



St. John's University
Office of Student Financial Services
Graduate/Law Federal Direct Loans 2023-2024

The Office of Student Financial Services encourages students to explore various grants and scholarship opportunities and to evaluate loan options carefully.

What is a Federal Direct Student loan?

Federal Direct Student loans are one form of student "self help" financial aid. Through the Federal Direct Student loan program students borrow money for school from the federal government.

How much can I borrow?

\$20,500 is the maximum **annual** amount you are eligible to borrow in the form of a Federal Direct **Unsubsidized** Loan as a graduate/law student. NOTE: the federal government has eliminated subsidized Federal Direct Student loans for graduate/law students.

How Do I Apply for a Federal Direct Student Loan?

THREE STEPS:

1. **ACCEPT** – Go to your St. John's University UIS account at <https://stjohns.edu/uis> enter your Username and Password, click on "Sign In"
 - a. Select the **financial aid tab**
 - i. Click on My Award
 - ii. Select Award by Aid Year
 - iii. Select the current aid year
 - iv. Accept Award Offer
2. **COMPLETE** – go to <https://studentaid.gov> and sign in with your FSA ID
 - a. Select **Entrance Counseling** and complete
3. **SIGN** – on the same website, <https://studentaid.gov> website
 - a. Select **Sign Master Promissory Note** and complete

Important Note for Both Step 2 and Step 3:

- Select "**New York**" as the School State and "**Saint John's University**" as the school name.

***Your loans will be credited to your account only after the completion of all three steps.**

Important Reminder: Borrow only what is needed. Remember, loans must be repaid.

What are the details of the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan?

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan payments are deferred until after graduation, but interest on the loan accrues and is capitalized on the loan while you are enrolled in school and/or in deferment. Loan repayment must begin six months after you cease to be enrolled at least half-time (including leaves of absence or maintaining matriculation periods). To keep unsubsidized loan interest from accruing and being capitalized on your loan, you may decide (at your option) to pay the interest while enrolled in school.

For more information on loans and debt management, please visit the following websites:

- stjohns.edu/financialaid
- <https://studentaid.ed.gov>
- <https://www.mymoney.gov>

Are there any other federal loans available to graduate students?

The Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan is a federal loan available to graduate students. The maximum amount you will be eligible to borrow for the 2023-2024 school year is included in your St. John's Financial Aid Package. Many students decide to limit the Grad PLUS amount borrowed to the difference between annual direct costs and other financial aid received. Direct costs are those paid directly to St. John's and include tuition and fees, and for resident students, room and board. Indirect costs consist of all other expenses that relate to attendance at St. John's. Your entire estimated cost of attendance which includes an estimate of both direct and indirect costs is available on your UIS account.

- *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.*

What is the interest rate on federal loans?

The interest rate for all federal student and federal PLUS loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2023 will be calculated annually by the federal government based on the 10-year Treasury note index.

Are there any fees associated with these loans?

For Federal Direct Student Loans, an origination fee of the total loan is assessed and deducted prior to loan disbursement. For Graduate PLUS loans, an origination fee is assessed and deducted prior to loan disbursement. Origination fees are determined by the U.S. Department of Education and are subject to change on an annual basis. Since origination fees are deducted before the federal government disburses loans to St. John's, the amount credited to the student's account will be less than the loan amount borrowed.

Is there a federal loan 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.

How will the student receive the loan funds?

Once an application has been approved and an 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, in accordance with your loan disclosure.

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 2023-2024 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 stjohns.edu/services/financial .