INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your admission to URI! This financial aid guide explains your Financial Aid awards and outlines your rights and responsibilities as a financial aid recipient at the University of Rhode Island. You will find other important information concerning your awards in the following pages, as well as on our website: web.uri.edu/enrollment/ Carefully read this notification so that you are aware of your responsibilities, the selection process, and the various programs. Please visit e-Campus at: web.uri.edu/ecampus/ to access URI’s e-Campus software that will allow students to have on-line self-service accessibility to their entire academic, financial, and billing portfolios. Through e-Campus, you can view your financial aid awards, bill, register for classes, and check your student “To Do” list to review outstanding requests from our office.
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Most financial aid at the University of Rhode Island is awarded to students on the basis of demonstrated financial need. To determine financial need, the University utilizes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (StudentAid.gov), which calculates the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This application must be filed each year. Your total Cost of Attendance (COA), minus your EFC equals your financial need. At the time your financial aid application was reviewed, you were considered for all types of financial assistance: grants, loans, and federal work study. The financial aid offered to you in your electronic award letter is based on full-time attendance and may be recalculated based on your actual enrollment status on the census date.

The composition of your financial aid package was determined by taking into consideration the total number of financial aid applications, the available funds, your financial need, the date of your application, your preference for specific types of aid and, for entering students, your date of admission. Note that we expect your family to bear primary responsibility for financing your college education.

Grants will usually be credited to your student account once you have registered for classes each term. Different grant programs may have different credit requirements in order for you to receive those funds.

Federal Pell Grants. These federally funded grants are currently awarded to exceptionally needy students. The amount varies due to federal funding levels. The amount of your Pell Grant is based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) noted on your Student Aid Report, the cost of attendance, and your enrollment status.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. These grants are for undergraduates who are enrolled at least half-time with exceptional financial need. Priority is given to students who receive Federal Pell grants.

University Grants. The University provides funds for need-based grants, including the Founders grant, to several thousand students who are enrolled. Awards are made to students with a satisfactory academic record and demonstrated financial need. Please note that these need-based grants are subject to change if your financial need changes. Items that affect your financial need include, but are not limited to: Cost Of Attendance, residency, verification results, and/or changes to information filed on your FAFSA.

URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement Scholarships.

The University has many grants and scholarships provided by organizations, corporations, and alumni. Funding levels may vary from year to year. Most scholarships are chosen by the academic department and/or the Enrollment Services office if there is a financial need restriction. URI has implemented an online scholarship platform to help you in your scholarship search: uri.academicworks.com/.

This
online form identifies all URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement scholarships for which you may be eligible. The application period is from April through June for the upcoming academic year. The vast majority of the scholarships require students to have an established academic record at URI. First-year students must deposit prior to having the ability to access their URI credentials needed to log into the scholarship portal. If you log on and see a scholarship specifically for a first-year student, there will be instructions on how to be considered.

LOANS
web.uri.edu/enrollment/loans/

If you accept a loan, you will be required to complete a Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling. You must be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for these loan programs. The Health Professions and Nursing loan programs, which are described below, are funded through repayments from alumni. Interest accrues from the start of the repayment period. Borrowers under all of these programs will be required to sign a Promissory Note and complete Entrance Counseling prior to disbursement of funds. Enrollment Services and the Student Loan Office will conduct Exit Counseling, at which time you will be made aware of your rights and responsibilities prior to leaving the University.

Health Professions Loan This loan is available to financially needy students in the College of Pharmacy at an interest rate of 5 percent per year. The repayment period begins 12 months after graduation or termination of at least half-time studies.

Nursing Loan This program is available to students with exceptional financial need enrolled in the College of Nursing. Repayment of this loan, whose interest rate is 5 percent per year, begins nine months after graduation or termination of at least half-time studies.

Federal William D. Ford Direct Loan Program. The University participates in the Federal William D. Ford Direct Loan Program. This program includes both student subsidized and unsubsidized loans, as well as Parent (PLUS) loans. The University will receive funds directly from the US Department of Education and disburse them to eligible students. You are not required to submit a separate bank loan application to receive your loan funds.

You can accept or decline your Direct Loan on-line through e-Campus. First-time borrowers at the University are required to sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and complete Entrance Counseling at: studentaid.gov

Each academic year that you accept a new federal student loan, you must also complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment at: studentaid.gov/asla/ In completing this online form as a first time borrower, you are acknowledging that you understand your responsibility to repay your loan. If you have existing federal student loans, you are acknowledging that you understand how much you owe and how much more you can borrow.
Private Educational Loans
web.uri.edu/enrollment/alternative-private-loans/

Alternative (Private) Loans are privately funded loans available to students and parents. We strongly suggest that students exhaust their Federal Loan eligibility before applying for an alternative loan. Most students will need a credit worthy co-signer in order to obtain an alternative loan. In partnership with URI, the ELM Select web site provides a list of lenders based upon their historical lending with our students. Students and their parents/guardians have the right and ability to select the education loan provider of their choice, and are not required to use any of the lenders listed. If you wish to use another lender that is not on this list, you have the right to do so. Please note that information on this site may not be updated or timely. Be sure to read carefully final loan agreements and promissory notes to understand their payment terms and other obligations.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
web.uri.edu/enrollment/student-employment/

Eligibility criteria for student employment can be found in the Student Employment Policy on the Enrollment Services web site above. Students must complete the appropriate paperwork, including an I-9 form, through their University employer before beginning their employment. Students are paid biweekly at an hourly rate for the hours worked. Your employment award cannot be deducted from your term bill. Job opportunities are posted by various departments on the student employment website.

**Federal College Work Study**- This federally supported program provides part-time employment during the academic year. Your eligibility for this program is determined upon review of your FAFSA application. Your Federal College Work Study award represents the maximum amount you are allowed to earn during the academic year. Employment may be with University departments, federal, state, or local public agencies, or certain private non-profit or for-profit organizations.

**Institutional Payroll** (non- federal college work study)- The University also provides a student employment fund for eligible matriculated students. Students do not need to have financial need as determined by the FAFSA in order to be eligible for these employment opportunities.

STATE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Several states offer financial aid programs. Generally, you may apply for a state scholarship on the same free Federal form (FAFSA) that you submit to apply for other aid, although some states require that a separate application form be filed. It is recommended that you contact your home state Financial Aid Authority for particulars. Your anticipated award will appear on the Award Notification only after your scholarship agency notifies URI Enrollment Services of their offer.
ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF AID

Enrollment Services will assist you with information about alternative sources of financial assistance. They may include Veterans’ Educational Benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits, and Alternative loans. In addition, a variety of outside scholarships are offered annually by local clubs, businesses, labor unions, and service organizations. Several web sites are available to assist you in national scholarship searches, such as: FastWEB, CAPPEX, and College Planning Center of Rhode Island

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If your family has had a change in financial circumstances and you feel that the information included on your FAFSA is not reflective of your present financial situation, please fill out a Special Circumstances form at: web.uri.edu/enrollment/forms/ Click on “Special Circumstances Dependent or Independent” for the appropriate academic year. Include an outline of the nature of this change, such as loss of job or benefits, separation or divorce, death, or other special circumstances in your submission to Enrollment Services. Please be sure to include supporting documentation. Once we have received this information, a determination will be made for additional financial aid awards if eligible and if funds are available.

DISBURSEMENTS AND REFUNDS

Disbursement of all financial aid awards, excluding employment, will be applied as a credit to your term bill as noted on the Award Notification. Please note that when your account is credited with loan funds, you are able to view the date and amount by accessing your e-Campus self-service account. You have the right to cancel all or a portion of the loan proceeds within 14 days of the disbursement notice by contacting Enrollment Services at: esmail@etal.uri.edu.

If the total credits to your bill, including any cash payments you make, exceed the term bill, a refund for the difference will be sent to you. Be sure to set up your refund preferences at: web.uri.edu/enrollment/refund-information/ We urge you to choose your refund delivery method as early as possible to avoid refund delays.

RENEWAL OF AWARDS

Financial aid is awarded annually, and you must reapply each year by filling out the FAFSA (Studentaid.gov) as early as October 1st prior to the academic year starting the following fall. We recommend using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when filing the FAFSA. The amount of financial aid you receive each year can vary according to your enrollment, financial need, the number of needy students, and the availability of funds.
SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS
web.uri.edu/enrollment/satisfactory-academic-progress-sap/

Federal regulations require all institutions which administer Title IV student assistance programs to monitor the academic progress towards a degree or certificate of students applying for funds. All URI students who have completed a FAFSA and wish to be considered for Title IV Federal aid as well as selected other types of assistance must meet the criteria stated in the policy. Enrollment Services will monitor all students receiving financial aid for compliance with our standards for academic progress as outlined in the University Catalog and our website above. Students who are not making Satisfactory Academic Progress will be notified of their loss of eligibility for federal financial aid. A student who is declared ineligible to receive financial aid for not maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress may appeal the decision to the Satisfactory Progress Appeals Committee c/o Enrollment Services by the published deadline.

Please be aware that readmission to a program or removal from academic probation by the student’s academic college does not automatically constitute eligibility for federal financial aid. Students are required to request reinstatement of financial aid eligibility through the office of Enrollment Services.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Since financial aid applications reflect the family’s financial situation, all information received by Enrollment Services is held in strictest confidence. Financial aid records are protected in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended. For a more complete explanation of this federal law, visit: web.uri.edu/enrollment/ferpa/

Students may grant others access to their information. To assign guest access to e-Campus to view your billing, academic records, and/or financial aid information, follow these instructions: web.uri.edu/enrollment/third-party-access/ A guest can be your parent, guardian, grandparent, sibling, employer, or other third party payer. You may add as many guests as you wish by clicking the plus sign.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Check your “To Do” list in e-Campus and URI email account often and respond accordingly. If you are selected for Federal verification, you must submit all documentation requested before your financial aid award can be finalized and disbursed.

2. You may accept or decline all or any portion of your awards by logging on to e-Campus: web.uri.edu/ecampus/student-access/ and navigating to the student Self Service section > Student Center> Accept/Decline Financial Aid.

3. You must repay any Title IV (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant) or Higher Education Act (Pell Grant) funds received that are in excess of your financial need and/or eligibility.
4. Notify Enrollment Services in writing, should any of the following circumstances occur:

• If you receive any financial assistance from a source either within or outside the University. The following are considered financial assistance and must be reported to Enrollment Services: Scholarships, grants, G.I. Bill, other V.A. benefits, Social Security benefits, vocational rehabilitation benefits, assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, fee remissions, and waivers.

• If your financial status, or that of your parents, has changed from that originally reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

5. Accident/Sickness Insurance: It is URI policy that full-time students admitted to a Kingston degree program, as well as all international students and their dependents, have current health insurance to provide coverage for unexpected, extended, and expensive care resulting from accidents and illnesses that are not covered by the Student Health Services fee. Consequently, all full-time students admitted to a Kingston degree program and all international students and their dependents are required to purchase school health insurance unless evidence of comparable coverage in another plan is provided to the University through a completed online waiver form. Waivers are submitted online through e-Campus and instructions can be found at www.uri.edu/health/. To waive the Accident/Sickness Insurance, a student must complete and electronically submit a waiver each year, prior to the published October deadline. Unless the waiver is received and accepted, the student is responsible for the billed amount. The Accident/Sickness Insurance is optional for non-international, part-time matriculating students, and full-time students admitted to a Providence degree program. Students who elect insurance coverage through the University are also required to pay the Health Services fee each semester that they are registered students, regardless of the number of registered credits.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. Awards are subject to change. Offers of aid are extended on the assumption that the programs will be continued and that sufficient funds will be appropriated by the U.S. Department of Education. If, for some reason, one or both of these conditions are not met, it might become necessary to withdraw or alter the aid offer. If this should become necessary, you will be notified.

2. You will be required to repay any amount you are over awarded. An over award occurs when your total resources exceed your financial need. You should understand that the University reserves the right to adjust, both in type and amount, any financial aid award for which it is responsible.

3. Residency changes (in state, out of state or regional designations) may also impact your financial aid eligibility in type and amount of award.

4. Current and future financial aid can be impacted by dropping classes, withdrawing from the University, or not receiving passing grades. More information can be found at: Withdrawal/Dropped Classes
WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Submit your Enrollment Deposit by May 1 at: web.uri.edu/enrollment/enrollment-deposit/

For your next steps and to ensure a smooth transition to the University of Rhode Island, please review our New Student Navigating Enrollment Services guide for Financial Aid, Billing, and Registration information located on our home page: web.uri.edu/enrollment/

Questions? Enrollment Services is here to answer all of your financial aid, billing, payment, and registration questions. To contact us, please visit our web page for contact information: Contact Us!