

# Financial Aid/Registration for classes

- ☐ Be sure to fill out your FAFSA at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>!
- ☐ Visit <http://optonet.inter.edu/fa/> for information on how to apply for financial aid for both US and International students.
- ☐ Your new School code for FAFSA [http://www.optonet.inter.edu/fa/fa\\_process.asp](http://www.optonet.inter.edu/fa/fa_process.asp)
- ☐ The schools website has a “Loan Calculator” link, which helps give an estimate of how much debt you’ll accrue according to the amount of loans taken.
- ☐ Tuition is approximately \$26,000 per year.
- ☐ If there are any questions regarding financial aid you should contact Lourdes Nieves Pérez- Financial Aid Director. Her email is [lnieves@opto.inter.edu](mailto:lnieves@opto.inter.edu) and her phone extension is 1021. She will contact you with a step-by-step guide on what to do in order to obtain financial aid.

## Loans:

If you are and US citizen, there are 3 types of loans available to you. You are most likely aware of the Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans. Those loans by themselves will cover your tuition and you should have \$7,000-\$9,000 left over to work with. Also, keep in mind you will need to set aside roughly \$2500 for equipment, which you purchase towards the end of your first semester. However, you are offered another opportunity for more money through a loan called the Grad Plus loan. The Grad Plus loan is determined on **Credit!** You have the opportunity to accept or reject any loan offered to you; however, if you plan on obtaining the Grad Plus loan, you might want to have an idea of your credit. If you are approved for the Grad Plus loan you will be given roughly \$5,000 more per semester. As you might have guessed, there is a massive interest, with repayment beginning immediately, so you might want to fully understand the loans before deciding.

- In the case of students from outside the US (Canada, India) the financial aid available for you is a little bit different. You **MUST** get your funding from the country in which you are from!

## Bursar’s Office:

- Where you pay for parking permits, return health insurance form, set up direct deposit of tuition
- Located in the clinic area near the dispensary

## DEPOSIT:

Receiving your loan money usually takes about 4 weeks after the first day of classes. Take it from someone who was left with nothing but turkey slices for 2 weeks, so try to have a little bit of cash left over after all your payments to the school. After tuition is paid the money that is left over will be direct deposited into your bank account. Make sure you have your account and routing number or plan on opening a bank account through one of the banks on this island (Banco Popular, 1<sup>st</sup> Bank, RG Premier Bank, Doral Bank, etc.).

## Other important costs:

- Average housing cost in the dorms is \$500 per month and includes utilities, which is automatically deducted from your tuition now. Off-campus housing is also available. Rates vary depending on location, number of roommates, etc.
- Average equipment costs are around \$2,500 depending on the equipment chosen.
- Computer
- Books
- School supplies (calculator, notebooks, paper, compass, small squared graph paper, ruler, etc.)
- Food/Groceries
- Dorm accessories (toilet paper, damprid bags to collect moisture, microwave, soap, etc)
- Sam's Club membership/Costco membership (optional):
- Student membership at Sam's for a year was \$10.00 last fall; normally around \$20-30.
- Cable/Satellite (optional):
  - Direct TV (\$35.00 and up per month)

## Convention (optional):

- Event that takes place Spring semester (typically January) but payment is required in the Fall (cost last year was about \$150 per person-that was with 3 people per room)
  - Convention is an optional event but it's a great way to get further exposed to the field through seminars and connect with classmates.
  - There are beach games and a dance competition between the classes, so it's a lot of fun!

## Car/Car rental:

- If you are thinking about purchasing a car there are several options:
  - Get in contact with a fourth year selling his/her car
  - Use clasificados (similar to craigslist)
    - <http://www.clasificadosonline.com/transportation.asp>
  - Visit a dealership (Toyota, Honda, Ford, etc.)
- Shipping your car:
  - You can ship your car to the island, but it runs roughly \$3000.00 and takes about 2 weeks.
- Car rental:
  - Enterprise-Rent-A-Car
    - Usually offers a \$9.99/ day deal from Friday-Monday and includes 300 miles.
    - If under the age of 25 there is an extra charge of \$10.00/day, however, they've lowered it to \$5.00/day for Optometry students.
    - They will pick you up and drop you back off at campus after you return the rental.

- Places to get cash back:
  - Walgreen's
  - Sam's Club
  - Kmart
- Most gas stations are pre-pay and need to be done so with cash. Some take ATM cards, but you still have to pre-pay.

## Registering for classes:

Registering for classes will be done during orientation week. The Bursar's office will be the most visited place for you during this process. What you want to be aware of is that the process will **not** be online. Administration will walk you through the process of registering.