Letter from the Director

Dear UCSB Family,

It is once again time to begin thinking about applying for or renewing your financial aid for the 2013-2014 academic year. By now most students have completed their financial aid applications, but in many cases there are additional steps to ensure your financial aid is ready when classes begin in the fall. If you have been selected for the process called verification you will be contacted by our office with further instructions.

If you have been contacted by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for additional information or if you have been asked to update your FAFSA or California Dream Act Application information online, I strongly encourage you to take those steps right away. We expect to receive record numbers of financial aid applications for the 2013-2014 year and we award several fund sources on a first come, first served basis so your timeliness is important.

In order to ensure you are up to date on any additional requests from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, I would recommend following a few easy steps. First, please do not forward your UCSB Umail to another email provider as many times important emails can be blocked and you may not receive vital information. Secondly, check your Umail regularly during the summer months because we will be contacting you throughout the summer. Finally, be sure to check My Aid Status on our website so you can follow your financial aid application until it is complete and your funds are on your BARC account in the fall.

Of course we are always here to assist you with any questions you may encounter along the way so please do not hesitate to contact our office. By following these easy steps and staying on top of your application, your aid will be ready to disburse on time and you can focus on other things like studying and enjoying the beautiful UCSB campus and all it has to offer.

It is our pleasure to serve you and we look forward to another exciting and prosperous year.

Warmest Regards,

Michael M. Miller, Ed.D.
Traveling abroad is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain a better understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. The UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) offers a wide variety of travel study opportunities in 39 countries with over 285 program options. Making decisions about how to finance your trip abroad may initially feel overwhelming. Learning how to finance your trip and taking the necessary steps in financial planning and preparation before you leave the country will help ease anxieties so you can focus on your educational experience abroad.

The Education Abroad Program (EAP) and Your UCSB Financial Aid Award

Students are eligible to receive Financial Aid for their trip abroad. If the EAP budget is higher than the budget for UCSB, then you will be offered either a combination of loans and grants or just loans to meet the cost of the EAP program. Additional grant funding will be offered based on the individual’s financial need. Most grants and scholarships awarded to you can be used to pay for your EAP expenses. Work-study eligibility is converted to additional loan eligibility during your time abroad. To apply for financial aid, you must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Important reminders prior to departure:

• Verification - If you are selected for verification based on your 2013-2014 FAFSA, please remember that you will be required to submit certain documents before your 2013-2014 financial aid can be awarded.

• EAP students are strongly encouraged to designate a relative or other responsible party to act on their behalf by completing the following two forms:
  o Power of Attorney: The person assigned Power of Attorney has the authority to conduct financial transactions in your place while you are abroad. This arrangement cannot be established once the student is abroad, as it requires notarization. For more information, visit the UCSB EAP website.
  o Consent to Release: This form allows the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to release financial aid information to the third party that you designate. You may access this form on our Forms tab. The UCEAP systemwide office also has a Consent to Release form. A copy of this form can be found on the UCEAP website.

• Visa Letter Request - In order to receive a visa, you may need proof of financial aid. Request forms are available at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. Please allow 3 business days for processing.

• Direct Deposit with UCEAP - If you are expecting your financial aid to exceed your UCEAP fees and would like to receive your refund as a direct deposit, you must sign up for eRefund on your MyEAP account. Additional information and step-by-step instructions are located on the UCEAP website.

Timeline:

Our office will begin packaging students mid-May for Summer EAP. Summer awards will be based on your 2012-2013 FAFSA. If your 2012-2013 FAFSA is complete, no additional application is required. The Summer Session Application is not applicable to Summer EAP participants.
Financial Aid for Summer Session

• May 1, 2013: Summer Financial Aid Application becomes Available
• June 12, 2013: Priority Summer Session Financial Aid Application Deadline
• June 30, 2013: Final Summer Session Financial Aid Application Deadline

Important Dates!
Maximize your Financial Aid!

How to apply for summer financial aid:

To apply for summer financial aid, you must have a complete financial aid file and a 2012/2013 FAFSA at UCSB. If you have not filed this FAFSA and would like financial aid, you must complete the FAFSA before June 30.

You must submit your Summer Aid Application before the Priority Filing Deadline of June 12 in order to be considered for Summer UCSB Grant funding. If you miss this deadline, you may still submit the application until June 30, but your aid will be limited. To submit your application log into “My Aid Status” https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/AidStatus/index.asp.

Who is eligible for financial aid?

The following students are eligible for aid:
• Continuing students in good academic standing
• Incoming Freshmen and Transfer students
• Graduate students

Unfortunately, the following students are not eligible:
• Students who were academically dismissed prior to Spring Quarter 2013
• Non-UCSB students, as determined by the UCSB Office of the Registrar

What are the fees and summer cost budget?

Undergraduate students - $271 per unit (up to 10 units) with a campus-based fee of $368.

Graduate students - $339 per unit (up to 12 units) with a campus-based fee of $153.

Your summer budget includes the unit fees, campus-based fee, books, supplies and living expenses.

What types of aid are available for summer?

Summer UCSB Grant - Available to all eligible undergraduate students who have financial need, who apply by the priority deadline of June 12, 2013 and who are considered an “on time” FAFSA applicant for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Federal Direct Loans and Federal PLUS Loans – These are available to all undergraduate and graduate students. The amount available for summer is based on your remaining eligibility for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Federal Pell Grant – Available to students who did not receive their full Pell Grant eligibility during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Can I get financial aid for special programs?

Yes, financial aid is available for: The Education Abroad Program (EAP), Freshman Summer Start Program (FSSP), UCSB Washington Program (UCDC), Blue Horizons, Transitions, and Summer Travel Study Programs in Australia, Italy and London.

Also, if you attend another UC during the summer, you will be able to receive aid as long as you submit the “2013 UC Cross-Campus Summer Application.” If you plan to attend a Non-UC Program for the summer, please submit a “2013 Non-UC Summer Application.” If you have any questions regarding any of these programs, or one not listed, please contact our office for more information.

Please stop by our office or give us a call to inquire about your financial aid options for summer 2013!
Hello UCSB students and prospective June graduates - it’s time to discuss loan repayment, regardless of where you are in your academic career. If you borrowed federal Direct Student Loans at any point while attending UCSB or another post-secondary school, you will eventually have to enter the world of loan repayment. While you do have a payment-free grace period of six months after you leave school, it is beneficial for you to familiarize yourself with repayment details now so you will be prepared in the future. If you don’t choose a repayment plan before those six months are up, your servicer will automatically place you on the standard repayment plan - this means your entire principal balance will be divided into 120 equal monthly payments. You may not be able to afford this monthly amount so soon after graduation, but there are other plans out there - including some income-based options - so don’t be concerned.

If you are having trouble making your monthly payments, talk to your servicer. They can help you change your repayment plan in order to make your payments smaller. If you are in a serious financial strain and cannot afford to make any payments at the time, there are options that allow you to temporarily stop making payments. These options are called “deferment” and “forbearance,” and are granted based on “financial hardship.” Forbearance allows you to delay payments for up to 12 months, and deferment allows up to 36 months. In both cases, you will need to contact your servicer to find out the requirements necessary to enter into either one of these options.

If you are working, or planning on working, in a public service job, you may qualify to have your loan forgiven after 10 years under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (referred to as PSLF in the chart below). You must be making monthly payments and working full time to qualify. Qualifying employment is any employment with a government agency or nonprofit organization that is designated as tax-exempt by the IRS. There is a form online at [http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/) in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness section that you will need to submit, first to your employer, and then to your loan servicer.

If you have any questions regarding loan repayment, including questions about plans, deferment or forbearance, public forgiveness or any other topic, you can contact your servicer. You may find who your servicer(s) is by logging on to NSLDS (National Student Loan Data System) at [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov). This site shows all federal and institutional loans you have borrowed over your academic career and shows all contact information. It is important to note that Direct Loans often transfers your loans to another servicer so do not assume that Direct Loans is holding your loans – check the NSLDS!

### Direct Loan Repayment Basics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which Repayment Plan works for you?</th>
<th>How is Monthly Payment Determined?</th>
<th>What is the Repayment Term?</th>
<th>Does it Qualify for PSLF?</th>
<th>What Else Should be Known about this Plan?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Calculated equally over the repayment term</td>
<td>10-years (up to 30 years if consolidated)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Default plan you are placed in post-graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended</td>
<td>Equal monthly payments stretched over a longer term</td>
<td>Up to 25 years</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Longer repayment term = more total interest paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduated</td>
<td>Payments begin lower, but continually increase after 2 years</td>
<td>10 years (up to 30 if consolidated)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Minimum payment is interest-only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR)</td>
<td>Calculated based on monthly income</td>
<td>25 years (any remaining balance forgiven)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Need to reapply annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income-Sensitive Repayment (ISR)</td>
<td>Payment based on income</td>
<td>10 years (up to 30 if consolidated)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Payments increase annually, must reapply yearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income-Based Repayment (IBR)</td>
<td>Payments capped at 15% of monthly income, based on AGI and family size</td>
<td>25 years (remaining balance forgiven)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Income/family size verified annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay as You Earn</td>
<td>Payments capped at 10% of monthly income, based on AGI and family size</td>
<td>20 years (any remaining balance forgiven)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Income/family size verified annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Paula,

I was selected for verification, and financial aid is asking for my tax information. My parents tried using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA, but it wouldn’t let them. We tried calling the IRS for copies of tax transcripts, but they won’t send those either. It’s so frustrating! What’s the deal?

Sincerely,

Frank Flustered

Please refer to the chart below for a general timeline of IRS Data Retrieval and tax transcript availability. These estimates are true in most but not all cases.

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2013-2104 FAFSA Verification
Availability of 2012 IRS information for the FAFSA on the Web IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) and for requesting IRS tax return transcripts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When you submit your taxes to the IRS you...</th>
<th>If Tax Return Filed Electronically</th>
<th>If Tax Return Filed by Paper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After filing, taxes accepted by the IRS</td>
<td>DRT available and tax return transcript may be requested</td>
<td>IRS will process tax return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have no amount owed or expect a refund</td>
<td>within a day or two</td>
<td>DRT available and tax return transcript may be requested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have an amount owed and make a full payment on that amount</td>
<td>within a day or two</td>
<td>within 2-3 weeks after the return has been accepted by the IRS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have an amount owed and have not paid in full.</td>
<td>within a day or two</td>
<td>within 2-3 weeks after the return has been accepted by the IRS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>owe an amount but do not submit the payment until a later date</td>
<td>within a day or two</td>
<td>within 2-3 weeks after the return has been processed by the IRS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>within 3-4 weeks after the full payment is made.</td>
<td>within 3-4 weeks after the full payment is made.</td>
<td>within 2-3 weeks after the tax return has been processed by the IRS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tax filers can expect to receive their IRS transcript
If requested online — 5 - 10 business days after request is submitted
If requested by phone — 5 - 10 business days after request is submitted
If requested by paper (IRS Form 4506-T or IRS Form 4506-T-EZ) — 30 calendar days from the time the IRS receives and processes the signed request
Scholarships are not limited to first year students. There are many scholarships available to students who are currently in the process of completing their undergraduate and graduate studies. There are also scholarships specifically for transfer students.

Completing scholarship applications can be time consuming but well worth it. Start searching early in the school year to allow time to meet all deadlines. Do not give yourself a cutoff date because different organizations accept applications throughout the school year. You should have important documents like transcripts, letter(s) of recommendation, and personal statement/essay accessible to you when you begin your search. Make sure to answer all questions and stay within word count limits. Most importantly, proofread your essay and have someone else look over it.

Below are some helpful hints to improve your chances of being awarded a scholarship:

- Always use reputable sources, and NEVER pay to apply for a scholarship.
- Complete the FAFSA by March 2. Some scholarships may require that a FAFSA be completed if a scholarship is based on financial need and merit.
- Maintain a solid GPA, volunteer and join school organizations.
- If an essay is required, identify your strengths and clearly state your goals and educational ambitions.
- Register with reliable search engines, such as FastWeb and College Toolkit, that will notify you when new scholarships are available. Search engines also help you narrow searches to your grade level, major and other areas of interest.
- Keep records of everything that you submit.

As you begin your scholarship search, keep track of deadlines and carefully review applications and the criteria. If you have all the information listed above you should be in good shape to begin applying for scholarships.

For additional resources: [https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/Scholarships.aspx](https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/Scholarships.aspx)