

## Scholarships/Financial Aid for International Degree-Seeking Undergraduates

Compiled/written by Karen Del Vecchio, Graduate Assistant, and Laurie Koloski, Director  
Reves Center for International Studies, College of William & Mary

5 March 2010

### Overview

To what extent do U.S. universities offer financial support to international degree-seeking undergraduates? To try to find out, we sent an e-mail query to members of the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), which yielded a range of responses and pointers re: additional sources of information. We also did a partial search of an Institute for International Education online database of scholarships. In exploring how universities assess international student need and award need-based scholarships, we searched websites of a number of universities that offer need-based financial aid for international students; Karen also spoke with two admissions officials about their institutions' approaches.

Overall, we found a great variety of approaches in awarding aid, with a clear preponderance of merit-based as opposed to need-based aid. This is in part because of the difficulty of assessing international student need—though as the information below indicates, it is getting easier to do so. Although the information here can't be considered representative of all US institutions, merit- and need-based aid is clearly coming from both public as well as private institutions, and from institutional as well as private funds.

The information below is grouped under the following headings: Responses to AIEA Query; Other Sources of Information; Need-Based Aid: Assessing and Awarding.

### Responses to AIEA Query

We received 16 responses; of these, 4 indicated that their institutions offered need- and merit-based aid; 10 were from institutions that offer merit-based need only; 2 were from institutions that do not currently offer need- or merit-based aid to international students. Though just a small sample, the responses below (from institutions that do offer aid) indicate a wide variety of approaches.

Institution	Need-Based Aid?	Merit-Based Aid?	Additional Details
Need- and Merit-Based Aid			
University of Georgia	Yes	Yes	May waive out-of-state tuition for some international students; some waivers are reserved for students with financial need (typically those whose financial situation has changed since their arrival). Merit-based waivers are typically allotted to programs with high numbers of international students and are awarded to exceptional applicants.
Montclair State University	Yes	Yes	Merit-based scholarships available to international students with exemplary GPAs and SAT scores (same as domestic students). Partial tuition waivers for

			international students with need: awarded on a case-by-case basis, one semester at a time, to students in good standing who have been at Montclair at least one year.
Kansas State University	Yes	Yes	Offer a number of merit- and need-based scholarships of varying amounts; see <a href="http://www.k-state.edu/issr/resourceslinks/KSUScholarships.html">http://www.k-state.edu/issr/resourceslinks/KSUScholarships.html</a> . Also offer 20 scholarships of \$2000 each to students from partner institutions in India and China.
Furman University	Yes	Yes	Seven Goodwill Scholarships offered each year to international students; 2-3 are full tuition, room, and board, with the remaining covering tuition only. Need, merit, and ability to succeed at Furman are considered.
Merit-Based Aid Only			
DePaul University	No	Yes	Eligible for same merit-based aid as other DePaul students. Modest funds for incoming international students from International Admissions Office. Emergency/hardship funds available on a case by case basis.
Providence College	No	Yes	Limited number of full tuition scholarships for degree-seeking international students, adjusted annually for tuition hikes.
Western Kentucky University	No	Yes	In-state tuition rates for those who meet certain qualifications such as 3.2 GPA, etc. (Same opportunity offered to out-of-state domestic students.)
Fordham University	No	Yes	Partial merit scholarships (same awards as for domestic students; funding comes from university scholarship funds).
University of South Carolina	No	Yes	Individual departments can award scholarships that entitle students to non-resident scholarship rate (slightly higher than in-state tuition). Primarily merit-based, few in number, must come from private funds.
University of Cincinnati	No	Yes	Specific merit-based scholarship for international students, UC Global Scholarship: \$1000-12,000 per year (most students will receive \$7000, which until this year was the standard award). Takes the form of a tuition discount.

Michigan State University	No	Yes	Limited merit-based assistance for international undergraduates. Those who qualify for the Honor's College (exceptional scores on SAT/ACT and/or other standardized tests) are eligible for additional scholarships.
Valdosta State University	No	Yes	Georgia State Board of Regents allows out-of-state tuition waivers to up to 2% of the undergraduate population for deserving students; individual institutions determine distribution. At Valdosta State, half (or 1%) of waivers are dedicated for international students, who receive four-year scholarships. Requirements include a 3.0 GPA and regular participation in community service events.
University of Houston	No	Yes	No scholarships awarded at admission, but hardship money is available on a case-by-case basis. International students are also eligible for study abroad scholarships; awardees are eligible for in-state tuition rates on these programs.
University of Alabama	No	Yes	International students are eligible for same merit scholarships as domestic students; SAT scores are considered. Truly outstanding international students are forwarded by International Admissions Office to undergraduate council for consideration.

### Other Sources of Information

Several respondents pointed us to important resources on scholarships and financial aid for international undergraduates, as indicated below:

Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC), <http://new.oacac.com/>.

Doug Thompson compiles a comprehensive list of US institutions that offer financial aid to international undergraduates; see <http://new.oacac.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/intfinaid09.pdf> for the 2009-2010 list. Thanks to Janine Farhat at the College Board for pointing us to this resource.

Though this list does not include details about aid awarded (it includes total institutional enrollment, cost to attend, number of international undergraduates awarded aid, average size of award, and total awarded to international undergraduates), it provides an impressive overview of the number of institutions providing aid to international undergraduates and the extent of aid awarded.

Institute for International Education, "Funding for US Study," <http://www.fundingusstudy.org/>.  
(Also available in published form.)

This database is maintained through funding from the Institute of International Education; thanks to Daniel Obst for pointing us to this resource. Although not comprehensive, it provides a great start for students looking for funding opportunities.

For our purposes, we surveyed the states near Virginia and a few other states with high international student populations. Overall, of the 14 states surveyed (VA, NC, MD, DC, MD, DE, PA, NJ, NY, CT, MA, IN, IL, CA), results were consistent with the answers we received to our AIEA query. The amount and availability of aid, as well as the means of distributing it, differ from institution to institution; in addition, where aid is available, it is highly competitive. Institutions in the database that offer aid are listed below.

University/State/ Scholarship	Avg amount	# of awards	Years of support	Need/ merit	Details
Old Dominion University (VA)	\$8K	45	4		Minimum GPA of B+; new int'l students only.
Davidson College (NC)	Varies	Varies	4	Both	
Frostburg State University (MD), Undergraduate International Student Scholarship	\$3K	1	4	Both	One per year, given to best applicant.
Towson University (MD), International Student Scholarship	\$8K	Varies	4	Merit	GPA>3.5, TOEFL iBT> 77 or IELTS> 6.5.
Lafayette College (PA)	\$33.5K	35	4	Both	A's, B's, or 90s; SAT > 2000; TOEFL > 90 iBT.
Wilson College (PA), Hagop Bogigian Scholarship			4		Armenian citizens/ descent.
Slippery Rock University (PA), Stan Kendzioriski International Student Scholarship	\$5.5K		4		
College of Saint Elizabeth (NJ), International Student Scholarship	Full tuition	2	4		Exceptional students.
Berkeley College (NY), International Student Scholarship	10- 25% of tuition	Varies	4	Both	Generally business and related areas majors.
SUNY Geneseo (NY), International Student	\$2K	110	4		May also receive a \$6,000 housing

Scholarship					credit.
Wesleyan University (CT), Freeman Asian Scholarship	Full tuition	11	4	Merit	
Harvard College (MA)	Varies	Varies	4	Need	Need-blind application process.
University of Evansville (IN), Overseas Scholarship	\$5-15K	Varies	4	Merit	Must be from China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam; one scholarship per country per year. Limited need-based aid available for other int'l students
St. Mary's College of California (CA), International Student Honors Scholarship	\$10K	Varies		Merit	TOEFL iBT>80, GPA> 3.3.

### Need-Based Aid: Assessing and Awarding

Karen browsed websites of 25 universities that offer need-based aid for international students, in an effort to find information on how they assess need. Eight websites offered extensive information: Grinnell College, Lafayette College, Dickinson College, Connecticut College, Wesleyan University, Washington University of St. Louis, Clark University, and Marquette University. Karen also spoke to two admissions officials with extensive experience in the field.

Each of the eight institutions above uses a form to evaluate student need. Several of the schools use the International Student Financial Aid Application, which is a College Board form designed specifically for international students. A copy of the form for 2010-2011 is available at [https://finaidonline.collegeboard.com/fin/VignetteServlet/VignetteServlet.srv?relativePath=/profile/pdfs/1011\\_finaid\\_int\\_stu\\_fin\\_aid\\_app.pdf](https://finaidonline.collegeboard.com/fin/VignetteServlet/VignetteServlet.srv?relativePath=/profile/pdfs/1011_finaid_int_stu_fin_aid_app.pdf).

Some institutions are also using the College Board's Profile online service, which has been available for years for domestic students but was expanded to include international students in 2009-2010. See <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/higher-ed/financial-aid/profile/global> for more information and a demo. Thanks to Janine Farhat at the College Board for pointing us to this resource.

Other institutions have their own forms, such as Grinnell College ([http://www.grinnell.edu/files/downloads/FinAidSchIntern10-11\\_typ.pdf](http://www.grinnell.edu/files/downloads/FinAidSchIntern10-11_typ.pdf)) and Washington University in St. Louis (<http://ffpez.wustl.edu/>).

Given limited funding, even those schools that are "need-blind" for domestic students are generally not need-blind for international students. Accordingly, each of the institutions listed above stresses

to potential students that applying for financial aid will impact their chances of admission. In practice, this helps keep to a minimum the number of students who may not accurately portray their financial status, since students with the ability to pay who request financial aid will significantly lower their chances of admission.

If questions arise as to the accuracy of the information submitted, some schools request further documentation to substantiate either a student's need or the availability of funds.