

Financial Aid

Entering graduate school means an investment of your time, your energy, and of course, your financial resources. With projections of major shortages in the public health workforce in the future, your investment is a wise one. This handout provides you with some basic resources to help you think about this investment. We also encourage you to see the financial aid section of our Web site (www.publichealth.pitt.edu; click Student Affairs, and then Financial Aid). This page contains information on and links to a variety of potential funding sources.

First, the good news is that last year, Pitt Public Health provided more than \$5 million in aid through graduate assistantships, scholarships, and hourly work. As is the case in any school, we have limited funds and will not be able to meet fully each student's need. However, increasing our scholarship funds is the number one priority for Dean Burke and the school's Board of Visitors.

Financial aid may be based on merit, need, or a combination of both. Most aid is awarded through the individual departments, and may include tuition awards, stipends, hourly work, or assistantships. Pitt Public Health research centers (e.g., the Center for Health Equity, the Center for Public Health Practice, and others) may also offer hourly work. In addition, several school wide scholarships, University fellowships, and federal student loans are available. In most departments, doctoral students receive priority consideration for graduate student assistantships, and the amount of aid available varies among departments. Students enrolled in joint programs should remember to contact both schools about the availability of aid.

Types of Financial Aid

School-wide Scholarships

Applications and nominations for these scholarships are announced by the Office of Student Affairs annually. Students may ask faculty to provide letters of support, and may download an application from the web page address provided in the announcement.

Campaign for the Next 5000 Alumni – Nomination by department required

Dean's Endowed Doctoral Scholarship – for doctoral students; nomination by department required

Duncan Scholarship – priority given to disadvantaged students; nomination by department required

Goldstein Scholarship –for students studying either the environmental causes of health disparities or the practice of public health; purpose alternates yearly.

William Green Award – support of special student projects

Commonwealth Fund for Underrepresented U.S. Students – Nomination by department required

Wintersteen Award – for Global Health Certificate students; nomination by director required

Departmental Scholarships

Several departments have partial scholarship funds. Speak with your department student services coordinator about their availability and the process by which a student is considered.

Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

- Carol McAllister Award
- Joseph and Brigida Ricci Scholarship
- Myrna Silverman Scholarship
- Karen S. Peterson Memorial Research Award for Women's Health

Biostatistics

- Biostatistics Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Department of Biostatistics Endowment Fund

Epidemiology

- Arlene Caggiula Student Award in Nutrition
- Evelyn Wei Fund (for travel to professional conferences)
- Evelyn Wei Scholarship
- Lewis Kuller Scholarship
- Detre Scholarship

Health Policy & Management

- Nathan Hershey Endowment (for full-time students)
- Thomas Fitzpatrick Scholarship (need-based)
- Priselac Scholarship

Human Genetics

- George Wang Memorial Fund in Pharmacogenetics

Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

- Bob Yee Student Award

Traineeships, Fellowships, Assistantships

Each department may award a limited number of student assistantships, usually to doctoral students. Assistantships consist of full or partial tuition support and a stipend in return for certain duties under the supervision of a faculty member. Most initial assistantship appointments are made at the start of the fall term, although occasionally awards may be made in the spring term.

Several departments have traineeships available for student in particular concentrations. In the Department of Epidemiology, pre- and post-doctoral fellowships exist for some concentrations. The Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences has traineeships for social workers holding the MSW degree and concentrating in public health social work. The Department of Biostatistics offers predoctoral traineeships, as well as a minority health fellowship. The Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology offers predoctoral and doctoral traineeships.

Institutional Scholarships/Fellowships

Owens Fellowship

A needs-based tuition fellowship for full-time students. Awards are made on a competitive basis. Applications available every February, with May 1 deadline. Contact the University Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, 412-624-3488.

K. Leroy Irvig Fellowship

Incoming, underrepresented doctoral students are nominated by department chairs.

Provost's Development Fund

For doctoral students who are writing the dissertation, particularly women and disadvantaged students. For more information contact Ms. Deborah Walker at dwalker@pitt.edu.

University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association Scholarship

For students who earned their Bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Nomination by school required.

Carlson Athletic Scholarship

For students who were affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh athletics program as undergraduates. Nomination by school required.

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships

Awards support study of a foreign language either in a 2-term academic year or for the summer. Funding is provided by the US Department of Education and awarded through the University. For more information see www.ucis.pitt.edu/euce/students/graduate/FLAS.html.

Hourly Work

Students may contact individual departments about available hourly work. Faculty may employ students on research projects. For some students, starting as an hourly worker sometimes leads to a graduate student researcher position the following semester or year. In addition, the University's Career Services office, 224 William Pitt Union, maintains a database of student positions.

Seeking Funding for Dissertations and Tuition Support

Some doctoral students apply for the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards to support their doctoral education. See grants.nih.gov/training/extramural.htm. Some students from underrepresented minority groups work with faculty to apply for Minority Supplements through the National Institutes of Health. See grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-05-015.html. See also the Provost's Development Fund (above).

Student Loans

For information on how to apply for a Stafford Loan or other student loans, see the University Office of Admissions and Financial Aid web site:
www.pitt.edu/~oafa/fahome.html

The Addison H. Gibson Foundation

This is a loan program for full-time students who are long-time residents of Western Pennsylvania and who have completed one or more years of their current degree program. Graduate students may borrow up to \$18,000. For more information please see www.gibson-fnd.org. Contact info: Students may directly contact Lynn S. Dunbar, Assistant Director, Addison H. Gibson Foundation, One PPG Place, Suite 2230, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or call 412-261-1611.

Other Federal Resources

The Health Resources and Services Administration offers limited resources in the forms of scholarships and loan repayments. See their webpage: www.hrsa.gov/help/healthprofessions.htm. American Indian/Alaskan Native students may apply for scholarships through the Indian Health Services. See: www.ihs.gov/JobCareerDevelop/DHPS/Scholarship/Section_104.asp

The US Department of Homeland Security: see the DHS website for descriptions of available scholarships:
www.orau.gov/dhsed/

Miscellaneous Outside Resources

Air Force Medical Corps Scholarships

For MHA students. Contact Michael.darter@rs.af.mil for more information.

Dr. Alma Adams Scholarship for Outreach and Health Communication

From the American Legacy Foundation, to reduce tobacco use. See www.legacyforhealth.org/adams-scholarship.aspx

American Association of University Women

AAUW.org provides information on numerous grants, fellowships, and other sources of aid for publication and dissertation support. See: www.aauw.org.

American Medical Writers Association Scholarship

To promote excellence in medical communication. See www.amwa.org.

College View

This is a search engine that provides information and scholarships to students pursuing higher education. See www.collegeview.com

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Scholarships

Scholarships are for students who reside or higher education institution in a Congressional district represented by a Black Caucus member. See www.cbcfinc.org

Davis-Putter Scholarships

These are grants to students working toward a career in peace and justice. www.davidputter.org

Delay the Real World Fellowship

Fellowships are Available to US students between the ages of 21 and 29. www.delayingtherealworld.com

Environmental Fellowship

The Udall Fellowship supports research in environmental conflict resolution. udall.gov.

Evalee Schwarz Charitable Trust for Education

Offers interest-free loans for graduate students up to a maximum of \$15,000. See www.evaleeschwarztrust.org

Ford Foundation

An International Fellowships Program provides fellowships for graduate students who reside outside the US and lack systematic access to higher education. See www.fordfound.org.

Fulbright Scholar Program

Provides funding for students interested in pursuing a variety of educational activities. See www.cies.org/us/scholars/

George Mitchell Scholarship

This is a national scholarship for graduate students interested in pursuing one year of graduate work in an institution of higher education in Ireland or Northern Ireland. See www.us-irelandalliance.org/content/3/en/George%20Mitchell%20Scholarship%20Program%20%7C%20US-Ireland%20Alliance.html

Institute of Current World Affairs Fellowships

A number of fellowships are available to students demonstrating initiative, integrity, outstanding communication skills. See www.icwa.org for more information.

Institute for Human Studies

Several scholarships are available to essay winners. See www.theihs.org for more information.

International Education Financial Aid

This is a resource that provides information for financial aid for US and international students wishing to study abroad. See www.iefaf.org.

Jack Wilson Fund

This is a scholarship for students pursuing international opportunities that promote peace and community development. See www.pittsburghfoundation.org.

Katie Evans Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship supports outstanding work in international public health by providing a one-time scholarship of up to \$3000 towards a fieldwork project. US citizenship required. See www.katiememorialfoundation.org.

American Indian/Alaska Native Scholarships

See www.mynarch.net.

Pittsburgh Young Professionals Fund

This is a scholarship for students who want to develop professionally within the Pittsburgh region. See www.pittsburghfoundation.org

Roybal Foundation Hispanic Scholarship

For Hispanic students in public health. See www.roybalfoundation.org

Ruth Taylor Award for Residents of Westchester County, NY

For students in public health or social work, who are or were residents of Westchester County, NY. See www.uwwp.org.

Society for Epidemiologic Research

For students earning a degree in epidemiology. See epiresearch.org

Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) Scholarships

See www.sophe.org. Click About tab, then Awards and Scholarships.

Soros Scholarship for New Americans

See www.pdsoros.org

Truman Foundation Scholarships

For students pursuing graduate education in public service fields, including public health. See www.truman.gov

Other internet search sites for information on financial aid:

- www.fastweb.com
- www.finaid.org
- studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp
- www.idealists.org
- www.explorehealthcareers.org
- www.internationalscholarships.com
- www.wiredscholar.com

Loan Repayment – and More

The National Institute of Health webpage contains information on loan repayment programs. See www.lrp.nih.gov/HomePage.aspx.

The federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program allows for the forgiveness of college loans after ten years of continuous service in the public sector. See www.finaid.org/loans/

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) offers tuition assistance and living stipends for students participating in some public health disciplines in exchange for service in a federally mandated health manpower shortage area after leaving school. See nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov or call 1-800-638-0824.

Support for International Study

Sources of financial support for international travel include small travel grants from the Pitt Public Health, the Global Health Travel Grants for health sciences students, the Graduate and Professional Student Association travel grant, and scholarships available through the University's Study Abroad office.

Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs: Funds study in another country through an approved study abroad program or through an independent research project (for credit) supervised by a University faculty member. Awards made on a competitive basis. Applications become available in mid-November. For more information see: www.ucis.pitt.edu/natrooms.

University Employee Tuition Benefits

See www.hr.pitt.edu/benefits/education.htm for detailed information.

The University of Pittsburgh offers tuition remission to all regular full-time staff, their spouses, domestic partners, and dependent children, providing they meet the admission requirements of the University. Full-time staff receive a maximum of 6 credits per term, and benefits are subject to taxation. Part-time staff may receive prorated benefits for themselves only. Dependents of full-time staff receive benefits for the first baccalaureate degree. The spouse/domestic partner of a full-time staff member receives a maximum of 6 graduate credits per term, subject to taxation, or 6 undergraduate credits per term.

2013-2014 TUITION RATES:

Pennsylvania:

Full-time (9-15 credits) \$ 11,704 per term, plus \$370 fees

Part-time (1-8 credits) \$955 per credit, plus \$200 fees

Out of State:

Full-time (9-15 credits) \$19,278 per term, plus \$370 fees

Part-time (1-8 credits) \$1572 per credit, plus \$200 fees