Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter from Williams (Sample)

**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 required books and course materials.

**B. 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.

**C. Loans:** Borrowed money that does need to be repaid, usually with interest. Subsidized loans are need-based and interest-free while in school, unsubsidized are not need-based and accrue interest while in school.

**D. Federal Work Study/Campus Employment:** Financial Assistance in the form of potential earnings from working in a campus-sponsored job. Students are expected to work 6-8 hours per week. These funds are typically used for personal and travel expenses. In some cases, a small portion of earnings must be paid directly to Williams.

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

**F. Tuition, Meal Plan, Housing, & Fees:** Direct expenses that are paid to your Williams bill (managed through the Office of Student Accounts) from a combination of the family contribution and financial aid.

**G. 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 are typically paid from a combination of your student contribution and campus job earnings.

**H. Don’t Ignore This Section!** It includes personalized information relevant to your financial aid award and eligibility, including requests for additional documentation prior to finalizing your award.

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**Total Family Contribution:**
- $21,500
- Parent(s) 20,000
- Student Contribution 1,500

**Total Financial Aid Package:**
- GRANT Williams 46,470
- GRANT Book (estimate) 800
- Outside Scholarship 1,500
- LOAN – Student 2,500
- JOB – On Campus 2,700

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

**Total Cost of Attendance:**
- $75,470
  - Tuition and Fees 57,280
  - Room and Board 14,990
  - Books 800
  - Personal 1,800
  - Travel 600

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