

# HOW STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS ARE ASSESSED

## How is financial need determined?

When you submit your application, Manitoba Student Aid will consider your education and living costs, as well as any resources you are expected to contribute to your studies. There are maximum amounts of assistance available for loans and other awards.

$$\text{NEED} = \text{ALLOWABLE COSTS MINUS EXPECTED RESOURCES}$$

## ALLOWABLE COSTS

Costs allowed in determining assistance are direct educational costs, including tuition, compulsory fees, books and supplies, and living costs based on allowance levels set by the Canada Student Loans Program. Costs of repaying any of your existing consumer loans or debts are not considered when determining your need. The following amounts for living costs are used to determine your need.

| Manitoba's Living Allowance Rates *                        | Approximate Amount per Month |
|--|------------------------------|
| Single student living away from home                       | \$ 868                       |
| Single student living at home                              | \$ 413                       |
| Single parent (not including dependant costs)              | \$1,062                      |
| Married student and spouse (not including dependant costs) | \$1,669                      |
| Dependants (amount allowed for each dependant)             | \$ 483                       |

*\*Living allowances are based on a moderate standard of living and may vary according to the province where you attend school. Manitoba students studying outside Canada receive the Manitoba allowance levels and are expected to live within them. If you are a single student, you are expected to share living accommodations when living away from home.*

## EXPECTED RESOURCES

You and your spouse or parents, if applicable, are expected to contribute towards your educational costs. Both income (for yourself, spouse and/or parents) and assets (for you and your spouse) are included in the assessment of need. Income includes employment earnings, scholarships, Employment Insurance, etc. Assets considered include money in bank accounts, bonds, investment certificates and RRSPs. Generally, the value of a vehicle over \$5,000 is considered as a resource.

**Pre-study Contribution** - Students are expected to earn and save money for their education before and in between their study periods. If you are entering post-secondary studies directly after Senior 4 (Grade 12), your pre-study period is generally 8 weeks. Your pre-study contribution is based on the amount of income you earned, less taxes and a living allowance.

**Parental Contribution** - If you are financially dependent on your parents, they are expected to contribute towards your educational costs. How much they contribute depends on family size and their discretionary income. Discretionary income is disposable income minus an estimated cost for a moderate standard of living.

For example:

- a family of three; a gross income of \$60,000;
- disposable income of \$39,050 (gross income minus taxes and deductions)
- annual discretionary income of \$3,583 (\$39,050 minus Manitoba moderate standard of living rate of \$35,467)
  - If applicable, divide parental contribution by the number of dependants in post-secondary studies.

The parental contribution would be \$17 per week times the number of weeks in your program = \$17 x 34 weeks = \$578.00.

Web site: [www.studentaid.gov.mb.ca](http://www.studentaid.gov.mb.ca)