

The Loans and Bursaries Program (AFE)

The Financial Aid program is now simpler and even more geared towards the situation and needs of students. Approvals are quick and students can access their on line account and see the amount of financial assistance (loan and bursary) to be awarded by the government for the year. Moreover, the financial assistance will be deposited into the account on a monthly or periodic basis. This will make it easier for budget planning.

The amount of assistance awarded is based on the educational expenses (tuition fees, living expenses, transportation costs, etc.) and financial situation of the student and in some cases, the financial situation of his or her parents, sponsor or spouse will also be needed. Students can obtain an estimate of the financial assistance that could be awarded to them by visiting their web site and click on [Assessment simulator](#) button under the menu *Your On-Line Services*. The assessment results are available within minutes. However, the result is an approximation and should not be considered official.

If you need to submit a document to continue processing your file, you can use the on-line services and upload it right into your file. You will first need to save a digitized version of the document on your computer or work station then upload it to your personal on-line file so that Aide financière aux études can process the information it contains.

How to Apply

The ministry of Financial Aid encourages all students to apply on-line at www.afe.gouv.qc.ca. It's easy, free and reliable! Applying on-line can often prevent errors and weeks of delays.

Once approved, AFE sends a *Guarantee Certificate* issued in the student's name to the institution. It is the responsibility of Heritage College to distribute the certificates to the students. Students must submit this certificate to their bank in order to have it authenticated. This will begin the process of the direct deposits.

Other extras include a bursary of \$185 towards the purchase of prescribed contacts or glasses and chiropractic and medical refunds.

For further information:

Website www.afe.gouv.qc.ca

By interactive telephone service:

This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

1-888-345-4505

or

By calling the Ministry directly at :

1-877-643-3750 (toll free in Quebec)

Students registered may obtain further information at the financial aid Office by contacting:

Christine Smyth
Financial Aid Office
Heritage College
778-2270 ext. 1321
csmyth@cegep-heritage.qc.ca

Financial Aid - Frequently Asked Questions

› **When should I apply?**

You should apply as soon as you're accepted to the college.

› **Where can I find the application forms?**

You can apply online at www.afe.gouv.qc.ca/en/index.asp as early as May, or make an appointment by contacting the financial aid office at the College

› **How long will the application take to process?**

About 4-6 weeks if you apply by mail, or 10-15 business days if you apply on-line.

› **How much money will I receive?**

Financial aid is not a scholarship. The government will decide the amount of money you may receive depending on your actual financial situation. Students can obtain an estimate of the financial assistance that could be awarded by visiting the afe web site and click on the button assessment simulator under the menu *Your On-Line Services*. The assessment results are available within minutes. The result is an approximation and should not be considered official. Estimations can also be done in the financial aid office at the College.

› **Do I need to mail in any documents?**

If you are single and born in Quebec, there is no need to mail in any documents to AFE; students born outside of Quebec are required to mail or upload documents such as proof of residency in Quebec or drop by the College to submit your documents to the financial aid office for uploading. AFE does not accept documents sent by fax.

› **Do my parents need to fill out any forms?**

If you are single, your parent(s) that you live with (or last lived with) must fill out the Declaration of Mother and the Declaration of Father forms. These forms are separate and must be completed on line or mailed in order for a student's financial assistance application to be processed. These forms must be submitted each year that an application for financial assistance is sent.

› **What is a Guarantee Certificate?**

The Guarantee Certificate is a document that is issued by AFE once a student's application has been processed and a calculation of financial assistance has been assessed. The Certificate is sent to the College whereupon the student comes to pick it up and brings it to their financial institution. The next year that a student applies for financial assistance, there is no second Guarantee Certificate issued, it is only issued to start the process of receiving financial assistance through a student loan bank account. If a student takes a break from receiving financial assistance for a period of over six months, and then re-applies for loans and bursaries, a second Guarantee Certificate will then be issued.

› **What is the difference between a loan and a bursary?**

The loan part of your financial assistance will need to be repaid to your financial institution whereas the bursary component of your financial assistance does not need to be paid back.

› **When must I pay back my student loan?**

Students start repaying their loans 6 months after they finish their studies, including university. Students could also apply for the Deferred Payment Plan. Qualifying students will be exempted from repaying their student loans for a period of six consecutive months or for a lifetime maximum of 24 months. There are no payments or interest as long as Students remain registered in school full-time.