
Tuition & Financial Aid

Financing Your Education

UNDERGRADUATE //
BACHELOR'S PROGRAMS



MINERVA
UNIVERSITY

The cost of a university education is a significant concern for most families. Since the 1980s, college tuition costs in the United States have more than doubled¹, posing a huge financial obstacle for students seeking to attend university.

The Minerva University philosophy on financial aid is driven by three core premises:

First, Minerva University is committed to only incur expenditures that we believe have a direct and powerful impact on student learning and will further enhance the extraordinary quality of our programs.

Second, everyone with an interest in a student's education—including the student—should play a role in funding the education to an extent that is fair and practical.

Third, Minerva University utilizes privately funded philanthropic support from dedicated donors as opposed to the US Federal Financial Aid System that serves US nationals only. These privately provided funds ensure that our global institution with students from more than 100 countries can provide an aid program where all eligible students can participate regardless of their nationality.

Minerva University dedicates a very significant portion of the available resources to financial assistance to students and the provided financial aid is based on

¹ Hillary Hoffer, *Business Insider*, 2019

demonstrated need and the availability of scholarship funds. We then work directly with students and their families to create plans for funding the education at Minerva. Using information provided by students and their family members, we define an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that we believe is achievable and will not impose an undue financial burden on students, either during or after their time at Minerva, but also reflects that philanthropic support that Minerva University can distribute out is limited. We work to inform students of their financial options and support them throughout their undergraduate years, so they can achieve their educational goals and graduate. We strongly encourage prospective students to apply early for financial aid and diligently work with us on submitting all required documentation.

Financial Aid at Minerva University

What is financial aid?

Financial aid is meant to help students and families pay for their education. Most higher education institutions in the United States provide aid in the form of scholarships, work study opportunities, and loans that are applied directly to educational costs such as tuition, room and board, supplies, and other fees. The vast majority of financial aid in the United States is publicly funded by the Federal Government and most international students are not eligible. Financial aid received from Minerva University is privately funded by philanthropic donors and every admitted student is eligible.

What is a student loan?

A student loan is money given to a student, for the sole purpose of enrolling in an educational institution, in exchange for future repayment of the loan value—the principal amount—along with interest.

Principal

The principal balance is the amount of loaned money that a borrower still owes, excluding interest.

Interest

Interest is a fee paid to the lender for borrowing money, typically based on an Annual Percentage Rate (APR). The APR is a percentage of the total principal balance of the loan.

Repayment Terms

Repayment Terms are the detailed terms and conditions of which a lender will provide money to a loan recipient. These terms usually outline both the conditions of which the loan recipient will receive the loan and how they will pay the principal and interest back to the lender.

Advantages and Disadvantages

The primary advantage of a student loan is that it enables access to educational funding that would not be readily available otherwise. For U.S. students, federal student loans also typically offer lower interest rates than commercial loan types. However, most non-U.S. students are not eligible for federal loans, meaning

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either they cannot gain access to loans to help fund their education, or are forced to pay higher interest rates. Non-U.S. students can be eligible for private loans within the U.S.; however, we urge you to use caution and inspect all aspects of any private loan offer before accepting.

A disadvantage of any loan is the accrual of interest over time. Throughout the term of a loan, unpaid interest is added to the principal amount, so over a longer term, a loan will cost more than paying fees directly.

What is the difference between a grant and a scholarship?

Both types of assistance are sometimes called “gift aid” because the money does not need to be earned or repaid. Scholarships are typically merit-based: academic scholarships reward academic achievement, athletic scholarships are given to promising athletes, and so on, while grants are generally need-based. At Minerva University, we use the term scholarships in reference to any money that is granted to a student other than the Loan or Work Study that helps a student to afford their place in the undergraduate program.

What makes financial aid at Minerva University different?

Minerva is a unique institution with a globally diverse student body and a distinctive approach to financial aid. Unlike most other U.S. institutions, Minerva does not accept funding from the federal government, which does not offer aid for non-U.S. students. Minerva offers aid packages to qualified individuals based on demonstrated need and the availability of scholarship funds.

How does Minerva University calculate financial aid packages?

All financial aid at Minerva revolves around an Expected Family Contribution or EFC. The financial aid team works to determine your EFC based on your financial aid application, submitted documents and the overall available funds. If the calculations show that you need financial aid, an aid package will be offered to you that we hope will enable your participation in the Minerva University program. The first component of financial aid is always a loan. Next, if more assistance is warranted, the financial aid team will grant work study as part of the financial aid package at a value of \$5,000. This is the total compensation a student can earn from work for Minerva University during the semesters. Finally, if

the need surpasses the combined total of the loan and work study, additional assistance might then be provided as a scholarship to the student. Please note that there are no “full rides” or “all inclusive” financial aid packages at Minerva. All students are expected to pay a base Expected Family Contribution each semester during their time with Minerva University. Following are more details regarding the loan, work study, and scholarship aspects of financial aid:

Low-Interest Loans

Through an arrangement with **Climb Credit**, we offer student loans, at a lower-than-average interest rate to partially cover the program costs. Eligible undergraduate students who are granted financial aid at Minerva University are offered an annual loan amount for each of the four years of undergraduate study. Eligibility is determined by Minerva’s Office of Financial Aid, which reviews each student’s financial aid application each year the student is enrolled. The total amount of loans taken over four years are deliberately limited and the 42-months repayment period following graduation is structured to reduce the financial burden on students and their families.

While enrolled, students only pay interest on each loan that they take out and that is disbursed for them to Minerva University.

Students who are able to find a loan alternative prior to or during the Fall semester of each year may decline their Minerva loan, but must inform the Office of Financial Aid and Climb Credit prior to the loan’s funding date in the Spring. Students who decide against taking a loan, will be directly responsible for paying the amount of the loan credit through other sources, such as grants and scholarships offered by third parties, or loans from other financial institutions.

Work Study Opportunities

The work study program at Minerva University provides benefits far beyond affording your way through the Minerva rotation cities. These part-time positions are typically placements within Minerva University’s faculty and administration. These opportunities are specifically designed to provide valuable professional experience, while students earn money for individual expenses.

Need-Based Scholarships

Minerva University offers some aid-eligible students need-based scholarships to offset tuition costs. Scholarship amounts are calculated based on the demonstrated need of each student and must be applied toward the cost of tuition. The amount of individual scholarships varies and all scholarships are subject to taxation by the U.S. government, please refer to the chart on page nine for details.

What are some alternatives to the low-interest loans offered by Minerva University?

Many countries and organizations offer loans and other forms of financial aid for their constituents. For example, many European nations offer support to students studying abroad through national loans and grants that can cover the loan aspect of our financial aid package model. Many students also apply for external grants to assist with decreasing their overall loan amounts while attending Minerva and to help cover expenses that are not financial aid eligible. For our Muslim students and families, Minerva's loan program requires monthly interest payments together with principal. If this does not align with your cultural or religious practices, we suggest securing a local loan or alternative funding method.

Can students apply for only Loans, Work Study, or Scholarship or receive any of the listed items individually based on merit?

Loans, work study, and scholarships are all components of Minerva University's need based financial aid program only and are not granted based on merit. If a student applies for aid and receives Loans, Work Study, and/or scholarship, they have the option to decline any portion of their aid and find alternative funding instead. If a student does not apply for financial aid by the stated deadlines, then they must wait until the following year of their enrollment to apply for aid for the following year (sophomore/2nd year). Financial aid must be (re)applied annually and does not automatically roll over to future years.

Fast Facts About Low-Interest Loans

Applying for a loan will not affect your FICO® score.

Fair Isaac Corporation, or FICO, creates a variety of credit scores for use by lenders, credit card issuers, and other creditors. Your FICO score—which typically ranges from 300 to 850—could determine whether your credit application is accepted, and the terms and rates you are offered (i.e. loans.)

All loan documents are e-sign only and all loans have instant approval.

A Social Security Number is not needed to secure a loan.

Various alternative forms of identification can be used, you can contact Climb Credit at hello@climbcredit.com to learn about which forms of ID are accepted.

Climb Credit submits your tuition fees directly to Minerva.

You will not directly receive loan money from Climb Credit.

Payments while at Minerva are interest-only.

Payments towards your loan begin 30 days after the loan is funded. This is typically during the spring (January/February) of each year.

Autodebit is an option to ensure automatic loan repayment.

You may enable automatic monthly payments from your bank account.

Students under 18.

For students under the age of 18, you will still receive loan credit towards your expenses and apply for the loan in full once you turn 18.

Anticipating Additional Costs

Students are expected to be able to support themselves financially during their four years of undergraduate study. Financial solvency is also required by the U.S. government for students to acquire and maintain their F-1 visa status. Below is a list of expenses that you should plan for, in addition to tuition, fees, and residency costs. These expenses are not eligible to be covered by financial aid. Students and their families will need to cover these additional costs independently.

MINERVA YEAR ONE: EXPENSES TO CONSIDER

| Expenses | Frequency | Cost | Notes |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Airfare to San Francisco | One-Time | Variable | Flight costs to San Francisco will vary greatly depending upon your point of origin. |
| US Visa | One-Time | Variable | Our student services team will help you in applying for all visas while enrolled. |
| Laptop Computer | One-Time | \$800–\$2,000 | Follow these links to view computer and equipment suggestions and our list of operating requirements . |
| Health Insurance* | Once per Semester | \$600-\$700 per Semester | This cost will be issued as a bill to students separately from their term bill and will vary depending on whether the student needs US based or International insurance plan(s). |
| Vaccinations | One-Time | Variable | Review this list of required vaccinations to determine if you need any. |
| Security Deposit | One-Time | \$1,000 (\$500 after Enrollment Deposit Applied) | Refunded upon graduation or withdrawal, assuming you are not liable for damage to residence halls or other unpaid bills. |
| Enrollment Deposit | One-Time | \$500 | Due by May 1 (or within 10 days of notification for Binding Enrollment). The non-refundable deposit will be applied to your term bill as a credit towards the security deposit on your Fall semester bill. |

*Health Insurance is mandatory for all students while enrolled as an undergraduate.

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| Expenses | Frequency | Cost | Notes |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|---|
| U.S. Income Tax Withholding for Non-Qualified Scholarship Portion | Once per Semester | \$0-\$800 per Semester | Depending on the size of the grant you receive as part of financial aid, you may have to pay an annual tax amount. We have partnered with Sprintax , an online self preparation tax software for international students to help determine student tax eligibility. The majority of students paying this tax withholding will receive it back as a refund when filing for federal and state taxes. |
| Start-up Expenses | Annual | \$500 | Cost covers food and other incidental expenses during September, prior to the start of work-study. |
| Emergency Savings | Annual | Up to \$1,000 | This is not a required cost, but is highly recommended in case of unplanned expenses. |

YEAR TWO, THREE, AND FOUR: SUPPORTING YOURSELF ON GLOBAL ROTATION

| Expenses | Frequency | Cost | Notes |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Airfare | Variable | Variable | You will be responsible for at least three flights per year, including your home to your Fall rotation, your Fall rotation destination to your Spring rotation destination, and your Spring rotation destination to your home. |
| Visas | Twice Annually | Variable | For your years on the Global Rotation, you will work with our student services team to apply for visas (when and where applicable) for your travel. |
| Health Insurance* | Once per Semester | \$600-\$700 per Semester | This cost will be issued as a bill to students separately from their term bill and will vary depending on whether the student needs US based or International insurance plan(s). |
| Emergency Savings | Annual | Up to \$1,000 | This is not a required cost, but is highly recommended in case of unplanned expenses. |

*Health Insurance is mandatory for all students while enrolled as an undergraduate.

