

FINANCIAL AID NEWSLETTER

www.amherst.edu/go/financialaid

IN THE SPRING 2019 ISSUE

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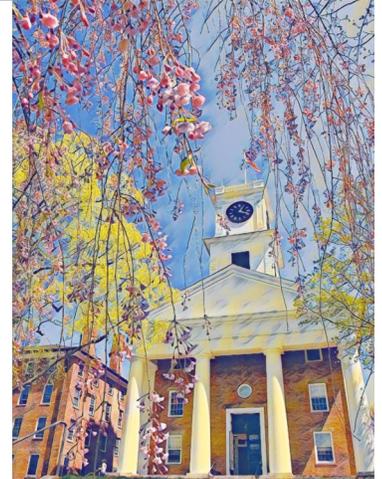
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Renew Your Financial Aid Application for 2019-2020

The deadline to renew your application for financial aid for 2019-20 was March 1. The application links for financial aid for 2019-2020 are available on our website under “Renewal & Upper class Applicants” at https://www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid/renewal_upperclassapps. Applications completed after June 1 are subject to late fees.

Please note the renewal applications FAFSA and CSS PROFILE for 2019-20 collect income information from the calendar year 2017.

You can review your document requirements and status online at www.amherst.edu/go/faportal.

*International students, please be sure to check the updated instructions for submitting income documentation.

Help with Uninsured Medical and Emergency Dental Costs

If your total parental contribution (before adjusting for number of children in college) is \$5,000 or less, you may qualify for assistance with medical and dental expenses that are not covered by health insurance. These can include prescription co-payments, emergency dental care (to provide pain relief) or glasses.

Students who are eligible for assistance with medical and dental expenses need to remember that only expenses incurred when classes are in session are covered (not during interterm, summer break or time spent on campus prior to the first day of classes in September) so students should plan to use other resources to cover medical, dental or prescription expenses during non-academic terms. The last day of exams this semester is **May 17th**.

Please consult the Office of Financial Aid for further information.

Planning for Study Abroad with Financial Aid

Students who are planning to study away from Amherst during Fall 2019 or the full 2019-20 academic year, either abroad or at another U.S. institution, should schedule an appointment with Dean Kate Gentile to discuss the financial aid process. This is important even if your only aid is federal student or federal parent loans. You do not need to be accepted to a program to schedule an appointment. Please call (413) 542-2296 or email finaid@amherst.edu to set up an appointment. Information about financial aid and study away from the College is available on our website https://www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid/studyabroad_aid.

Workshop: Affording & Planning Study Abroad

Hear students talk about their experiences of picking the best study abroad programs for their personal needs and budgeting while being abroad. The workshop will be focused towards the first-generation, low-income community, but anyone who is considering studying abroad with a budget is encouraged to join!

Time: 4-5pm, Monday, April 15th

Location: McCaffrey Room



Financial Aid Peer Ambassadors

As we enter the final stretch of the semester and everyone's schedules start to get more and more packed, we would like to remind all students that the Financial Aid Peer Ambassadors are always a quick and easy resource to go to with any finance-related inquiries.

Feel free to reach out to the ambassadors with any questions on topics including but not restricted to financial aid renewal, study abroad, student employment, and summer employment during their Frost café drop-in hours (Sunday-Wednesday 7-9 pm), or through email at finaidpeers@amherst.edu.

You can learn more about the ambassadors and their roles through the Financial Aid Peer Ambassador Program page on our website, available through the link: <https://www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid/peer-ambassadors>

Taxable Scholarship and Grant Aid

If your scholarship and grant aid in 2018 exceeded tuition, required fees, and book expenses, you should report the excess scholarship and grant amount on your income tax return (earnings from student employment are taxable like any other wages). Detailed information and a worksheet to help you determine if you had taxable scholarship in 2018 is available on our website at [taxable_scholarships](#). Do not use the 1098-T to determine taxable scholarship (see below).

An international student's tax situation may be more complex. The College is required by tax law to withhold taxes from scholarships and issue a Form 1042-S to each student indicating the amount of potentially taxable scholarship and the amount withheld. Tax treaties may affect the amount that is taxed.

If you receive Amherst College Scholarship and owe taxes due to your scholarship, you can request a grant to pay the taxes owed. To request a grant you must submit a copy of your completed tax worksheet (see link above) and your completed tax return prior to April 15th.

Last Day to Request New or Additional loan funds

Students who intend to request new or additional loan funds for the spring semester are advised the last day to do so will be **Wednesday, May 3rd**. It is important to plan ahead!

Senior Expense Grant Reminder

Qualified Amherst College Scholarship recipients from the Class of 2019 were recently notified of their eligibility for a Senior Expense Grant. This grant of up to \$400 is intended to help students with expenses such as graduate school applications, testing costs, and one professional interview outfit. For those who are eligible and have expenses to submit, please note the deadline to submit receipts is the last day of classes—**Wednesday, May 3**.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Be Aware of Federal Campus Work-study Limits

Students working off-campus under the Federal Work-Study program should monitor their earnings total so that they won't go over their authorized earnings limits. Federal rules require us to contract with the employing organization for a set amount of earnings. Students can't be paid more than the contract allows. We can advise you if you have questions about your earnings to date and what remains on your contract.

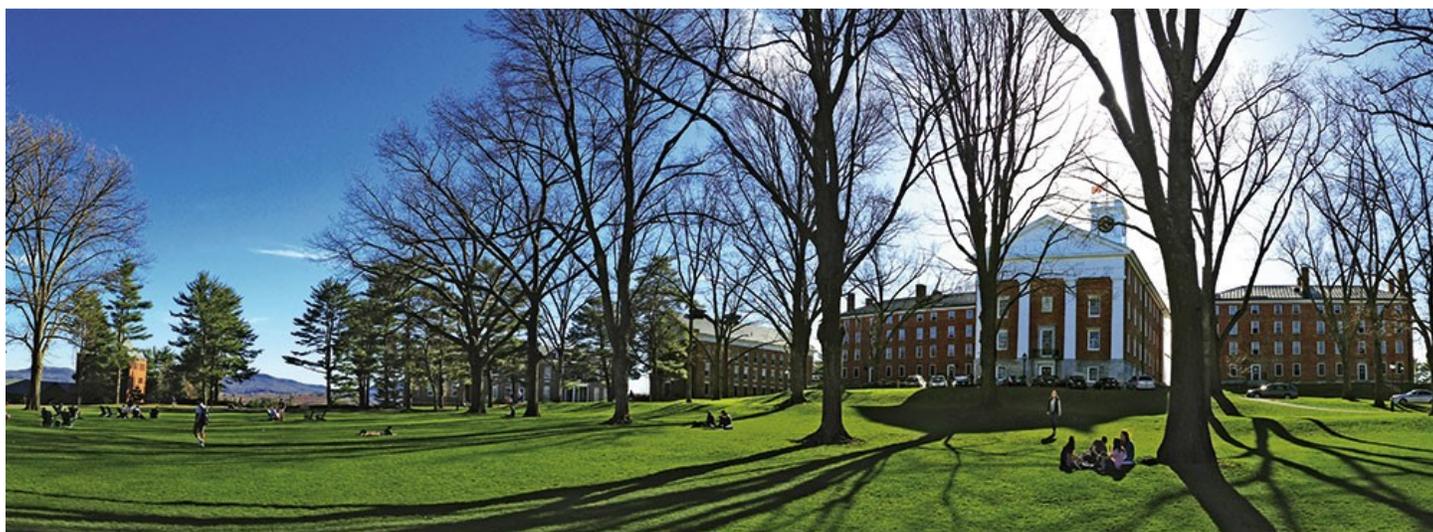
Working Off-Campus for Summer under the Federal Work-Study Program

US citizens and Permanent residents may work off-campus during the summer under the Federal Work-Study program. In general, students may work for non-profit organizations and government agencies in jobs that are "for the public good." Further details, including limitations, are available here: https://www.amherst.edu/campuslife/student_employment/off_campus

Applications are also available from the office or online at: <https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/FWS%2520Off-Campus%2520Application.pdf>

Off-campus positions require a contract with the employing organization for a set amount of earnings and a specified time period of employment, so particular attention must be paid to those parts of the application.

All students are expected to contribute toward their academic year expenses including students who work under the FWS program during the summers, but the program allows reasonable expenses for living costs during the summer. In most cases, a student can submit a "Student Income Contribution Appeal" at the end of summer so that we can adjust the expected savings to account for the student's living expenses.



International Students Working On-Campus over the Summer

International students who work on-campus over the summer are reminded they cannot work more than 40 hours a week. The usual expectation is that international students will earn enough to support their summer living expenses. If international students earn in excess of \$5,000, it may impact their aid awards in future years. If you have any questions about your individual situation, please contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Hired for Reunion and Commencement?

If you are hired to work for Commencement and Reunion and have not yet worked on campus, please be sure to complete the necessary paperwork (I-9, W-4 and M-4) in the Office of Financial Aid in order to be paid.

More information on student employment can be found through the link: https://amherst.edu/campuslife/student_employment



Tools to Stay Informed

Check Your Financial Aid Application Status and Review Aid Awards Online

Financial aid awards may be reviewed online. These records may be accessed in a secure website at: <https://fadata.amherst.edu/go/fportal> by entering your Amherst username and password. A link to this site is on our website home page at <https://www.amherst.edu/offices/financialaid>.

What if I have some questions about my application, documents, or award?

If you have a question about your financial aid award, please visit, call, or write to clarify things. Staff is available to discuss the application process, individual aid programs, the crediting of aid to student accounts, and general policy and procedures.