



FINANCIAL AID BASICS

There are many different types of financial aid to support your education at LaGuardia and at a four-year institution after graduation from LaGuardia. Below is the basic category of different types of financial aid that may be available to you.

• Federal Aid

- **Federal Grants:** Typically do not require repayment. Examples: Federal Pell Grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).
- **Work-Study Programs:** Opportunities for part-time employment, often on campus, through federal work-study programs.
- **Federal Student Loans:** Loans available with either subsidized (low-rate) or unsubsidized interest rates. Examples: Direct PLUS Loan. Note: The Federal Perkins Loan program is no longer active.
- Most federal aid requires U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen status. The FAFSA is used to apply for federal aid.

• State Aid

- **New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP):** Financial aid for students in New York State.

- **Excelsior Scholarship:** Available for students attending CUNY or SUNY institutions.
- **Employer Tuition Assistance**
 - Some colleges or universities may waive part of tuition fees for their employees or the children of employees. CUNY offers tuition waiver through PSC-CUNY.
- **Private Student Loans**
 - Offered by private financial institutions such as banks, usually with higher interest rates than federal student loans.
- **University/Institutional Scholarships**
 - Scholarships awarded by the university or institution using its endowment fund. Applications may require the CSS Profile or the institution's own financial aid form. Awards are based on need (e.g., annual income) and merit (e.g., GPA).
 - Example: LaGuardia Foundation Scholarships.
- **External Institutional Scholarships**
 - Financial assistance is provided by external educational institutions or corporations, often to transfer students.
 - Scholarships are typically merit-based (academic achievements) or hybrid (both merit and need).
 - Examples include the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship, Kaplan


Leadership Program, Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship, and Goldwater Scholarship.

• Study Abroad Scholarships

- Scholarships designated specifically for study abroad opportunities.
- Examples: Boren Awards, the Benjamin Gilman Scholarship, Critical Language Scholarship, and Freeman-ASIA.

WHERE TO START

The best place to start researching financial aid and scholarships is LaGuardia's Honors Student Advisory Committee (HSAC) programs. The HSAC regularly publishes a list of scholarships available to LaGuardia students, as well as a comprehensive guidebook for the transfer process to non-CUNY institutions. Below is the list of the latest issues of their transfer guides:

-  **HSAC Transfer Guidebook**
2023-2024: <https://hsac.commonsgc.cuny.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/23220/files/2023/03/2022-23-Transfer-Guidebook.pdf>

You can also find information on their regular workshops on college transfer and scholarship applications on their website (<https://hsac.commonsgc.cuny.edu>). Information relevant to the Japanese Option students will



also be posted at the Japan Studies blog page at <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu>

For those without the U.S. citizenship or permanent residency (e.g., F-1 students), Immigrant Rising (<https://immigrantsrising.org>) regularly publishes a list of financial aid/scholarships for those without a U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.

-  **Undergraduate Fellowships that don't Require Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Legal Permanent Residency:**
<https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-of-scholarships-and-fellowships/>

If you haven't done so, start your scholarship application process for the LaGuardia Foundation Scholarships. LaGuardia Foundation Scholarships are available to all LaGuardia students and the application requires only personal statement. It is a great place to start working on your personal statement for scholarships. Make sure to share your personal statement with as many faculty mentors and peers as possible to obtain feedback. Revise the statement several times before submitting it to the LaGuardia Foundation Scholarships. Many students receive some award in the range of \$500-\$4,000. See <https://www.laguardia.edu/about/laguardia-foundation/scholarships/> for more information.

A LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS THAT LA GUARDIA STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED

- LaGuardia Foundation Scholarships (about \$500-\$4,000):
<https://www.laguardia.edu/about/laguardia-foundation/scholarships/>
- Guttman Transfer Scholarship (\$4,000):
<https://www.cuny.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/guttman-transfer-scholarship/>
- Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship (\$40,000 x 3 years):
<https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/>
- Kaplan Scholar (\$500/month + mentorship program):
<http://www.kaplanedfoundation.org/become-a-scholar/apply-to-be-a-kaplan-scholar/>
- Queens College Transfer Scholarship (\$1,000/semester):

<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/admissions/transfer/>

- NYU The Community College Transfer Opportunity Program (CCTOP) (tuition waiver): <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/cctop/>
- Benjamin Gilman Scholarship (study abroad; \$5,000): <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org>

ON-CAMPUS JOBS

Although they are not scholarships, on-campus jobs offer valuable opportunities for students who need to balance their academic and work responsibilities. Not only do you save commuting time, but your supervisors usually respect your academic schedule and progress when setting work schedules and expectations.

- **Student Technology Mentors (STM):** STMs assist students and faculty in using digital media in the classroom. They help design, create, utilize, and maintain technology-enriched teaching resources. STMs work closely with faculty and provide tech support for tools like ePortfolio, Dropbox, Zoom, Blackboard, and Microsoft Office. See <https://www.laguardia.edu/students/peer-programs/student-technology-mentors/> for more information.
- **Peer Advisors:** Peer Advisors work 12-15 hours per week, earning \$17 per hour (as of 2024). They support students in achieving their academic goals, develop communication and teamwork skills, and must have a GPA of 2.8 and 12 completed credits by the end of Fall 2024. See <https://www.laguardia.edu/students/peer-programs/the-peer-advisor-academy/> for more information.
- **Student Success Mentors (SSM):** SSMs work with students in the First Year Seminar across various majors, helping them adjust to college life, utilize digital tools like ePortfolio and Degree Audit, and collaborate with faculty. They must have a minimum of 18 completed credits and a GPA of 3.2 or higher, or be recent graduates attending a four-year college. SSMs earn \$17.50 per hour and receive paid training and professional development opportunities (as of 2024). See <https://www.laguardia.edu/students/peer-programs/student-technology-mentors/>

[-success-mentors/](#) for more information.

- **Modern Language Tutors:** If you speak a language other than English, you may be able to work as a modern language tutor at the Modern Languages Lab (B-206). See <https://lagccml.github.io> for more information.
- **Special Programs:** Special programs such as Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are available to LaGuardia students. These special programs are usually announced through e-mail (LaGuardia's e-mail address).

BOOKS ON COLLEGE TRANSFER AND FINANCIAL AID

It is highly recommended to purchase/borrow a book on college transfer/scholarships and read it carefully. Below is a list of recommended books.

REFERENCES

- Bauld, H. (2012). *On writing the college application essay, 25th anniversary edition: The key to acceptance at the college of your choice*. xxx: Collins Reference.
- Goodmacher, C., & Ngo, L. (2012). *The transfer book: Transfer to the college you want* (kindle ed.). New York, NY: Mindvine.
- Henderson, C. (2013). *Open the gates to the ivy league: Plan b for getting into the top colleges*. xxx: Prentice Hall Press.
- Jenkins, D., & Fink, J. (2016). *Tracking transfer: New measures of institutional and state effectiveness in helping community college students attain bachelor's degrees* (Tech. Rep.). New York, NY: Community College Research Center.
- Lee Sánchez, N. (2018). *Your 2019 guide to college transfer: 100+ school profiles*. New York, NY: Kaplan Publishing.
- McGrath, A. (2017). *Best colleges 2017: Find the best colleges for you!* New York, NY: U.S. News and World Report.
- Robinson, J. (2015). *Essay hell's 2015-16 prompts primer: Strategies for the common app, uc, transfer and other college application essays*. xxx: Amazon Digital Services.
- Silver, D. (2009). *Community college transfer guide*. xxx: Adams-Hall.
- Tyler, L. D., & Henninger, S. E. (2017). *The ultimate guide to college transfer: From surviving to thriving*. xxx, xxx: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.