the amount credited to the student's account will be less than the loan amount borrowed.

Is there a federal processing deadline?

In accordance with federal guidelines St. John's University may not originate a loan for a period in the academic year in which a student is no longer enrolled. Therefore, students enrolled for the academic year who are interested in borrowing a loan must complete the loan process within the academic year. Students who enroll for one semester in an academic year must complete the process within the period of enrollment for the semester.

Important Notice:

- You should monitor the status of your loan by checking your personal UIS account and your St. John's email account
- St. John's will begin processing 2021-2022 loans beginning May 1st.
- **It is the policy of St. John's University to process loans only after an admission deposit has been paid and the loans have been accepted by the student on their UIS account.**
- If you wish to reinstate a loan you have already declined or modify a loan you have already accepted, please print, complete and return a Student Loan Change Form available online at <http://www.stjohns.edu/services/financial> .

To learn more about various federal loan programs, debt management and to view sample repayment plans please visit:
www.stjohns.edu/financialaid
<https://.studentaid.ed.gov>
<https://www.mymoney.gov>

See Reverse