

House Fellow Financial Aid FAQ

Why does my House Fellow housing and food benefit have to be included in my financial aid offer?

Based on federal regulation, we must include estimated financial assistance (EFA) in a student's financial aid offer. EFA is any educational benefit paid because of enrollment in post-secondary education expenses, such as food and housing. Since you are receiving this additional benefit due to living in the school's residence halls, we must include this in your aid offer. If you have further questions on what is considered EFA, please contact our office. We are not required to include your stipend in your financial aid offer because your stipend is considered wages.

How will the addition of the housing and food benefit affect my financial aid?

Per federal regulation, we cannot award a student above their cost of attendance or financial need. Cost of attendance depends on several factors and additional information can be found at <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance/>. All aid offered to you is counted toward your cost of attendance. Financial need is equal to your cost of attendance minus your expected family contribution (EFC). EFC is calculated when you fill out your FAFSA each year. Grants, scholarships, subsidized loans, work study, fellowships or assistantships (including House Fellowships) apply to your financial need. If the benefit of your housing and food surpass your cost of attendance or financial need, then aid will need to be removed in order to correct this over award. For 2019-20, your housing and food benefit amount is \$11,110. Please refer to your financial aid offer letter on your student center for information on your exact cost of attendance and financial aid.

The housing and food benefit was not included in my financial aid offer last year. Why does it have to be included this year?

We reviewed our estimated financial assistance (EFA) policy and now must include this form of aid to ensure we are in compliance with the federal government. We understand this may have impacts on your aid and encourage you to meet with a financial aid advisor to discuss the impacts and possible solutions to any concerns. Schedule an appointment on Starfish or by calling our office.

Can I appeal the decision to include housing and food benefit in my financial aid offer ?

Unfortunately, we cannot accept appeals to this decision due to it being based on a federal regulation that we are required to follow. We still encourage you to meet with a financial aid advisor to discuss the impacts and possible solutions to any concerns. If you have other special circumstances, you may be able to appeal for those circumstances. Visit <http://financialaid.wisc.edu/applying/> to learn more about special circumstances or contact our office.

Contact our Office

Schedule an appointment with an advisor through Starfish on MyUW or call our office.



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