

Financial Assistance at UCC

STRENGTH & PROMISE



UCC
UPPER CANADA COLLEGE



AS A LEADER IN EDUCATION,

we know that to be our best, we must welcome the best. Which is why UCC's financial assistance program is so fundamental to who we are.

Today, more than 200 students — with a wide breadth of talents, passions, and perspectives — receive financial assistance. The program enriches our culture and elevates our education. It makes us stronger and more competitive. So, as we move towards 2029 and our 200th anniversary, we are more committed than ever to growing this program — and UCC with it.

Since 1829, Upper Canada College has provided transformational learning experiences to students of promise. This exceptional education is shaped by our ability to attract talented students, regardless of their financial circumstances. We're investing further in our financial assistance program so that we can open our doors to more extraordinary students and strengthen our tradition of academic excellence.

As a stronger, more inclusive school, we can better empower our students to excel – and lead.

Today, UCC has a sector-leading financial assistance (FA) program with more than \$5 million in funds awarded each year, assisting 20 per cent of our students and families. That's thanks in part to our Think Ahead campaign, which generated \$50 million to bolster financial assistance.

By continuing to support and fund this program, UCC can deliver on its vision of being a pluralistic, world-renowned educational institution. Making UCC more financially accessible allows us to welcome more promising students from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, helping them realize their full potential.

As UCC approaches its bicentennial anniversary, our priority remains providing a rigorous independent education with a public purpose. As a stronger, more inclusive school, we can better empower our students to excel – and lead.



BLAKE HUTCHESON '80
Chair, UCC Board of Governors



SAM MCKINNEY
Principal

“It just makes our community stronger.”

MATTHEW WONG '22

OUR STUDENTS AND YOUNG ALUMNI KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

“If you open the doors to more people, you create a better environment and a higher degree of excellence.”

LEWIS LAPHAM '22

“It really improves the school’s community, culture and our class discussions.”

NICHOLAS KNOTH '21

“Everybody benefits from financial assistance, no matter who you are.”

JINOO KIM '21

“You’re allowing the best and brightest to come, regardless of their financial situation. And by just doing that, you’re increasing the academic prowess of the school.”

KAELEM MONIZ '22

“Within a much larger pool of students, there are incredible leaders, people who change the culture

by lifting others up.”

REID GLEDHILL '21

UCC CHANGED ALLEN'S LIFE. NOW, HE'S READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD.



For Allen Champagne '11, failure was not an option. The teenage Montrealer knew what it was like to go to bed hungry; to see his mother cry as she slipped into bankruptcy; to watch as her car was repossessed. Success was his only way out.

"Plan B is you're in the street," Allen says. He arrived at UCC in Year 11 with ample ambition and promise. However, it wasn't easy adjusting to the rigours of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, especially as a native French speaker.

"I can do this."

But Allen pressed on, looking to his mother for inspiration. "She didn't flinch," he said. "She just kept going." Plus, Allen was a football player. He

knew how to learn from his mistakes, how to pick himself up after getting knocked down. And, most importantly, he knew how to win — and rally his teammates to help him.

So, Allen worked on his English with his new roommate John Seydel '11, and sought out mentors like Mr. Michael Muir, a brilliant chemistry teacher with notoriously high standards. To many students, Mr. Muir was intimidating. But for Allen, Mr. Muir's old-school approach proved to be exactly what he needed. Soon, Allen was regularly staying after class, learning everything he could from his new mentor.

Not long after, Allen had to deliver a presentation in front of his chemistry class, a daunting prospect for the Montrealer. But thanks to his persistence — and Mr. Muir's help — Allen nailed it.

"I just got a really high grade in chemistry IB," Allen remembers thinking. "I can do this."

From that point on, Allen was unstoppable. He improved his grades, made new friends, and was elected head of Seaton's House. By Year 12, he had a 96 per cent GPA and was captain of the varsity football team, which he led to victory in the independent school championships. Because of his outstanding performance at UCC, Allen was awarded the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina, where he began studying head injuries in football.

Excellence

UCC has the largest FA program in Canadian independent schools, which makes us more diverse — and more competitive.

"If I wasn't on the football field collecting helmet data, I was collecting MRI scan data," Allen says. From there, he parlayed his new fascination with concussion research into a combined MD/PhD program in neuroscience at Queen's University.

Today, after finishing his PhD, Allen is in his third year of medical school, where he also balances a trio of football and concussion-related research projects. His goal is to harness data to make the game he loves safer. "It's using the best drills, the best techniques, the best rule changes to minimize that risk for athletes," Allen explains.

For this work, and his dedication to mentorship and community service, Allen was given UCC's Young Old Boy of Distinction Award in 2020. Thinking about the donors who made his education at UCC possible, Allen is flooded with gratitude. "I want to hug these people," he says. "I want these people to hug my mom."

But as grateful as he is, Allen is adamant that the true impact of financial assistance goes far beyond one person's success. "Don't think about the student you're going to allow to come to school," Allen says. "Think about everyone that student is going to influence."

"And if you think that way, the scale is endless."



Continuum of Success

85% of the Leaving Class of 2021 received a post-secondary merit-based scholarship.

EUGENE'S PATH TO HARVARD

Eugene Ye '21 is humble. He is so humble, in fact, that he's unlikely to tell you he's attending Harvard and pursuing a dual degree at The New England Conservatory of Music. Or that he was the Academic Steward of UCC in his final year. But what Eugene will tell you is this: financial assistance is important.

"Look at top institutions in the U.S. that dedicate hundreds of millions every year to provide students with more opportunities," Eugene says. "There's a reason they do that."

The transformative power of the FA program is also something Eugene knows firsthand. It's what allowed him to first attend UCC in Year 9.

"Before, I was at a school in Richmond Hill, where clubs didn't even exist," says Eugene. "Everyone was kind of in the same demographic, and there weren't really many opportunities."

Had he continued on that path, Eugene says he probably would have just "coasted through school," unmotivated and uninspired.

Instead, he arrived at UCC, where he thrived. He studied under great teachers. He became a brilliant cellist. He travelled to Germany, Poland, and New York and was recently selected by CBC Music as one of 30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30.

Financial assistance provides students with more opportunities.

Now, he's at Harvard. Because, like UCC, they believe in the power of FA.



TO BE OUR BEST, WE WELCOME THE BEST.

“Thanks to FA, students can understand themselves as one among many, and can look at situations from **multiple perspectives.**”

GILLIAN LEVENE
Middle Years Programme Coordinator

“**FA helps UCC attract more talented students with potential,** which improves the overall learning environment for all students. This prepares them to excel in their chosen fields.”

JOEL & MELISSA FELDBERG
Financial Assistance Donors; UCC Parents
and UCC Board of Governors

“Some of our most **remarkable leaders** have been on financial assistance. Their level of involvement at UCC is very high.”

FIONA MARSHALL
Upper School Assistant Head, Student Affairs

“One of the lenses we use in our curriculum is historical empathy, and going into the shoes of others. You need a variety of people with different backgrounds to access different types of thinking and to develop empathy.”

DAVID FRASER
Prep Faculty, Subject Coordinator of Individuals and Societies

“We are tackling issues that are important in the world today, and I don’t think our classroom discussions would be as fruitful if we didn’t have **people with a variety of outlooks.**”

MICHAELA TRELFOED
Prep Faculty, Individuals and Societies, Languages and Literature

“**It’s a wonderful opportunity** to go to UCC, so I want to give that opportunity to students who can’t otherwise go.”

RICHARD PHILLIPS '85
Financial Assistance Donor

Opportunity

20% of UCC students benefit from our sector-leading FA program.



Richard Wei '08 (right) and his roommate Siddharth Fresa '08, reunited in 2018.

AT UCC, RICHARD DISCOVERED A LOVE OF LEARNING

Even as a child, Richard Wei '08 was undeniably cosmopolitan. At ten, he and his family left Wuhan, China for Montreal, where he quickly acclimated to a new language and culture. And yet, none of that quite prepared him for life as a boarder at UCC.

"It was like a small United Nations," he says, laughing. His roommate Siddharth Fresa '08, with whom he's still friends, was half-Indian, half-Italian; his neighbours, German. Which was exactly what he was looking for when he arrived at UCC in Year 11 with the help of financial assistance.

Richard found a sort of intellectual bliss.

"I wanted to experience a more international environment," Richard says. Being part of that environment challenged Richard to think differently, to see things from new perspectives. But what defines his two-year UCC experience was something he never sought: a love of learning.

As the son of Chinese immigrants in Montreal, Richard says he always saw school as a means

to an end. But UCC taught him that learning could be its own reward.

It was a lesson first learned in Mr. Fleming's English class, where he sat in a circle of students discussing *The Remains of the Day*, Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker Prize-winning novel about love, war, and memory. With Mr. Fleming's guidance, the students dove into the rich text, analyzing everything from the historical context to the complex characters.

Amidst those lively discussions, Richard found a sort of intellectual bliss, which he credits for spurring a lifelong love of learning. "That is something those small classes, those deep discussions, really taught me," says Richard.

Today, Richard lives in Tokyo, Japan, where he works for Tencent, a Chinese internet company. His job is to invest in small and mid-size gaming companies, empowering them to dream bigger. For Richard, an avid gamer himself, it's deeply satisfying work. Plus, it's a way he can succeed while giving back — a value imparted to him at UCC.

Like so much of what he learned at the school, it's something he still carries with him, and will for many years to come.

TWO BROTHERS ARE BOUND FOR BRIGHT FUTURES



Meet brothers Clayton '16 and Calvin Jeffrey '18, both proud UCC alumni. Clayton remembers being “blown away” by how invested his teachers were in his growth. “People pushed me in ways I didn’t even know I could be pushed,” he says. With the support of those teachers, Clayton flourished at UCC — running track and field, playing jazz, and excelling in the classroom.

Today, he’s a graduate of Cornell’s esteemed psychology program, with his eyes towards clinical research and, eventually, a PhD.

Calvin, a budding history and political science student at Western University, also credits UCC for much of his growth and success. UCC was where he first fell in love with history, played football, ran track, and shot short films for school assemblies.

But as much as he loves the school, he knows that neither he nor his brother would have been able to go without financial assistance. Which is why they’re both such fierce advocates of the program.

“Without the teachers and the support of the UCC community, I don’t think I would be where I am today.”

CLAYTON JEFFREY '16

UCC enabled them to learn, to grow, to succeed. Now, they want to see others do the same.

“I was given a chance to be my best at UCC. I look forward to giving back one day.”

CALVIN JEFFREY '18

Photo: Brothers Clayton '16 (left) and Calvin Jeffrey '18 were both Lang Scholars, a program for exceptional student-athletes with great leadership potential.

NEVER WALK ALONE

UCC

Leadership

Over the last five years, 30% of UCC’s student leaders are FA students.

Financial Assistance Questions Answered

How does the FA application process work?

The FA application is independent from the admission application and is handled by an independent third party, Apple Financial Services (AFS). This ensures decisions are fair and fact-based.

Does the FA application affect the admission process?

No, the FA application process runs parallel to the admission process, which is needs-blind.

Who is eligible for financial assistance?

FA is available to Canadian citizens seeking a day or boarding spot for their child in Year 5 and up, and who demonstrate financial need.

What is the average amount of FA received by eligible students?

On average eligible day students receive \$22,000 and eligible boarding students receive \$48,000 in FA per year.

What incidental school expenses does FA cover?

FA covers tuition and incidental expenses according to the specific financial needs of each recipient's family. Incidental expenses may include uniforms, school supplies, field trips, and athletic tournaments. Full FA recipients receive up to \$1,500 for a program allowance. This allows each student to not only attend the school, but to participate in student life beyond the classroom.

How does a family's income level affect their eligibility for FA?

There is no income level, financial situation, or occupation that disqualifies an applicant from receiving FA. FA is not meant to supplement or enhance a family's lifestyle, and families are expected to contribute as much as possible to the educational costs of their child.

When applying for FA, what information does a family need to provide?

AFS requires a variety of information about a family's financial situation, including assets and liabilities, gross family income, and other relevant details.

How much does it cost to apply for FA at UCC?

The annual cost for families to apply for financial assistance through AFS is approximately \$125.

What is the deadline to apply for FA?

New families to UCC must submit their FA application by December 31 to AFS to be considered for entry the following year. Returning UCC families may also apply each year for FA and should submit their application by mid-November.

When are FA decisions made?

UCC's Financial Assistance Review Committee meets frequently during the winter term to review AFS' recommendations and determine assistance allocation. FA decisions are sent with admission offers and with re-registration each year.

Do current FA recipients need to reapply in future years?

Yes, returning families need to reapply for FA each year. We invite all UCC families to consider applying should their needs or circumstances change.

Are FA students held to a higher standard?

No, FA students are not expected to outperform other students.

Is FA a way to recruit exceptional athletes?

No, FA is intended to provide opportunities for students of promise to attend the College regardless of their financial circumstances.

How is FA funded?

FA is made possible by the generous donations of our community. Approximately half of the annual expenditure on FA is funded by a combination of the contribution from the UCC Foundation, which generates investment returns on donated funds in its \$130 million endowment, and annual fund donations. The balance is supported by the College's operating revenues.

“Exposure to different outlooks expands students’ understanding of themselves, the world, and what they can achieve. As we strive to unlock the potential of each student and continually enhance the quality of education at UCC,

we see greater financial accessibility as key to the College’s future vitality.”

BRENDAN DELLANDREA '01
Vice-Principal, Advancement

JOIN US.

Our financial assistance program is transformative — for its recipients and UCC. But it's only possible because of the generosity of people like you.


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