Stop in to use our Choices database, which lists about 5,000 fellowships, scholarships and other awards. This is a searchable system available for your use on a walk-in or scheduled basis.

**General Information/Advice**

There are many types of aid provided for graduate study. You should never rule out a school as too expensive until you learn more about the types of aid generally received by its students. Federal aid is available to many U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents. In order to qualify, all applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For the purposes of most federal student aid, graduate students are automatically considered independent. Keep in mind, however, that some schools require parental information and expect a contribution from parents who are able to provide, even if you are an independent student.

**General Application Tips**

- Types and amounts of aid will vary tremendously by school.
- Apply to as many sources as you can find.
- Make sure you have all the forms required by each school.
- Complete all forms legibly and accurately. Check your applications carefully, as errors and omissions can often cause problems.
- Keep copies of all forms.
- Apply for aid every year if you need it.
- If you have special circumstances, communicate them directly to the financial aid officer.
- Be aware that changes in your financial aid package may occur each year - it is up to you to find out if that happens.
- Send in your application well before the deadline.

**Types of Aid**

**Grants and Fellowships** - generally, these are awards that do not require repayment. They may be based solely on academic merit (fellowships/scholarships), or awarded based on need (grants). Many include tuition and stipends for living expenses. A database of fellowship sources is available on the CDC website under the Student section. Sources include:

1. Federal Support - several federal agencies fund fellowship and trainee programs for US citizens and nationals. A few samples of these programs include:
   - National Science Foundation which supports three years of graduate study in engineering, mathematics, the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the history and philosophy of science. Call 615-241-4300 for an application.
   - Jacob Jarvits Fellowship supports students in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Call 202-260-3574 for more information.
   - National Institute of Health sponsors many different fellowship opportunities. Applications are available by calling 301-594-7248.

2. State Support -those with the biggest programs in the past have been California, Michigan, New York, Oklahoma and Texas. In most cases, you need to be a legal resident of that state for at least 12 months. Many state budgets have been cut in recent years, so contact your state scholarship office for more information.
3. Institutional Aid - Educational institutions using their own funds provide between $2 and $3 billion in graduate assistance in the form of fellowships, tuition waivers and assistantships. Consult school catalogs for information about aid programs.

4. Aid from Foundations - Most foundations provide support in areas of interest to them. Try an Internet search or ask a counselor at the CDC to help you find sources through the Choices program.

**Work Programs** - Certain types of support, such as research, teaching, and administrative assistantships require recipients to provide services to the university in exchange for salary or stipend. Sometimes tuition is also provided or waived.

1. Teaching Assistantships - Generally require about 20 hours per week that may involve delivering lectures, correcting classwork, grading papers, counseling students, and supervising laboratory groups. If you are interested in a TA position, contact the academic department. Ordinarily you are not considered for such positions until the school has accepted you.

2. Research Assistantships - These assistantships usually require you to assist in the research endeavors of a faculty member. They are rarely offered to first year students. Contact the academic department to discuss your individual research experience and interest.

3. Administrative Assistantships - These positions usually require 15-20 hours of work each week in an administrative office of the university and are available to majors in education, humanities, etc. Check the school catalog for details about these types of programs.

**Loans** - There are several different federal loan programs available to you. Each loan program has a different maximum amount you can borrow, different requirements for eligibility, different interest rates and different repayment options. In addition to federal loans, there are many loan programs available to specific groups such as medical students, law students and MBAs. General information detailing some of these programs can be found in Peterson's Guide to Graduate and Professional Schools: An Overview, 1999, which is available at the Career Development Center. The Financial Aid office of the school you are applying to should also be able to provide you with additional information.