

Northeastern University

Declaration and Certification of Finances (DCF)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Declaration and Certification of Finances?

On the Declaration and Certification of Finances (DCF), international students are asked to provide complete and accurate information regarding the funds and financial support available for the upcoming academic year. To verify all information provided in the DCF, you must also provide supporting documentation (i.e. a bank statement, scholarship award letter, or financial guarantee letter) which confirms the information which you've provided in the DCF.

Why am I required to submit the DCF?

You must verify your ability to fully finance the first year of your Northeastern education, including tuition and fees, room and board, and personal living expenses, since financial support for international students at Northeastern is limited:

- International students are not eligible for institutional need-based grants or federal student financial aid.
- Merit scholarships are extremely competitive and do not cover the full cost of attendance.

Do I need to complete the DCF?

Applicants who meet any of the following criteria are not required to submit the DCF:

- You are a U.S. Citizen or Dual Citizen.
- You are a U.S. National.
- You are a U.S. Permanent Resident or Conditional Permanent Resident with a valid Permanent Resident Card (I-551 or I-551C).
- You are an eligible noncitizen and meet one of the following criteria:
 - Your Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) indicates one of the following: Refugee, Asylum Granted, Cuban-Haitian Entrant, or Parolee.
 - You hold T nonimmigrant status ("T-Visa" for victims of human trafficking) or your parent holds T-1 nonimmigrant status, and you can provide certification or an eligibility letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
 - You hold U nonimmigrant status ("U-Visa" for crime victims or victims who've suffered severe physical and mental abuse) or your parent hold U-1 nonimmigrant status, and you can provide Form I-797 or a court order from an immigration judge which confirms your status.
 - You are a citizen of the Freely Associated States, including the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, or Republic of Palau.

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Is Northeastern need-blind or need-aware?

Undergraduate admission to Northeastern is need-aware for all international students, which means your financial need and your ability to cover Northeastern's educational costs (including tuition and fees, room and board, and personal living expenses) will be considered by the Admissions Committee when your application is being evaluated.

Are international students eligible for merit scholarships?

Yes. All applicants regardless of citizenship are eligible for merit scholarships. No additional application is required as your application for admission also serves as your scholarship application. Merit scholarships are extremely competitive awards, however, and given to the top 10-15% of the applicant pool. Awards range from \$10,000 to \$28,000 and do not cover the full cost of attendance.

Are international students eligible for financial aid?

No. Since financial aid at Northeastern is tied to federal funding, international students are not eligible for financial aid, which includes both institutional need-based grants and federal student financial aid.

I am an international student living in the United States and I do not require an F-1 student visa to study at Northeastern. Do I need to complete the DCF?

- Yes. Since financial support is limited for international students at Northeastern, you must verify your ability to fully finance your Northeastern education and cover your educational costs.
- You are required to submit the DCF, to complete your application for admission to Northeastern, if you hold any of the following visa types: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, NATO, O, P, Q, R, S, TD, TN, V, or W.
- If you are admitted and require an F-1 student, you will be contacted by the Office of Global Services (OGS) once you submit your enrollment deposit. Additional financial documentation must be submitted to Northeastern when you request your certificate of eligibility (Form I-20). With your I-20, you cannot apply for your F-1 student visa.

I submitted my application for permanent resident status, but my case is pending. Do I need to complete the DCF?

Yes. Unless you've received permanent resident status and possess a valid Permanent Resident Card (I-551 or I-551C), you must submit the DCF. Once you receive your permanent resident status, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at admissions@northeastern.edu to update your status.

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I am a DACA/Undocumented Student. Do I need to complete the DCF?

No. You should contact your admissions counselor over the telephone in order for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to waive your requirement.

What is Northeastern's cost of attendance?

Northeastern's cost of attendance for the 2021-2022 academic year is provided below. You can always find the most up-to-date information online, [here](#).

| Expense | 2021-2022 Academic Year |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuition and Fees | \$57,878 |
| Room and Board | \$17,554 |
| Health Insurance | \$2,299 |
| Books and Personal Expenses | \$2,800 |
| Total Cost | \$80,531 |

I am unable to cover the cost of attendance and require financial support. Should I still complete the DCF? Can I request a waiver?

- Yes, you should still complete the DCF as all international students are required to submit the DCF.
- While you cannot request a waiver, you may not be required to provide additional financial documentation. Based on the information provided by you and your family, you may instead have an opportunity to share more on how you plan to finance your Northeastern education, if admitted.
- If you require significant financial assistance in order to attend, we encourage you to have a conversation with your family and your sponsors, to determine whether Northeastern is a financial possibility or not.

When will Northeastern send my I-20?

Any admitted international student who chooses to submit an enrollment deposit will receive additional instructions from the Office of Global Services (OGS) on requesting visa eligibility documents such as Form I-20 which you will need when you apply for your F-1 nonimmigrant student visa. When you request your I-20, you will again be required to demonstrate sufficient financial support and must provide supporting documents which meet guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs & Immigration Enforcement.