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## COLUMBIA PRIVATE UNDERGRADUATE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM LOANS

The Columbia Comprehensive Loan, provided by Access Group, Inc., is a no-fee private loan program designed for students, including international students, who are pursuing undergraduate degrees, as well as those enrolled in undergraduate-level continuing education courses or certificate programs. This credit-based loan allows you to postpone repaying your student loans for up to 10 years, so you can complete more than one program of study or degree, if you wish, before repayment must begin.

There is also a sponsor loan option, for students who cannot meet the credit criteria or who prefer to have a U.S. citizen or permanent resident apply on their behalf.

### Who is eligible to apply?

For the Columbia Comprehensive Loan, you can be either an international student or a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or an eligible noncitizen,<sup>1</sup> and must:

- be attending Columbia University and be enrolled at least part time in an undergraduate program or a certificate program;
- have a valid U.S. Social Security number;
- have a U.S. credit record with no bankruptcies;
- not be in default on any education loan or owe a refund on an education grant; and
- meet the applicable credit requirements.

<sup>1</sup> Eligible noncitizen status is defined as follows: You must either be a U.S. permanent resident who has an I-151, I-551, or I-551C (Alien Registration Receipt Card/Permanent Resident Card) or have an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) showing one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Indefinite Parole" and/or "Humanitarian Parole," "Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Status Pending," or "Conditional Entrant." If you are not a U.S. citizen/national and do not fit any of these eligible noncitizen statuses, you are an international student under the definitions of Access Group private loan programs.

<sup>2</sup> The cosigner must be a U.S. citizen/national or eligible noncitizen, must satisfy the minimum U.S. credit criteria and credit bureau score requirement, and must meet underwriting standards that will consider sufficiency of income. The cosigner must complete a separate application, to be signed by both the student and the cosigner. Both the student and the cosigner are responsible for repaying the loan.

<sup>3</sup> The individual who serves as the sponsor must be a U.S. citizen/national or eligible noncitizen, must meet a minimum U.S. credit bureau score, and must have three years of established U.S. credit history in his/her own name, including at least four non-student-loan trades, one of which has been open for 36 months, and must meet a minimum income requirement.

<sup>4</sup> LIBOR stands for the London Interbank Offered Rate, the average interest rate paid on deposits of U.S. dollars in the London capital markets. It is one of the standard financial indexes used in the U.S. capital markets. Over the past ten years, LIBOR has followed a pattern very similar to that of the U.S. Treasury bill. On Jan. 1, 2004, the 3-month LIBOR rate was 1.17%, the 91-day Treasury bill rate was 0.88%, and the Prime rate was 4.0%.

### What are the credit criteria?

You must meet a minimum U.S. credit bureau score and have 2 years of established U.S. credit history in your own name, including at least three non-student-loan trades (such as a car loan, a credit card, or a department store charge account), one of which has been open for 24 months.

If you do not meet the credit criteria, you may be eligible to apply with a cosigner, in which case Access Group will notify you.<sup>2</sup> Or you may choose instead to have a credit-worthy U.S. citizen or permanent resident apply on your behalf for a Columbia Sponsor Loan.<sup>3</sup>

### What are the fees?

There are **no** origination or guarantee fees, even for cosigned loans.

### What are the borrowing limits?

There is no total aggregate borrowing limit. The annual maximum loan amount is the cost of education less any other financial aid received. The minimum loan amount is \$1,000.

### What is the interest rate?

The interest rate is equal to the 3-month LIBOR<sup>4</sup> plus a percentage that depends on the borrower's credit history, as outlined in the chart on the following page.

CREDIT HISTORY	PERCENTAGE ADDED TO LIBOR <sup>5</sup>	INTEREST RATE AS OF JAN. 1, 2004
EXCELLENT	1.70%	2.87%
VERY GOOD	2.30%	3.47%
GOOD	2.70%	3.87%
POOR/OR WITH A COSIGNER	3.30%	4.47%

The interest rate varies quarterly, based on the 3-month LIBOR on the last business day of the second month of the prior calendar quarter. The per annum percentage to be added to LIBOR for your loan will be identified on your Disclosure Statement, which Access Group will send you when your loan is disbursed.<sup>6</sup> You may also call Access Group after you have applied to check on the per annum percentage to be added to LIBOR for your loan.

While you are in school and during any grace period following your enrollment, interest is charged on the amount of principal you have borrowed. You may either “pay as you go,” by making periodic interest payments, or let the interest accrue. (For the Columbia Sponsor Loan, the borrower may let the interest accrue while the student is enrolled and during the student’s grace period.)

For the Columbia Comprehensive Loan, the accrued interest will be capitalized (added to the principal) 5 years after the date of the first loan disbursement, and again when the loan enters repayment, which will be either 10 years after the date of the first disbursement of the first loan or after the 9-month grace period follow-

ing graduation or cessation of enrollment, whichever comes first. In the case of the Columbia Sponsor Loan, interest will be capitalized once, immediately prior to repayment.

### How long is the repayment period?

You have up to 20 years to repay, with no penalty for prepayment or for making larger monthly payments than required in order to pay off the loan early.

A variety of repayment options are available, including graduated repayment plans that allow you to make smaller monthly payments early in your career. Access Group offers two levels of graduated repayment:

1. EasyPay 2 Step begins with interest-only monthly payments for the first 2 years, followed by payments of interest and principal for the balance of the loan term.
2. EasyPay 3 Step begins with interest-only monthly payments for the first 2 years, followed by 3 years of payments of interest and partial principal and then concludes with payments of interest and principal for the balance of the loan term.

### When is the first payment due?

#### Columbia Comprehensive Loan

You do not begin repayment of this loan for as long as you are continuously enrolled at least part time, subject to a 10-year maximum. After you leave school, there is a 9-month grace period before the first payment is due, unless you have already reached the 10-year maximum. Therefore, the first payment on this loan is due either 10 years after the date of the first disbursement of the first loan or after the 9-month grace period following graduation or cessation of enrollment, whichever comes first.

<sup>5</sup> Once you begin repaying the loan, the continuation of this preferred interest rate is contingent upon your making all payments due on time. See “What is the monthly payment?” on page 15.

<sup>6</sup> See APR examples on page 27. Your terms may differ.

### **Columbia Sponsor Loan**

The first payment on a Columbia Sponsor Loan is not due as long as the student on whose behalf it was borrowed is enrolled in his or her initial program of study at least part time (e.g., undergraduate degree, CTA certificate, etc.), subject to a 5-year maximum. Once the student graduates or is no longer enrolled in his or her original program of study, there is a 9-month grace period before the first payment is due, unless the 5-year maximum has already been reached. Therefore, the first payment on this loan is due either 5 years after the date of the first disbursement of the first loan or after the 9-month grace period following graduation or cessation of enrollment, whichever comes first.

NOTE: The student on whose behalf a Columbia Sponsor Loan is borrowed has no responsibility for repaying the loan (apart from returning funds in the event of cancellation).

### **What is the monthly payment?**

Monthly payments are calculated based on the amount borrowed, the repayment option selected, and whether payments are made on time. (These Columbia private loans are preferred rate loans, where the interest rate goes up 1% from the initial preferred rate if you miss a payment and during any period of forbearance, but goes back down to the initial preferred rate after any subsequent 12 months of on-time payments.)

The monthly payment is calculated based on the amount owed at the start of repayment. If the interest rate changes, the amount of the monthly payments will be reduced or increased accordingly. The minimum monthly payment is \$50.

### **How are funds disbursed?**

Loan funds are sent to Columbia University for disbursement.

### **How do I apply?**

#### **Online**

Apply online at [www.accessgroup.org/apply](http://www.accessgroup.org/apply), and Access Group will carry out an instant credit check while you complete your application. If your loan is approved, you can print out a copy of your completed application, sign and date it, and return it according to the instructions provided.

#### **By phone**

Call 800-282-1550 to apply by phone. This option also includes an Instant Credit review process. Access Group will mail your application to you for signature.

#### **On paper**

You may also contact your financial aid office for a paper application.

### **What is the application deadline?**

Check with your financial aid office for information about specific deadlines that may be set by the school.

### **Whom may I call with questions?**

Call your financial aid office first. You may also call Access Group at 800-282-1550.