How to Apply for the GRAD PLUS Loan

Please note that before a student can apply for the GRAD PLUS Loan, the student must have successfully completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The following steps must be completed by the student applying for the loan.

1. Student must visit the website at www.studentloans.gov.
2. Click the Log In button on the main page at www.studentloans.gov and log in using their own Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). This is the same ID that is used to sign the FAFSA each year.
3. Once logged in, click the “Apply for a PLUS Loan” option.
4. Read through the site, and click the button for “Complete PLUS Request for Graduate/Professional Students.”
5. You will be prompted to enter additional information, such as the academic year for which you are selecting the loan for and other authorizations.
6. Under the “School and Loan Information” section, you will choose the state of “Massachusetts” from the first dropdown.
7. Under the School Name dropdown menu, choose “University of Massachusetts Boston”
8. Under the “Loan AmountRequested” area, you will have three options to choose from.
   a. The first option is to borrow the maximum amount of PLUS Loan funding for which you’re eligible for, as determined by the school.
   b. The second option is to request a specific dollar amount.
   c. The third option is that you don’t know the amount to borrow. If you don’t know how much you should borrow, please contact Financial Aid Services at (617) 287-6300 for guidance on what to request.
9. Remember to account for the origination fee when calculating the amount of your loan. The government charges a fee of 4.264% on the loan before sending the funds to the school.
10. Next, under the loan period, choose the term or terms that the loan is for. You may borrow up to the student’s ‘cost of attendance’ for the term(s), minus any other aid received.

11. Click the ‘continue’ button at the bottom of the page.

12. Enter borrower information. Ensure this information is accurate since it cannot be changed once submitted. Once done, click ‘continue’.

13. Review the information that you entered. Verify all the information is accurate. If you need to correct any data, click the “Edit” button. If the information is correct, click “Continue.”

14. Read and agree to the statements from the Department of Education, certifying that your information is true and accurate, and agreeing to have your credit checked by the U.S. Department of Education. Once you check the boxes, click “Continue.”

15. You will receive your credit decision a few moments after submitting.

   a. If your loan is approved, you will be asked to sign a Master Promissory Note (or MPN). The MPN must be complete before the loan is finalized.

   b. If your loan is denied, you will be given additional information about how to find a potential endorser, how to appeal the denial if you so choose.

16. The U.S. Department of Education will send notification to the University of Massachusetts Boston within the next two business days for further review.