

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 2021-22 school year as an example, they will be enrolled in the Fall 2021, Spring 2022, and Summer 2022 terms. JMU's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships processes federal student loans and private/alternative educational loans for students in this program. Students can also 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 Center for Global Engagement 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.
- **Demonstrated Need** – This is determined by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and is calculated by subtracting the EFC from the COA.

Federal Student Loans

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

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

The federal government places annual limits on how much unsubsidized loan money a graduate student can receive. For students in this program, the annual limit applies to the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 terms combined, and then a new annual limit is applied to Summer 2022. 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 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans is \$20,500, assuming the student has the financial aid eligibility according to the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). The Grad PLUS maximum annual amount is limited to the Cost of Attendance minus any other aid the student has been 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 2021 and Spring 2022

The financial aid packaging process starts with students completing the 2021-22 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) at studentaid.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 MyMadison (JMU's online system) to accept any loan money you wish to receive from what you were offered. Once you submit your acceptance on MyMadison, 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 Direct Loan at JMU.

Students are limited to no more than \$20,500 in Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans during the fall and spring terms.

Financial Aid Process for Summer 2022

Summer 2022 begins a new award year at JMU, so students need to complete the 2022-23 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov/. For the 2022-23 award year, students can complete the FAFSA beginning October 1, 2021.

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 on the [Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships](#) website after the summer school registration period begins in March 2022.

The remainder of the process is very similar to what was described for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. However, because summer begins a new award year at JMU, students have a new \$20,500 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan limit during this term. The Cost of Attendance and the student's FAFSA information will determine how much of that limit can be awarded during the summer term. The benefit of having a new annual loan limit is that in most cases a student can receive loans to cover the full Cost of Attendance without having to apply for higher-cost Direct Grad PLUS or private/alternative educational loans.

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 according to the following timetables:

- Fall 2021 – First week of the fall term
- Spring 2022 – First week of the spring term
- Summer 2022 – Summer disbursements are always delayed. Disbursements can occur any time 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 mind that a host of factors, many that are outside of the control of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, can delay disbursements. Therefore, students should be ready 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 (UBO) will send you the remainder in the form of a refund. It is suggested that you sign up for direct deposit with the UBO to expedite receipt of those funds.

Contact Information

- Financial Aid questions should be directed as follows:
Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
Student Success Center
738 South Mason Street
MSC 3519
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
540-568-7820
www.jmu.edu/financialaid
fin_aid@jmu.edu

- Billing questions should be directed as follows:
University Business Office
Student Success Center
738 South Mason Street
MSC 3516
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
540-568-6505
www.jmu.edu/ubo
ubo@jmu.edu