



HARVARD  
COLLEGE

**DISCOVER  
HARVARD**

## THE HARVARD EXPERIENCE



*We want to ensure we are providing students with a deeply transformative experience—intellectually, socially, and personally—that will prepare them for a life of citizenship and leadership. Harvard College intends to set the standard for liberal arts and sciences education for the next hundred years. This is who we are.*

### **Rakesh Khurana**

Danoff Dean of Harvard College





*There is a richness and vitality to the Harvard community that inspires and nourishes all of its members. Together, we aspire to excellence in teaching, research, and creative expression; to an environment in which every member of our community can do their best work and achieve their full potential; and to preparing our students for lives of leadership and service to the world.*

**Claudine Gay**

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences



*Harvard is committed to expanding opportunity, nurturing excellence, and pursuing truth. For nearly 400 years, it has represented the forefront of learning, bringing together talented individuals from around the world to push the boundaries of knowledge and to advance human potential. Here, students are challenged not only to achieve their own goals, but also to imagine how they might work to improve our imperfect world.*

**Larry Bacow**

President of Harvard University

# HOME AT HARVARD

*Harvard College is more than the sum of its many celebrated parts. It is, most of all, a home—a place where you can belong.*

## RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM

Our students represent all regions of the United States and more than 100 foreign countries. You and your classmates will bring a full range of interests and aspirations. You'll have goals and you'll work hard, but you'll also have time to relax and enjoy the company of friends. Residential life at Harvard supports the multiplicity of our students' experiences.

During your first year, historic Harvard Yard will be your home. Surrounded by other first-year students, living together in the very heart of campus, you'll be steps away from the world's leading university library, state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms, and a renowned faculty dedicated equally to teaching and research.

As a sophomore, you'll move into a House. Houses are residential colleges where students live, dine, study, plan events, play intramural sports, and enjoy a tight-knit, supportive community that includes faculty and advisers. For many Harvard students, the Houses represent the most rewarding elements of both social and academic life.



Frankly, I can't imagine living anywhere else. From the day I moved in, upperclassmen were unbelievably welcoming and understanding of my and all of the newly-minted sophomores' adjustment to life in the House. That did so much to help establish the sort of community and presence within the house that makes seeing people you know in the halls, laundry rooms, gym, or dining hall such a joy.

**Julius** '20

2019—2020

### LOCATION

In Cambridge, you'll find an environment that combines history and colonial charm with the energy of a modern city. In addition to exploring legendary Harvard Square, home to popular restaurants, cafes, theaters, and, of course, bookstores, you can also enjoy the excitement of Boston, America's premier "college town."

A ten-minute subway ride from Harvard Square can take you into the heart of downtown Boston, from which you can visit great museums (the JFK Library, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, and many others); see exciting performances such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra; or catch a local sports game with the Red Sox or the Celtics. Explore iconic neighborhoods like the North End and Beacon Hill, or venture out to nearby Atlantic beaches, cozy seaside villages from Cape Cod to Maine, ski slopes, forests, and historic sites.



A woman in a black top is pointing at a whiteboard. The whiteboard has a flowchart with words like 'FRAMING', 'PERSONA', 'ORDERING', and 'VALUES'. There are also sticky notes on the board. The background is a classroom setting.

# EXPLORE IDEAS

*Enormous range, depth, and variety will characterize your academic experience at Harvard. **World-renowned for the quality of our teaching and research,** the College will supply you with the tools to build a highly individualized and rewarding undergraduate course of study.*

#### **RANGE: A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION**

At Harvard, you will be exposed to a broad array of academic topics, spanning the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and engineering. You will take courses in the General Education Program, designed to introduce you to subject matter from across the University, and connect what you learn in the classroom to life after college. This breadth of learning will prepare you to engage with your community and think critically and constructively about the world.

#### **DEPTH: CHOOSING A CONCENTRATION**

At the end of your third term, you will choose a primary field of focus, your concentration. This will give you the opportunity to dive into a specific field. We offer fifty concentrations, but students whose interests bridge multiple areas may combine fields or devise a special concentration. Secondary fields provide further opportunity for focused study outside of the primary area of concentration. The list of offerings can be found on our website.



It's surprising at Harvard how multidimensional people are. Maybe they want to study applied mathematics but they're also in improv and are super good at the clarinet. They have all of those strengths they can play to here, and there are so many opportunities to play to all of them.

**Maya '21**

The community at Harvard has been so accepting, open, and thought-provoking; the professors and faculty are so willing to talk; and hearing the stories of hundreds of people coming from all walks of life has changed my perspective on many issues. I cannot be more excited for what is to come.

**Bushra '20**

#### VARIETY: CHOICE AND FLEXIBILITY

After declaring a concentration, you will work with a faculty adviser to design your program, adjusting it as necessary. You will choose from more than 3,700 courses to create an individualized plan of study. While roughly half of the courses you take at Harvard will be in your concentration, the General Education curriculum and electives will encourage you to think beyond your chosen field. You can even go beyond Harvard College's offerings by registering for courses at many of our ten Harvard graduate schools or MIT.



#### OUR ACADEMIC LIFE BY THE NUMBERS

12 median course size

3,700+ courses

50 undergraduate concentrations

45+ secondary fields

80+ ancient and modern languages

125+ first-year seminars

400+ first-year advisers

7:1 student to faculty ratio

98% graduation rate of our students



# DIG DEE

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The research opportunities at Harvard College are virtually endless. Our faculty values the opportunity to work with undergraduates, and you can pursue research as early as your first year for academic credit or as paid employment. This past year, more than 1,500 students participated in undergraduate research, receiving a total of more than \$5 million in project funding—and that's not counting internships and mentorships.

## RESOURCES

Dozens of libraries, twelve teaching museums, twenty-four campus buildings devoted to science and research, and multiple theaters and performance spaces populate our campus. In addition, you can seek career advice at the Office of Career Services and collaborate with peers at the Innovation Lab.

## LANGUAGES

Proficiency in language is vital to success in a global society. Harvard offers more than eighty languages including Chinese, Irish, Arabic, Haitian Creole, Swedish, Turkish, and more than twenty African languages. Students can combine language study with literature, politics, music, film, and history.

## STUDY ABROAD

Join the 60% of students who enjoy an international experience during their time at Harvard. No matter your field of concentration, you can study in classrooms abroad, take part in field-based cultural immersion programs, or take language intensive courses.

Explore the offerings at ► [oie.fas.harvard.edu](https://oie.fas.harvard.edu).

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Something that really encouraged me to pursue my dream to study abroad is the fact that Harvard allows for your financial aid to transfer directly to your study abroad program. This means that studying abroad for me is just as affordable as staying on campus.

**Maria** '20

# PER

*At Harvard College, **we expect our students to dive into academic life**, get to know their professors, and pursue interests both inside and outside of the classroom. The curriculum is structured, but you will have the chance to be creative as well.*

#### **SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES**

Harvard College educates the world's future leaders in science and technology broadly and deeply. Embedded in the liberal arts and emphasizing hands-on learning and cross-disciplinary work, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) provides students with the technical and critical skills to address global problems. Please note that there is no separate application to SEAS when you apply to Harvard College.

Explore the offerings at ► [www.seas.harvard.edu](http://www.seas.harvard.edu)

#### **ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

You'll find vibrant and exciting fields in the Arts and Humanities, whether you study music, philosophy, theater, film-making, art history, or literature. If your goal is to practice law or medicine, or work in business, the arts, or public service, the Arts and Humanities provide the foundational education necessary to live a life of meaning and professional fulfillment.





# FIND SUPPORT

## **ADVISING**

Throughout your time at Harvard, you will develop meaningful relationships with your mentors. This includes several kinds of advisers: academic/concentration advisers (members of the faculty or staff), residential advisers (graduate students or administrators), and peer advisers.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

The Bureau of Study Counsel offers a wealth of resources to enhance your academic experience. Courses on reading and study strategies, in addition to peer tutoring and academic counseling, help students get the most from their classes. Professors will also encourage you to attend their office hours to ask questions or just to chat.

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Harvard has abundant resources to help you manage your mental and emotional health. Counseling and Mental Health Services and the Center for Wellness and Health Promotion provide a welcoming space for you to meet with health professionals and participate in restorative activities. The Student Oasis in Memorial Church and the Serenity Room in Grays Hall offer a break from the bustle of campus without even leaving the Yard.

## **PEER SUPPORT**

Many undergraduates volunteer their time to support the Harvard community's health in a variety of ways. Student Mental Health Liaisons, Drug and Alcohol Peer Advisors, and student Sexual Health and Relationship counselors are extensively trained to provide support to any student in need of advice or a sympathetic ear.



““””

I was blown away by the extensive support network that Harvard provided me. I had an incredible peer adviser who was a first-generation college student like myself, and was one of my biggest supporters during my first year. From answering late-night questions about choosing classes to her many texts just checking in, I felt completely comfortable asking her for help when I was confused or struggling over an issue. Her support and guidance inspired me to also go on to become a peer adviser, so now I've got nine amazing first-years under my wing, who are all rocking their first year so far!

**Braeden '21**

*At Harvard, you will find rich networks of support. From academic advisers to mental health specialists to peer counselors, **you will have an array of people eager to listen and guide you** along your path at Harvard.*

#### RELIGIOUS, SPIRITUAL, AND ETHICAL TRADITIONS

Harvard offers numerous ways to explore religious and spiritual life for members of all faiths. More than thirty on-campus chaplains representing many of the world's spiritual traditions support Harvard's multi-faith religious community, and student groups allow you to deepen your practice with peers.

#### FOOD ON CAMPUS

Life on a bustling campus requires nourishment—and you'll find plenty of it. First-year-only Annenberg Dining Hall and the twelve upperclass House Dining Halls offer balanced meals with plenty of options for a wide variety of dietary restrictions and preferences, plus a space to hang out with friends or collaborate on a project or problem set. And because you'll be on an unlimited meal plan, you can spend as much time there as you'd like. Outside the dining halls, you'll find cafes in virtually every corner of campus: The Barker Center Cafe, Clover in the Science Center, Cabot House Cafe, the Lamont Library Cafe, and more.

#### FITNESS

You'll have free access to Harvard's gyms, where you can lift weights, take a barre class, or go for a swim. As an upper-level student, you'll also have workout facilities right inside your House. Be part of a team by competing for your first-year dorm or upperclass House in the intramural league.





# REACH IN HEIGHTS

*Your education will extend far beyond your courses. Joining extracurricular activities will complement your studies and create wonderful opportunities for learning and friendship. Student activities range in skill levels; you can **pursue new interests or life-long passions.***

#### **ATHLETICS**

Harvard has the nation's largest Division I athletic program, with forty-two sports and nearly 1,300 athletes, but you don't have to be a varsity athlete to get involved. You can participate on teams ranging from varsity to club, intramural, and recreational. Nearly 80% of our students participate in some form of athletics and physical recreation on campus. Our extensive athletic facilities include the nation's oldest football stadium (which looks a lot like Rome's Colosseum), modern strength/conditioning rooms and aerobic studios, an ice rink, and beautiful boathouses along the river. The full list of varsity offerings can be found on our website.

#### **PERFORMING, FINE, AND APPLIED ARTS**

If you're an artist—of sight, sound, or movement (or perhaps all three together)—you will flourish here. At Harvard, you will find many offerings in music, the visual arts, drama, and dance.

##### *Offerings include:*

ORCHESTRAS, JAZZ BANDS, AND CHAMBER GROUPS

CHOIRS, A GLEE CLUB, AND A CAPPELLA GROUPS

ART AND CERAMICS STUDIOS, PLUS DARKROOMS AND A PRINTING PRESS  
PRINT AND WOODWORKING SHOPS

WORKSHOPS IN DRAWING, PAINTING, POTTERY, PHOTOGRAPHY,  
SCULPTURE, AND FILMMAKING

MORE THAN SIXTY STUDENT THEATRICAL AND DANCE PRODUCTIONS  
EACH YEAR

TWENTY STUDENT DANCE COMPANIES

THE LOEB DRAMA CENTER (WITH CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT COURSES IN  
ACTING, DIRECTING, PLAYWRITING, DRAMATURGY, AND DESIGN)



# “ ”

There's so much you can do here – so many clubs, so many organizations. I can be in the Black Students Association and in the Canadian Club and I can also be a part of the Sports Analytics Collective. That's what I love most about being here. If there's something you want to do, you can do it.

## Carrington '20

Both club and intramural sports have played a huge part in my experience of feeling at home at Harvard. Not only have they allowed me to continue to pursue my passion for playing competitive sports, but they have also enabled me to meet and get to know so many different people on campus—including some of my best friends.

## Shane '20



### SERVICE

You'll find many ways to serve your campus community, the Cambridge and Boston area, and the country. The Phillips Brooks House Association has stood as the leading public service organization on campus for the past 100 years, offering more than eighty-five student-run, community-based, and non-profit public service programs. The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) allows you to serve the United States and gain valuable leadership experience in the Army, Navy, or Air Force.

### POLITICS & PUBLICATIONS

Harvard is home to numerous student-run media and political organizations, including a daily student newspaper, humor magazines, political newspapers, ethnic and cultural publications, a student-run radio station, and a yearbook. The Institute of Politics brings together students and prominent academics, politicians, activists, and policymakers.

### CULTURAL GROUPS

Harvard sponsors more than fifty cultural, ethnic, and international organizations, as well as groups representing nearly every religious and political perspective. The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations hosts many activities throughout the year that celebrate campus ethnic and cultural diversity.

### HARVARD HAS...

- Won **144** national or NCAA championships
- Won a combined **421** Ivy League championships
- Been represented at **every** modern Olympic Games



# BE A PA TRADIT

**Harvard is steeped in great social traditions,**  
*ones in which you will participate as a student  
and as an alumnus/a. They will add depth and  
texture to your Harvard experience.*

#### **YOUR HARVARD**

Traditions evolve over time to reflect the interests of students, but one thing is true for everyone: you will make friendships that will last a lifetime. In your House, on the field, around a seminar table, over a pizza, you'll meet and get to know people who will enrich your thinking, your career, and your life.

#### **ALUMNI LIFE**

Your connection to Harvard will not end after your Commencement Ceremony. Many opportunities await you upon graduating from Harvard. Join a shared interest group, attend your class reunions, and participate in professional networks or one of the 200+ regional alumni groups around the world. Attending Harvard is only the beginning.

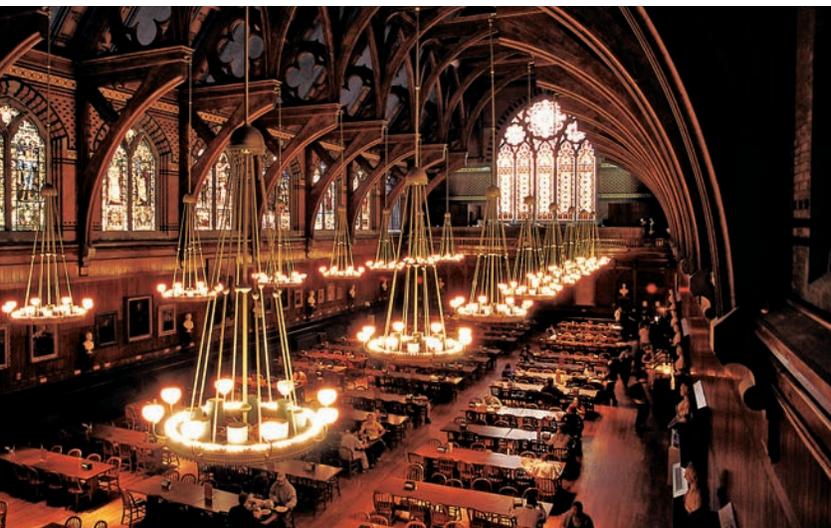


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The people I was friends with before coming to Harvard— we all had similar interests. But my best friends here— we’re all interested in different things. Every conversation we have is a learning process and an adventure. I’ve found that the community here is incredibly collaborative. Everyone is really open to working together and making sure everyone as a whole succeeds.

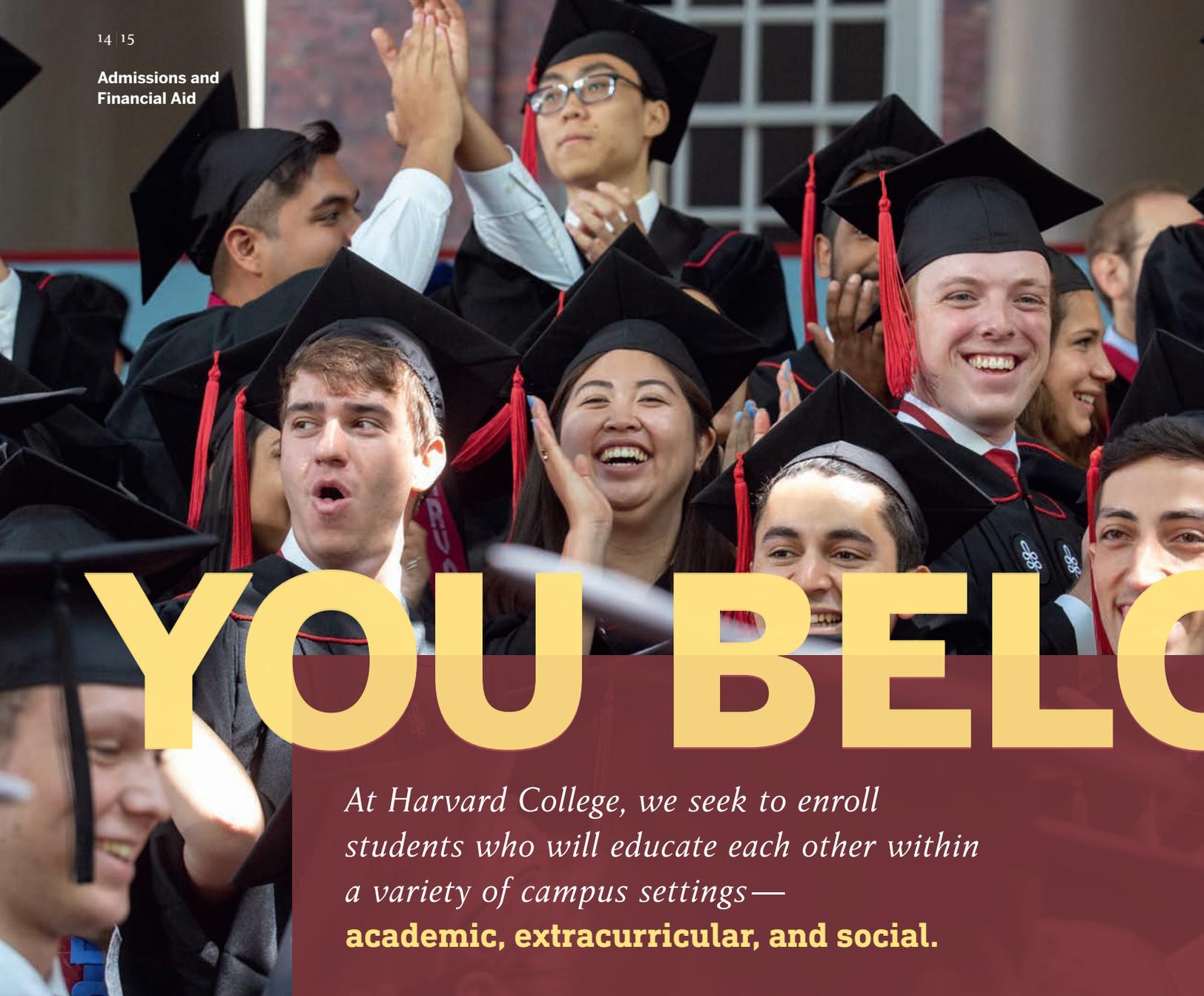
**Cata** '20

# ART OF TRADITION



### *A few traditions worth highlighting*

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| FIRST-YEAR DANCE            | HOUSE FORMAL DANCES                |
| YARDFEST                    | FACULTY DEANS' RECEPTIONS AND TEAS |
| FIRST-YEAR MUSICAL          | FACULTY LUNCHEAS AND DINNERS       |
| HOUSING DAY                 | THE HASTY PUDDING THEATRICAL GROUP |
| HARVARD-YALE FOOTBALL GAME  | THE CRIMSON                        |
| HEAD OF THE CHARLES REGATTA | THE LAMPOON                        |
| CULTURAL RHYTHMS            | CONVOCAATION                       |
| ARTS FIRST                  | COMMENCEMENT                       |



# YOU BELONG

*At Harvard College, we seek to enroll students who will educate each other within a variety of campus settings—*  
**academic, extracurricular, and social.**

**ADMISSION:  
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?**

Some applicants demonstrate extraordinary promise in academic or research endeavors. Some show uncommon talent in other areas, such as leadership, performing arts, or athletics. Most of our students combine the best of both scholastic and extracurricular achievement. Personal qualities—integrity, maturity, strength of character, and concern for others—also play an important part in our evaluations.

**FINANCIAL AID:  
REMOVING ECONOMIC BARRIERS**

We bring the best people to Harvard, regardless of their ability to pay. About 70% of our students receive some form of aid, with more than 50% receiving Harvard need-based scholarships.

Applying for financial aid does not jeopardize any student's chance for admission, including international applicants. Indeed, the Admissions committee may respond favorably to evidence that a candidate has overcome significant obstacles, financial or otherwise. All of Harvard's financial aid is awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need; there are no academic, athletic, or merit-based awards. Harvard meets the demonstrated need of every student for all four years.

*Get an estimate of your financial aid on our Net Price Calculator.*

[college.harvard.edu/npc](https://college.harvard.edu/npc)



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I applied to 15 different schools, and Harvard was the only non-state school I applied to. Financial aid was really important to my family, and my parents said they would not be able to contribute to my college tuition. When I was accepted to Harvard, I was super excited—but I was also trying to push that excitement down because I was assuming I wouldn't be able to come since it would be too expensive. When my parents and I saw my financial aid award, we were shocked. Harvard was one of the most affordable options for me out of every school I applied to.

**Sadie** '20



# LONGER HERE

## Deadlines

	EARLY ACTION	REGULAR DECISION
Common Application, Universal College Application, or Coalition Application	November 1	January 1
Secondary School Report and two teacher letters of recommendation	November 1	January 1
Initial components of the financial aid application	November 1	February 1
All remaining financial aid application materials	November 15	February 1
Notification date for applicants	Mid-December	Late March

Our financial aid program requires no contribution from Harvard families with annual incomes below \$65,000; asks an average of 10% of income for those with incomes up to \$150,000; and expects proportionally more from families with incomes above \$150,000. Families at all income levels who have significant assets are asked to pay more than those in less fortunate circumstances and our financial aid officers work closely with families to ensure Harvard is accessible to all admitted students. We do not require students to take out loans, although they are asked to contribute to the cost of their education through term-time and summer work.

The majority of Harvard families pay an average of only \$12,000 per year due to our financial aid program. About 20% pay nothing.



I can easily call Harvard a second home, even after one semester. I love the place, the classes, the activities, Annenberg and everything in between, but what truly makes Harvard home is the people.

**Nadine** '22



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**HARVARD COLLEGE**

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

GRIFFIN FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

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