

## Acceptance of a Program

Once you've been accepted into a program, you can further narrow your choices by visiting the campus (if you haven't already) and deciding if it is somewhere you'd like to spend the next couple of years. By visiting the campus and surrounding community, you can decide what type of financing you'll need to afford both tuition and housing.

### Financing Graduate School

Your choice of schools shouldn't be limited by the cost of the education. There are several routes a student can take in obtaining financial aid. Through loans, scholarships, grants or fellowships your education can be financed and allow you to attend schools that would otherwise be unaffordable.

Applying for aid can be time consuming. Plan to apply for it when researching your program of study. This will allow you to identify the aid that is particular to each school.

Most grants and fellowships are awards that require no service in return. Other fellowships offer stipends for work performed, often at a professional level (e.g., Research or Teaching Assistantships). They often cover the cost of tuition plus a small amount to cover living expenses. Grants and fellowships can be based on financial need or academic merit and some are awarded without financial need as a factor.

Loans, unlike the other forms of aid, need to be paid back. A loan should be applied for after other resources have been researched and the need for additional money is realized.

There are several ways to finance your education. After contacting the Financial Aid Office at the prospective school for a list of graduate financial assistance programs, pursue other possibilities through foundations, scholarships and grant programs. Some of the references listed at the end of this handout are useful for identifying alternative sources of financial support.