Did you know...

You can afford to go to Harvard. Harvard was named “Best Value” by US News. In fact, close to 60% of Harvard families pay an average of only $12,000 per year due to a revolutionary financial aid program. About 20% pay nothing!

You can get undergraduate research funding at Harvard for both term-time and summer projects. Lots of it! This past year, more than 1,500 students participated in undergraduate research, receiving a total of more than $5,000,000 in project funding—and that’s not counting internships and mentorships.

You can enjoy the excitement of America’s premier “college town.” You just need twelve minutes to take the subway from Harvard Square into the heart of downtown Boston. And you’ll love all the bookstores, cafes, restaurants, shops, and theaters right here in Cambridge.
Being a proud member of Adams House provides not only friends and mentors, but also a diverse family and a place to call home.

—Haley Adams ’15, Illinois
I found the resources available for undergraduates at Harvard to be unparalleled. The network of superb libraries, the extensive advising system, and the generous funding that allowed me to conduct independent academic fieldwork in India encouraged me to not only absorb but also create knowledge.
— Dipona Bandy '14, Texas
I have had the opportunity to interact with my professor in the lab and beyond. Discussing evolutionary theory with him (even on our weekend runs) has contributed to an incredible mentorship and intellectual experience.

—Omar Mesina ’14, Illinois
It’s very satisfying, and indeed inspiring, to work with the young people we will be depending on to confront and solve the scientific problems that will determine our destiny. It’s made me feel incredibly optimistic about the future.
—Jene Golovchenko, Rumford Professor of Physics and Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics

Harvard knows that the 21st-century scientist or engineer will need to master more than just one field of study. A grounding in economics, government, history, and a mix of other academic disciplines will be needed to solve many of modern society’s increasingly complex problems.

Harvard science and engineering programs promote learning across disciplines. They also create a climate for close collaboration between students and faculty. Equipped with cutting-edge facilities and a spirit of innovation, Harvard College hopes to educate—with depth and breadth—the next generation of leaders in science and technology.
Chances are that as a Harvard student you will participate in some form of athletics and recreation on campus—nearly 80% of our students do! Our extensive athletic facilities include the nation’s oldest football stadium (which looks a lot like Rome’s Colosseum), modern strength/condition rooms and aerobic studios, an ice rink, and beautiful boat houses along the river—all in constant use.

Harvard has the nation’s largest Division I athletic program, with 42 sports and nearly 1,300 athletes, but you don’t have to be a varsity athlete to get involved. You can match your level of skill/interest by participating on teams ranging from varsity and junior varsity to club, intramural, or recreational. Or come be a spectator and cheer on the Harvard Crimson!

—Shori Hijikata ’16, Australia

Traveling to Spain for the Varsity Swim Team’s training trip was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. The best part wasn’t the destination—it was doing everything with the most inspiring teammates who have become my closest friends.

—Shori Hijikata ’16, Australia
If you’re an artist—of sight, sound, or movement (or perhaps all three together)—you will flourish here. At Harvard, you will find the following:

...in music
five orchestras, chamber music and choral ensembles, several jazz bands and combos, a wind ensemble, a gospel choir, a glee club, numerous a cappella and madrigal groups...

...in the visual arts
art studios, a print workshop, ceramics studios, darkrooms, woodworking shops, workshops in drawing, painting, pottery, photography, sculpture, and filmmaking...

...in media and journalism
a daily student newspaper, a weekly newspaper, several political publications, a student-run radio station, television programs, a yearbook, and countless web-based projects...

...in drama and dance
more than 60 student productions a year; the Loeb Drama Center (with credit / non-credit courses in acting, directing, playwriting, dramaturgy, and design); the Harvard College Dance Center (credit / non-credit classes in modern dance, ballet, jazz, tap, choreography, and improvisation); and 20 student dance companies.

Even if you’re not an artist yet, consider the possibilities. They’re exciting.

In high school, I didn’t have time in my schedule for visual arts with all of the music and language courses I was taking. At Harvard, I can commit myself to those passions and additionally explore photography, printmaking, and stenciling. It’s pretty cool.

—Sarah Reid ’15, Vermont
Harvard has been devoted to public service since its founding in 1636. Originally established to provide a learned ministry to America’s colonies, the College has maintained a steadfast commitment to advancing society through meaningful individual and collective participation in service. You can become part of this tradition and make an impact on today—and tomorrow.

The Phillips Brooks House Association has stood as the leading public service organization on campus for the past 100 years. Entirely student-run, community-based, and non-profit, PBHA annually draws 60% of all Harvard students to its projects. Currently, PBHA is host to more than eighty-five different public service programs. We bet there’s at least one that’s perfect for you. And if not, you can start one of your own. Phillips Brooks House began with only six.

Some PBHA programs:
Youth Prison Tutoring / Pets as Therapy / Chinatown ESL / Harvard Square Homeless Shelter / Environmental Action Committee / South Boston Big Sib / Strong Women Strong Girls / Harvard Emerging Literacy Program / Peer Health Exchange

Our after-school programs at PBHA help local children gain confidence and skills, empowering them to succeed on their future paths. I may not be there to see them grow up, but I enjoy knowing I’ve made a difference.

—Jose Magana ’15, California
Throughout your four years, you’ll participate in numerous social events with both students and faculty. They will add depth and texture to your Harvard experience.

A few worth highlighting:

- Freshman Dance
- Yardfest
- Freshman Musical
- Housing Day
- Harvard-Yale Football Game
- Head of The Charles Regatta
- Cultural Rhythms
- Arts First
- House Formal Dances
- Masters Receptions and Teas
- Faculty Lunches and Dinners

Housing Day is one of my favorite holidays. Having upperclassmen enthusiastically welcome you into your future House marks a stepping stone in your Harvard career. Then, as an upperclassman, you in turn get to shower freshmen with love and acceptance. It’s exciting and fun!

—Jayshlyn Acevedo ’14, Virginia

My friends and I occasionally scream, “Yardfest!” throughout the year in order to communicate that we are having a BLAST just like we did at the actual Yardfest. Great food, great music, and great company—the three ingredients to happiness.

—Jeanie Nguyen ’14, California

Cultural Rhythms showcases performance groups on campus, featuring Mariachi Veritas, the Harvard Breakers, and the Kuumba Singers, among many others. It’s an incredible afternoon that is emblematic of what I love about being a student here—constantly being exposed to new people, their talents, and their interests.

—Kemie Iko ’14, Virginia

I felt so proud and excited as I stood in the stands at the annual Harvard-Yale football game, cheering wildly with the hundreds of other Harvard students as we watched our team dominate the field.

—Rebecca Ramos ’17, Washington
Admission: what are we looking for?

At Harvard College, we hope to enroll students who will educate each other within a variety of campus settings—academic, extracurricular, and social. Some admission candidates will demonstrate extraordinary promise in academic or research endeavors. Some will show uncommon talent in other areas, such as leadership, performing art, or athletics. Most of our students combine the best of both scholastic and extracurricular achievements.

Personal qualities—integrity, maturity, strength of character, and concern for others—also will 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 close to 60% receiving 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.

Our financial aid program requires no contribution from Harvard families with annual incomes below $65,000 and asks an average of no more than 10% of income from the majority of families receiving financial aid. In addition, even families with incomes greater than $150,000 are eligible for aid depending on their particular circumstances, such as multiple children in college.

Get an estimate of your financial aid on our Net Price Calculator. college.harvard.edu/financial-aid/net-price-calculator

Harvard’s financial aid package truly exceeded my expectations. Harvard was so generous that they even gave me money for a winter coat, something I definitely needed coming from the South!

—Jasmine Burnett ’16, Georgia
Harvard’s generous financial aid package ended up being the most affordable option for my family. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to come here and learn from amazing professors and peers. I have fully immersed myself into the Harvard community, knowing that the College is committed to ensuring that my education is affordable.

—Herman Bhupal ’16, North Carolina