

Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter from Williams- Especially for Questbridge Scholars

A. Grants and scholarships: Financial assistance that **does not** need to be repaid. Williams, Pell, SEOG, State grants, and many others are need-based. The **book grant** amount is an estimate based on the average cost of books. **At Williams, students receiving financial aid do not pay anything for their required books and course materials.**

Outside Scholarships: Includes any known private scholarships, tuition benefits, or other direct financial assistance. **You must notify us in writing of any outside awards** – see more on reverse.

B. Loans: Borrowed money that **does** need to be repaid, usually with interest. Your financial package will not include a loan amount, but you may choose to borrow if you cannot pay the family contribution directly.

C. Job/Federal Work Study/Campus Employment: Financial Assistance in the form of potential earnings from working in a campus-sponsored job. First-year students are expected to work 6-7 hours per week, upper-class students are expected to work 7-8 hours per week. These funds are typically used for personal and travel expenses.

Dear Eph,

Congratulations on your acceptance to Williams! I am pleased to let you know that your application for financial assistance has been approved. Your expected family contribution and financial aid package have been determined based on the information you provided. Don't hesitate to call or email us if there has been an unexpected change in your family circumstances since filing your application or if you have any questions or concerns.

Total Family Contribution: \$1,025

Parent(s)	\$0
Student Summer Earnings	1,000
Student Assets	25

Total Financial Aid Package: \$72,125

(A) GRANT Williams	62,980
GRANT Book (estimate)	800
(B) GRANT Federal	6,095
(B) LOAN – Student	0
(C) JOB – On Campus	2,250

Your family contribution and financial aid package combine to cover the full cost of attending Williams.

Total Cost of Attendance: **(D) \$73,150**

Tuition and Fees	(E) 55,450
Room and Board	14,500
Books	800
Personal	(F) 1,800
Travel	600

Please read any messages in this section that will help further clarify your financial aid award status. **(G)**

D. Cost of Attendance: The total budgeted expenses, both **direct** and **indirect**, that help determine your financial aid need.

E. Tuition, Board, Room, & Fees: **Direct** expenses that are billed to you and paid to the Bursar's office from a combination of the family contribution and financial aid.

F. Personal & Travel: **Indirect** expenses that we assume a Williams student must pay out-of-pocket during the academic year, including travel to and from home, laundry, personal items, and entertainment. Students must budget their own money to pay for these expenses – they may have to be paid from a combination of summer earnings, or current on campus job earnings.

G. Don't Ignore This Section! It includes personalized information directly relevant to your financial aid award and eligibility, including potential requests for additional documentation prior to finalizing your award.

Understanding Financial Aid at Williams College- Especially for Questbridge Scholars

1. How is financial aid determined at Williams?

All aid at Williams College is need-based (not merit-based). We meet 100 percent of every student's demonstrated financial need.

2. How does the college determine demonstrated financial need?

Williams determines need by first establishing the college's **Cost of Attendance** and the total **Family Contribution**.

- a. The **Cost of Attendance** is equal to all direct and indirect costs associated with attending Williams for the academic year. It includes tuition, fees, room and board (dorm and meal plan), books, travel, and personal expenses such as laundry, personal items, and entertainment.
- b. The **Family Contribution** has two components: the **Parent Contribution** and the **Student Contribution**. You can read more about the family contribution at: finaid.williams.edu/how-it-works/family-contribution/
 - i. As a Questbridge Scholar, your **Parent Contribution** will be zero every year for all four years. **You will need to re-apply every year for your aid.** Non-custodial parents are also included in the parent contribution.
 - ii. The **Student Contribution** consists of a minimum summer earnings expectation and a portion of the student's reported assets (savings). In most cases, Questbridge Scholars use their Student Contribution to pay for their travel to and from home and Williams, plus all personal expenses. **Some may owe a small amount on their tuition bill each semester.**
- c. We then use this calculation: **Williams Cost of Attendance** minus your **Family Contribution** equals demonstrated financial need (Cost of Attendance – Family Contribution = Need).

3. How is Financial Aid packaged to meet my demonstrated financial need?

Financial need is first met with **campus employment**, which is an expectation that you will work between 6-7 hours per week while attending Williams. Remaining need is filled with gift aid (scholarships and grants) that does not have to be repaid.

- a. A student is **not** required to accept the employment offered in order to receive the gift aid, but the gift aid will **not** be increased – the difference must be made up by the family.
- b. We do not include a loan in any Questbridge Scholar's financial aid package, but you may choose to borrow a loan if, for example, you don't want to work or did not earn enough over the summer.
- c. You can find out more about jobs (finaid.williams.edu/how-it-works/student-jobs/) or loans (finaid.williams.edu/how-it-works/student-loans/) through our website.

4. How will my eligibility be affected if I receive outside scholarships?

Private outside scholarships will first reduce your campus employment expectation, then your student summer earnings contribution. Any remaining outside scholarship funds will reduce your Williams grant aid on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Federal and state grants such as Pell and SEOG are considered entitlement grants, and will also reduce your Williams scholarship on a dollar-for-dollar basis. If your outside scholarship funds have reduced your Williams grant, you may request to purchase a computer with these funds one time during your four years at Williams.

Federal regulations stipulate that a student's total award may not exceed his or her established need for assistance; therefore, outside aid will never replace or reduce the Family Contribution portion listed on your award notice. **It is your responsibility to notify us, in writing, of all scholarships that you receive.** More information regarding treatment of scholarships can be found at finaid.williams.edu/how-it-works/grants-scholarships/.

Contact Us

Williams College Financial Aid Office

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Hours: M-F 8:30am – 4:30pm