

OSAP and Professional Experience Year: Information and Useful Tips

OSAP Repayment begins:

- During the PEY you're not considered a full-time student so the OSAP loan repayment process begins.
- Your loans will go into repayment 6 months from the end of your last full-time study period.

Repayment example for a current APSC student:

- Study period end date for the 2012-2013 year if you're a full time student: April 29, 2013.
- Non-Payment Period: May 1, 2013 to Oct 31, 2013 (interest is charged on the Canada portion of your loan).
- Consolidation Date: Nov 1, 2013 (date your loans officially goes into repayment).
- First Required Payment Date: Nov 30, 2013.

Interest Charges:

- OSAP funding consists of the Canada Student Loan and the Ontario Student Loan. Most students have both.
- The floating interest rate on the CSL is Prime plus 2.5% and on the OSL it is Prime plus 1.0%.
- While you're enrolled as a full-time student, and the lender is aware, the loans are interest-free.
- Once you're no longer a full-time student you're given a 6 month Non-Payment period.
- Interest is charged on the Canada portion of your student loans during this 6 month Non-Payment period.
- Repayment of the loans is "open." You can choose to begin repaying your loans early or increase payments.

Repayment Assistance:

- For most of you the lender is the National Student Loans Service Centre (1-888-815-4514; <http://canlearn.ca>).
- The NSLSC will mail you repayment information about 5 months after your full-time studies end.
- If you cannot afford to make the payments then contact the NSLSC to inquire about Repayment Assistance.
- Repayment Assistance means that your payments could be reduced based on your monthly income.
- Revision of Terms is another possibility to lower your payments by extending the life of the OSAP loan.
- Canlearn (<http://canlearn.ca>) and OSAP (<http://osap.gov.on.ca>) websites have useful repayment calculators.

Updating your address and Useful Websites:

- Ensure the lender has your current address and contact information.
- National Student Loans Service Centre: 1-888-815-4514 or register on-line at <http://canlearn.ca>.
- Update information with OSAP at <http://osap.gov.on.ca> and with U of T at www.rosi.utoronto.ca

How will my PEY income affect my future OSAP application?

- OSAP is an income/asset sensitive program. The Ministry expects that the more resources you have the less financial need you will have. In most cases, it is not possible to appeal the Ministry's expectation that you have these resources.
- If you plan on applying for OSAP when you return to full-time studies, the application will ask a variety of questions about your resources. There're some that that play a key role in determining how much funding you get. Here're some examples:
 - Your assets (Vehicles that you own/co-own/lease, bank account balances, investments, GIC's, vehicles, etc.) as of 16 weeks prior to the start of classes, which is around the middle of May.
 - Your gross income during the 16 weeks prior to the start of classes, which is usually mid-May to the start of classes in September.
- Funding Estimator Programs: OSAP website: osap.gov.on.ca (Select "Aid Estimator" on the left) **OR** University of Toronto Advance Planning for Students: www.adm.utoronto.ca/fa (Select "UTAPS" on the left).

OSAP and Professional Experience Year: Information and Useful Tips

Using PEY income wisely:

- Decisions to use PEY income to pay off debts, purchase a vehicle, etc. can impact your OSAP severely.
- Assets:
 - You must declare 16 weeks prior to the start of classes in September which is around mid-May.
 - There're no appeals to have assets removed from your OSAP assessment.
 - Therefore if you choose to make lump-sum payments against your debts, then do so prior to the beginning of May. Focus on high interest debts.
 - Vehicles that you own/co-own/lease are considered assets. You have to declare the total value.
- Summer Income:
 - Gross income, for mid-May to the start of classes in September, has to be declared to OSAP.
 - Gross income means before any deductions or before you pay for any expenses.
 - In this period you should reduce your expenses and make only the minimum payments on your OSAP.
 - OSAP loans will be interest free once you return to full-time studies and confirm your enrolment.
- These policies are consistent with those of your Faculty's Grants Committee.

PEY income and UTAPS grant:

- The UTAPS grant is directly linked to your OSAP assessment so OSAP recipients do not apply separately.
- Out of Province Students: apply for UTAPS beginning in August.
- Qualifying for UTAPS: You must have unmet financial need according to the student loan assessment and you must be a full-time student for the entire school year. No UTAPS for one-term student loan assessments.
- Funding Estimator Program for loans and grants: www.adm.utoronto.ca/fa (Select UTAPS on the left).

Applying for OSAP after returning from PEY:

- Apply for student loans and provide all required documents by the end of May.
- Assessments for early applications will be available in early August
- Appeals may be possible: consult with Enrolment Services in August after you find out your assessment.

Factors that could change in your new student loan application:

- Independent status: OSAP considers you to be independent if you've been out of high school for 4 years.
- Residency:
 - If you left Ontario, to work in another Province for 12 consecutive months without studying full-time, then you're now considered a resident of that Province for student loan purposes.
 - If you're a resident of another Province, and worked in Ontario for 12 consecutive months without studying full-time, then you could be eligible for OSAP loans when you return from PEY.

Not applying for OSAP after returning from PEY:

- You must notify the NSLSC that you've returned to full-time studies to stop the OSAP repayment process.
- Complete a Continuation of Interest Free Status form at your Registrar Office in September.
- You must pay off any outstanding interest on your loans in order to enter non-repayment status.

PEY and Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Tuition Scholarship:

- You must request a deferral of the award, for your PEY year, if you meet the renewal criteria.
- Make your deferral request starting in July 2013 after your current year's marks are available.
- Deadline to make deferral request: Jan 2014.
- Contact Beth Lebens (beth.lebens@utoronto.ca) at Enrolment Services to request the deferral. Please include your legal name, student number and first 6 digits of your Social Insurance Number in your e-mail.