

StuFAPs = *Scholarships + Grants + Student loans ++*

There's more to Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs) than just scholarships. StuFAPs consist of government-funded scholarships, grants-in-aid, student loans, subsidies, and other incentives for qualified students.

By virtue of Republic Act No. 10687 or the Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education, UniFAST reconciles, improves, strengthens, expands, and puts under one body all government-funded StuFAP modalities for tertiary education in both public and private institutions. UniFAST was established to promote the development of talented students who will serve the public good, widen the pool of world-class Filipino researchers, artists, innovators, thinkers and leaders.

Different kinds of StuFAPs

There are three major kinds or modalities of StuFAPs: scholarships, grants-in-aid, and student loans.

Scholarship is a modality of financial support given to qualified students based on merit or talent: extraordinary academic performance, special technical capability, and skills in the field of research and development (R&D), innovation and other creative work.

Grant-in-Aid requires a minimum level of capacity (to tackle college work) from poor but qualified students so they could finish tertiary education.

Student loan consists of short- or long-term loans to students who are short of cash, regardless of their economic status during the time of enrolment. The student is (or his parents, guardians or co-makers are) expected to pay the loan when they become gainfully employed.

Minimum Qualifications

Students enrolling or are continuing a first-time Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), associate, undergraduate (college), master's or doctoral degree -- whether taken in public or private, local or national educational institution -- can avail of StuFAPs.

Those who wish to pursue an undergraduate course must be graduates of Senior High School (SHS, or its equivalent) from authorized schools or educational institutions implementing the K-12 program.

Applicants who wish to pursue TVET must have at least ten (10) years of basic education or its equivalent, and must pass the initial TESDA screening/ profiling or assessment procedure, trade test, or skills competency evaluation. They must possess good moral character with no criminal record (based on conviction by final judgment). This will however not be required of target learners who were in conflict with the law or are undergoing or have undergone rehabilitation.

The applicants must be Filipino citizens. But the UniFAST Board is mandated by law to provide appropriate StuFAPs to foreign students based on reciprocal programs of countries that provide similar benefits to Filipino students (such as student exchange programs, international reciprocal scholarships, and other mutually-beneficial programs).

Applicants must declare if they are already benefiting from other government StuFAPs. They may still avail of another StuFAP for the remaining portion -- if at the time of the application -- the amount of the other existing grant did not cover the full cost of tertiary education at the Higher Education Institution (HEI, which offers associate, bachelor and advanced degrees) or the Technological Vocational Institution (TVI, which are public or private institutions recognized/ authorized by TESDA to implement the Dualized Training Program or DTP together with a partner establishment).

Where to apply

One could apply for scholarships and grants at CHED, TESDA, any of the departments and other government instrumentalities such as the DOST, DOLE, DSWD, DND, DA, DILG, DENR, OPAPP, NCIP, among other StuFAP-granting institutions. Loans are provided only by CHED and the GFIs.

Coverage

Depending on the kind or modality, an StuFAP may (or may not) cover any or all of the following: tuition fees, miscellaneous and other school fees, educational expenses and/ or cost-of-living allowance (COLA).

The top 10 graduates of all public high schools are given priority in making student loans. The loans however should be repaid in installment basis once the student graduates or leaves the school/ college/ university.

To get in touch with the UniFAST Secretariat, please e-mail <unifastsecretariat@gmail.com>.