



Direct Loan Application Guidelines

From July 1st 2010 the Direct Loan program will replace the FFELP program (Federal Family Education Loan Program). For the 2011/12 academic year US Federal loans (Staffords & PLUS) will now be made available to students directly from the US Department of Education and not private lenders (i.e. Sallie Mae, Chase, Wachovia, AES etc.).

Step 1 FAFSA / SAR

The student must log onto the FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) website and make an online application. The FAFSA website address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. Once you have completed your online application you will receive a Student Aid Report in the mail (approx 2 weeks after application has been made) If you provide an e-mail address you can request that your Student Aid Report be sent via e-mail. If you receive your SAR by e-mail please forward to farmerv@tcd.ie . **NB: The SAR is NOT sent directly to the Trinity College from FAFSA.**

Step 2 Documents Required

The following documents must be sent to the Financial Aid Officer in Trinity College;

- (1) Student Aid Report
- (2) Official Offer letter/acceptance to Trinity College (copy)
- (3) Copy of current passport.
- (4) Copy of undergraduate transcripts/undergraduate degree from previous university if the student is an incoming postgraduate or copy of high school diploma if the student is an incoming undergraduate.
- (5) Copy of Master Promissory Note(s) (MPN's). Please refer to Step 4 below for further information.

Students who had loans in 2010/2011 whilst studying at Trinity College are only required to submit (1) above. If your passport has expired recently then a copy of your new passport will be required.

Send Documents to the following address: Valerie Farmer, Financial Aid Officer, Fees Office, Trinity College, Dublin 2 or mail to farmerv@tcd.ie or fax to 353 1 8962576.

Step 3 Entrance Counselling

This helps you to understand your responsibilities regarding your loan.

All students attending Trinity College for the first time in academic year 2011/12 must complete entrance counseling.

Entrance Counseling can be completed at the following website: <http://studentloans.gov>

Step 4 Master Promissory Notes

The MPN is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s).

All MPN's issued in respect of studies at a foreign school are valid for 1 year. New MPN's are required to be completed for every year of study at a foreign school.

When completing your MPN you must select the school at which you will be studying. The school code for Trinity College Dublin is **G06842**

One MPN is completed in respect of Stafford loans. A separate MPN is required should you decide to take out a Graduate PLUS loan or a Parent PLUS loan.

Master Promissory Notes can be completed online at the following website:

<http://studentloans.gov>

Copies of completed MPN's must be emailed to farmerv@tcd.ie or fax to 353 1 8962576. See Step 2 above.

Step 5 PLUS Loans

All PLUS loans must be requested on the website: <http://studentloans.gov>

In applying for a PLUS loan a credit check will be carried out on the individual requesting the loan. No PLUS loan can be certified until this is completed. To initiate the credit check you must select:

- **Complete PLUS Request Process**

If you are determined to have an adverse credit history, you may still receive a Direct PLUS Loan if you obtain an endorser who does not have an adverse credit history. An endorser is someone who agrees to repay the Direct PLUS Loan if you do not repay the loan. If you are a parent borrowing on behalf of your dependent student, the endorser may not be the student on whose behalf a parent obtains a Direct PLUS Loan.

Please note in the case of undergraduates, the Plus loan is borrowed in the name of the parent.

Step 6 Loan Entitlements

On receipt of the necessary documentation students will be contacted, **in early July**, with their loan entitlements. Students must return the form indicating the various loan amounts they wish to apply for.

Step 7 Loan Approval

All loans will be originated by Trinity College Dublin with the US Department of Education.

Step 8 Disbursements

In 2011/2012 all loans will be disbursed in 2 payments:

- September
- January

These disbursements coincide with the start of the 2 teaching terms in the 11/12 academic year.

Excess funds will be disbursed to students by way of a euro cheque. *US\$ cheques will not be available under the Direct Loan program.*

Please note that in the case of Parent PLUS loans, excess funds are required to be refunded to the parent – unless written authorization is provided to the Fees Office requesting that the these excess funds be made payable to the student involved.

Step 9 Payment of tuition fees

Students who take out Stafford/PLUS loans to fund their tuition in 2011/2012 will be permitted to pay their tuition fees in 2 instalments. Once the loan funds are disbursed the Fees Office will deduct the necessary fee payments and any excess will be refunded by way of euro cheque within 10 business days of receipt of funds.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students who are in receipt of Direct Loan Educational Funds from the US Department of Education must comply with Satisfactory Academic Progress Regulations to maintain their eligibility to receive loan funds.

A copy of the Satisfactory Academic Progress regulations will be provided to all students prior to the start of term.

Accommodation Costs

Students should note that campus accommodation costs are not deducted from your loans by the Fees Office. The deadlines for payment of campus accommodation costs do not coincide with the dates excess loan funds are made available. Students must take this into account when organizing their finances for the coming year. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their accommodation costs are paid by the due dates.

Direct Loan Annual Loan Limits

Dependent Undergraduates	Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Combined (Max)
First year	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
Second year	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
Third year & beyond	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500

Independent Undergraduates & dependent students whose parents cannot borrow PLUS loan	Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Combined (Max)
First year	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
Second year	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
Third year & beyond	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500

Graduate & Professional Students	Subsidized	Combined (Subsidized & Unsubsidized)
All years	\$8,500	\$20,500

Aggregate Limits for Stafford Loans

	Subsidized	Total (Subsidized & Unsubsidized)
Dependent Undergraduates	\$23,000	\$31,000
Independent Undergraduates & dependent students whose parents cannot borrow PLUS loan	\$23,000	\$57,500
Graduate & Professional Students	\$65,500	\$138,500