

FINANCIAL AID FOR OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Did you know that you can use your Financial Aid for off-campus housing and living costs? Follow these steps below to help pay for your education at Mason while living on your own!

- Fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by January 15th
 - You can find more information at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Estimate your off-campus living expenses using the Cost of Attendance for Mason. This estimate helps determine the maximum amount of financial aid that you may be eligible to receive for Fall and Spring semesters with full time enrollment. Your cost of attendance includes:
 - Tuition and Fees
 - Off-Campus Housing
 - Meal Plans or Grocery Expenses
 - Childcare Expenses
 - Research Travel Expenses
 - Transportation
 - Books and Supplies
 - Estimated Personal Expenses and Additional Costs
- Once you receive your financial aid package, accept or decline it via PatriotWeb.
- The university will bill you for tuition, fees, and selected meal plans, but will not bill you for off-campus housing, meals, transportation, books, etc. Your financial aid will automatically be applied to your Mason bill for tuition, fees, and meal plans; the rest will be distributed to you after these costs are covered. Please note that this money will not be available until after the semester has started, so plan ahead to cover security deposits, rent, or other expenses, that need to be paid ahead of time.
- Stick to your budget! You will receive your aid in one lump sum as a refund after it has been applied to the tuition and fees you owe. Think about how you will distribute these funds over the course of an entire semester to manage monthly costs.
- Should you need additional funding to help cover these expenses you should review Parent PLUS loan, a Graduate PLUS loan, or Private loan options via the Office of Student Financial Aid website.
 - Remember that Summer Financial Aid is available. For more information go to <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid/summer-aid>