

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION SESSION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

7 PM ET

ONLINE (ZOOM)

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

FILM | THEATRE | VISUAL ARTS | WRITING

1965
2025
YEARS

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID TEAM



**JULIE
DOBROW**

Dean, Admissions
and Financial Aid



**KENNY
WONG**

Director, Admissions
and Financial Aid



**NIQUETTE
JOHNSON**

Officer, Admissions
and Financial Aid



**TORI
SHEFFER**

Admissions Assistant

TUITION AND FEES

All MFA programs require 2 years of full-time coursework at the full tuition rate.

Students in the Film, Theatre, or Writing MFA programs who register for Research Arts status in their third year will be billed a much lower tuition rate (typically 8-9% of the full-time tuition rate) and will maintain full-time status.

Fees, including the Health Services Fee, Medical Insurance and University Services and Support Fee, are in addition to tuition.

TUITION AND FEES (CONTINUED)

Medical insurance can be waived with proof of comparable coverage from a US-based health care provider.

Tuition increases approximately 4% each year.
Current rates can be found at **arts.columbia.edu/tuition**.

MA in Film & Media Studies requires 1 year at the full tuition rate plus one semester as Extended Residence.

The School of the Arts admissions process is **need blind** so please **do not hesitate to apply** for financial aid if you need it.

Faculty review committees do not have access to financial aid documents.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

US Citizens and Permanent Residents must submit a **FAFSA** every year—due **February 3, 2026**. **SOA school code is 002707**.

US Citizens and Permanent Residents and International Students must submit a School of the Arts Financial Aid Application—due **February 3, 2026**. Access via the **School of the Arts application portal**.

MAIN TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Scholarships
2. Work Opportunities
3. Federal Loans
4. Private Loans

MAIN TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

1. Scholarships

Range from \$10,000/year to approximately \$60,000/year.
Average scholarship is around \$30,000/year.

Determined through a combination of **need** as determined by your financial aid documents and **merit** as determined by the admissions committee review of your application

Renewable in your second year assuming **good academic** and **behavioral standing**.

Specialized scholarships for **veterans**.

No scholarships for Research Arts students.

MAIN TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

2. Work Opportunities

Work Study *U.S. citizens and permanent residents only are eligible*

Service Positions *All students are eligible*

Teaching Positions *All students are eligible*

MAIN TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

3. Federal Loans *U.S. citizens and permanent residents only*

FAFSA is based on your tax return from “prior prior year” (i.e. if you are submitting your application in Fall 2025 for Fall 2026 entry, you will be providing 2024 tax information).

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans (\$20,500/year maximum).

Your FAFSA submission will also help determine work-study eligibility.

MAIN TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

4. Private Loans

Columbia has a list of suggested lenders, which it will be updating for 2026-27.

International citizens may be eligible for private loans with a US-based co-signer.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

Emergency Aid

Dean's Travel Grants

Production Grants

Awards and Prizes

Outside Scholarships and Fellowships

FURTHER QUESTIONS

soafinaid@columbia.edu

Don't forget to submit
your financial aid
application/s by
February 3, 2026

**THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING
TODAY'S
SESSION!**