



Bahamas Government Tertiary Grant Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

The Bahamas Government Tertiary Grant Programme is a comprehensive programme that pays for the tuition, specific course fees, stipends and accommodation for qualified students to attend University of The Bahamas (UB). Non-instructional fees like the security deposit, application, drop/add fees and books, courses taken during the summer – unless in extenuating circumstances – and the cost of taking repeat courses are excluded. The government reserves the right to bond grant recipients in specific disciplines (i.e., education, nursing).

Q. What does the Bahamas Government Tertiary Grant Programme cover?

A. The Bahamas Government Tertiary Grant Programme covers tuition, course fees (technology, student activity, library, course lab, course external exam) and stipends, as well as monthly accommodation payments of \$500 from August to April for qualified applicants for studies at UB. This programme also incorporates the government's bursary, nursing and education grants and the student-athlete financial assistance programme.

Q. Who qualifies for the programme?

A. A student who qualifies must:

- Be a Bahamian citizen;
- Be enrolled full-time (taking a minimum of 12 credits per semester);
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and remain in satisfactory disciplinary standing with the University.

Q. Is there an application process or do I automatically qualify if I meet the eligibility criteria?

A. Yes, there is an online application process accessible via the [Banner Self Service system](#). All current and new students who meet the criteria must apply to be enrolled in the programme; enrollment is **NOT** automatic. The application process commenced online on 1st July 2019.

Q. If I am currently a bursary, nursing or education grant recipient, do I still have to enroll in the programme?

A. Yes, all recipients must apply and be enrolled. You must still apply if you are a bursary, nursing or education grant recipient.

Q. What is the deadline to enroll in the Government Tertiary Grant Programme for Fall 2019?

A. Classes are scheduled to begin on 19th August 2019. Applicants have until Friday, 23rd August 2019 to submit an application for the grant programme for Fall 2019. This includes both new and returning students. Applicants who do not meet this deadline can apply to receive the grant for subsequent semesters.

Q. How do I apply for the programme?

A. Applicants must have a UB-issued username and password in order to apply via the Banner Self Service system. To apply:

1. Login to "Banner" Self Service with your username and password;
2. Under "Additional Links", click on "Financial Aid";
3. Click on "Apply for Student Aid";
4. Follow the prompts to complete the process.

Q. How will I know if I have been approved to be in the programme?

A. Once your application has been processed and approved, you will receive a notification email with all of the pertinent details.

Q. Will I have to reapply every semester?

A. No, you do not have to re-apply. There is a one-time enrollment process for grant recipients.

Q. For which semesters is the grant available?

A. The grant is only available for the Fall and Spring semesters, unless there are extenuating circumstances, as determined by the University.

Q. Will students enrolled in the Nurses Grant and Teachers Education Grant programmes still receive the stipend that was given under the former regime?

A. Once students comply with the stipulations outlined in their contracts of student for the respective programmes, they will be eligible to receive stipends.

Q. What happens if my GPA drops below the required minimum of 2.0?

A. A student whose minimum cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 will be placed on academic probation. That student would be allowed one semester's grace period to bring the GPA back up to 2.0 or higher. If he or she does not do so, then the student is suspended from the programme until the GPA is elevated to the 2.0 minimum or beyond.

Q. Does this programme cover accommodations?

A. The programme provides accommodation payments of \$500 per month from August to April for qualified students. To be eligible for an accommodation grant, a student must:

- Have moved from another island of The Bahamas to undertake the course of study, or otherwise be (or have been) a ward of the state, in foster care, or in a children's home;
- Be a full-time student;
- Be less than 25 years old at the time of enrolment;
- Agree to reside in University accommodation for the first full two years of study, provided that sufficient such accommodation is available to house them. In these instances, the accommodation grants will be applied directly to their housing fees related to same;
- Remain otherwise academically eligible for the grant programme.

Q. If I am the recipient of other scholarships, can I use them in conjunction with this grant programme?

A. Yes, as long as the total amount of your awards does not exceed the cost of attendance at UB.

Q. If the programme and/or any other scholarships I receive do not pay 100% of my tuition, fees, books, etc., when is the deadline for me to pay the balance and what are the options for payment?

A. If your remaining balance is less than \$300.00 you can pay using the convenient online payment feature in [Banner Self-Service \(Student\)](#) by **Friday 30th August 2019**. If your remaining balance is greater than \$300.00, then you meet the minimum balance eligibility requirement to enroll in the University's deferred payment plan, which you can do online via the Payment Plan portal feature in [Banner Self-Service \(Student\)](#). Under this plan, you are required to pay an initial, one-third down payment upon enrollment. Once the initial down payment is paid, the next installment payment is due one month after enrollment and the final installment payment is due two months after enrollment.

Q. How exactly do I make the payment on my account?

A. You may make an online payment to your student account via the Banner Self Service system, using a Visa credit card, Mastercard credit card or debit card.

1. Login to Banner Self Service (Student) with your UB-issued username and password.
2. Under the Student Profile page menu bar, click on "Online Payment".
3. On the next screen click on "Make Payment".
3. Follow the prompts to complete the process.

You may also make a payment at the cashiers' cage in the Business Office.

Q. How do I enroll in the deferred payment plan?

A. Before you begin the process of enrolling in the deferred payment plan, check to ensure you meet the following approval criteria. Students applying must:

- Have paid all prior outstanding balances outstanding on their account in full.
- Be registered for the semester to be covered by the period of the plan.
- Be a Bahamian Citizen; and/or Resident.
- Have a \$300 minimum balance in tuition and fees.
- Pay a non-refundable \$50 processing fee.
- Pay the initial, one-third down payment upon enrollment.
- Use either a Visa credit card, Mastercard credit card or debit card for payment of the processing fee, initial down payment and deferred payment instalments.