

Reichman University Consumer Information Policy 2023-2024 Academic Year

Free Application to Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
US Department of Education

This information is subject to change in accordance with the rules and regulations of the US Department of Education.

This brochure, including the information and dates, is only relevant for Reichman University students enrolled in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Applicants and incoming students can email our financial aid manager Rina Haller at Rina@aforu.org for information relevant to their academic year.

US Federal Loans and private loans are available to qualifying US citizen degree-seeking students enrolled at Reichman University through the [Raphael Recanati International School \(RRIS\) Financial Aid Office](#).

RU students may be eligible to borrow FAFSA loans, information on page 3 & 5 and instructions page 7 and/or Sallie Mae loans, information on page 4 and instructions page 13.

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to check their respective financial aid websites to make sure they apply to all financial aid options available to them:

-If you have been in Israel for 5 years or more (army not included) at the beginning of your RU degree, please apply to financial aid through the [Israeli Financial Aid office](#).

-If you have been in Israel for 5 years or less (army not included) at the beginning of your RU degree, please apply to financial aid through the RRIS Financial Aid office.

- RRIS [Undergraduate Financial Aid](#)
- RRIS [Graduate Financial Aid](#)

As per regulations listed in [CFR 34 668 Subpart F](#) (668.72, 668.73 and 668.74), RU will not “misrepresent,” or give a false or misleading account of, the items listed in all consumer information listed above and below in the *RU CONSUMER INFORMATION 23-24 ACADEMIC YEAR*.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- [Satisfactory Academic Policy \(SAP\)](#)
- [Return to Title IV Policy](#)
- [Tuition & Fees Regulations \(Refund Policy\):](#)
- RRIS programs in English, [undergraduate](#) and [graduate programs](#)
- Israeli programs in Hebrew website
- [Students' academic catalogue](#)
- [Students' regulations](#)
- [RU Career Center](#)

Contact- NY office Rina Haller, Financial Aid Manager at the NY Office.

Rina@aforu.org, 212-213-5961

FEDERAL LOAN PROGRAMS

The RU deadline to apply for FAFSA loans is April 1st, 2024.

FAFSA Direct Subsidized loans

- Direct Subsidized Loans are available to undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need.
- Your school uses the FAFSA otherwise known as the Student Aid Report-SAR you submit to determine the amount of subsidized loan you are eligible to borrow. This amount may not exceed your financial need which is determined based on your [Cost of Attendance](#) and what the Department of Education determines is your Estimated Family contribution EFC (listed on your FAFSA/SAR).
- The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest on a Direct Subsidized Loan while you are in school at least half-time, for the first six months after you leave school (referred to as a *grace period**), and during a period of *deferment* (a postponement of loan payments).

*Note: If you received a Direct Subsidized Loan that was first disbursed between July 1, 2012, and July 1, 2014, you will be responsible for paying any interest that accrues during your grace period. If you choose not to pay the interest that accrues during your grace period, the interest will be added to your *principal* balance.

FAFSA Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- Direct Unsubsidized Loans are available to undergraduate and graduate students without the requirement of demonstrated financial need.
- Your school determines the amount you can borrow based on your [Cost of Attendance](#) (COA) and other financial aid you receive.
- You are responsible for paying the interest on a Direct Unsubsidized Loan during all periods.
- If you choose not to pay the interest while you are in school and during grace periods and deferment or forbearance periods, your interest will accrue (accumulate) and be capitalized (that is, your interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan).

Direct PLUS Loans- Parent PLUS and Grad PLUS

- PLUS loans are federal loans that graduate or professional degree students and parents of dependent undergraduate students can use to help pay education expenses.
- The U.S. Department of Education is the lender.
- The borrower must not have an adverse credit history.
- The maximum loan amount is the student's [Cost of Attendance](#) (COA) (determined by the school) minus any other financial aid received, including scholarships, grants, and/or FAFSA loans.
- Interest is charged during all periods.

Many of our students do not require supplemental loans like the Parent PLUS Loan or the Grad PLUS loan, or Sallie Mae loan. However, eligible students may choose to apply for this type of loan once they have exhausted the Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans, pending approval by the Financial Aid Office.

Private Non-Federal Loans-Sallie Mae

RU students should apply for all eligible financial assistance available before considering a private loan. Students may borrow private loans through [Sallie Mae](#), the Sallie Mae Smart Option Student Loan program. Financial assistance is also available through Eligibility for a Smart Option Loan is based upon credit and income and can be requested with the assistance of a co-signer. Please visit Sallie Mae's website for additional details regarding current interest rates and repayment options. As an independent private loan provider, Sallie Mae shall determine all rights and responsibilities of students receiving financial aid.

Applications must be received by Apr 1, 2024.

A non-federal private loan may be an appropriate choice for you, if:

- You have applied for the maximum amount of all federal loans suggested to you and still have a difference between the cost of attendance and the total financial aid you have received.
- You are a dependent undergraduate student, and your parents will not borrow (or have been denied) a Federal PLUS Loan (see also the Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan).
- If your program is not FAFSA approved or you will be completing credits off campus, ie an internship, externship.

If you decide to apply for a private educational loan, you must provide all documentation requested by the lender and follow their application instructions, instructions below on page 13.

FAFSA Loans Application Process

FAFSA LOANS AMOUNTS & AGGREGATE LIMIT

- Please [click here](#) to see the maximum Stafford loan amounts and the aggregate loan limits for 2023-2024, see below on page 7 for explanation of dependent and independent students unrelated to US tax status.
- Please note that the total Federal Loan Aggregate Limits do not include Graduate and Parent PLUS Loans amounts.

INTEREST RATES & FEES

- Interest rates are variable and are determined each July.
- To get an early estimate of your eligibility for Federal Student Financial Aid, [click here](#).

Interest Rates for Direct Loans First Disbursed on or After July 1, 2023, and Before July 1, 2024

Loan Type	Borrower Type	Fixed Interest Rate
Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans	Undergraduate	5.50%
Direct Unsubsidized Loans	Graduate or Professional	7.05%
Direct PLUS Loans	Parents and Graduate or Professional Students	8.05%

All interest rates shown in the chart above are fixed rates. A fixed rate will not change for the life of the loan.

Have other questions about interest?

- Prior federal loans and financial aid history—if you already have federal student loans and would like to check the *interest rate*, servicer information, and other

Other than interest, is there a charge for this loan?

Federal student loans have loan fees that are deducted proportionately from each loan disbursement you receive. This means the money you receive will be less than the amount you borrow. You are responsible for repaying the entire amount you borrowed and not just the amount you received.

For Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized and Direct Plus Loans, which disbursements are made on or after October 1, 2020 and before October 1, 2024.

There is a 1.057% loan fee on all Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

There is a 4.228% loan fee for Direct PLUS Loans for parents and graduate and professional students.

The loan fee will be proportionately deducted from each loan *disbursement*.

FAFSA Loans Eligibility Requirements

To qualify according to US Federal Aid guidelines, a student must:

- Be a US citizen, a US permanent resident or an eligible non-US citizen (please click [here](#) for more information).
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Be enrolled in a full-degree program at the RRIS of RU (for students enrolled in a BA or MA degree program in the Israeli schools, please email Rina at Rina@aforu.org).
- Be enrolled at least half time (have a course load of at least 50% per semester of the annual curriculum).
- Meet [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\)](#).
- Must respect the [Aggregate Loan Limits](#).
- To receive federal student aid, if a student is male and at least 18 years old, the student must be registered with Selective Service. By answering *Register me on the FAFSA*, the student gives Selective Service permission to register him. If the student believes that he is not required to be registered, he must call the Selective Service office at 1- 847-688-6888 for information regarding exemptions, or access the Selective Service Web site at www.sss.gov. The student can also register on the Internet at this address.
- Must not be in default on a federal student loan or owe payment on a federal student grant.
- According to the FAFSA regulation regarding internships/externships (34 CFR 668.5), undergraduate and graduate students are not eligible to borrow FAFSA loans if they are required to/complete an internship and/or an externship, class, or any kind of training for academic credits (as part of their degree) off the RU campus.
- Study Abroad Students- Students coming to RU for a semester or a year as Study Abroad students are non-degree students at RU and are not eligible for FAFSA loans. Students should check for FAFSA eligibility via their home institution. Study Abroad students may borrow Sallie Mae loans, instructions on page 15.
- Exchange Students- Students coming to RU from a foreign FAFSA approved institution for a semester or a year exchange program should check for FAFSA eligibility via their home institution. Students in exchange programs and are not eligible for FAFSA via RU since they complete their degree in their home institution.
- RU students participating as exchange students- Students who wish to borrow FAFSA loans during their degree **CANNOT be an exchange student at all in an institution located in the USA.** If the student wants to borrow FAFSA loans during his/her degree and be an exchange student for one semester or a year, s/he may only be a student in another foreign institution located outside of the USA, if that institution is also Title IV (FAFSA) eligible. Please contact Rina at rina@aforu.org to verify the list of FAFSA approved universities where students can spend a semester or a year as RU exchange students.

FAFSA Loans Application

April 1, 2024 is the deadline to submit a completed FAFSA loans application to the RRIS financial aid office.

- **STEP 1** – [Complete the FAFSA or renewal FAFSA](#), also called student aid report ie SAR and file, listing the Raphael Recanati International School, school code G40703. An updated FAFSA is required for every academic year you wish to borrow loans.
- You will need to create an FSA ID to log into the FAFSA databases.
- You will need to gather some personal paperwork such as your social security number (SSN), driver's license, W-2 forms and other records of money earned, record of untaxed income such as social security benefits, information on savings, investments, permanent registration card if you are a non-citizen as well as the appropriate IRS tax forms (and those of your spouse, if relevant). We strongly recommend that you do your taxes prior to filing out your FAFSA. uses the last available tax returns when the form opens, ie the 2023-2024 FAFSA will be using the 2021 tax returns. If possible, do them using estimates so that you can file your FAFSA as early as possible.
- The student is considered a dependent student (unrelated to your US tax filing status) if you are an undergraduate student and under the age of 24. You are considered an independent student (unrelated to your US tax filing status) if you are a graduate student or age 24 or older or married or have children.
- The information you report is used to determine your eligibility for Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and PLUS loans.
- **STEP 2** – [Complete the MPN \(Master Promissory Note\) here](#), required for each academic year. You are required to e-sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) - which is the loans' contract between you and the Federal government. By signing this you agree to the terms of the loans. You will need your FSA ID to sign the MPN. When filling out the applications you will be asked for 2 references. One of them MUST be a parent or a legal guardian. The second one must have a different address than the first one.
- **STEP 3** – If you are borrowing FAFSA loans for the first time as an RU student, complete [the mandatory Entrance Counseling course](#). It is a 20-minute process and is required of all borrowers. After logging into the site, click on Complete Entrance Counseling. This will allow you to better understand the process and regulations. Please be sure to correctly identify yourself as an undergraduate student or graduate student.
- **STEP 4** – Fill out [the Wire Transfer Request Form](#) electronically only and email it to Rina at rina@aforu.org so if necessary, the tuition office can wire your FAFSA credit balance via wire transfer to your bank account.
- **STEP 5**-After steps 1 to 4 are completed and you update the RRIS Financial Aid Office by emailing Rina at Rina@aforu.org, the information will be reviewed, and you will be informed about your loan eligibility and sent a loan package via email.
- **STEP 6** – After receiving your loan package, you will need to reply to the email to

confirm the type of loans and amount that you wish to borrow.

The RRIS Financial Aid Office will then send you loan details including the dates of disbursements, fees applied, and net amounts of the loans.

Parent/Grad Plus Loans

[Apply here](#), completing the following-

- 1) Complete the PLUS Request credit check.
- 2) Complete a PLUS Master Promissory Note at (parent must sign in to the site under their own parent FSA ID and login information to complete both these steps).
- 3) Complete a PLUS loan entrance counseling for Graduate and Professional Students at (only relevant for grad plus loan). There is required special loan counseling for any PLUS loan applicant who has an adverse credit history* but who qualifies for a PLUS Loan through the process for reconsideration due to extenuating circumstances or by obtaining an endorser for the loan.

*Adverse credit history is when a PLUS loan applicant (either a parent or a graduate or professional student) in addition to other conditions (e.g., bankruptcy, foreclosure, tax lien, or a default determination) has one or more debts that are 90 or more days delinquent or that are in collection or have been charged off during the two years preceding the date of the applicant's credit report, but only if the total combined outstanding balance of those debts is greater than \$2,085. Thus, absent any other adverse credit history finding a PLUS Loan applicant whose credit check shows that the total of any debts that are 90 or more days delinquent or that have been placed in collection or charged off is \$2,085 or less will not be considered to have adverse credit and therefore, will be eligible for a PLUS Loan.

- 4) Email Rina at Rina@aforu.org stating the amount of grants/scholarships that the student has applied for and are still waiting to hear about as well as those which already received (example: Masa, Minhah Hastudentim, RRIS need-based scholarship, American Jewish League, etc.)

5) Please notify Rina at Rina@aforu.org once your Plus loan application is completed. Once the application, including the MPN, counseling if needed, and credit check is confirmed and the student's financial aid information has been shared, the parent borrower/graduate professional will receive an email with the maximum amount of the PLUS loan that may be borrowed. The borrower needs to reply with the amount they wish to borrow. Please click [here](#) regarding additional information on PLUS loans.

Loans Disbursement-FAFSA and Sallie Mae

For students studying during the Fall and Spring semesters, your loan will be disbursed in two installments to RU, all equally divided between the semesters. If you finalize your loan package after the fall disbursements, your loans will be disbursed in two

disbursements in the spring. For students who study in mini semesters in graduate programs, it will be aligned in the Fall- Spring-Summer installments of the MA programs whose studies take place in 3 semesters.

Each disbursement will be partially applied toward your Tuition and Fees (first tuition, health insurance, then housing, student union). If the total sum of the loan is higher than your Tuition and Fees, the RU Finance Department will wire the FSA credit balance to the student's bank account for living expenses. The exact sum will be calculated by the Finance Department, based on your tuition balance, and expected financial aid.

RU 2023-2024 Disbursement Schedule

Since you can apply for loans until April 1, 2024, your disbursement dates will depend on the date a student/borrower confirms their loan package. This needs to be completed 15 days before the disbursement date of the month in question. For instance, if you reply by October 14, 2023, your first disbursement date will be November 1, 2023.

Disbursement dates will start on November 1, 2023 and end on May 1/July 1, 2024. Typically, BA students have two disbursements (Fall and Spring) and MA students studying with mini semesters have three disbursements (Fall, Spring and Summer). Please refer to your loan disclosure statement for your exact dates of disbursements and contact Rina at Rina@aforu.org if you have any questions. As per the regulations of the US Department of State, your FAFSA installment is credited on your student account by the tuition office on the date of disbursement. The FSA or Sallie Mae credit balance, if relevant, will be wired to the bank account that you provided up to 14 calendar days from the date of disbursement.

Below are anticipated dates of disbursement:

First Semester (starts October 22, 2023)

- November 1, 2023
- December 4, 2023
- January 2, 2024

Second Semester (starts March 10, 2024)

- March 1, 2024
- April 1, 2024
- May 1, 2024

Summer Semester (for MA students only)

- July 1, 2024

[Undergraduate Academic Calendar 2023-2024](#)

[Graduate Academic Calendar 2023-2024](#), page 37

CANCELING YOUR LOAN

Before your loan money is disbursed, you may cancel all or part of your loan at any time by notifying the school.

After your loan money is disbursed, there are two ways to cancel all or part of your loan:

A) If the school obtains your written confirmation of the types and amounts of Title IV loans that you want to receive for an award year before crediting loan money to your account at the school, you may tell the school that you want to cancel all or part of the loan within 14 days after the date the school notifies you of your right to cancel all or part of the loan, or by the first day of the school's payment period, whichever is later (the school can tell you the first day of the payment period). If the school does not obtain your written confirmation of the types and amounts of loans you want to receive before crediting the loan money to your account, you may cancel all or part of the loan by informing the school within 30 days of the date the school notifies you of your right to cancel all or part of the loan. In either case, the school will return the cancelled loan amount to us.

If you ask the school to cancel all or part of your loan(s) outside the timeframes described above, the school may process your cancellation request, but it is not required to do so.

B) Within 120 days of the date the school disburses your loan money (by crediting the loan money to your account at the school, by paying it directly to you, or both), you may return all or part of your loan(s) to the US Department of Education. Contact your servicer for guidance on how and where to return your loan money. You do not have to pay interest or the loan fee on the part of your loan that is cancelled or returned within the timeframes described above, and if you received an up-front interest rebate, the rebate does not apply. Your loan will be adjusted to eliminate any interest, loan fee, and rebate amount that applies to the amount of the loan that is cancelled or returned.

TITLE IV REFUND POLICY

The federal government mandates that students who withdraw from all classes on or before the 60 percent point in the semester may only keep the loans they have “earned” up to the time of withdrawal. According to the [Return to Title IV Policy](#), students who withdraw will have their tuition charges adjusted and may have to refund financial aid dollars to the appropriate Title IV student aid sources, as required by federal law. The date will determine the amount of money to be refunded to the Department of Education.

To determine the amount of aid the student has earned up to the time of withdrawal, the RRIS financial Aid office of RU will divide the number of calendar days the student attended classes by the total number of calendar days in the semester (less any scheduled breaks of five days or more). The resulting percentage is then multiplied by the total federal funds that were disbursed (either to the student’s university account or to the student directly by direct deposit) for the semester. This calculation determines the amount of aid earned by the student, which s/he may keep.

The unearned amount (total aid disbursed less the earned amount) must be returned to the federal government by RU or by the student. The RRIS financial Aid office of RU will notify and provide instructions to students who are required to return funds to the government.

Financial aid returned by the school must be allocated in the following order:

1. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
2. Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan

Students whose circumstances require that they withdraw from all classes are mandated to contact the RRIS Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawal (please contact us at). Students who withdraw (see [SAP policy](#), 4) D) Cessation of Studies) will receive instructions upon withdrawal from the RRIS Financial Aid Office.

EXIT COUNSELING & REPAYMENT

When you graduate or withdraw from RU, you need to complete the [exit counseling](#) which allows you to be guided towards the next steps of your FAFSA journey. Email Rina at rina@aforu.org once completed.

You will also need to look in to repayment plans.

The normal repayment for the graduate Stafford loan is 10 years. You may be able to extend repayment by deferring or consolidating your loans. You may choose one of the following plans:

- Standard Repayment: under this plan, your monthly payments are a fixed amount of at least \$50 each month and made for up to 10 years for all loan types except Direct Consolidation Loans and FFEL Consolidation Loans.
- Graduate Repayment: starts with lower payments that increase every two years. Payments are made for up to 10 years (between 10 and 30 years for consolidation loans). The monthly payments will never be less than the amount of interest that accrues between your payments and won't be more than three times greater than any other payment.
- Income-Sensitive Repayment: bases your monthly payment on your yearly income and your loan amount. Payments may change as your income rises or falls.
- Income-driven Repayment: is designed to make your student loan debt more manageable by reducing your monthly payment amount. If you need to make lower monthly payments, one of the three following income-driven plans may be right for you:
 - Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR Plan)
 - Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (Pay As You Earn Plan)
 - Income-Contingent Repayment Plan (ICR Plan)
- Extended Repayment: is for borrowers with loans totaling more than \$30,000. This plan offers a choice of fixed or graduated payments over a period of up to 25 years.
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program: is intended to encourage individuals to

enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance of their Direct Loans after they have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full time by certain public service employers.

- For all repayment guidelines please refer to the information provided by your lender or by the US Department of Education and use [the loan stimulator](#) to choose your repayment plan.

PRIVATE NON-FEDERAL LOANS-Sallie Mae

RU students should apply for all eligible financial assistance available before considering a private loan. Financial assistance is also available through the Sallie Mae Smart Option Student Loan program. Eligibility for a Smart Option Loan is based upon credit and income and can be requested with the assistance of a co-signer. Please visit Sallie Mae's website for additional details regarding current interest rates and repayment options. As an independent private loan provider, Sallie Mae shall determine all rights and responsibilities of students receiving financial aid.

At RU, you can borrow private loans through [Sallie Mae](#) and applications must be received by Apr 1, 2024.

A non-federal private loan may be an appropriate choice for you, if:

- You have applied for the maximum amount of all federal loans suggested to you and still have a difference between the cost of attendance and the total financial aid you have received.
- You are a dependent undergraduate student, and your parents will not borrow (or have been denied) a Federal PLUS Loan (see also the Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan).
- If your program is not FAFSA approved due to required internships/off-campus credits.

If you decide to apply for a private educational loan, you must provide all documentation requested by the lender and follow their application instructions.

Process

Determination of Eligibility:

Students will be asked to submit their name, email, date of birth, and SSN.

Note: If you're applying for the Smart Option Student Loan with the assistance of a cosigner, the cosigner will be required to submit the following personal information:

Relationship to student, SSN, monthly income and expense information and personal references.

Enrollment Information:

Students will be asked to provide the school name, Raphael Recanati International School" and/or school code G40703, whether you are seeking a degree, your anticipated graduation date, and the academic period of the loan.

Upon approval by Sallie Mae, students will receive an immediate notification via their website. Sallie Mae will ask the student to review the terms of the loan offer before accepting the loan. If a student's loan status is not approved or remains pending, Sallie Mae may ask for you to submit additional documentation.

Upon final approval, Sallie Mae will send notification directly to RU within 48 hours. RU will then proceed with loan certification following confirmation from student/borrower.

Borrowers:

You will be asked to submit the following information:

- Name
- Email address
- If you've ever defaulted on a loan
- Borrower relationship to student (if applicable)
- Permanent address
- Phone number

Maximum Loan Amount

A student's maximum loan amount shall be the student's [cost of attendance \(COA\)](#) as determined by the school, minus any other financial aid received by the student.

Loan Disbursements-see page

Disclosures

Students may qualify for Federal Student Aid through the Direct Loan program, which may have more favorable terms than the provisions of private education loans.

Federal government regulations require that a lender must obtain a self-certification signed by the loan applicant before disbursing a private education loan. Student borrowers must complete the Private Education Loan Applicant Self-Certification form (which is provided by the lender as part of the application process) and return it to the lender (do not send it to RU). The intent of the self-certification form is to ensure that as a student you recognize that you may have other borrowing options (for example, federal loans) that offer better terms and conditions than a private loan; that your eligibility for other student aid may be affected by taking out a private loan; and that you are aware of the amount of your education costs.

Your lender must receive the completed and signed document before you can receive your loan. The purpose is for you to learn more about your financial aid. The accuracy of the self- certification form is not verified and will not affect your private loan eligibility. Additional details regarding private loan disclosures are available through [the Truth in Lending Act](#).

For additional questions or information regarding the Sallie Mae Smart Option Loan, please contact Sallie Mae directly at 888-272-5543, or visit the website at www.salliemae.com. Please note that only the borrower can receive details regarding the status of a loan.

