



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (AND THE ANSWERS) FOR PROSPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Swarthmore College offers strong financial support for a limited number of admitted international students (that is, those who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents). Each year, we provide approximately \$3 million to international “international” students in the form of scholarships and campus job opportunities.

Although we believe that the primary responsibility for financing your education lies with you and your family, we stand ready to assist when family resources are not sufficient to meet your educational expenses.

We have prepared the following information to help you to understand our financial aid policies, procedures, and opportunities. Since so many prospective students and their families have the same questions, we have answered the most frequently asked questions below.

Question 1: What is an “international student” at Swarthmore College?

Answer: International students, also known as “foreign national students,” are non-U.S. citizen students who are enrolled at Swarthmore College full-time and who carry a passport from a country other than the United States of America.

Question 2: What does a Swarthmore College education cost?

Answer: For the 2015-16 academic year, Swarthmore College charges total \$61,400. This includes tuition, fee, room, and board (meal plan) while classes are in session. In addition to the direct charges, you should expect to spend \$1,290 for books and supplies, and about \$1,270 for personal expenses during the academic year. You should expect College charges to increase about 4% each of your four years at Swarthmore.

Question 3: My family cannot afford to pay \$61,400 per year. Will I be offered financial aid from Swarthmore College?

Answer: We cannot determine your eligibility for our support until we have reviewed your CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® and the other required financial documents. These must be received during the admission application process. We will then do all that we can to help you. If you wish to be considered for Swarthmore aid at any time during your Swarthmore career, it is very important that you apply for financial aid during the admission process and before admission is offered. We are not able to consider a financial aid application submitted after your admission to Swarthmore.

Question 4: On what basis is Swarthmore College financial aid awarded?

Answer: Your academic credentials and personal accomplishments influence the College's admission decision, but they do not impact the College's financial aid decision. Our aid is offered to students only on the basis of their demonstrated financial need. The [CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®](#) financial aid application provides us with the information we need to guide our analysis of your need. The need analysis assesses your family income, assets, tax liabilities, and family size, allows for standard living expenses in your country, and results in a family contribution that determines your financial need and ultimately your financial aid package. We also consider educational costs for siblings who are attending similar or equivalent, full time undergraduate programs; however, we cannot consider their graduate school expenses. Your academic credentials and personal accomplishments influence the College's admission decision, but they do not impact the College's financial aid decision.

Question 5: If I am offered financial support, what will my aid award include?

Answer: Any financial aid award will include a campus job opportunity (about 7 or 8 hours of work each week), and then the remainder will be offered in Swarthmore Scholarship (grant aid). This year our scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$62,000. The average need of our international students during the 2014-15 academic year was \$48,416, but no individual student is average. We cannot determine your eligibility until we consider your financial aid application.

Question 6: Is there a required student contribution from me within meeting our family's expected family contribution?

Answer: No and then yes. Entering first-year students will not have an expectation to contribute in addition to their parental contribution. However, in each future year, as a returning student, you will have an expectation of contributing at least \$500.00 in addition to your parents' contribution.

Question 7: Are transfer international students eligible for financial aid from Swarthmore College?

Answer: No. International transfer applicants are not considered for financial aid from the College.

Question 8: When do I need to apply for financial aid?

Answer: Prospective international students must apply for financial aid consideration when they apply for admission to the College so that we can advise you of aid opportunities along with our admission decision. If you think you will need Swarthmore College support any time during your four years here, you must submit a financial aid application when you are applying for admission. An aid application after admission will not be considered.

Financial aid instructions can be found on our website at swarthmore.edu/apply_for_financial_aid. Current Swarthmore students who have been aided must reapply for financial aid each April by submitting the [CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®](#).

Note for the future: If you are admitted and choose to enroll at Swarthmore College, you should know that in subsequent years your financial aid application will be due for completion April 30, and the Financial Aid Office releases financial aid decisions for current, returning students who have completed their application by the deadline in early July.

Question 9: What documents are required from international students who wish to apply for financial aid?

Answer: Swarthmore College requires international students to complete and submit the College Board's [CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE](#). A link to the PROFILE is available on our website, or simply Google or Bing "CSS Financial Aid PROFILE." Additionally, your family will be required to submit attested letters of employment and earnings/salary from each of their employers for the base year. Income tax forms, or the equivalent, to substantiate reported earnings or assets are to your benefit to submit, and may be required in some cases.

Question 10: If my family's financial situation changes once I am enrolled at Swarthmore, but I did not apply for financial aid when I applied for admission, will the College consider me for financial aid?

Answer: No. If you think you will need Swarthmore College support any time during your four years here, you must submit a financial aid application when you are applying for admission. An aid application after admission will not be considered.

Question 11: Will applying for financial aid affect my chances for admission to Swarthmore?

Answer: Perhaps. International students who request our financial aid assistance will be reviewed in the most competitive pool for which the rate of admission is about 1 in 21. If you are admitted, however, the College will meet your demonstrated financial need. That is, we will fill the gap between what your family is capable of paying and what we cost (including tuition, fees, room, board, books, and personal expenses). Please contact the Financial Aid Office at Swarthmore College if you have any questions that are not answered here or not answered on our website, www.swarthmore.edu/financialaid. You are welcome to email us at: finaid@swarthmore.edu.

Question 12: How does Swarthmore wish to receive a financial aid application?

Answer: You will submit to Swarthmore the College Board [CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®](#) which will arrive to the Financial Aid Office at Swarthmore College electronically. Additional documentation requirements include.

Question 13: How and when do I complete the Certification of Finances (COF) Form?

Answer: You will complete the Certification of Finances Form at the time of application. If you are admitted and choose to enroll, you may need to complete the Certification of Finances Form again with revised information that matches your financial aid award package. You may submit this form directly to the Financial Aid Office (finaid@swarthmore.edu) or to the Admissions

Office (admissions@swarthmore.edu) who will submit it to the International Students Office. For more guidance on the Certification of Finances Form or if you have additional questions, please contact Swarthmore's [International Students and Scholars Advisor](#).

Question 14: If I receive Swarthmore financial aid, will the College pay my air fare and other transportation needs?

Answer: The College will pay for one round-trip ticket from Swarthmore to home and back for our aided international students. The opportunity is only available after the start of the fifth semester at Swarthmore and must be used before commencement. Our International Students and Scholars Advisor will speak more to this opportunity during new student orientation in the August of your entry to the College:

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/international-student-advising/round-trip-home>

Question 15: If I receive Swarthmore financial aid, will the College give me money for books?

Answer: A small loan up to a limited amount will be available for your use after your arrival to Swarthmore and during your time enrolled. You might use that loan to help fill a shortfall in your summer earnings, or for a computer, or to help purchase books or clothing more appropriate for a Pennsylvania, United States climate. You can arrange for the loan through our International Students and Scholars Advisor.

Question 16: What does an international student do over College breaks in terms of ????? – long weekends such as Fall Break in October, Winter Break from late December to mid-January, and Spring Break in early/mid-March?

Answer: Aided international students who remain on campus during the Winter Break may be able to receive partial support of living expenses for that time period. International students who plan to remain on campus over Winter Break should finalize their plans before the end of October each year and let our International Students and Scholars Advisor know, also before the end of October, if they would like to be considered for that assistance.

For Fall break (with a small “b”), which is less than a week long, international students are allowed to remain in their residence hall, and the Dean’s Office will provide some meals.

For Spring Break, which is a little more than a week in length, international students are allowed to remain in their residence hall, and the Dean’s Office will provide some meals.

Question 17: If I am receiving Swarthmore financial aid, am I able to study abroad and still receive financial aid?

Answer: Your financial aid carries with you in most Swarthmore-approved study abroad programs. Aided international students who study abroad in Swarthmore-approved programs are not able to work during that semester and may borrow to fill that gap in aid equivalent to the work award for that semester in their financial aid package.