

## TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Updated January 2025

### OVERVIEW

The Tuition Waiver Program is a generous tuition scholarship granted by the university to qualified faculty/staff and retirees as well as their eligible dependents. In all cases, dependent children refer to unmarried children, stepchildren and legally adopted children of the employee or domestic partner claimed as dependents on the most recent federal tax return. If applicable, a [Domestic Partner Certification Form](#) must be on file with Human Resources.

The scholarship covers **tuition and tuition deposits only**. It does not cover books, supplies, lab fees, or any other fees including student registration and student center fees. Refer to the *Taxation of Benefits* section to determine any tax liability.

The actual amount of scholarship granted depends on an employee's eligibility status as described below and in the Tuition Waiver Provisions Section.

### ELIGIBILITY

#### BENEFITS ELIGIBLE FACULTY AND STAFF

Benefits eligible staff are defined as staff who are scheduled to work at least 24 hours per week. Benefits eligible faculty are defined as faculty with a full academic year contract working a minimum of 24 hours per week.

STUDENT STATUS	TUITION BENEFIT COVERS:	ELIGIBILITY	PROVISIONS
Benefits Eligible Faculty/Staff	Nine credit hours per term	Begins with the term following the date of benefits-eligible employment.	Rehired employees do not receive credit for prior service when establishing eligibility for tuition waiver.
Spouse or Domestic Partner	-One undergraduate or graduate course per term (up to a maximum of four credit hours) -Any credits above that will be considered as a second course. -Excludes doctoral courses. -One-half of the tuition cost will be waived for additional courses taken at the same time.	-After faculty/staff member has been employed in a benefits eligible position for three consecutive years -Benefits begin at the start of the term in which the three-year waiting period is met.	Marriage Certificate or Domestic Partner Certification Form must be on file with HR.

Dependent Children, which includes children of faculty/staff members or domestic partners	Full tuition for undergraduate and graduate courses in UG Day Boston, Oakland, London, and CPS. -Excludes doctoral courses.	Same eligibility criteria as spouses or domestic partners	May be enrolled in a degree program or taking individual courses.
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**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR DEPENDENTS:**

- Tuition waiver forms for dependents who are *full-time undergraduate students* must be submitted at the beginning of each academic **year**. Tuition waiver forms for dependents enrolled in the *College of Professional Studies (CPS)* must be submitted at the beginning of each academic **term**.
- Tuition waiver forms submitted for dependent children must be accompanied by a [Dependent Certification Form](#) each time a waiver is submitted. This form certifies that the student meets the IRS definition of a dependent and further certifies that the student was listed as a dependent on the employee's most recent federal tax return.

**PART-TIME FACULTY**

STUDENT STATUS	TUITION BENEFIT COVERS:	ELIGIBILITY	PROVISIONS
Part-time Faculty	-One undergraduate or graduate course per term (up to a maximum of four credit hours) in UG Day Boston, Oakland, London, and CPS. -Any credits above that will be considered as a second course.	-Must have taught for at least six terms. -Can take the course in the term in which they are assigned to teach after meeting this requirement. -If the faculty member is not able to use this benefit in the term in which they are eligible, it may be used in the following term. -If the benefit is not used within these two terms, the benefit may not be carried over to another term.	-This benefit may be transferred to a spouse or domestic partner. -If the benefit is transferred, the faculty benefit will be considered exhausted in the eligible term.
Spouse or Domestic Partner	-Benefit only applies if it is transferred from a part-time faculty member. -One undergraduate or graduate course (up to a maximum of four credit hours) -Excludes doctoral courses.	Must be used in the term in which the faculty member teaches.	Marriage Certificate or Domestic Partner Certification Form must be on file with HR.

Dependent Children, which includes children of faculty members or domestic partners	-If full-time student, then one-fourth of the standard tuition charge is waived in the eligible term. -If part-time student, a maximum of four credit hours is waived in the eligible term. -Excludes doctoral courses.	-Part-time faculty member must have at least ten years of service. -Benefit must be used in a term in which the faculty member teaches.	May be enrolled in a degree program or taking individual courses.
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**PART-TIME STAFF**

Part-time staff are defined as staff who work an ongoing regular assignment and are regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 17.5 hours per week for 52 weeks in a budgeted position.

STUDENT STATUS	TUITION BENEFIT COVERS:	ELIGIBILITY	PROVISIONS
Part-time staff with work week of:			
17.5 to 23 hours per week	Five credit hours per term	Begins with the term following the date of employment.	Same as above
Spouse or Domestic Partner	No tuition benefit available		
Dependent Children, which includes children of staff or domestic partners	No tuition benefit available		

## RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF

Retired faculty/staff are defined as employees who have reached age 55, are in good standing, and have at least 10 years of continuous benefits-eligible service immediately preceding the employee's retirement date. Service is considered continuous if there is less than a three-month break in service.

STUDENT STATUS	TUITION BENEFIT COVERS:	ELIGIBILITY	PROVISIONS
Retired Faculty and Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Two undergraduate or graduate courses per term (up to a maximum of four credit hours per course)</li> <li>-Any credits above that will be considered as an additional course.</li> </ul>	See definition above.	
Spouse or Domestic Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Two undergraduate or graduate courses per term (up to a maximum of four credit hours per course)</li> <li>-Any credits above that will be considered as an additional course.</li> <li>-Excludes doctoral courses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Must be spouse or domestic partner on file at the time of employee's retirement.</li> <li>-Any new spouse or domestic partner after the retirement date is not eligible for the benefit.</li> </ul>	Marriage Certificate or Domestic Partner Certification Form must be on file with HR.
Dependent Children, which includes children of faculty/staff members or domestic partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Full tuition for undergraduate and graduate courses in UG Day Boston, Oakland, London and CPS.</li> <li>-Excludes doctoral courses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Must be dependent of employee or dependent of domestic partner at the time of retirement.</li> <li>-Any new dependent after the retirement date is not eligible for the benefit.</li> </ul>	May be enrolled in a degree program or taking individual courses.

## DEPENDENTS OF EMPLOYEES ON LONG-TERM DISABILITY OR OF DECEASED EMPLOYEES

The university grants scholarships to the dependent children of employees who become permanently disabled and are no longer able to work, or die while employed by the university, provided that the employee completed ten or more years of full-time benefits-eligible service with Northeastern University immediately prior to the time of disability or death and under the following circumstances:

STUDENT STATUS	TUITION BENEFIT COVERS:	ELIGIBILITY	PROVISIONS
Spouse or Domestic Partner	No tuition benefit available		If spouse or domestic partner is currently enrolled in a course(s), they may receive the benefit until the end of the term in which disability or death occurs.
Dependent Children, which includes children of faculty/staff members or domestic partners	-Full tuition for undergraduate and graduate courses in UG Day Boston, Oakland, London and CPS. -Excludes doctoral courses.	-Must be dependent of employee or dependent of domestic partner at the time of the employee's death or disability. -Any new dependent after the date of death or disability is not eligible for the benefit.	-May be enrolled in a degree program or taking individual courses. -If the employee had less than ten years of consecutive full-time benefits-eligible employment at the date of disability or death and the dependent child is currently enrolled in a course(s), they may receive the benefit until the end of the term in which death or disability occurs.

## TUITION WAIVER PROVISIONS

The special provisions include:

- The scholarships are awarded with the provision that the requester is qualified for admission.
- It is the responsibility of the student to enroll or apply for admission into whichever programs or courses they elect. The course registration process must be completed prior to submitting a tuition waiver form.
- If an employee has more than one status with the university, the position with the most generous benefit will determine the tuition benefit.

- Terms with multiple sessions are considered one academic term for tuition waiver purposes e.g., summer sessions I and II are considered one academic term.
- All courses taken by Northeastern University faculty and staff must be taken outside of their regular work hours.
  - Faculty and staff cannot use their lunchtime, vacation or sick days to attend classes.
- Under certain circumstances, an exception to this provision may be considered if the course is:
  - The last one needed to graduate and is not offered outside of normal work hours;
  - A prerequisite to taking additional courses needed to graduate and the course is never offered outside of work hours; or
  - Needed to graduate and is never offered outside of normal work hours.
- The employee must provide supporting documentation to show eligibility for the above exception. In addition, the employee’s supervisor must consent in writing to this arrangement. These documents must be sent to HR. HR will make the decision on the granting of the exception as outlined above.
- No faculty member above the rank of instructor may enter a graduate degree program in their own department or comparable unit. Faculty members engaged in graduate degree programs in their own colleges may not participate in decisions regarding graduate curriculum or related matters or vote on graduate degrees.
- Please refer to the Student Handbook for the procedures on how to drop a course and the corresponding penalties. If there is a penalty, the employee must have filed a Tuition Waiver, or they will be billed for the course.
- For an employee on an unpaid leave of absence exceeding 30 days, the tuition waiver benefit will only apply to covered dependents. This includes the spouse, domestic partner and/or dependent children of the employee and/or domestic partner. Refer to the taxable consequences for the spouse, domestic partner and/or dependent children of an active employee cited above for general guidance.

**WHAT IS COVERED AND WHAT IS NOT COVERED?**

<b>PROGRAMS NOT COVERED</b>	
<b>PROGRAM NAME</b>	<b>COVERAGE</b>
Healthcare Innovation & EntrepreNURSEship	Not Covered
ABSN (Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing)	Not Covered
RN to BSN	Not Covered
Global International Pathways	Not Covered
Online MS in Finance	Not Covered
Online MS in Taxation	Not Covered
Summer Discovery Program	Not Covered
JD/JD Flex Program	Not Covered

PARTIALLY COVERED PROGRAMS	
NUIn	Partial Coverage for dependent children. Tuition benefit will waive one-third of tuition.
Global Scholars Program	Partial Coverage for dependent children. Tuition benefit will waive one-third of tuition.
London Scholars Program	Partial Coverage for dependent children. Tuition benefit will waive one-third of tuition.
New York City Scholars Program *Effective for Fall 2025	Partial Coverage for dependent children. Tuition benefit will waive one-third of tuition.
Law School: JD and Master of Law (LLM) Programs	Spouse/Domestic partners & dependent children eligible. Not extended to employees.
Faculty Led Study Abroad: Dialogues, Three Seas	Partial Coverage for dependent children. Tuition benefit will waive one-third of tuition.
Basic International Study Abroad Programs	Partial Coverage for dependent children. Tuition benefit will waive one-third of tuition.
Executive Doctorate in Law and Policy	Employee is eligible for 70% tuition discount.
Online Master of Law (LLM) Program	Extended to employees. Spouse/domestic partners and dependent children not eligible.
Doctoral Programs	Extended to employees. Spouse/domestic partners and dependent children not eligible.
IFSE- International Field Study Experience	Covers course tuition only.
Business Exchange and Graduate International Studies	Dependent children only. Covered at 100%.

#### HOW TO APPLY FOR TUITION REMISSION

- Benefits-eligible faculty and staff can access the Tuition Waiver form [online](#)
- All other eligible employees can email [HR-Benefits@northeastern.edu](mailto:HR-Benefits@northeastern.edu) to request a copy of the form.
- Forms must be submitted to HR to ensure adherence to the Tuition Waiver Program Guidelines. Proper signature levels are required before HR approves the waiver. HR will forward a copy of the approved waiver directly to Student Accounts.
- All waivers must be received within 30 days of the course start date. This allows HR and Student Accounts to provide employees with prompt notification of any problems with the waiver request. This timing also allows the employee to withdraw from the course before the tuition charges are incurred. Submission of late waiver requests do not allow for the proper taxation of tuition benefits (when applicable) within the appropriate calendar year.
- Please contact the Student Accounts team for any account-related questions, using the following [Student Financial Services Inquiry Form](#)

## TAXATION OF BENEFITS - USA

- Federal and state regulations mandate that certain tuition benefits are subject to federal and state taxes. Some or all of the benefits received under the tuition waiver program may be considered a taxable benefit. In general, graduate coursework and coursework for domestic partners and dependents of domestic partners will increase the amount of taxable income for the year.
- The estimated withholding is generally 37.65% of the tuition value exceeding the IRS maximum. This tax percentage represents the sum of the following: 25% federal, 5% state and 7.65% Social Security/Medicare taxes. This is typically true for Massachusetts residents. Please refer to current IRS policy and applicable federal and state tax tables to identify individual tax liability.
- Affected employees will be notified by Student Accounts of the taxable tuition value and the timeframe that payroll taxes will be withheld for the applicable academic term. If an employee terminates or retires, the tuition benefit will extend until the end of the course. Any unpaid taxable tuition will be included on a Form W-2 or 1099 in the appropriate calendar year.
- Graduate level courses that have NOT been approved as job-related are subject to taxation if the tuition waiver benefit exceeds the IRS maximum (currently \$5250) in a calendar year.
- An employee is responsible for discussing their job-related course selection(s) with their supervisor prior to submitting the tuition waiver form for approval.
- The supervisor reviews the courses requested by their employees to ensure that they are job-related. Job-related courses include:
  - Any course that allows the employee to meet minimum job requirements for his/her current job as supported by his/her job description is to be considered job-related.
  - Any course that maintains or improves the skills required by the employee’s current job as supported by his/her job description is to be considered job-related.

The following chart depicts the current taxable consequences for various course enrollees. As these regulations are subject to change without notice; please refer to the current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations. This information is provided for general guidance only.

TYPE OF COURSE	STUDENT STATUS	TAXABLE TO EMPLOYEE?	TAX WITHHOLDING PROCESS
UNDERGRADUATE	Faculty/Staff	No	Does not apply
	Retiree	No	Does not apply
	Spouse (of active or retired employee)	No	Does not apply
	Domestic Partner (of active or retired employee)	Yes	Payroll deduction during calendar year
	Dependent children (of active or retired employee)	No*	*Does not apply, but benefit may be subject to taxation for US employees dependents taking course work at Northeastern University London
	Dependent children of Domestic Partner	Yes	Payroll deduction during calendar year



	Dependent children (of LTD–eligible or deceased employee)	No*	*Does not apply, but benefit may be subject to taxation for US employees dependents taking course work at Northeastern University London
	Dependent children (of Domestic Partner of LTD-eligible, retired or deceased employee)	Yes	Taxable value will be included on Form W-2 or 1099, as applicable.
GRADUATE	Faculty/Staff	Yes, if not job-related and value exceeds IRS max; No, if job-related	Payroll deduction during calendar year
	Retiree	Yes	Taxable value will be included on Form W-2 or 1099, as applicable.
	Spouse (of active or retired employee)	Yes	Payroll deduction during calendar year or tax liability will be included on Form W-2 or 1099, as applicable.
	Domestic Partner (of active or retired employee)	Yes	Payroll deduction during calendar year or tax liability will be included on Form W-2 or 1099 as applicable.
	Dependent children (of active employee)	Yes	Payroll deduction during calendar year
	Dependent children of Domestic Partner	Yes	Payroll deduction during calendar year
	Dependent children (of LTD–eligible, retired or deceased employee)	Yes	Tax liability will be included on Form W-2 or Form 1099, as applicable
	Dependent children (of Domestic Partner of LTD-eligible, retired or deceased employee)	Yes	Tax liability will be included on Form W-2 or Form 1099, as applicable.

TAXATION OF BENEFITS - CANADA

TYPE OF COURSE	STUDENT STATUS	TAXABLE TO EMPLOYEE?	TAX WITHHOLDING PROCESS
GRADUATE	Faculty/Staff	Yes, if not job-related; No, if job-related. Your manager will need to confirm that the courses are related to your continued employment with Northeastern. Cost of courses are included in employee's taxable income in his/her T4. Employee may be entitled to a Tuition Tax Credit in Canada. The employee is responsible for checking if they are entitled to a Tuition Tax Credit.	Employee will need to include the income in his/her taxable income. Generally, no Tuition Tax Credit is available as the courses are considered compensation.
	<p><b>Eligible Dependent</b> of employee takes courses.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spouse (of active or retired employee)</li> <li>• Domestic Partner (of active or retired employee)</li> <li>• Dependent children (of active employee)</li> <li>• Dependent children of Domestic Partner</li> <li>• Dependent children (of LTD-eligible, retired or deceased employee)</li> <li>• Dependent children (of Domestic Partner of LTD eligible, retired or deceased employee)</li> </ul>	Yes. The cost of courses is included NOT in the employee's T4, but on a T4A to be issued to the Student.	<p>Student will include the income in his/her taxable income but may be able to claim a Tuition Tax Credit in Canada.</p> <p>*If the dependent meets certain criteria, he or she may be able to exclude the amount from income on their income tax and benefit return. For more information, please refer to the CRA's website at <a href="#">CRA - Tuition Tax Credit</a> for additional background or consult with your personal tax advisor.</p>
	<b>Retiree</b>	The cost of courses is included on a T4A to be issued to the Student.	A retiree will need to include the income in his/her taxable income.