

# SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY™

## STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

### Federal Work-Study FAQs

#### What is Federal Work-Study (FWS)?

- FWS is a form of Federal Financial Aid administered by the Federal Department of Education to help students pay for their educational expenses via earned wages from a FWS job.
- You must submit a FAFSA to be considered for FWS.

#### How do I receive my FWS award?

- Your FWS award is the amount you **can** earn, not the amount you **will** earn. You must find and work a FWS job to receive any FWS money. The amount you actually earn is dependent on your hourly wage and the number of hours you work.
- Once you secure and begin a FWS job, you will be paid what you earn via a biweekly paycheck.
  - This money will be directly deposited to your bank account or paid via a physical check.
- Be sure to track your earnings to not exceed your FWS award. If you are running low on FWS funds, you can email [SFS\\_FWS@slu.edu](mailto:SFS_FWS@slu.edu) to request an increase. Increases are based on whether you have remained unmet need and are not guaranteed.

#### Will my FWS earnings be applied directly to my tuition/student account?

- No. All FWS earnings are paid directly to the student via a biweekly paycheck. Earnings cannot be automatically applied to the student account.
- **Your FWS earnings will never be applied directly to your student balance.**

#### What can I use my FWS earnings for?

- Your FWS earnings are yours to do whatever you would like with. We of course encourage you to use your earnings to pay for educational expenses, but the money is paid directly to your personal bank account and thus is yours to use how you'd like.

#### I didn't accept my FWS award; why is it accepted on my financial aid offer?

- In past years, FWS awards were awarded in “offered” status and required students to go into their financial aid offer and accept the award before they could apply to FWS jobs in Handshake. This meant that students who hadn't accepted their award, although eligible for FWS, could not apply to FWS jobs. Because of this, Student Financial Services made the decision for the 2024-2025 academic year to award FWS in “accepted” status so all FWS eligible students can apply for FWS positions in Handshake without having to manually accept their award.
  - Please note that there is no financial difference/impact on you whether the FWS award is in offered or accepted status. Regardless of the award status, you will not receive any FWS money unless you find and work a FWS job.
  - If you know you don't want to use your FWS award, we can decline it for you. Just email [SFS\\_FWS@slu.edu](mailto:SFS_FWS@slu.edu) to request this.

## How many hours a week can I work at my FWS job?

- Students can work up to 20 hours per week at a FWS job while classes are in session.
  - Students can work up to 40 hours per week during university breaks.

## Can I work more than one FWS job?

- No. Students can only work one FWS job at any given time.
- However, students can work one FWS job and one student worker job at the same time.
  - **If working a FWS job and student worker job at the same time, the student cannot exceed 20 hours per week total, not per job.**

## Can I work an FWS job during university breaks?

- Yes! As long as you have financial need, you can work a FWS job during university breaks. Students can work up to 40 hours a week during university breaks.
- Working a FWS job during the summer requires filling out a Summer Financial Aid Application, which can be accessed on SLU's website at <https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/forms/php>.
  - You must be enrolled in summer classes or planning to enroll in classes for the following fall semester to be awarded summer FWS.
- Working during other university breaks (spring, fall, winter) does not require an additional form.

## Do I have to use my FWS award? Will I be penalized if I do not?

- No! There is no obligation to use the award, and there will be no penalty if you accept a FWS award but never use it.
- If you are awarded but are not planning on pursuing a FWS job, please email [SFS\\_FWS@slu.edu](mailto:SFS_FWS@slu.edu) and we can remove the award from your financial aid package.

## Are all FWS jobs on-campus?

- The majority of FWS jobs offered are on-campus. However, we also offer several off-campus community service jobs at local schools/non-profits/government agencies through the Center of Social Action.
  - Reach out to [SFS\\_FWS@slu.edu](mailto:SFS_FWS@slu.edu) for more information on community service FWS opportunities!

## Are there FWS jobs with a remote-work option?

- The majority of FWS jobs require you to be on-site and do not offer a remote-work option. Opportunities do arise where remote-work may be available, but they are very rare.

## What is a FWS job vs a Student Worker job?

- From the student's perspective, working a FWS job vs. a student worker job is functionally the same. The main difference is that 75% of your wage from a FWS job is provided by the Federal Department of Education via the FWS program, with only 25% of your wage being paid by SLU. Wages earned from student worker jobs are paid entirely by SLU.