

COST OF ATTENDANCE & STANFORD GRADUATE TUITION

This document is designed to explain the amount one can expect to pay for two years of graduate study in the MIP program. The total cost of attendance can vary because of Stanford University's two full-time graduate tuition rates.

Cost of Attendance (Class Of 2024)

Master of Arts in International Policy - Cost of Attendance				
	AY2022-23		AY23-24	Program Total
	Academic Quarter	Academic Year	Academic Year Estimate***	
Tuition			\$58,746	
Grad Tuition*	\$18,829	\$56,487		
Fees and Living Expenses				
Document Fee	\$250	\$250		
ASSU Fee	\$45	\$135		
Campus Health Service Fee	\$241	\$723		
Rent	\$5,730	\$17,190		
Food	\$2,225	\$6,675		
Personal Expenses	\$2,280	\$6,840		
Transportation	\$545	\$1,635		
Books and Supplies	\$345	\$1,035		
Subtotal	\$11,661	\$34,483	\$35,602	
Health Insurance**			\$7,039	
Cardinal Care Premium	\$2,256	\$6,768		
Subtotal	\$2,256	\$6,768		
Total			Total	Total
With Cardinal Care	\$32,746	\$97,738	\$101,388	\$199,126
Without Cardinal Care	\$30,490	\$90,970	\$94,349	\$185,319
These numbers are estimates based on data gathered from the University Bulletin, Registrar's Office, and Office of Financial Aid Websites.				
* This table assumes enrollment at the 11-18 graduate tuition rates for all six academic quarters. It is possible to enroll in fewer units and achieve tuition savings. See examples on page 4-6 of this document.				
** If the student elects to enroll in Cardinal Care. Students enrolled in Cardinal Care are covered for 12 months.				
***Cost of Attendance usually increases by 3-5% every academic year. This estimate was calculated using a 4% increase.				

Funding Mechanisms

Fellowships

Ford Dorsey and FSI Fellowships are offered to a limited number of admitted applicants based on merit and specific eligibility requirements. Fellowships may consist of full or partial tuition, a stipend, and a health insurance subsidy. You will be automatically considered for these fellowships upon checking the “Financial Aid Interest” box on the online application. Funding notifications are included in applicants’ admission letters.

Internship Funding

The MIP program offers supplemental funding (up to \$6,000) to support students in taking on summer internships between the first and second year of the program, subject to internship eligibility policies. This enables you, at low or no financial cost, to gain experience with organizations you would like to work for in the future, or to explore opportunities in new areas of interest.

Assistantships

The MIP program has a formalized assistantship program for students in their second year. Based on faculty demand and on the availability of MIP funds, MIP students can apply for Research Assistantships with faculty members affiliated with the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI). Students can also apply to be Teaching Assistants for first-year MIP courses. Students who are hired for one of these teaching or research positions, receive [tuition allowance \(TAL\)](#) and a [salary](#) from MIP, based on the terms of their assistantship. Information about assistantship terms, TAL, and salary can be found in the Stanford Admin Guide [chapter on assistantships](#). Note that these positions are not guaranteed.

Outside of this formal MIP assistantship program, MIP students can also apply for assistantships in other departments, programs, and centers, starting in the Spring Quarter of their first year. For instance, MIP students have secured Teaching Assistantships with the departments of Political Science, Computer Science, and Economics, to name a few. They have also worked as Research Assistants at various centers within FSI, the Hoover Institution, the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, and more. In cases like these, the TAL and salary are paid by these departments or faculty members directly. The first two quarters at MIP are quantitatively heavy, so students are required to focus primarily on their coursework rather than hold assistantships. These two quarters can also be used to start meeting with faculty members to learn about research and other opportunities.

Loans and Financial Aid

We recommend that prospective students who may need funding assistance contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) for information about loan options. Admitted applicants are encouraged to apply for financial aid as early as possible to ensure timely delivery of their funding package.

Prodigy Finance

Because it can be difficult for international students to secure loans for graduate studies in the United States, MIP has a loan partnership with [Prodigy Finance](#). They provide low interest loans to non-U.S. students for study in professional programs. International students have the opportunity to request a loan directly.

Stanford University Graduate Tuition

There are two full-time graduate tuition rates at Stanford. One of the rates is designated for students who are taking a full course load without any assistantship employment, while the other is designated primarily for students who hold a 50% teaching or research assistantship (equal to 20 hours of work per week). The graduate tuition rate designed for students who have a 50% assistantship is not limited to those students, however, so any graduate student can enroll at that rate.

So, what's the difference?

Graduate Tuition – 11-18 units

Quarterly tuition for this full-time tuition rate requires students to enroll in 11-18 units, and is set at \$18,830 for the 2022-23 Academic Year. This tuition rate allows students to enroll in anywhere from 11 -18 units at the same cost. Commonly, MIP students will enroll at this tuition rate during their first year of study for two reasons: (1) To complete as many core requirements as possible, and (2) To provide greater flexibility during the second year for an assistantship, other academic opportunities, and/or a job search during Spring Quarter.

Graduate Tuition – 8-10 units

Quarterly tuition for this full-time tuition rate requires students to enroll in 8-10 units, and is set at \$12,240 for the 2022-23 Academic Year. This tuition rate allows students to maintain “full-time” student status while taking on a 50% assistantship (20 hours/week). Students also commonly enroll at this tuition rate in order to save on tuition costs, reduce their course load, or balance courses with a reduced assistantship (e.g., 25% = 10 hours/week).

So, how does all of this work with courses?

The number of units per course varies at Stanford. In general, most core MIP courses are offered for four or five units. However, some courses are offered for variable units so that students can enroll at different levels. For example, our core quantitative courses are offered for five units each while some of our elective coursework in the area of specialization may be offered for three, four, or five units. This allows students to meet the program requirements while being able to take advantage of the different full-time tuition rates. Also, students will generally take 3-4 courses per quarter. During the first year of the program, students will usually enroll in 15-18 units per quarter. During the second year of the program, students' quarterly enrollment varies from 8-18 units due to a variety of factors. Some of the common reasons for reducing units in the second year include: holding a 50% assistantship for an academic quarter; trying to save on tuition costs; or enrolling in variable unit courses such that one can still complete three courses in a given quarter.

The following pages provide examples of various tuition and enrollment options in order to give you a better sense of the actual cost of attending the MIP program at Stanford. For information on the MIP degree requirements, please visit the [University Bulletin](#). MIP students must complete a minimum of 80 units in order to graduate. Please note that Stanford University does not grant transfer credit for MA students.

NOTE: The tuition examples do not include information on student fees, Cardinal Care health costs, or housing and living costs.

EXAMPLE I: Full tuition for two years

Benefits: Opportunity to take as many courses as possible during the two years.

Concessions: Cost is higher

Year 1

Quarter	Tuition Rate	Unit Range for Tuition Rate	Tuition Cost	Number of Units Taken (example)	Funding Support (example)
Autumn	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	16	No fellowship/assistantship
Winter	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	17	No fellowship/assistantship
Spring	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	16	No fellowship/assistantship
TOTAL			\$56,487	49	

Year 2*

Quarter	Tuition Rate	Unit Range for Tuition Rate	Tuition Cost*	Number of Units Taken (example)	Funding Support (example)
Autumn	Full-time	11-18	\$19,582	15	No fellowship/assistantship
Winter	Full-time	11-18	\$19,582	18	No fellowship/assistantship
Spring	Full-time	11-18	\$19,582	16	No fellowship/assistantship
TOTAL			\$58,746	49	

Two-year total

TOTAL			\$115,233	98	
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*Tuition rates for 2023-24 will be 3-5% higher than for 2022-23. Actual rates available by March 2023.

EXAMPLE II: Full tuition for the first year / Reduced full-time tuition for the second year

Benefits: Save money

Concessions: Will end up taking fewer courses

Year 1

Quarter	Tuition Rate	Unit Range for Tuition Rate	Tuition Cost	Number of Units Taken (example)	Funding Support (example)
Autumn	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	16	No fellowship/assistantship
Winter	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	18	No fellowship/assistantship
Spring	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	17	No fellowship/assistantship
TOTAL			\$56,487	51	

Year 2*

Quarter	Tuition Rate	Unit Range for Tuition Rate	Tuition Cost*	Number of Units Taken (example)	Funding Support (example)
Autumn	Full-time	8-10	\$12,605	10	No fellowship/assistantship
Winter	Full-time	8-10	\$12,605	10	No fellowship/assistantship
Spring	Full-time	8-10	\$12,605	9	No fellowship/assistantship
TOTAL			\$37,815	29	

Two-year total

TOTAL			\$94,302	80	
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*Tuition rates for 2023-24 will be 3-5% higher than for 2022-23. Actual rates available by March 2023.

EXAMPLE III: Full tuition for the first year / MIP Teaching Assistantship (TA) for two quarters in the second year

Benefits: Cost savings, gaining teaching experience, working with a faculty member

Concessions: TA positions requires a fair amount of work so students need to budget their time well or possibly reduce the number of courses they enroll in during the quarter(s) in which they have a 50% assistantship

Year 1

Quarter	Tuition Rate	Unit Range for Tuition Rate	Tuition Cost	Number of Units Taken (example)	Funding Support (example)
Autumn	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	16	No fellowship/assistantship
Winter	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	17	No fellowship/assistantship
Spring	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	17	No fellowship/assistantship
TOTAL			\$56,487	50	

Year 2*

Quarter	Tuition Rate	Unit Range for Tuition Rate	Tuition Amount*	Number of Units Taken (example)	Funding Support (example)
Autumn	Full-time	8-10	\$0	10	MIP Global Econ TA**
Winter	Full-time	8-10	\$0	10	MIP Global Econ TA**
Spring	Full-time	8-10	\$12,605	10	No fellowship/assistantship
TOTAL			\$12,605	30	

Two-year total

TOTAL			\$69,092	80	
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*Tuition rates for 2023-24 will be 3-5% higher than for 2022-23. Actual rates available by March 2023.

**Teaching assistantships at 50% (20 hours/week) require a reduction in units to the 8-10 unit level. They provide full tuition coverage (8-10 unit rate) as well as a salary for the specific academic quarter. Some positions also provide 100% coverage of Stanford's Cardinal Care Health Insurance Premium. Please review the [Salary Table](#) for minimum salary levels for 2022-23. MIP hires 3-4 TAs per year. MIP students can also work as teaching assistants for other departments.

EXAMPLE IV: Full tuition for the first year / Research Assistantship (RA) for one quarter in the second year

Benefits: Save money, possible research or teaching assistantship that aligns with area of interest

Concessions: Will end up taking fewer courses

Year 1

Quarter	Tuition Rate	Unit Range for Tuition Rate	Tuition Cost	Number of Units Taken (example)	Funding Support (example)
Autumn	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	18	No fellowship/assistantship
Winter	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	18	No fellowship/assistantship
Spring	Full-time	11-18	\$18,829	18	No fellowship/assistantship
TOTAL			\$56,487	54	

Year 2*

Quarter	Tuition Rate	Unit Range for Tuition Rate	Tuition Cost*	Number of Units Taken (example)	Funding Support (example)
Autumn	Full-time	8-10	\$0	10	Research assistantship***
Winter	Full-time	8-10	\$12,605	10	No fellowship/assistantship
Spring	Full-time	6**	\$7,344	6	No fellowship/assistantship
TOTAL			\$19,949	26	

Two-year total

TOTAL			\$76,436	80	
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*Tuition rates for 2023-24 will be 3-5% higher than for 2022-23. Actual rates available by March 2023.

**It is possible to apply for a reduced tuition rate in the final quarter of the degree program. This reduced rate, which is available to students taking between 3-7 units, varies by number of units:

- 3 units = \$3,672
- 4 units = \$4,896
- 5 units = \$6,120
- 6 units = \$7,344
- 7 units = \$8,568

(NOTE: The reduced tuition rates listed are taken from the 2022-23 Tuition Schedule and should only be used as a reference. Special tuition rates for 2023-24 have not been published at this time.)

***Research assistantships at 50% (20 hours/week) require a reduction in units to the 8-10 unit level. They provide full tuition coverage (8-10 unit rate) as well as a salary for the specific academic quarter. Some positions also provide 100% coverage of Stanford's Cardinal Care Health Insurance Premium. Please review the [Salary Table](#) for minimum salary levels for 2022-23.