STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMMES

DIRECT LOAN PROGRAMME (FINANCIAL AID FOR US STUDENTS)

The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) offers financial aid for eligible students from the U.S. to help cover the cost of higher education. Eligible students borrow directly from the ED at participating schools.

As a foreign school, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam has participated in the Direct Loan Program for several years and will continue its participation in the program as an eligible school for the academic year 2020-2021.

US Loans Guide
For more information about US loans please have a look at the US Loans Guide (N.B. information for 2020-2021 will follow soon). In this guide you can find detailed information on the following topics:

- General information about direct loans
- Applying for financial aid
- Application procedures
- Financial information
- Procedures at VU Amsterdam
- SAP, brief description
- Exit counseling
- In School Deferment Request
- Refund policy
- Alcohol and drugs

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
All students applying for or receiving US Federal Aid (subsidized, unsubsidized and PLUS) must progress satisfactory towards completion of the study programme at VU Amsterdam to remain eligible for federal financial aid. You can find detailed information in the SAP document.

Questionnaire VU
To start the loan application, please fill out the questionnaire and mail the form to usloanprogram@vu.nl.

Step 1: Questionnaire

NB: Vrije Universiteit does not receive any automatic messages from the United States telling us that you have applied or re-applied for a Direct Loan. If you would like to take out a loan, you therefore have to mail us the questionnaire after making your loan application in the FAFSA system. Only then can we start the origination process of the loan on our side.

Deadline
The deadline for students who would like to apply for a Direct Loan for the academic year 2020-2021 is 1 July, 2020.
SALLIEMAЕ SMART OPTION LOAN

SallieMae is a loan provider in the US, who offers private loans to US students to cover their costs for their study period abroad. Only students with the American nationality will be eligible for this type of loan. The loan is meant to finance your stay at VU Amsterdam (VU) and could cover your tuition fee, room and board, etc.

Programmes
All degree programmes offered at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Bachelor, Master, LL.M, Research Master).

Application procedure VU
Step 1: Questionnaire VU to start the loan application, please complete the questionnaire and mail the form to usloanprogram@vu.nl.
Step 2: Only if you are (conditionally) admitted to the study programme: send an email to usloanprogram@vu.nl and indicate that you want to apply / have applied for a SallieMae loan so that we can finalize the loan procedure.

Deadlines VU
Deadline for submitting the application for the study programme: 1 April
Deadline for informing the International Office by email of application to SallyMae: 1 July

Application procedure SallieMae
Apply online for the loan: https://www.salliemae.com
Our School code for this programme is: 008376-00

Contact person VU: Henny Smit: usloanprogram@vu.nl

Important notes
• Please read the procedure of VU Amsterdam carefully.
• Students are always fully responsible for the repayment of their loans to SallieMae.
• The loan period only covers for 1 year, which means that if you are participating in a study programme which takes longer than 1 academic year, you will have to submit a loan application for the following year.
• The loan will be disbursed in 1 – 4 terms (depending on the length of the study programme and amount certified).
• SallieMae has the final decision on the approval / denial of your loan application. One of
the requirements for being granted a residence permit in the Netherlands is that students
must submit proof that they have sufficient financial means to finance their study period in
the Netherlands. VU advises a budget, not including the tuition fee, of approx. €10,000 to
€15,000 per year to cover the costs for rent, insurance, living expenses, course books and
local transportation. How much money students actually spend will of course depend on
their life style and spending habits
• Private loan applications with Sallie Mae must not exceed 180 days between the
application date and disbursement date. Therefore for loan applications for the new
academic year (which will normally have an earliest disbursement date of 1 October), do not
make an application to Sallie Mae any earlier than 1 May.
• If your private loan is approved before September, you can expect the check to arrive in
the first weeks of October. Students are therefore strongly advised to have extra funding to
cover for their costs for at least the period mid-August - October. Also, if you have applied
for accommodation via VU, you must pay the rent of three months before you arrive in
Amsterdam.
• You are kindly advised to set up an installment agreement for the payment of the tuition
fee. For information see: www.vu.nl/ tuitionfee.

Disclaimer
The student is responsible for submitting a complete application, according to the steps
described above before the aforementioned deadline. VU Amsterdam cannot be held
responsible for late and/or incomplete applications.

VETERAN AFFAIRS AID BENEFIT

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is able to process applications for US Department of Veterans
Affairs (VA) funding. Eligible students wishing to study at VU Amsterdam should first visit
the US Department of Veterans Affairs webpage and apply for benefits.

Students are then advised to email usloanprogram@vu.nl to ensure that the course they
wish to study is approved for VA benefits. Please allow as much time as possible to check
that your course is approved, as approval of a course can take a few weeks to be processed.
Distance or online learning are not eligible for VA funding at foreign schools outside of the
US.

Once you have registered at VU Amsterdam for the academic year and your course has been
approved, we will complete and submit your enrollment information on VA Form 22-1999.
The VA will process your benefit and send a check to the University. We will then notify you
when your check is available for you to collect. We are obliged to inform the VA when your
enrolment status changes at any stage such as:

• Graduation
• Change from full-time to part-time
• Suspension
• Withdrawal
Please note that receipt of VA will not affect your Federal US Loan entitlement.

Disclaimer

The student is responsible for submitting a complete application, according to the steps described above before the aforementioned deadline. VU Amsterdam cannot be held responsible for late and/or incomplete applications.