

OSAP FAQ for the 2017-18 Academic Year

Changes to OSAP for 2017-18

In 2017-18, Ontario is introducing a new grant - the Ontario Student Grant - which will provide eligible, full-time students with more generous assistance when they need it the most. Eligible students whose parents earn \$50,000 or less in annual income will receive enough grants to cover the cost of average college or university tuition.

In fact, most students from middle and lower income families will receive more generous grants than ever before thanks to this transformation. Many middle income students will receive grants that exceed the value of their tuition.

Students are automatically considered for the Ontario Student Grant when they apply for OSAP.

What is OSAP?

OSAP is a student assistance program run by the Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development and funded by the provincial and federal governments. It provides Ontario students with financial assistance to help pay for their tuition, books, mandatory fees, living costs and transportation.

What types of financial aid are available?

OSAP is a combination of grants and loans.

Grants and bursaries = money that you will not have to repay.

Loans = borrowed money that you will have to repay. Loans are interest and payment-free while you are in school full time.

What are the eligibility criteria?

To be considered for OSAP, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a Canadian citizen, Permanent Resident or Protected Person;
2. Meet Ontario residency requirements;
3. Be enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program that is approved for OSAP purposes.

Do my parents make too much money for me to qualify?

Financial aid through OSAP is based on a formula that compares your educational costs and expected contributions from your parents and your own income and assets. All things being equal, the more income your parents earn, the lower the amount of financial aid you will receive from OSAP; however, there is no parental income amount beyond which you automatically become ineligible for OSAP.

If you are in financial need, we strongly encourage you to apply for OSAP financial aid regardless of your parents' income.

How much can I get?

OSAP determines the funding you'll receive by comparing your tuition fees and living expenses with the amount that you (and your family, if applicable) are expected to pay.

For a typical two-term academic year, fulltime single students will be eligible to receive up to \$13,260 in loans and grants, while married students and sole support parents can get up to \$22,440.

What else do I need to know about OSAP?

- Both full and part-time students can apply for OSAP.
- You have to reapply for OSAP each academic year.
- When you apply for OSAP, you can choose to receive only grant funding if you don't want the loan.
- If there are unexpected changes to your situation after you apply, you can request a review of your assessment

How and when do I apply?

The 2017-18 OSAP Application for Full-Time Students will be available in spring 2017.

Apply online at ontario.ca/osap. Don't delay - apply early!

How much does it cost to apply?

There is no application fee.

Steps to apply:

1. Go to ontario.ca/osap
2. Click “Apply” to register as a new user. You’ll create your OSAP profile and be assigned an OSAP Access Number (OAN).
3. In spring 2017, complete your application at ontario.ca/osap. You may need information from your parent(s) or spouse to submit your application.
4. After you submit your application, gather your required supporting documentation.
5. Upload, mail or deliver it in-person to your financial aid office right away to avoid processing delays.
6. Print your Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA). Sign and take it with your required ID to a designated Canada Post location.
7. Track the status of your application on your OSAP account. Check out your Message Centre for the latest information on your application, including how and when you’ll get your OSAP funding .

When will I know how much I will receive?

If you apply online, you can get an on-the-spot estimate of the amount of funding you may be eligible to receive. A formal Notice of Assessment will be sent to you after the information on your application has been reviewed and verified. Please note formal assessment does not typically happen until mid-June at the earliest.

Who do I contact if I need help with my application?

If you have questions regarding your OSAP application, you should consult the information available on the OSAP website or contact your institution’s Financial Aid Office.

To check the status of your submitted OSAP application log in to your account on the OSAP website.

How long will it take to process my application?

It’s hard to say, because the fluctuation in the volume of applications over the course of the summer (among other factors) makes this difficult to predict. That is why you should submit your OSAP online application as early as possible.

It is recommended that you apply at least ten weeks before your classes begin, to allow sufficient time for verification and processing of your application.

Can I appeal the amount of funding I’m getting?

OSAP uses standard criteria to assess a student’s financial need and to determine the amount of funding you may be eligible to receive. There may be situations, however, where the criteria may not adequately reflect your particular circumstances. If this is the case, you may request a review of your OSAP application.

The first step for you in the review process is to contact the Financial Aid Office at your institution. The Financial Aid Administrator will review your file with you to determine if adjustments to your assessment are possible and advise you on any required supporting documentation.

What’s a Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement?

The Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) is a lifetime student loan agreement for full-time students. It only needs to be completed once during your postsecondary studies. The agreement contains the terms and conditions you need to agree to in order to receive and repay your OSAP loan.

When will I receive my funding?

You will usually get money in two installments: the first when you begin your studies (usually in September); the rest halfway through your study period (usually in January).



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