Enrolling in graduate school involves a big investment in time and money. This overview provides information to help you make an informed decision about your financing options.

**Tuition and Cost of Living**

Tuition is set annually by the university. The 2017-18 tuition was $1765 per credit. Tuition is expected to increase approximately three percent each year. Living expenses vary widely based on personal choice of housing, health insurance, and lifestyle but current students report expenses beyond tuition to average about $25,000 per year.

The Trachtenberg School is able to offer a small proportion of applicants (10-15 percent) merit-based funding and/or assistantships to cover a portion of tuition. These offers are made at time of admission. We do not offer any full-funding awards so that we can use our limited funding to help a larger share of students—yet we know that there are many more exceptional applicants deserving of funding. Therefore, most students rely on a mix of student loans, paid employment, and specialty scholarships to help cover the cost of their education.

**Loans and Financial Aid**

Most Trachtenberg School students take out loans to help finance part of their graduate tuition and/or living expenses. Our alumni report having little difficulty paying back these loans and often benefit from assistance from the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, income-based repayment options or other programs through their eventual employers.

The GW Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) oversees the processing of all loans for students once admitted to a GW graduate degree. In addition, OSFA provides assistance to students applying for aid including helping you calculate your cost of attendance, eligibility for financial aid, and completing the FASFA and GW Loan Questionnaire. Learn more at [https://financialaid.gwu.edu/](https://financialaid.gwu.edu/).

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For questions or issues, contact the Office of Financial Aid or the Student Accounts Office, both located at Colonial Central in the basement of the Marvin Center.

**Office of Financial Aid**
Phone: 202-994-6620
finaid@gwu.edu
[https://financialaid.gwu.edu/](https://financialaid.gwu.edu/)

**Student Accounts Office**
202-994-7350
sao@gwu.edu
[https://studentaccounts.gwu.edu/](https://studentaccounts.gwu.edu/)
Employment Options

Many Trachtenberg School students obtain on-campus employment to help fund their studies. There are some full-time or regular part-time positions at GW that qualify the employee (after a three-month waiting period) for tuition benefits. These positions are advertised at https://www.gwu.jobs/. Other students secure work-study positions as part of their financial aid package (https://financialaid.gwu.edu/). In addition, many GW faculty and research centers employ students as research assistants, project coordinators, TAs for courses, or other roles. These positions do not typically offer tuition benefits but can provide a paycheck and relevant work experience. We let students know about these opportunities through the Trachtenberg School blog and career newsletter sent to all students weekly.

During their time here in D.C., most Trachtenberg School students are able to secure full- or part-time employment, typically in their desired field. The Trachtenberg Career Services Center offers a wide suite of resources and mentoring including job listings, on-campus recruiting and mentoring. These services are available to admitted students in mid-summer. With this support, 96 percent of Trachtenberg students are working in their desired field within six months of graduation. Learn more at https://tspppa.gwu.edu/career-advancement.

Adding it Up: $1,765 per credit hour in 2017-2018

20 credits (full-time for one year of the MPA or MPP degree) = $35,300 tuition
18 credits (full-time for the MA in ENRP) = $31,800 tuition
15 credits (part-time with 2 classes in fall and spring and 1 in summer) = $26,475 tuition

Specialty Scholarships

Some Trachtenberg School students also benefit from special initiatives for select groups, such as:

**Americorps Matching Funds:** GW matches some Americorps tuition dollars.

**Grad2Grad:** GW graduates may receive a 10% tuition discount.

**Veterans’ Benefits:** Veterans and active duty service members are encouraged to use their Veterans Administration Benefits to help fund a degree at the Trachtenberg School.

**Minority Serving Institution Award:** Recent graduates from a select list of minority-serving institutions are eligible for a tuition award of at least 40% of tuition.

**Scholarship Aid for International Students:** Available to some international students. Learn more at https://columbian.gwu.edu/scholarship-aid-international-graduate-students.

**Scottish Rite Fellowship:** Students with verified affiliation with a US Scottish Rite organization can be eligible for a tuition award up to $15,000.

**Career Development Fellowships:** These fellowships are intended for students working or interning either full- or part-time in a position directly related to the degree program. Awards cover up to $10,000 but cannot be combined with any other GW funding.

*Note: For additional information on specialty scholarships, visit the Office of Graduate Student Assistantships and Fellowships at https://www.gwu.edu/~fellows/*.