



FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

The Music Institute of Chicago, including The Institute for Therapy through the Arts, annually subsidizes tuition for students whose financial resources are limited. The qualification criteria for need-based financial aid relate solely to financial need, not to ability or talent. A separate and distinct merit scholarship program offers assistance to students who demonstrate extraordinary musical ability; please contact the Assistant to the Dean for details on these awards.

Need-based financial aid awards are determined using a sliding scale ranging from 9 to 95 percent of tuition. All who qualify are expected to pay the remaining portion of their tuition prior to the first lesson. (An installment plan is available; please contact your Campus Director for an application.) Applications for financial aid are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year; applicants will be notified as soon as possible once all necessary information has been submitted and a decision has been reached. **Priority deadline for fall semester: July 15.**

Once approved, financial aid is typically in effect for the balance of the Music Institute's academic year which concludes on August 31. Recipients are required to submit a written request for continuing aid for summer lessons. On occasion, however, summer awards are reduced due to financial aid budget limitations. If a student cancels instruction, financial aid is forfeited; the student must reapply upon returning.

Information regarding awards

- Awards may be applied to private instruction (and one supporting class or ensemble), group classes, or ensembles. If a student is enrolled in multiple offerings, aid will be applied to the most expensive lesson or class.
- Standard lesson lengths at the Music Institute are 30, 45, or 60 minutes. At the recommendation of the private instructor, aid *may* be applied to 90-minute lessons. Additional aid for increases in lesson length will be reviewed following approval by the private instructor.
- In order to offer assistance to as many qualified applicants as possible, financial aid is generally restricted to private instruction on only one instrument per student and one class or ensemble related to that instrument. Requests for financial aid on a second instrument will be reviewed by the Dean; aid may be granted for up to a total of 90 minutes per week for all private instruction.

Criteria for determining awards

- Family income verification
- Number of people in the applicant's household
- Special circumstances such as illness, loss of job, pending divorce, business loss, etc.

Expectations of Financial Aid Recipients

- Regular attendance at lessons. After three unexcused absences, financial aid will not be renewed for the following semester.
- Commitment to musical studies as demonstrated by the following: evidence of consistent practice, bringing music to all lessons, participation in recitals, and cooperation with the private instructor.
- Timely payment of tuition. The balance due after financial aid has been applied is the recipient's responsibility to pay prior to the first lesson or in accordance with the installment plan.
- Participation in performances at fund-raising, outreach, or special events, if requested by the Music Institute.
- Involvement in volunteer activities for the Music Institute of Chicago.

Fulfillment of these expectations will be tracked and failure to meet any of these expectations may result in current and future aid being rescinded.

