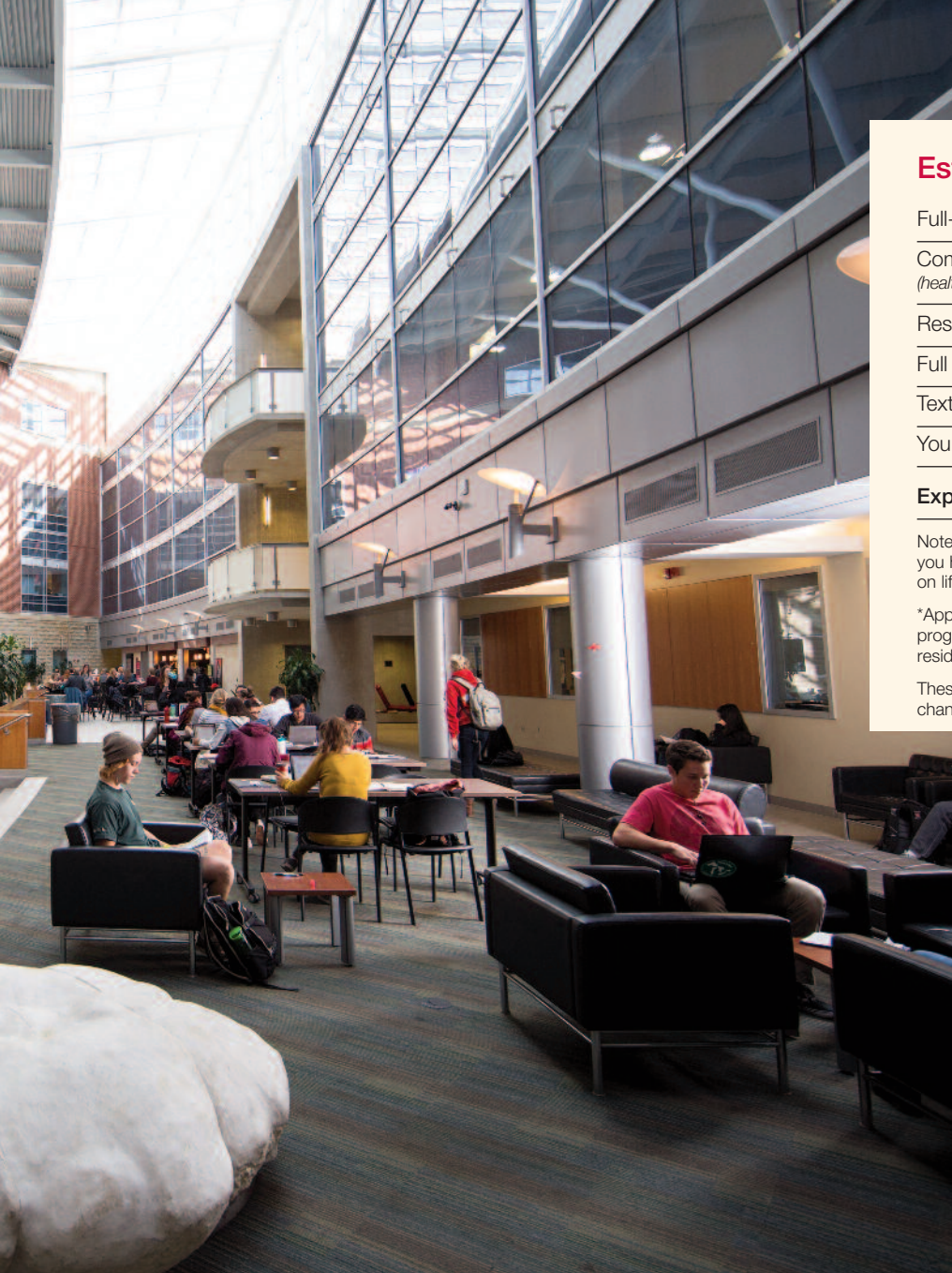


# Student Financial Success Guide

UNIVERSITY  
of GUELPH

IMPROVE LIFE.





# Getting Started

Before arriving on campus, you can **start exploring the financial resources available to you**. Whether it is personal savings, family support, employment income, government aid, scholarships or bursaries — you have options, and Student Financial Services can help you find what works best for you. **Learn more at [uoguelph.ca/studentfin](https://uoguelph.ca/studentfin).**

**In 2022, 340 prospective students were offered a \$14,000 Accessibility bursary and were pre-approved to participate in our Work Study program, and 600 prospective students were offered a \$4,000 entrance bursary.**

## Estimated Cost for Two Semesters

Full-Time Tuition*	\$6,091
Compulsory Fees <i>(health services, athletics, academic support, etc.)</i>	\$1,632
Residence Room <i>(double)</i>	\$7,690
Full Meal Plan	\$6,326
Textbooks	\$1,000
Your Personal Budget	\$2,500
<b>Expected Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$25,239</b>

Note: personal costs may be higher. If you're commuting, make sure you have an accurate estimate of costs. Costs may vary depending on lifestyle, and whether you choose to live off campus or at home.

\*Applies to Ontario residents. Estimated tuition for Bachelor of Arts program. Tuition can range from \$6,091 to \$11,286 for Ontario residents depending on program.

These estimates are based on **2023-2024** figures and are subject to change.

Investing in your education is a financial commitment. The University of Guelph is here to help you achieve your goal by providing useful information that you can use to explore all possible resources available.

## U of G's Entrance Awards

- Find what's available from U of G in four easy steps:
- 1) Apply for admission.
  - 2) Apply for the President's and Lincoln Alexander Chancellor's scholarships by January 25 (requires at least 90% admission average).
  - 3) Fill out the online Financial Need Assessment Form by April 15 even if you don't have an offer of admission.
  - 4) Use the online Undergraduate Award Search tool and apply for entrance scholarships that require a letter by April 15.

Entrance awards are for Canadian citizens/Permanent Residents entering post-secondary studies for the first time.

## What We Will Do for You

- 1) Reward high academic achievement with a guaranteed entrance scholarship.
- 2) Select the best student for each of the 110 donor-funded scholarships.
- 3) Send eligible students a summary of all scholarship and bursary offers from U of G before the end of May — well before you need to make a decision on which university you will attend.

## Did You Know?

- You can receive more than one type of entrance award! Students can receive one or more scholarships plus a bursary and a need-based scholarship — and these could be in addition to non-U of G awards you have won.
- Once you decide to come to U of G, you can apply for additional financial aid programs in your first semester.
- Work Study, Undergraduate Research Assistantships, need-based scholarships, travel grants and bursaries are all valuable programs and assistance that may be of interest to you. Visit our website for more information.
- U of G offers a range of financial aid programs for international students, including scholarships, bursaries and Work Study.
- BIPOC students: visit our website for a list of U of G scholarships, bursaries and travel grants that are awarded specifically to BIPOC students.

## External Scholarships and Bursaries

Many private companies and organizations provide awards to students who need help paying for university. We encourage you to apply for as many of these awards as possible. Talk to your high school guidance counsellor about scholarship opportunities and search online for other potential awards (see page 8 for helpful websites).

In addition, many employers offer scholarships to children of their employees — ask your parents if their employers offer scholarships.

## Government Loans and Grants

Each province and territory in Canada has a student assistance program that offers interest-free loans and grants to students while they are registered.

You will be considered a dependent student and have to provide parental income information on your Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) application for your first six years of post-secondary education.

You should apply for government aid at least six to eight weeks before the start of your semester.

The University of Guelph administers all Canadian government student assistance programs.

**ONTARIO:** You may be eligible to receive funding from the Ontario government; visit the OSAP website at [ontario.ca/osap](https://ontario.ca/osap) to see if you qualify.

## RESPs and Educational Savings Plans

- Contact Enrolment Services for a confirmation of enrolment: [es@uoguelph.ca](mailto:es@uoguelph.ca).

**Do not report scholarships or bursaries you receive from the University of Guelph to OSAP; we will report them for you.**

## Before You Arrive

- ☐ Understand your costs and payment deadlines.
- ☐ Talk to your parents/guardians about how you're going to pay.
- ☐ Contact your financial institution regarding the timing and release of your RESPs.
- ☐ Start your scholarship and bursary search early.
- ☐ Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) if you don't already have one.
- ☐ Apply for OSAP in June to receive an estimate.
- ☐ Save money from your part-time and summer jobs.
- ☐ Review your personal savings.
- ☐ Open your own student bank account if you don't already have one.







# Stay on Track

U of G works closely with the Ontario government to provide financial support to First Generation students, Indigenous students and students with disabilities.

- First Generation Bursary applications are available once you register at U of G and are due October 7.
- Indigenous Student Bursary applications are available once you register at U of G and are due October 7.

## Did You Know?

- Federal and provincial loans are interest free as long as you are a full-time student.
- You do not have to make any payments toward your government student loans as long as you are a full-time student and are currently either on OSAP or have completed an interest-free status form.
- Grants and bursaries do not normally have to be paid back.
- Effective April 1, 2023, the Government of Canada has permanently eliminated the accumulation of interest on all Canada Student Loans including loans currently being repaid. You continue to be responsible to pay any interest that may have accrued on your loan before April 1, 2023.

## The National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC)

If you are receiving provincial/territorial government aid, such as OSAP, the NSLSC is the 'banker' for your student loans. They disburse student loans and grants, monitor the interest-free period and collect payments.

If you are a full-time student with previous OSAP loans but are not receiving a loan in the current study period (e.g., you're on a co-op work term), be sure to complete a Confirmation of Interest-Free Status form. OSAP recipients can submit this form electronically through the OSAP portal. Out-of-province students should consult their home province's/territory's government aid website.

To monitor your loans, visit the NSLSC website at [www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca](http://www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca) and set up an account.

## In-Course Scholarships

We are committed to rewarding academic excellence and outstanding achievements of our current students. Most scholarships do not require students to apply. However, some have a May 15 application deadline date. Utilize the online Undergraduate Award Search tool to find scholarship opportunities: [uoguelph.ca/registrar/sfs/ugawards](http://uoguelph.ca/registrar/sfs/ugawards).

## In-Course Bursaries

Bursaries are given to students who demonstrate financial need. You must apply for government aid and submit a Financial Need Assessment Form each year. Students registered for fall and winter semesters should apply by the October 7th application deadline date.

## Work Study Program

Work Study is an on-campus, part-time job program that assists students with demonstrated financial need in meeting their educational costs by working part time during their registered term. Positions are competitive, so students should apply early. Financial Need Assessment Forms are available mid-August each year for jobs offered in the fall and winter semesters.

## Undergraduate Research Assistantships (URAs)

The URA program provides 150 full-time summer employment opportunities for students to participate in research by pairing undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need with U of G faculty. The application process starts in December, with the research positions beginning in May and typically lasting for 16 weeks.

## Be Alert!

### U OF G PAYMENT DEADLINES

Pay attention to your payment deadlines! Otherwise, you may be subject to late payment fees. Know your payment deadlines for your tuition fees.

### DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP

If you are confused about your financial aid, or facing an unexpected situation, it's always best to ask for help. Experienced counsellors in Student Financial Services can help with a number of your concerns. For example, the counsellors can explain available financial aid, any possible OSAP appeals and how to make a financial arrangement to pay your fees. To book an appointment, please call 519.824.4120 Ext. 58715.

### DROPPING COURSES OR WITHDRAWING FROM YOUR STUDIES EARLY?

If you are reducing your course load, or must leave your studies early, it is important to speak to a financial aid counsellor about the impact on your current financial aid and government loans. Speaking to someone before you make changes to your course load can help you avoid unpleasant surprises. Seeking advice before you withdraw from the University will make it much easier to return to your studies later. Please call 519.824.4120 Ext. 58715 to book an appointment.



## While You Are Here

- ❑ Always know your payment deadlines.
- ❑ Monitor your @uoguelph email, and OSAP Message Centre for important messages.
- ❑ Watch your OSAP account for your disbursements.
- ❑ Log in to WebAdvisor to check your fees and payment status.
- ❑ Set up an NSLSC account at [www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca](http://www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca).
- ❑ Fill in a Need Assessment Form (NAF) each year to apply for a bursary and the Work Study program.
- ❑ Track your spending.
- ❑ Join student groups and connect with others who can provide helpful tips and advice.



# Protecting Yourself

## Build Your Own Budget and Track Your Spending

Resources	Fall	Winter	Total
Government Aid (OSAP, etc.)			
Entrance Scholarship			
Entrance Bursary			
In-Course Bursary			
Work Study or Part-Time Job			
External Scholarship or Bursary			
Personal Savings			
Parental Contribution			
RESP			
Line of Credit			
Other			
TOTAL			

Expenses	Fall	Winter	Total
Tuition and Fees <i>(from your WebAdvisor account)</i>			
Books and Supplies			
Residence or Off-Campus Rent			
Meal Plan or Groceries			
Utilities/Cable/Phone, etc.			
Clothing			
Entertainment			
Laundry			
Trips Home and Transportation			
Miscellaneous			
TOTAL			

**Surplus or Shortfall**  
(Resources Minus Expenses) \$\_\_\_\_\_

Keep track of your expenses monthly and make sure you do not exceed your budget.

**Tip:** Download a budget app and keep track of your spending on your phone.

### Budgeting

Even **small purchases** can add up. If you spend \$2 a day on coffee, you will have spent \$448 on coffee by the end of the academic year.

Here are some strategies to protect yourself and limit costs:

- Use cheques, credit cards, debit cards or internet transfers for rent, utility bills and major purchases. If you use cash, make sure you get a proper receipt.
- Ensure your PIN is strong and never share it.
- Read all contracts and leases to understand their conditions fully before you sign them.
- Anticipate future expenses and take into account contracts that last a year or more.
- Monitor and protect your credit score.

### Phone Bills

Phone contracts can vary significantly. If you want the latest and the greatest, it will cost you! Examine your **phone contract** carefully and buy the minimum package that you need. To save on data charges while browsing, use the University's campus-wide WiFi.

### Credit Cards

Become familiar with interest rates when deciding between a credit card and a loan. Keep in mind that interest rates on credit cards are usually **triple** that of the rates on loans.

**Off-campus** rent may not include heat and hydro. Pay special attention to your rental contract or lease — you could be facing high utility bills, especially in winter months.

**Cars** are one of the most expensive things you can own. Consider living close to campus and taking the bus; a bus pass is already included in your student fees.

### Tips and Tricks

- Always file your **tax returns**; you may have tax credits that you can claim. Also, you will not receive OSAP grants if the government cannot verify your income or that of your parent(s).
- If you choose to get a student line of credit (or any loan), always pay more than the minimum. This will save you interest charges and shorten the time it takes to pay off the loan. Be sure to switch to **bi-weekly payments** instead of monthly because this will also decrease interest.
- Become a cooking connoisseur! The cost of restaurant food can really add up. If you learn to cook at home, you will limit this expense, and gain a new skill.
- Control those impulses and bargain hunt. For example, look for used textbooks on campus.
- **Emergency fund** — Always put a little money aside for emergencies.
- Prepare a **simple budget** (or use the table on the previous page). This will allow you to track your expenses, while also giving you the opportunity to set aside some money for a little fun every once in a while.
- Apply for scholarships and bursaries each year.

Have questions or need help? Talk to us! Visit Student Financial Services at the Lincoln Alexander Student Service Centre on the 3rd floor of the UC.

## WebAdvisor uoguelph.ca/webadvisor

- Account information is available 24 hours a day.
- Tuition, fees, and residence and meal plan charges are posted each semester.
- Check your account regularly for any account changes.
- Complete the Release of Financial Information Form online if you want Student Financial Services to be able to discuss your account with a parent or guardian.
- Know the semester payment deadlines and review accepted payment methods prior to deadlines.
- Experiencing difficulty meeting your payment deadline or have concerns about your account? Visit us on the 3rd floor of the UC or email [accquest@uoguelph.ca](mailto:accquest@uoguelph.ca).







# After You Leave U of G

## Keep Track of Your Loans

If you have not already done so, visit [www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca](http://www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca) and set up your own account to track your student loans.

## Loan Repayment

OSAP repayment starts six months after you leave full-time studies. Always keep your loans in good standing. If you default on your loan payments, it can impact your credit rating and your ability to receive future OSAP funding. If you are having trouble repaying, visit [uoguelph.ca/registrar/loan-repayment](http://uoguelph.ca/registrar/loan-repayment) for information about repayment assistance. You can apply online; it is fast, easy and can help keep your loans in good standing.

## Learn More

Watch an on-demand repayment webinar at [uoguelph.ca/registrar/nslsc](http://uoguelph.ca/registrar/nslsc). You do not have to wait until you graduate; you can watch it at any time. Get great tips on how to make repayment as smooth as possible and how to save money on interest.

## Student Financial Services

Level 3, University Centre,  
50 Stone Road East, Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 2W1  
519.824.4120 Ext. 58715  
[accquest@uoguelph.ca](mailto:accquest@uoguelph.ca)  
[awards@uoguelph.ca](mailto:awards@uoguelph.ca)  
[finaid@uoguelph.ca](mailto:finaid@uoguelph.ca)

## Resources

### UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Student Financial Services:  
[uoguelph.ca/studentfin](http://uoguelph.ca/studentfin)

Student Housing Office:  
[housing.uoguelph.ca](http://housing.uoguelph.ca)

Student Affairs:  
[uoguelph.ca/studentaffairs](http://uoguelph.ca/studentaffairs)

Student Accessibility Services:  
[wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility](http://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility)

Career Services: [recruitguelph.ca/cecs](http://recruitguelph.ca/cecs)

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Lutherwood (employment and housing): [lutherwood.ca](http://lutherwood.ca)

Compass Community Services:  
[compasscs.org](http://compasscs.org)

### GOVERNMENT

OSAP: [ontario.ca/osap](http://ontario.ca/osap)

NSLSC: [www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca](http://www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca)

Job Bank: [jobbank.gc.ca](http://jobbank.gc.ca)

Office of the Ontario Ombudsman:  
[ombudsman.on.ca](http://ombudsman.on.ca)

Canada Revenue Agency:  
[canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html](http://canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html)

Financial Consumer Agency of Canada:  
[canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency.html](http://canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency.html)

### EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Canadian Services for Youth:  
[canada.ca/en/services/youth.html](http://canada.ca/en/services/youth.html)

Universities Canada: [univcan.ca](http://univcan.ca)

Scholarships Canada:  
[scholarshipscanada.com](http://scholarshipscanada.com)

Student Awards: [studentawards.com](http://studentawards.com)

## Leaving U of G

- ☐ Make sure all of your university fees are paid in full; otherwise, your transcript may be withheld and outstanding balances may be forwarded to an external collection agency.
- ☐ OSAP repayment starts six months after you leave full-time studies.
- ☐ Watch a free repayment webinar. Visit our website: [uoguelph.ca/registrar/nslsc](http://uoguelph.ca/registrar/nslsc).
- ☐ Starting payments early, or paying more than the minimum will save you interest.
- ☐ Always keep your address updated with the NSLSC.
- ☐ Having trouble repaying your student loans? Visit [uoguelph.ca/registrar/loan-repayment](http://uoguelph.ca/registrar/loan-repayment) for information about repayment assistance.

Please note that tuition and fees, government aid, and awards are subject to change. For more information, visit [uoguelph.ca/studentfin](http://uoguelph.ca/studentfin).