



FINANCIAL AID FOR UNDOCUMENTED GRADUATE STUDENTS

1. **Commercial loans** -Students have been able to successfully take out commercial loans, however, most banks will require a citizen or permanent resident individual to co-sign the loan. It's been tough for students to find someone to co-sign loans because the sum is so large for an individual to take the responsibility in case the student defaults on the loan.

Below are the banks known to have previously provided loans to undocumented students:

- Wells Fargo
- Discover Bank
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2. **Scholarships/Fellowships:** There are some many scholarships available to graduate undocumented students. Educators for Fair Consideration, a non-profit in San Francisco, created a guide that contains a lengthy list of scholarships and fellowships open to undocumented graduate students (including students in professional schools):

http://www.e4fc.org/images/E4FC_Grad_Scholarships.pdf

Two great scholarships/fellowships newly open to Deferred Action for Arrivals (DACA) recipients is:

Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship (open to students pursuing any graduate degree and will finance in full two years of graduate study)
Due Nov. 1, 2015

Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs (various fellowships for individuals pursuing graduate study)
Deadlines vary, starting November 2015

3. **Individual fundraising:** Many undocumented students use crowd funding to raise money for school. A popular crowd funding website among students is gofundme.com.

4. **Loan Repayment Program:** Most loan forgiveness programs are not open to undocumented students because they are federally funded. However, if a program is privately funded, then it is possible the program is open to undocumented students. For example, The Health Professions Education Foundation, a statewide foundation in California, has a loan repayment programs for health professionals and is open to DACA recipients. The program repays an individual's commercial or government loans (from \$4,000 - \$105,000) in exchange for services in a medically underserved area in California. **Eligible professions include:** Various allied health professions, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Bachelors of Science Nursing, Nurse Practitioners, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Certified Nurse Midwives, Physician Assistants, and Physicians.

5. **Institutional Loans:** Some schools have institutional loans they award students. Many of these loan programs are open to undocumented students; please inquire the school's financial aid office if an undocumented student is eligible.

6. **Institutional Scholarships:** Some schools have generous merit and need based scholarships and are open to undocumented students and others do not. It varies greatly on the school's resources; please inquire the schools' financial aid office if an undocumented student is eligible.

7. **FAFSA:** Though undocumented students are not eligible to receive government benefits, they are still eligible to fill out the FAFSA form if they have a Social Security Number. Doing so will help schools evaluate a students' financial need if they have no alternative means. Please visit the FAFSA FAQ for directions on completing the FAFSA form for students with DACA status.