

M.A. in Political Science, EU Policy Studies Concentration Financial Aid Information

Students in the European Union Policy Studies (EUPS) program begin their enrollment in the fall term and graduate in the following summer. Using the 2010-11 school year as an example, they will be enrolled in the Fall 2010, Spring 2011, and Summer 2011 terms. JMU's Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships processes federal student loans and private/alternative educational loans to students in this program. Students can speak with the Graduate School to discuss any grant and/or scholarship opportunities that may be available, or research private sources of scholarships at www.jmu.edu/scholarships.

Important Financial Aid Terminology

- **Cost of Attendance (COA)** – This is an estimate of what the Office of International Programs believes it will cost you to attend this program during a particular enrollment period. The COA includes tuition, fees, and other expenses. Please note that the COA is NOT your bill. You may pay more or less depending on some of your individual spending habits. The COA will not be adjusted to account for each student's individual expenses and consumer debt load.
- **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** – This is the amount the federal government believes you can pay towards your educational expenses in this program based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is NOT your bill. You may pay more or less depending on how much financial aid you receive and/or your individual spending habits. This number is the basis for the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships determining if you have any Subsidized Direct Loan eligibility.
- **Need** – This is determined by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships and is calculated by subtracting the EFC from the COA. You will see how this works in the packaging examples below.

Federal Student Loans

There are three types of federal student loans available to EUPS students.

1. [Federal Direct Subsidized Loan](#)
2. [Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan](#)
3. [Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan](#)

The federal government places annual limits on how much subsidized and unsubsidized loan money a graduate student can receive. For students in this program, the annual limit applies to the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 terms combined, and then a new annual limit is applied to Summer 2011. The reason for this is because summer is the first term (i.e., header term) in the award year at JMU.

The annual loan limit for these loans is \$20,500, with no more than \$8,500 of that amount being subsidized, assuming the student has the financial need according to the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) to receive subsidized loan money. The Grad PLUS maximum annual amounts are limited to the Cost of Attendance minus any other aid the student was awarded.

You can learn more about these loan options by reviewing [JMU TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR FINANCIAL AID -CONSUMER INFORMATION](#). Financial aid packaging examples will be provided later.

Financial Aid Process For Fall 2010 & Spring 2011

Financial aid packaging all starts with students completing the 2010-11 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov. The FAFSA is processed, first by the federal government, and then by JMU. Once processing has been completed and eligibility has been

determined, you will be sent a financial aid award notice via e-mail. The notice will direct you to e-campus to accept any loan money you wish to receive from what you were offered. Once you submit your acceptance on e-campus, you will need to complete a Master Loan Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Loan Counseling if this is the first time you have had a subsidized or unsubsidized Direct Loan at JMU.

Part of determining a student's eligibility is reviewing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for the student as determined by the FAFSA. This is what the federal government believes the student and his/her family can pay toward their educational expenses for the award year.

JMU begins the awarding process by working with the Office of International Programs (OIP) to determine a Cost of Attendance for students in this program. Then, the EFC is subtracted from the COA to calculate the student's need level, which is used to determine the student's eligibility for the Federal Subsidized Direct Loan.

Students are limited to no more than \$20,500 in Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans during the fall and spring terms (no more than \$8,500 can be subsidized)

Financial Aid Process For Summer 2011

Summer 2011 begins a new award year at JMU, so students need to complete the 2011-12 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov after January 1, 2011 to start the financial aid application process.

There is one additional step needed in summer that is not required in the fall and spring terms. This step is the completion of the JMU Summer School Financial Aid Application. The application will be available at the website for the [Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships](#) after the summer school registration period begins in March 2011.

The remainder of the process is very similar to what was described for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. However, because summer begins a new award year at JMU, students have a new \$20,500 Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan limit during this term (no more than \$8,500 can be subsidized). The Cost of Attendance and student's "need" level will determine how much of that limit can be awarded during the summer term. The benefit in having a new annual loan limit is that in most cases a student can receive subsidized and/or unsubsidized loans to cover the full Cost of Attendance without having to apply for higher cost Direct Grad PLUS or private/alternative educational loans.

In-State Student Financial Aid Packaging Examples

FALL 2010/ SPRING 2011 EXAMPLE

- **Cost of Attendance Fall/Spring:** (This is the same COA used for all in-state students)

IN-STATE	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Totals
Hours	12	12	24
Tuition/Fees	\$4,068	\$4,068	\$8,136
Loan Fees	\$22	\$22	\$44
Program Fee	\$6,175	\$6,175	\$12,350
Room	\$2,014	\$2,014	\$4,028
Board	\$3,380	\$3,380	\$6,760
Books & Supplies	\$430	\$430	\$860
Travel	\$2,681	\$756	\$3,437
Personal	\$2,160	\$2,160	\$4,320
Total	\$20,930	\$19,005	\$39,935

- **EFC:** \$10,230 (this is an example, as the EFC will be specific to the student based on the FAFSA)
- **Need:** \$39,935 COA – \$10,230 EFC = \$29,705
- **Package:** The financial aid package for this particular student would consist of \$8,500 in a Federal Subsidized Direct Loan, \$12,000 in a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, \$19,435 in eligibility to apply for a Federal Grad PLUS Direct Loan or a private/alternative educational loan. The total of this equals the full COA and gives the student the maximum annual Direct Loan eligibility under the subsidized and unsubsidized programs.
- **Note:** It should be noted that any other aid the student receives from other sources (e.g., scholarships, waivers, etc.) must be counted as part of the financial aid package even though the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships may not be making the award. Other aid received can reduce a student's loan eligibility, as all aid received must be within the students "need" level and COA.

SUMMER 2011 EXAMPLE

Before you review the example it is important to note that is based on the Summer 2010 Cost of Attendance as the Summer 2011 costs are not known at this time. Therefore, the package will look slightly different once the new figures are established in March 2011.

- **Cost of Attendance Summer:** (This is the same COA used for all in-state students)

IN-STATE	Summer 2010
Hours	9
Tuition/Fees	\$3,195
Loan Fees	\$22
Program Fee	\$3,903
Room	\$1,944
Board	\$2,035
Books & Supplies	\$430
Travel	\$500
Personal	\$1,420
Total	\$13,449

- **EFC:** \$5,210 (this is an example, as the EFC will be specific to the student based on the FAFSA)
- **Need:** \$13,449 COA – \$5,210 EFC = \$8,239
- **Package:** The financial aid package for this particular student would consist of \$8,239 in a Federal Subsidized Direct Loan, \$5,210 in a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan. The total of this equals the full COA.
- **Note:** It should be noted that any other aid the student receives from other sources (e.g., scholarships, waivers, etc.) must be counted as part of the financial aid package even though the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships may not be making the award. Other aid received can reduce a student's loan eligibility, as all aid received must be within the students "need" level and COA.

Out-of-State Student Financial Aid Packaging Examples

FALL 2010/ SPRING 2011 EXAMPLE

- **Cost of Attendance Fall/Spring:** (This is the same COA used for all in-state students)

OUT-OF-STATE	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Totals
Hours	12	12	24
Tuition/Fees	\$4,418	\$4,418	\$8,836
Loan Fees	\$22	\$22	\$44
Program Fee	\$6,175	\$6,175	\$12,350
Room	\$2,014	\$2,014	\$4,028
Board	\$3,380	\$3,380	\$6,760
Books & Supplies	\$430	\$430	\$860
Travel	\$2,681	\$756	\$3,437
Personal	\$2,160	\$2,160	\$4,320
Total	\$21,280	\$19,355	\$40,635

- **EFC:** \$10,230 (this is an example, as the EFC will be specific to the student based on the FAFSA)
- **Need:** \$40,635 COA – \$10,230 EFC = \$30,405
- **Package:** The financial aid package for this particular student would consist of \$8,500 in a Federal Subsidized Direct Loan, \$12,000 in a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, \$20,135 in eligibility to apply for a Federal Grad PLUS Direct Loan or a private/alternative educational loan. The total of this equals the full COA and gives the student the maximum annual Direct Loan eligibility under the subsidized and unsubsidized programs.
- **Note:** It should be noted that any other aid the student receives from other sources (e.g., scholarships, waivers, etc.) must be counted as part of the financial aid package even though the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships may not be making the award. Other aid received can reduce a student’s loan eligibility, as all aid received must be within the students “need” level and COA.

SUMMER 2011 EXAMPLE

Before you review the example it is important to note that is based on the Summer 2010 Cost of Attendance as the Summer 2011 costs are not known at this time. Therefore, the package will look slightly different once the new figures are established in March 2011.

- **Cost of Attendance Summer:** (This is the same COA used for all in-state students)

OUT-OF-STATE	Summer 2010
Hours	9
Tuition /Fees	\$3,495
Loan Fees	\$22
Program Fee	\$3,903
Room	\$1,944
Board	\$2,035
Books & Supplies	\$430
Travel	\$500
Personal	\$1,420
Total	\$13,749

- **EFC:** \$5,210 (this is an example, as the EFC will be specific to the student based on the FAFSA)
- **Need:** \$13,749 COA – \$5,210 EFC = \$8,539
- **Package:** The financial aid package for this particular student would consist of \$8,500 in a Federal Subsidized Direct Loan, \$5,249 in a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan. The total of this equals the full COA.
- **Note:** It should be noted that any other aid the student receives from other sources (e.g., scholarships, waivers, etc.) must be counted as part of the financial aid package even though the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships may not be making the award. Other aid received can reduce a student's loan eligibility, as all aid received must be within the students "need" level and COA.

Financial Aid Disbursements and Refunds

In most cases, if a student has completed all the necessary steps to apply for a loan in a timely fashion and is registered for all his/her classes before the start of the term, financial aid disbursements are generally made under the following time tables:

- Fall 2010 – First week of September
- Spring 2011 – Week of January 10th
- Summer 2011 - Summer disbursements are always delayed. Disbursements can occur anytime after classes begin through the entire summer period. At times, disbursements may not occur until students are close to being finished with their courses.

Please keep in a mind that a host of factors, many that are outside of the control of the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships, can delay disbursements. Therefore, it is suggested that students be prepared to cover any "start up" expenses each term, and in summer, perhaps be prepared to cover the majority of expenses should the disbursements be delayed most of the term.

As long as you have accepted enough federal aid to cover the bill and completed the necessary steps to receive that aid, the [University Business Office](#) will wait for the federal aid to arrive at JMU to pay your bill and will not expect you to pay it up front.

If you have accepted more aid than is needed to pay your bill, then once your bill is paid the University Business Office will send you the remainder in the form of a refund. It is suggested that you sign up for the [Duke Dog Direct Deposit](#) program to expedite receipt of those funds.

Contact Information

- Financial Aid questions should be directed to the following:
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships
170 Bluestone Drive, MSC 3519
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
540-568-7820
www.jmu.edu/finaid
fin_aid@jmu.edu
- Billing questions should be directed to the following:
University Business Office
170 Bluestone Drive, MSC 3516
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
540-568-6505
www.jmu.edu/ubo
ubo@jmu.edu