



## **NU Alternative Loan for Graduate and Professional School Students Terms and Conditions for 2020-21**

### **ELIGIBILITY AND BORROWER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Student must be enrolled as a full time student at Northwestern University.
- Student must apply for either a social security number or individual taxpayer identification number.
- Student must keep the Northwestern University Student Finance Office informed of changes of name, social security number or ITIN, address, and phone number as well as any changes in his or her enrollment status prior to graduation from Northwestern University.
- Student must have a satisfactory credit history.

### **CO-SIGNER REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Co-signer can be a parent, guardian, or relative. A spouse **cannot** act as co-signer. Other individuals who wish to become co-signers will be approved on a case by case basis.
- Co-signer must be a U.S citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Co-signer is equally responsible with the student for repayment of the loan. However, it is expected that the student will endeavor to meet the total responsibility of repayment.

### **LOAN LIMITS**

- Minimum loan amount is \$2,000.
- Maximum loan amount for any one year cannot exceed the amount of unmet financial need as determined by the Financial Aid Office.
- Maximum aggregate loan amount for each student cannot exceed limit set by Student Finance Office.

### **INTEREST RATE**

- Variable interest rate is established annually each September 1.
- A rate change will result in an adjustment to the scheduled payment amount.
- For historical interest rate information select the Interest tab after clicking this link:  
<https://www.northwestern.edu/sfs/financial-aid-and-loans/loan-types/institutional-loans/nu-loan/index.html>

### **• IN-SCHOOL INTEREST CHARGES**

- Interest begins accruing once funds are disbursed to the student.
- All unpaid accrued interest is capitalized six months after graduation or separation from the University.
- Interest capitalization refers to the process by which outstanding interest is added to the principal balance.

### **APPROVAL**

- Loan approval is subject to review by the NU Student Finance Office.
- Financial Aid Office must certify all loan applications before loan funds are disbursed to the student's tuition and fees account.
- Approved loan amount may be less than that requested on the initial application based on the determination of the Financial Aid Office.
- A loan packet containing the promissory notes and coverage certificate will be created upon approval. All documents must be signed as instructed.

### **DISBURSEMENT**

- A 5% origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement for international students.
- Loan funds are disbursed directly to the student's Northwestern tuition and fees account.
- Total approved loan amount is usually disbursed in equal amounts for each term of enrollment during the academic year, unless specified otherwise by the Financial Aid Office.

#### **DEATH AND DISABILITY**

- The student is covered under death and disability policy.
- The cost is incorporated into the interest rate for the loan.
- There are no additional fees for the coverage.
- Both the first co-signer and student must sign the form provided with the promissory note (further details and restrictions regarding coverage are contained on the form).

#### **REPAYMENT**

- Repayment of principal and interest begins six months after separation from the University and continues until the loan is paid in full.
- Repayment of principal and interest can extend up to a maximum of 10 years following the end of the grace period.
- The required minimum monthly payment of principal and interest is based on the total amount borrowed, but in no case, will it be less than \$100.
- No penalties are assessed for prepayment or early repayment.
- Forbearance of the loan is available upon request and is subject to the approval of the Northwestern University Student Finance Office.
- Payments are due monthly and statements are sent to the student in advance of each due date.

#### **PAYMENT PENALTIES AND FEES**

- NU Loan accounts more than 90 days past due may be assigned to an outside collection agency.
- A late charge equal to 5% of the late payment on any interest and/or principal payment that is overdue 7 days or more will be assessed.
- The student's academic records and ability to register will be placed on hold.
- Failure to make timely monthly payments may affect the student's ability to receive future NU Loan funds.
- If a payment is returned by the bank, a fee will be assessed. Fees are determined by the University. Currently the fee is \$15 per transaction.

#### **PLEASE RETAIN THIS INFORMATION SHEET WITH YOUR RECORDS**

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*Such conduct violates Northwestern's values and disrupts the living, learning, and working environment for students, faculty, staff, and other community members.*

*For advice or assistance regarding this policy: <http://www.northwestern.edu/hr/equalopp-access/equal-employment-opportunity/nondiscrimination.html>.*

*April 2020*