COME VISIT US AT OUR NEW OFFICE IN WESTON HALL THIRD FLOOR!

WE’VE MOVED TO WESTON - OPEN HOUSE COMING SOON!

The finishing touches are still being added so keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for an open house!

... BUT VISIT US ANY TIME!

Our office hours are 8:30 – 4:30 every weekday. Ways to contact us include:

- Visit us in person
- Email finaid@williams.edu
- Call x4181

We’re also trying out new Office Hours to make sure you can see us when you need to.

Tuesdays 11 – 1pm
Wednesdays 1 – 3pm
Thursdays 11 – 1pm

QUICK TIP: When you or your parents call or write us, always include your full name and Williams ID number!

CAN’T WORK THIS SUMMER?

Are you volunteering? Participating in an unpaid or a low-pay internship? If you won’t be able to save your expected student summer contribution for these or certain other reasons (e.g. medical restriction, making up a course deficiency), download and complete the Summer Earnings Petition from our website and turn it in before the deadline in May. **If you qualify for the waiver, we'll replace part or all of the Summer Earnings expectation in your financial aid package with extra grant money.**

If you don’t qualify for the waiver and don’t save enough over the summer to cover the Student Summer Earnings expectation, there are likely other options available to you. We’ll give you information when you receive your 2016-2017 financial aid award, and you’ll be able to contact your financial aid officer directly with questions about it.
How to Re-Apply

You should have received an email around Feb. 10th with all of this information and more – forward it to your parents if they’re helping you complete the applications!

- Carefully read all of our emails. They are individualized based on your situation since financial aid eligibility is determined by your citizenship status and other unique factors.
- Encourage your parents to file their taxes early. If they use an accountant or a professional tax preparer, encourage them to make an appointment as soon as possible.
- Complete the CSS PROFILE and the FAFSA by April 25th. Your Williams financial aid is based on the CSS PROFILE; the FAFSA lets us know if you qualify for federal financial aid (Pell Grants, federal loans, etc.). You and your family should be able to use actual figures to meet the April deadline based on your 2023 taxes.
- Make sure your IDOC submission is complete. Some items commonly left out: your Williams W-2 for on-campus earnings, your federal verification worksheet, parents’ business tax returns for a partnership or corporation, and your federal tax return or Non-Tax Filer’s Statement.
- Regularly check your To Do List on Williams Student Records (PeopleSoft) of required application documents. We will update the list as you complete the application requirements. If something is missing, we will email you (or, in some cases, your parent) and add the missing item to your To Do List.
- Review our website. The instructions in the “Apply” section list all the required steps to reapply for financial aid for different student statuses.
- ****We can’t start calculating your financial aid eligibility until we have all your application materials. Complete the process on time, check your Williams email regularly, and if you have questions, please ASK US!

Studying Away Next Year

Students planning to study away are required to attend our meeting on February 18th at 7pm on the First Floor of Weston.

If you’re interested in studying away, now is the time to start researching programs! We receive notification from the Dean’s Office if you’re approved to study away, which automatically generates “To-Do Lists” in PeopleSoft of items required to guarantee financial aid goes to your program. We can’t provide you with accurate financial aid until we receive accurate information from you about your program and its costs.

The Study Away Checklist includes:

1) Acceptance letter from your Program
   This can be either a letter or an email from your program addressed to you.
2) Student’s Budget Proposal
   Use our form to break down all the costs of your program, including out-of-pocket expenses. Be as thorough as possible.
3) Program’s Direct Costs
   Documentation of costs are usually found in the program’s catalogue, bill, or website.
4) Program’s Bill
   As soon as you receive the bill, send a copy to the Bursar.

We calculate the expected family contribution the same way we would if you were staying on campus, then put together a financial aid package to cover the difference between the budget and your family contribution, up to the cost of a semester at Williams.

This means that if your aid is greater than the direct costs of the program, the extra aid can be refunded to you to help with out-of-pocket expenses. If your aid is less than the amount charged directly by the program, you will need to pay the program’s remaining cost directly and cover your own out-of-pocket expenses with the family contribution.

After you submit the actual program bill to the Bursars Office, assuming your other checklist items are complete, they will send a check (your scholarships and loan) to your program. If there’s any remaining financial aid after the bill is paid, the Bursar will refund it upon request to help with your out-of-pocket costs. You are responsible for paying any amount not covered by aid directly to your program.

Students attending WEPO or Mystic don’t complete this process since the college owes the billing.

Study away questions should be sent to Associate Director Betsy Hobson.
(Betsy.Hobson@williams.edu)
Let’s Talk About It.

What you missed so far...
Summaries and materials are available on our Financial Literacy website.

“Let’s Talk About It” Panel
Three alums and a staff member got personal about their financial struggles and achievements during and after college.

Life After Williams
Logistics of finding a home after Williams, including finding and paying for your first apartment, signing the lease, and making it work with roommates.

GET PAID: Salary & Benefits
What are you really getting when you’re offered your first job? It’s more than just your salary! Find out what you should consider when you’re interviewing and deciding on a job offer.

Budgeting 101
How do you really know where your money goes? Tools, tips, tricks, and theories about how exactly to budget and why it’s important.

Credit, Loans, & Debt, Oh My!
We brought in experts from Adams Community Bank to quell fears about owing money and paying it back in ways that will have a positive effect on your credit report.

Congratulations to all of our 2015-2016 Raffle winners so far!

Todd Hall  
Stephanie Cedillo  
Grant Johnson  
Jovana Calvillo  
Toni Wilson  
Paula Mejia  
Jad Hamdan  
Claudia Reyes  
Arielle Rawlings  
Borah Lim  
Katie Ritter  
Stacey Tamura  
Nikki Caravelli  
Andrew Lyness  
John Herrera  
Serapia Kim  
Joseph Wilson

Spring Financial Workshop Calendar
You could win $10 Eph points, and one lucky student will win $100 at the end of the year! RSVP Here!

Taxes: To File or Not to File? (Rescheduled)
Thursday February 11th 7pm – Weston 1st Flr
1040, W-2, 1098T, exemptions, what does it all mean?
Presenter: Sara LaLumia, Associate Professor of Economics

Investing 101
Thu. February 25th 7pm - Weston 1st Flr
Investing sounds intimidating, but it’s actually not so hard with a little guidance and knowledge!
Presenter: Lisa Lamb, Financial Advisor, TrueNorth Financial

TAX RETURN/FAFSA/PROFILE Assistance
Sunday, March 6th 12pm-3pm - Sawyer 269
Need help filing taxes, the FAFSA, or the CSS PROFILE? We’ll be here for you all afternoon!
Sponsored by Financial Aid, Center for Learning in Action, & the Dean’s Office

TAX RETURN/FAFSA/PROFILE Assistance
Tuesday, April 5th 6:30-9:30pm - Sawyer 269
If Sunday afternoons aren't your best time, we'll also help you fill out financial aid forms at night! Sponsored by Financial Aid & the Dean's Office

Term Bills: Know What You Owe
Monday, April 18th, 6:30pm - The Log
The Bursar's Office welcomes you for a laid-back evening of learning how to read & understand your bill.
Presenters: Mary Kate Shea, Bursar, & Susan Hogan, Controller

Loan Repayment & What About Grad School?
Tuesday May 3rd 7pm Weston 1st Flr
The first half of this workshop will discuss what to expect of financial aid in grad school. Then we’ll get real about repaying student loans.
Presenters: Ann Lundhild & Courtney Hatch Blauvelt

Financial Literacy at Williams
Let’s talk about it.

Honest discussions about cash, class, and aid.  
Join the conversation at sites.williams.edu/flilit
Financial Aid Q&A

If Williams meets full financial need, why do I still have a balance on my account?

Financial aid is based on both direct billed costs, and out-of-pocket (indirect) costs of personal and travel expenses, which aren’t the same for every student. Often the family contribution won’t exactly match the amount owed to Williams. Below are some of the most common reasons students have balances on their accounts:

Does your financial aid package include campus employment or work study? Your earnings are not credited directly to your student account, but some students may owe part of their expected earnings directly to the college. You’ll owe money to your term bill if your out-of-pocket (travel and personal) expenses budgeted by financial aid are less than your campus employment award. You can see both of these amounts through PeopleSoft. For example, if your travel is $500, personal is $1,500, and your campus employment amount is $2,500, $500 will need to go toward your term bill.

Have you or your family made a payment for the semester? Did your payment strategy change? Many families use a combination strategy, possibly including direct payments, parent loans, increased student loans, or the Williams installment payment plan.

Did you still owe anything at the end of last semester? Outstanding charges remain on your term bill and are added to any balance you owe for the new semester.

Has anything been charged to your account that is not covered by your financial aid? This may include library fines, bus tickets, EPH Points, fire safety violations, parking tickets, etc.

Have all your grants and loans been disbursed to your student account? Watch for emails from the financial aid office, check your To Do List on PeopleSoft, and come see us in Weston with any questions.

What should I know about filing taxes?

We’re offering three tax-related workshops this spring. See our previous page on workshops for details.


You’re required to file if... your earned income (plus taxable scholarship) was over $6,300, your unearned income (such as interest) was over $1,050, and in certain other cases. See IRS Publication 501 for more.

Your W-2 is important for two reasons: Campus job earnings count as income for tax purposes, and they must be reported on your FAFSA. The college sent you IRS Form W-2 documenting these earnings for 2015. It’s also available on your PeopleSoft.

Your scholarships & grants may be taxable. This is true if your grants for the calendar year were greater than the total cost of tuition, fees, books & supplies (about $47,500 if you were on campus throughout 2015).

We recently sent a detailed email about taxes to all financial aid students, including a worksheet – read it for more information!

Can I get my travel allowance increased?

With documentation (e.g. receipts) of travel for trips at the beginning and end of fall and spring semesters (not Thanksgiving or spring break), we can provide more grant money equal to the additional cost. For example, if your financial aid is based on an $800 travel allowance and your two flights cost $900, we would add another $100 to your grant.

How does summer storage work?

Williams has extremely limited storage space on campus; most students need to make alternative arrangements for storing belongings over the summer (or while studying away). You received an email in December letting you know if you qualify for on-campus storage.

Many students have also chosen to split the cost of a storage pod from a local storage company, such as Connors Brothers (458-8124), Delftree Storage (664-4907), Safe Storage (663-8632), or Mullen Moving and Storage (743-4969).

What have the Financial Aid Student Ambassadors been up to?

What’s up Ephs? We’ve been pretty busy this year on our mission to spread financial literacy across the campus. You might’ve seen us tabling in Paresky, or seen our workshop flyers posted everywhere on campus (yes, even some bathrooms). Our first event, the Let’s Talk About It panel, had recent college graduates discuss how they budget, save, and even deal with debt in the real world. We followed that with a Credit Savings Workshop in December. During Winter Study we had workshops on Life after Williams, Credit, Debt & Loans, and Salary & Benefits. If you liked those, pay attention to our spring calendar of events!

We’ve also tried to reach out to the student community on a regular basis. In November we held a focus group to see what most concerned students about finances and what events they wanted to see happen. We took that information and ran with it. We created a series of events that they wanted- and to make sure more and more students knew about them we kicked up our advertising. We made (what we hope) are clever posters, used Facebook events, and tabled to help get the word out. It all seems to be working as attendance has steadily improved with each workshop. So c’mon and join your homies at one of our workshops!
Meet the Financial Aid Office!

Our Fall Newsletters introduced you to our newest staff members. Here’s a little bit about the rest of us!

Michelle Waryjasz
Technical Coordinator
Hello to all. My name is Michelle and I’ve been a part of the Office of Fin Aid for over 28 years; time sure does fly! My dad worked in Facilities for over 30 years and planted all the maple trees you see on our campus! Throughout those years I’ve seen much change on our campus and have formed many friendships with fellow co-workers, students and their families. I’m passionate about cooking (I live to eat!) and am trying to finish a cookbook started many years ago; love traveling; Russia, Holland and Hawaii are my favorite destinations so far. I’ve seen the movie Jaws over 50 times; love watching the Red Sox at Fenway; love gardening and renovating my 216 year old home with my daughter Emma who is now a frosh at UVM College of Nursing. If you have renewal questions feel free to stop in and see me or send an email to me at finaid@williams.edu

Courtney Blauvelt
Assistant Director
I’ve been at Williams for over a year but have worked at 4 other (very different) higher ed institutions. I grew up an hour south in Great Barrington, went to Gettysburg College in PA, and spent almost 10 years in the city of Boston. After a year of Americorps post-college, I sought work in higher ed and got a financial aid temp job - but had no clue about my own finances or student loans. I started educating myself about money, which grew into developing curriculum as I earned an M.Ed. in school guidance counseling. Now I’m trying to spread financial self-awareness and empowerment to as many Williams students as possible! But when I’m not here, I’m going on adventures with my husband and two-year-old, visiting family and friends, admiring dogs, and trying my best to “adult” as the kids say.

Carol Allard
Financial Aid Assistant
Welcome to the Purple Valley! I joined the Financial Aid staff 11 years ago. Originally from Southern California I attended California State-Fullerton and worked in advertising for several agencies in Orange County as a Media Director. My husband and I relocated to the Berkshires in the early 90’s in search of a better quality of life for our then newly adopted twin daughters. The diversity that the Williams College student body offers was tantamount to our settling in Williamstown to raise our Korean-born daughters. Their experience in the Big Sister Program at Williams had a significant impact on their lives. The mentoring they received has and continues to be a life-long relationship. After completing undergrad and grad school, they are now beginning their careers in Boston - one as a School Psychologist, and the other an Attorney and Legislative Aid for a State Representative. I look forward to assisting you when you have Financial Aid questions!

Paul Boyer
Director
I’ve been at Williams almost all of my life (Class of ’77!). I grew up right in Williamstown, and my original plan was to become a teacher. I spent two years in a classroom before deciding to return to Williams to see what else I could do with my interests in math and helping others. The Financial Aid Office took me in as an intern, and I worked my way up to Director in 1999. I love working with Williams families and with my colleagues in the office and across the college - it’s a privilege to lead one of the top financial aid programs in the country. The best part of this job is that every day brings new and different challenges. When I’m not at Williams, I’m enjoying time with family and friends - especially my bichon frise Bentley. I also enjoy art, antiques, and frequenting my favorite restaurants in the Berkshires and beyond.

Betsy Hobson
Associate Director
I was introduced to my financial aid career as a work study student at my alma mater - the University of Colorado / Boulder. I came to Williams after graduating and have been here ever since, going on 27 years. I work on many of the “behind the scenes” processes to make the Williams financial aid program possible. You’ve probably seen my name on most of the emails you get from our office (which you should read!), and I’m also the financial aid study away coordinator, so those of you who study away will hear from me, too. The favorite part of my job is that I am an integral part of one of the most generous aid programs in the country. Outside of the office I love spending time with friends and traveling to see family in Florida, Georgia, and Colorado. I also love to read, paint and watch movies - I try to see every movie that has any Oscar nomination each year!