

Loan limits: graduate students

Graduate Students

Until the academic year 2011-12, Direct Subsidised loans were available to graduate students. However, a change to the Direct Loan Program, as part of the US Budget Control Act 2011, specified that graduate students were no longer eligible for Direct Subsidised loans.

	Direct unsubsidised loan	Direct grad plus loan	Private loan
Who is eligible?	Most US citizens (or eligible non-citizens) on eligible graduate courses.*	Most US citizens (or eligible non-citizens) on eligible graduate courses.* A credit check is required.	Most US citizens enrolled on courses the lender considers eligible. Good credit history is likely to be necessary. A co-signer may be required.
How do repayments work?	No payments as long as you are enrolled on an eligible course at least half-time. Interest accrues while you are studying.	No payments as long as you are enrolled on an eligible course at least half-time. Interest accrues while you are studying.	Variable. You should check the terms and conditions provided to you by your lender. Repayment options tend to be less flexible than federal loans.
When do repayments start?	Usually six months (known as the 'grace period') after your course finishes or you become less than half-time.	Repayment period begins on the date of the final disbursement. Unless you receive a deferment or forbearance, the first payment will be due within 60 days of the final disbursement date.	Variable. Repayment options tend to be less flexible than for federal loans

*Some courses are not eligible for federal loans. Please [contact us](#) to check your eligibility before starting your loan application.