

Tuition Remission Benefit Guide





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Need More Information?

Please visit the [Education Benefits](#) page or email the Benefits team at usdbenefits@sandiego.edu. You can also review [Policy 3.11.2](#) for complete program details at myusdbenefits.com.



What Is Tuition Remission?

Tuition Remission is a benefit that waives 100% of the tuition costs for eligible USD programs taken by full-time, regular, benefit-based employees, their spouses or registered domestic partners, and their eligible dependent children. Eligible individuals may use the benefit for one undergraduate or one graduate degree. Eligibility for the Tuition Remission program does not guarantee admission to USD. All students must meet the USD admission requirements in order to be admitted to any undergraduate or graduate programs.

Please note that the Tuition Remission benefit is for tuition only. Application fees, required student fees, parking fees, housing fees, and any other fees assessed to all students are not covered by Tuition Remission and are the responsibility of the employee and/or eligible dependent. Employees are only assessed the required Student Wellness Fee.



Who Is Eligible?

Employees

Employees are eligible to use Tuition Remission on the first day of the Fall or Spring semester that is closest to their one-year anniversary in a full-time, regular (not temporary), continuous, benefit-based position.

Spouses and Domestic Partners

An eligible employee's spouse or registered domestic partner can begin using Tuition Remission on the first day of the Fall or Spring semester that is closest to the employee's two-year anniversary in a full-time, regular (not temporary), continuous, benefit-based position.

Dependent Children & Children of Domestic Partners

An eligible employee's dependent children and children of domestic partners under age 25* can begin using Tuition Remission on the first day of the Fall or Spring semester that is closest to the employee's two-year anniversary in a full-time, regular (not temporary), benefit-based position.

**In order to be eligible for Tuition Remission, a dependent child must be 24 years of age or younger on the first day of the semester under Tuition Remission. Dependent children who turn 25 while enrolled in a USD degree program will retain eligibility for this benefit through the completion of that degree as long as they maintain continuous enrollment at USD and make appropriate academic progress towards the degree. However, taxation of the benefit may change in accordance with IRS regulations.*

Dependent Children of Retirees

Dependent children (under age 25) of retirees are eligible for Tuition Remission courses leading to an undergraduate degree if the retired employee had at least 15 years of service in a full-time, regular (not temporary), benefit-based position and was at least age 65 when they retired.

ROTC Instructors

ROTC instructors are eligible upon employment.

Note: *The Tuition Remission benefit is not a contract between University of San Diego and its employees or retired employees. The University reserves the right to reduce or terminate the benefit at any time, and such changes or elimination of Tuition Remission may affect those who have previously received the benefit. No employee or former employee shall have any vested right to benefits. Refer to [Policy 3.11.2](#) for complete program details.*

2026-2027 Eligible & Ineligible Programs

Eligible Programs

Bachelor's Degree Programs

Master's Degree Programs in Knauss School of Business

(Some limitations for employees, please see ineligible program list)

Master's Degree Programs in College of Arts and Sciences (except MFA)

School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES)

- Global Study (USD programs only)
 - MA Programs including MA in Restorative Justice Facilitation and Leadership
 - MEd Programs (except Online MEd)
 - Ph.D in Leadership Studies
 - Teaching Credential
 - Ph.D or EdS in Education for Social Justice
 - Ed.D in Organizational Leadership
 - Ed.D in Catholic Social Thought & Practice (online)
-

Master's Degree Programs in Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies

School of Law Programs

- JD
 - LLM
 - For U.S. Graduates
 - » LLM in Business and Corporate Law
 - » LLM in International Law
 - » LLM in Taxation
 - » LLM in U.S. Law
 - » General LLM with Concentration (as approved)
 - For International Law School Graduates
 - » LLM in U.S. Law
 - » LLM in Spanish
 - Master of Science in Legal Studies
 - Optional Concentrations
 - » Business and Corporate Law
 - » Criminal Law
 - » Environmental and Energy Law
 - » Intellectual Property Law
 - » International Law
 - » Taxation
-

Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science Programs (except Online MSHCI)

- Ph.D in Nursing Leadership (BSN to Ph.D)
 - M.S.N. Clinical Nurse (MEPN)*
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*The MSN Clinical Nurse (Master's Entry Program) is Tuition Reimbursement (TR) eligible only for a spouse or dependent. Because the program is full-time, it is not feasible for an employee to work while enrolled.

Undergraduate Double Degree Programs

USD Exchange Programs with Partner Institutions (including USD Madrid Program)

USD Faculty-Led Short-Term Program – Summer and Intersession (tuition only)

Affiliated Study Abroad Programs – May be partially eligible; see Study Abroad Office
(student must pay program fee to Partner Institution)

Master of Science in Cyber Security Engineering (Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering)

Ineligible Programs

Continuing Education Courses/Programs

Courses offered through the Open Campus platform

Summer Camps

Employees are not eligible for full-time MBA, full-time MS in Finance, full-time MS in Business Analytics, or full-time MS in Real Estate due to full-time enrollment requirements with Knauss School of Business (dependents are eligible for these programs)

Test Preparation Programs

Paralegal Programs

Online Master of Science in Health Care Informatics (Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science)

Certificate Programs (unless completed as a by-product of an eligible degree program)

Online Master of Science in Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership (MS - LEPSL)

Master of Science in Cyber Security Operations & Leadership (Professional and Continuing Education)

Franciscan School of Theology courses/programs may be partially eligible (student must pay program fee to FST)

Dual Degree Programs (e.g. MBA/JD)

MS - Eng. Sustainability and Health*

MS - Eng. Management and Leadership

MS - Applied Artificial Intelligence*

MS - Applied Data Science*

MS - Cyber Security Ops. & Leadership

MS - Health Care Informatics (Online)

MS - Humanitarian Action

MS - Learning, Design, & Technology

MS - Theological Studies

MS - IT Leadership

MS - Law Enforcement Leadership

MS - Nonprofit Management

MS - Cyber Security Eng. (Online)*

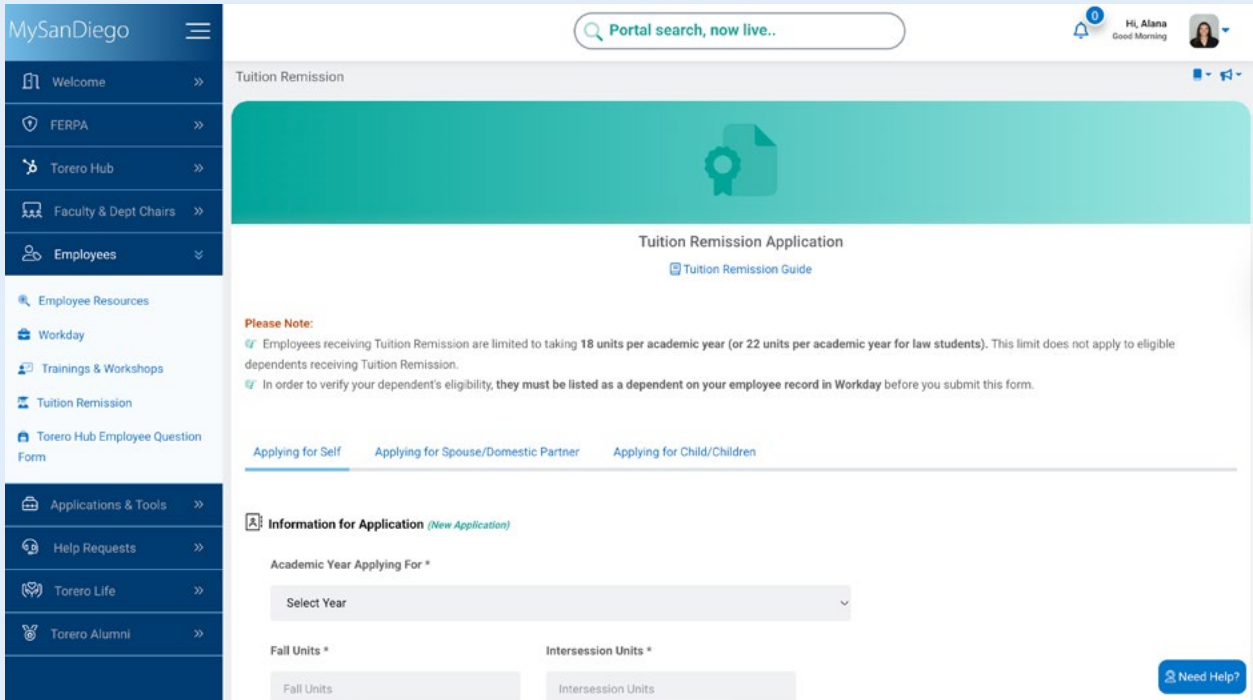
Master of Education (Online)

**May be eligible, check with program for Tuition Remission eligibility.*

The Application Process

How to apply using the Tuition Remission e-form:

1. Log in to the MySanDiego portal, using your USDOne credentials. Navigate to the *Tuition Remission* page on the *Employee Resources* tab. Select the appropriate academic year from the drop-down menu and indicate whether you're applying for yourself, an eligible dependent, or both yourself and an eligible dependent.



The screenshot shows the MySanDiego portal interface. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like 'Employee Resources', 'Applications & Tools', and 'Torero Alumni'. The main content area is titled 'Tuition Remission Application' and includes a 'Tuition Remission Guide' link. A 'Please Note' section contains two bullet points: 'Employees receiving Tuition Remission are limited to taking 18 units per academic year (or 22 units per academic year for law students). This limit does not apply to eligible dependents receiving Tuition Remission.' and 'In order to verify your dependent's eligibility, they must be listed as a dependent on your employee record in Workday before you submit this form.' Below this are three tabs: 'Applying for Self', 'Applying for Spouse/Domestic Partner', and 'Applying for Child/Children'. The 'Applying for Self' tab is active. Under 'Information for Application (New Application)', there is a dropdown menu for 'Academic Year Applying For *' with 'Select Year' chosen. Below that are two input fields: 'Fall Units *' and 'Interession Units *', both currently empty. A 'Need Help?' button is in the bottom right corner.

In order to verify your dependent's eligibility for Tuition Remission, they *must* be listed in your Workday profile. If you need to add your dependent, please log into [Workday](#) using your USDOne credentials. On your Workday home page, click *Menu* in top left corner and select *Benefits and Pay*, then select the Benefits icon, then click *Dependents* under the Change menu on the next screen and add your dependent's information. You will need to upload proof of dependent eligibility (e.g. marriage or birth certificate) in Workday when adding your dependent. Contact usdbenefits@sandiego.edu if you have questions or need assistance.

2. **If applying for yourself:** Enter the number of units you will take for each term in the academic year (if unsure, please estimate the number of units) and choose the appropriate degree program from the menu.

The screenshot shows the 'Tuition Remission Application' form for 'Applying for Self'. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Employees, Employee Resources, Workday, Trainings & Workshops, Tuition Remission, Torero Hub Employee Question Form, Applications & Tools, Help Requests, and Torero Life. The main content area includes a 'Please Note' section with two bullet points: 'Employees receiving Tuition Remission are limited to taking 18 units per academic year (or 22 units per academic year for law students). This limit does not apply to eligible dependents receiving Tuition Remission.' and 'In order to verify your dependent's eligibility, they must be listed as a dependent on your employee record in Workday before you submit this form.' Below this are three tabs: 'Applying for Self' (selected), 'Applying for Spouse/Domestic Partner', and 'Applying for Child/Children'. The 'Information for Application (New Application)' section contains: 'Academic Year Applying For *' with a 'Select Year' dropdown; 'Fall Units *' and 'Interession Units *' with input fields; 'Spring Units *' and 'Summer Units *' with input fields; 'Program * Unsure about the Program?' with a 'Select Program' dropdown; and 'Study Abroad? *' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'.

3. **If applying for an eligible dependent:** Toggle to the correct application type (spouse, domestic partner or child(ren)). Enter you dependent(s) information in the e-form and indicate if they have a USD ID (Banner) Number. If they do not have a USD ID, please enter the email address they used or will be using to apply for admission to USD. Enter the number of units per term and degree program for the dependent.

4. Answer "Yes" or "No" to the required questions:

This screenshot shows a portion of the application form. It includes: 'Spring Units *' and 'Summer Units *' with input fields; 'Program * Unsure about the Program?' with a 'Select Program' dropdown; 'Study Abroad? *' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No' (where 'No' is selected); 'Currently receiving tuition remission? *' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No' (where 'No' is selected); 'Received tuition remission for a previous USD degree? *' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No' (where 'No' is selected); 'Completed an Undergraduate Degree? *' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No' (where 'No' is selected); a blue 'Submit' button; and a 'Need Help?' link with a question mark icon.

Please note:

If you answer no to any of the IRS dependent questions below, please contact usdbenefits@sandiego.edu.

Is child an IRS dependent in current tax year?*

- Yes
 No

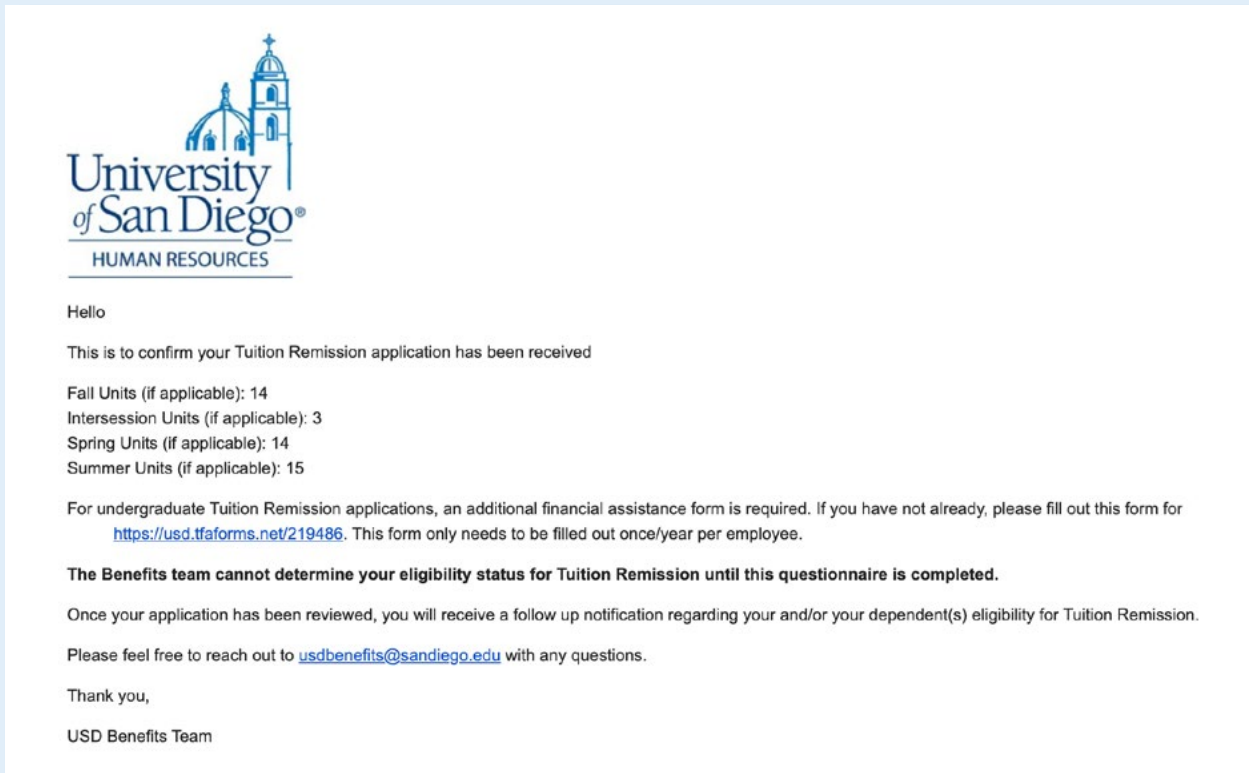
Was child an IRS dependent last tax year?*

- Yes
 No

Was child an IRS dependent in the tax year before last?*

- Yes
 No

5. If you're applying for a child, there will be additional questions to answer regarding tax dependent status. **If your child is not a tax dependent, please contact usdbenefits@sandiego.edu.**
6. Once you have completed the application, you will sign and date your Tuition Remission e-form and click *Submit*.
7. You will receive a submission confirmation:



You will also receive an email from the USD Benefits team confirming your application was received. If you submitted multiple applications, you will receive a confirmation email for each application.

After your application is received, the USD Benefits team will review it to confirm you meet the eligibility requirements to apply for Tuition Remission. You will receive a follow up email from USD Benefits indicating whether you are eligible/ineligible to apply for Tuition Remission.

Important note: If you receive an email that you're eligible for the Tuition Remission benefit, **it does NOT guarantee you will be approved for the benefit.** Once all applications have been reviewed and the operating budget has been determined, USD Benefits will notify employees via email (typically in late April) if they have been approved to use the Tuition Remission benefit.

Financial Aid & Taxation

Tuition Remission must be coordinated with any state, federal, or merit-based financial aid (including USD Achievement/Merit awards). You must meet all applicable Financial Aid deadlines in order to be eligible for the Tuition Remission benefit.

Please note that USD Merit/Achievement awards cannot be used for other expenses (such as Room & Board) when a student is awarded both a Merit/Achievement scholarship and Tuition Remission.

Financial Aid Questionnaire

A Financial Aid Questionnaire must be completed for students applying to use Tuition Remission for an undergraduate degree (it is not required for graduate degrees). The Financial Aid Questionnaire is available online [here](#) (you will need to log in with your USDOne credentials). The Benefits team cannot determine your eligibility for Tuition Remission for an undergraduate degree until the Financial Aid form has been completed.

The following chart gives a general indication of the relationship between family size and total family income* (both taxable and non-taxable) considered in determining a student's eligibility for need-based aid. In addition, families with unusual circumstances, a significant number of family members in college, unusually low assets, etc. may also qualify for need-based funds.

Eligibility for Need-Based Financial Aid	
Family Size	Income Maximum
Six or more	\$167,200
Five	\$155,000
Four	\$144,700
Three	\$133,200
Two	\$130,000

**Figures are subject to change.*

If the employee's family size and income fall within the income levels on the above chart, the student must file for financial aid before March 2, 2026. If family income falls above the applicable maximum, the student is not required to file a 2026-27 FAFSA but may choose to do so.

Note: The total amount of Cal Grant, Pell Grant, USD Grant, USD Tuition Remission and USD merit scholarship cannot exceed USD tuition.

Taxation

The taxation of this benefit is determined by the Internal Revenue Service Code. You are responsible for paying taxes on the amount of tuition that is subject to Federal and State income tax, Social Security tax, and California Disability Insurance tax.

EMPLOYEES: The tuition for undergraduate degree courses is not taxable income unless you have previously earned an undergraduate degree at USD or any other four-year college or university. Tuition for graduate level courses or a second undergraduate degree is taxed after the tuition exceeds \$5,250 in value. Any amount over \$5,250 is imputed income to the employee.

DEPENDENTS: The tuition remission benefit amount for dependents who do not meet the eligibility requirements under IRS regulations and the tuition remission benefit amount for all graduate courses will be reported as income to the employee.

NROTC: NROTC instructors will receive a 1099 at the end of the tax year.

If you have questions about the taxation of Tuition Remission, please contact payroll@sandiego.edu.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are Study Abroad programs covered by Tuition Remission?

Study Abroad courses for academic credit are eligible for Tuition Remission if USD is the credit-granting institution, USD is directly administering the program, and USD retains all tuition generated by the program. For information on specific Study Abroad programs that are eligible for Tuition Remission, please visit the [Study Abroad](#) website and click *Policies*.

Is there a limit on the number of units someone can take using Tuition Remission during the academic year?

Employees are limited to taking 18 units per academic year using Tuition Remission (or 22 units for law school students), including Intersession and Summer courses. Eligible dependents using Tuition Remission are not subject to these limits. Employees who need to request additional units must submit an appeal request to Human Resources.

Please contact usdbenefits@sandiego.edu if you have any questions about the appeal process and/or what is required to submit an appeal request. The use of the Tuition Remission benefit cannot interfere with an employee's job responsibilities.

Can Tuition Remission be used for Intersession and Summer courses?

Tuition Remission for Intersession and Summer Courses can be used on a space-available basis, and students who wish to use the benefit must wait until the first day of class to register (Students participating in USD faculty-led summer or intersession courses will be registered by their respective unit). Tuition Remission for Summer/Intersession courses will only be granted prior to the first day of class if the student has petitioned to graduate or is enrolling in eligible Study Abroad classes. Please note that students may only take 4 units in a 3-week class, or 7 units in a 6-week class (maximum of 4 units during Intersession or 13 units during Summer).

Does Tuition Remission cover any costs other than tuition?

The benefit is for tuition only. Application fees, required student fees, parking fees, housing fees, and any other fees assessed to all students are not covered by Tuition Remission and are the responsibility of the employee and/or eligible dependent. Employees are not assessed the Student Body Fee.

When is the deadline to apply for Tuition Remission?

The deadline to apply for Tuition Remission benefits is February 28 each year for the following academic year. Employees or eligible family members using Tuition Remission must meet all applicable terms and conditions for enrollment, such as entrance requirements, admission procedures and deadlines, good academic standing, and payment of application fees.

Do all eligible employees receive Tuition Remission if they apply by the deadline?

The annual cost of the Tuition Remission policy may not exceed 1% of the university's operating budget. USD reserves the right to deny Tuition Remission to an otherwise eligible employee if the amount spent in implementing the Tuition Remission policy exceeds 1% of the university's operating budget. Courses taken on a space-available basis in Intersession and Summer are not counted in computing the 1% limit.

In years where the cost will exceed the 1% limit, those who applied by the deadline will be given priority in the following order:

1. Continuing students who are already using the Tuition Remission benefit;
2. New students who are dependent children of employees;
3. New students who are employees; and
4. New students who are spouses or registered domestic partners of employees.

If it is necessary to prioritize within a category, this will be done based on an employee's years of service. Beyond that, Tuition Remission will be granted where there is space available in the program for that academic year. Please review [Policy 3.11.2](#) for additional information.

What if an eligible employee or dependent would like to use Tuition Remission to take courses, but will not be a USD student seeking a degree or enrolled in a specific program?

Requests of this nature will be considered on a case by case basis. Please email usdbenefits@sandiego.edu for consideration. If approved, the enrollee must apply for and obtain special student status with the applicable admissions office. For undergraduate inquiries contact admissions@sandiego.edu. For graduate inquiries contact gradadmissions@sandiego.edu. If the enrollee is approved for special student status, the final step will be to seek approval from the School/College the course falls under. For additional information on School/College level approvals, please review the [Registration Procedures](#) website.

What if I need to change the number of units I am taking during a term?

If enrollment plans change, the student will need to complete a Fall/Spring Unit/Housing Update e-form via the MySanDiego portal (you can find the form [here](#) under *Forms & Links*) so that any applicable revisions can be made to your Tuition Remission award amount(s).



