

# Brown University

Providence, Rhode Island

- Pruthvi Das

## Overview

### University Overview

The interesting thing to know about Brown University is that it was the first non-profit college to accept students that come from any religion. For a time like 1764, that sounds like a big deal! This move was made as a promising way to communicate their vision for education; that it was to be a spirit of openness that it wishes to embody itself in.

Every student joins Brown University in their own accord; each of them chooses to be there, and puts forth their own effort to make something of their experience there. It was first founded by Nicholas Brown, Sr., who first named the university a rather long name, until it was renamed to its current name, after the founder had a son named Nicholas Brown, Jr.

To name a few, some of the most popular programs opted for by Brown University's students - favorably nicknamed the "Bears" - are Computer Science, Engineering, Econometrics and Entrepreneurship.

### About

Brown University is one of the most well-known private universities known to man, especially due to its status as an Ivy League university. For those who keep wondering where Brown University is located, it is in Providence, Rhode Island, and houses an approximate **10,333** students under its roof; **7,160** of which are undergraduates, while the remaining **3,173** are postgraduates. It was formerly named "College in the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" when it was first founded in 1764.

Surprisingly, this name stuck for 40 staggering years until its nomenclature went through a quick change, as did its curriculum; aptly being called the New Curriculum, it was first introduced in 1969. It brought significant changes to how education was presented to the American people, such as the introduction of a credit grading system and flexibility in the programs students partake in. This is an extraordinary achievement given how the university is the seventh oldest in the history of the education system in the United States.

Today, with affiliations to numerous academic bodies - most notably the Universities Research Association (URA) and NAICU - Brown University places itself at a prestigiously high regard. With over 300 student organizations on its 143-acre campus, it not only offers diversity to a student's life, but also numerous opportunities that help prepare you in the best way possible during your pursuit for an amazing career. Understandably, acquainting yourself with all of these organizations is a rather impossible task, which is why Brown University hosts the Student Activity Fair to provide all freshers the opportunity to do so.

### Ranking (US News or Forbes)

Brown University is marked as one of the highest ranking universities around the world. Let's have a look at their rankings in the following data.

*US News and World Report* ranks them in a number of categories. Globally, the university ranks **one-hundred and second** in the Top Universities on a Global Scale, while they are in the top 15 universities under the national category, ranking at the **fourteenth** position. It also ranks **third** under the Undergraduate Teaching category, **fifteenth** in the category for Most Innovative Schools, and **sixteenth** in the category for Best Value School. Warren Alpert Medical School - the university's medical school component - was chosen to be the **ninth** most selective medical school in the nation, considering the fact that its acceptance rate falls at **2.8**.

According to *Forbes*, the university ranks as **seventh** in the category of America's Top Colleges of 2019, out of a large pool of universities in total; 650 schools (universities, colleges and academies) to be exact.

As a whole, the *Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)* places Brown University at the **thirty-eighth** position.

### Admissions

It's scary for some to think that Brown University can be difficult to get into, and that is understandable. As an Ivy League university, they've set the bar really high. The university shows only a **7.1%** acceptance rate as of the Class of 2023, with a total of **38,674** undergraduate applications submitted for that year. However, there is a high number of students applying for medical school and law school; **92%** and **91%** acceptance rates are reflected upon those categories, respectively. It's important to note that Brown University adopts a need-blind admission policy for all first-year applicants who are citizens of the United States.

Both those numbers exceed the national average rates. The most interesting aspect about the yield percent demonstrated above is that only **61%** chose to attend Brown University a year later. For an in-depth look into the analysis of the university's admission data, take a look at Brown University's [Admissions Factbook](#).

In this particular segment, we'd like to save you a lot of time by providing you with some critical information, as most of you would be wondering about some of the commonly asked questions such as:

"What is Brown University's admission process like?"

"What's the optimal GPA/SAT/ACT scores for Brown University?"

"How much time do I have left for applying to Brown University this year?"

Well, we've got all the answers to these questions, so you neither have to rush to find out nor do you have to feel lost when trying to read up about this. [We've also provided you a link to their academic calendar](#) in case you want to know how they have planned out the current year.

## Annual Cost to Attend

Given how Brown University is a prestigious, non-profit university, it's not unreasonable to think that the costs involved in the programs they offer are exorbitant for the average Joe. A lot of students require financial aid to be able to pay off whatever costs are involved, but the more we take a look at the costs, the more they feel justified. This is because the university not only strictly provides resources that help the student build their academic prowess to newer heights, but also provide students an environment where they can build long-lasting connections whilst making an influential impression.

We've broken down the costs for your convenient perusal to help lower any complexities involved. This section will offer you insights on Brown University's tuition costs, the total attendance costs involved annually, what the campus expenses would involve, and what the net prices would be depending on your income. Please keep in mind that the numbers involved are susceptible to change at any given point of time. Hence, the numbers presented are best considered as references to help you keep a good estimate when first applying for Brown University.

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

Brown University understands that not all students can pay off their program costs, which is why they provide a healthy array of financial aids. However, being an Ivy League university, they do not provide aids based on the merit or the achievements possessed by the student, but they rather take into consideration the student's financial situation.

Brown University has also announced back in 2017 that they would eliminate any and all loan programs for undergraduate students; this is part of the Brown Promise program they have put into effect since 2018. Since then, their need-based awards are worth a total of **\$120.5 Million**.

We have given an in-depth look into how their financial aids have been distributed across all eligible students as well as based on their family incomes. To add to this, we have provided you an exhaustive look at the types of scholarships and grants they have provided.

As of 2020, Brown University has established to work remotely during the COVID-19 crisis. Due to this, Brown University's Office of Financial Aid may be contacted via their [mail](#), which we have provided here for your convenience. If you'd like to keep up to date with what's going on with the university at the present time, please visit [Coronavirus Updates at Brown University](#).

## Accreditation

Brown University's accreditation process occurs once every single decade. The university has received an institutional accreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), which is one of the most reliable, non-profit organizations recognized by the US Department of Education. Their last accreditation process occurred in 2018.

Two other specialized accreditations were given to a few programs of Brown University from two agencies:

- **The Council on Education for Public Health** accredited the university's **Public Health Programs**; they are offered on both baccalaureate and graduate levels.
- **The Liaison Committee on Medical Education** accredited the university's **Medicine (MED)** programs, which can lead to MD degree certifications.

# Admissions

## University Admissions

### Admission Brief

[Brown University](#) will scare off most folks due to its Ivy League status. But it's no joke that the university only has a **9%** acceptance rate. As a highly selective university, Brown University looks for students who are genuinely motivated, academically impressive and strive to be better.

However, admissions at Brown University is a rather straightforward process. The university's official website has also provided guides for students who wish to know how the process works. Below you may find the entire walkthrough of the process, so that no confusion would occur.

### Admission Process

#### Create account on Common Application website

The Common Application is what you would use to apply at Brown University. They have a separate website entirely dedicated to it. First-timers may create an account at the [CommonApp](#) website and submit any required documents online.

#### Complete the Brown University Test Questions

These consist of multiple essays that you would write certain topics on. These essays would have you write a minimum of 250 words. First-year applicants will have to write 3 essays in total, as far as the 2019-2020 application cycle is concerned.

#### Obtain Recommendations from Faculty Members

Brown University requires that you obtain recommendations or endorsements from your previous academic instructors on your curricular, extracurricular, and social performances. It's important to give yourself sufficient time to do so as obtaining them can be time-consuming, and that can risk the deadlines for the application.

#### Obtain & Submit Previous School Forms

The obvious part about any application to any institute or university is that you must submit all your school forms. This includes:

- ***High school transcripts with grades.***
- ***GPA of 4.05 or higher***
- ***Class ranks (if calculated)***
- ***SAT/ACT scores (SAT Subject Test scores not required but recommended)***

If it isn't possible for your application to be sent through the Common Application account, it's best if you send the transcripts directly by their fax to **401-863-9300**.

You may also send them by mail to Brown University's address, which is as follows:

***Brown University, Office of College Admissions, Box 1876, Providence, RI 02912.***

If you have any supplementary transcripts or records for extracurricular activities, you may send them along with the other general transcripts as well.

#### Pay the Application Fee

About **\$75** is charged for the application at Brown University. The amount is non-refundable, however it is waivable for students who are eligible for either of the following:

- If they are eligible for the Federal Reduced Price Lunch program (FRPL)
- If they come from low-income families, they may take up programs such as TRIO.
- If they belong to community-based organizations that promote education and other related opportunities for low-income students.

If you fall under at least one of the above categories, you may select the "Brown Specific Fee Waiver" in the Common Application's "Brown Questions" section.

#### Permit Background Checks

It isn't until after the initial processes are done that any background checks are done on you. More specifically, those with a criminal history will be given a chance to explain their circumstances for which they obtained such history. Brown University evaluates you based on your academic background and experience, not on your criminal history. However, it's important to note that depending on the severity of your history, you will be notified about your application.

If you want to know more about Brown University's application process, please take a look at [Brown University's How to Apply](#). Otherwise, you may contact their representatives via [e-mail](#).

## SAT Score

You must be thinking "What's the SAT Requirement for Brown University" all this while. Well, remember how we said that the university is extremely selective? SAT scores add to that difficulty. The acceptable SAT range that Brown University has set is about **1,420 to 1,550**, with each of those numbers falling under their respective Composites - 25th and 75th. About 63% of applicants submit their SAT scores. The average SAT score sits at around **1,485**.

When it comes to the 25th composite, students must acquire at least **700** points in **Reading** and **720** points in **Mathematics**. The 75th Composite will require students to maintain at least **760** points in **Reading** and **790** points in **Mathematics**.

## ACT Score

The ACT Requirements for Brown University boils down to the range **32 - 35**. When it comes to the 25th Composites, a minimum of **34** points and **30** points goes into **English** and **Mathematics**, respectively, with the average coming up to **32** points.

Students must also possess at least **36** points in **English** and **35** points in **Mathematics** for the 75th Composite. The **average** would normally have to come up to **35** points.

Students normally turn up with an **average** ACT score of **34** points, with only **49%** of them submitting their applications with their ACT performances.

## Estimated GPA

Brown University requires students to obtain a minimum GPA score of **3.94** for their application to stand out. It's an extremely competitive university to be a part of, which is why it is also obviously selective of their applicants.

## Admission Requirements

To sum it up, if any particular part of the admission process itself fails to be met, then you will not fall into the lucky **9%** who enter Brown University. Keep in mind that some of the following are vital for increasing your chances to be accepted into the university:

- *Brown University's supplemental essays.*
- *SAT/ACT scores, GPA transcripts, high school transcripts.*
- *Endorsements from teachers who specialize in your desired program.*
- *Common Application.*
- *Counselor forms and school reports.*
- *Clean history records.*
- *\$75 application fee, or the fee waiver.*

## Admission Deadlines

Unlike most universities that follow a seasonal routine of checking applications, Brown University has set deadlines for Common Applications in two different categories:

- Early Decision students must complete the Common Application by **November 1**.
- Regular Decision students must complete the Common Application by **January 5**.

If the application is accepted, then you will receive a confirmation mail from the Office of College Admission detailing it. Although the criteria for submitting certain documents is recommended during the submission of the Common Application, an exception is applied for students who have paid the application fee by the deadline. For these folks, it is acceptable to submit any pending documents within the following week. To ensure that no confusions occur, however, it's best you don't come to that point.

# Cost of Attendance

## Tuition and Fees

The tuition costs in [Brown University](#) will depend entirely on the program you are interested in, the discipline it falls under, and the number of courses you would be required to enroll in to achieve a status as a full-timer. At an average, the Brown University's tuition costs are expected to be **\$54,230**. However, when we take a look at the costs incurred by undergraduates and graduates, it comes to about **\$70,136** (including on-campus boarding expenses) and **\$55,332**, respectively.

## Total Cost of Attendance

The average cost of attendance you could expect to incur during your enrollment at Brown University is **\$73,802**.

However, it's important to mention that the university's costs, especially those of tuition and fees, can also be manually calculated as a whole based on your personal input. Brown University's tuition calculator, conveniently named [MyinTuition Calculator](#), helps you find a close enough estimate for the expected financial incurrences. This calculator may also help give an estimate of your eligibility for the various types of financial aid the university may provide you.

Keep in mind, however, that any estimate provided should merely be used as a guiding point for what to expect, not actual costs. You may visit the provided link to know more about how to use it.

## Average Net Price by Family Income

Many universities provide net price calculators to help you arrive at an estimate of the price you'd incur based on your income, and Brown University is not an exception. If you'd like to know the estimate of the amount incurred in this university, you may use [Brown University's Net Price Calculator](#) to give your input and get them. Please be aware that the estimates may not be accurate, as the calculator bases its estimations solely on the information available in the university's database.

From a general standpoint, Brown University's average net price is estimated to be **\$27,238**. We have also calculated the net prices based on collective family income brackets, which helps give you a solid expectation on the financial incurrences involved when first applying for any program in the university.

The net prices of these family income brackets seem to balance out the proportions fairly, as you'll know when you read on. When it comes to family incomes between **\$0 to \$30,000** and **\$30,001 to \$48,000**, the average net prices come to about **\$6,250** and **\$5,589**, respectively. The median net price, which is **\$14,452**, is applicable to families who earn between **\$48,000 to \$75,000** annually. However, these net prices increase substantially when we take a look at income brackets worth **\$75,001 to \$110,000** and **\$110,001 and above**; the prices go up to a staggering **\$21,447** and **\$47,403**, respectively.

## Undergraduate Tuition and Fees

The tuition and fees at Brown University tend to be the same between residents and out-state students, so you won't need to worry about the involvement of any additional expenses if you do not originally reside in Rhode Island. The tuition and fees are normally expected to be around **\$55,466**. However, if you are considering on-campus boarding expenses, which are **\$14,670**, the total would then come up to **\$70,136**. Since a large portion of students choose off-campus housing, we are not considering those costs here.

## Graduate Tuition and Fees

Much like the undergraduate tuition costs, Brown University's graduate tuition and fees remain the same for all students. With that said, the tuition costs are around **\$54,320**, with the fee costs coming up to **\$1,012**, giving us a total incurrence of **\$55,332** for graduates.

## Cost Per Credit Hour

Being an Ivy League university, it's fairly expected for Brown University's cost per credit hour to be exorbitant, with the total cost per credit hour coming up to a staggering **\$1,697** for graduate students. The difference between that and the credit costs for undergraduate students is only **\$2**; for the latter, the prices come up to **\$1,695**.

## Total Campus Expenses

Brown University offers on-campus as well as off-campus housing for their students. Alongside campus restaurants and cafes, the university also offers flexible meal plans, convenience markets and other dining options. The interesting aspect about Brown University is that they require students to live in on-campus housing for at least 6 semesters before they can make a choice between that and off-campus housing. Students may continue with off-campus housing once their application for it is approved. This restriction is inapplicable to students who live in permanent addresses located either 30 minutes away or 30 miles away from the campus, and students who are married.

The prices for Brown University's housing facilities can come up to **\$14,670** for boarding, **\$2,071** for miscellaneous expenses, and **\$1,595** for books and supplies. Hence, we could say that the total expenses a student is expected to incur for housing alone can be **\$18,336**. This is a good estimate for on-campus facilities, however the prices may increase substantially for off-campus housing expenses.

If you'd like to know more about the breakdowns for those expenses, please take a look at [Brown University Tuition and Fee Structure](#).

# Financial Aid

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

It's important to note that Brown University, as an Ivy League university, offers only need-based scholarships and grants, most prominently due to the belief that it is the responsibility of the student or their family to pay for it. There are no financial aid programs that it offers based on the students' curricular and extracurricular skills or talents. Students who show this need will be required to apply for it annually and be made sure of that they remain eligible while doing so.

As of 2018-2019, the amount of need-based financial aid that was budgeted is estimated to be around **\$136,828,439**, with the average need-based financial award estimated to reach up to **\$50,108** for students of 2022. About **43%** of this class receive need-based scholarships.

### Aids Unique to Brown University

- **UTRA Program:** UTRA, or the Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards, gives students the opportunity to perform research or study on their desired subject, question or matter, while tagging with a faculty member, who will help mentor them on it.
- **Brown LINK Award:** The Brown LINK Award is a kind of award presented to students who wish to pursue summer internships to help boost their on-going career. Since the application deadlines for this award are tight (stretched to a maximum of 2 months), it is considered a rather competitive program.
- **The Brown Promise:** Brown University replaced all student loan packages dedicated to families earning less than **\$100,000** with a new system where every single scholarship-eligible student will have their financial needs met through this program not by offering additional loans, but by offering initial packages of scholarships and work-based programs only. Do note, however, that this program does not replace DIRECT Parent PLUS Loans or other sorts of private educational loans.

### Grants

- **New Initiative Collaboration Grant:** The John Carter Brown Library has initiated a grant that helps foster newer and fresher directions in subjects related to humanities to push the idea of partnership between various departments and disciplines to be stronger forward. The maximum award amount reaches up to **\$2,500**.
- **Research at Brown Grant:** RAB Grants support research projects initiated by the students themselves along with any travel expenses required in order to prepare them for the upcoming conferences. The maximum award amount reaches up to **\$500**.
- **Salomon Grants:** These grants support and encourage learning activities that help innovate the existing programs for undergraduates. This may include field trips, class materials, guest speakers, etc. It's necessary for faculty members to apply for this grant as early as possible since the seat and fund availability are limited.
- **Watsons Senior Thesis Travel Grants:** If the students' research requires them to undergo travel and fieldwork, then they may apply for this grant as long as they meet all the criteria required, including an approval for the thesis they are working on.

If you'd like to know about additional grants, awards or even fellowships offered by the university, please take a look at [Brown Grant Opportunities](#).

Understandably, we realize that Brown University has not published any information on federal or state-based financial aid - particularly scholarships and loans - that they provide, so if you'd like to get more information on it, please visit their official website and contact their representatives.

## Financial Aid Breakdown

We have provided an in-depth breakdown of how the financial aid offered by Brown University is appropriately distributed among their students. On an average, almost **46%** of students receive financial aid.

- The federal grants offered by the university are received by a cumulative **14%** of eligible students, with the average amount reaching up to **\$6,296**.
- Pell Grants are received by at least **14%** of students and the aid amount offered is around **\$4,853**.
- Only **1%** of students receive state grant aids, which are valued to be around **\$2,317**.
- Since Brown University specializes in offering its own programs and aids to students, the institutional grants are offered to a staggering **44%** of students, with the total average amount racking up to **\$42,278**.
- Student loans, at a default rate of **1%**, accumulate an average amount of **\$8,232**, which is received by **25%** of the students.

## Federal Aid Breakdown based on Family Income

As stated above, Brown University offered their aid based on the financial needs of the student. With that said, we have also provided some data on what each student may expect their average aid to be depending on the income bracket that they fall under.

Students whose family income is **below \$30,000** or fall between **\$30,000 and \$48,000** may avail an average aid amount of **\$64,800** and **\$65,461**, respectively. The median aid is considered to fall to those who earn between **\$48,001 and \$75,000**, which is a total average amount of **\$56,598**. Higher income brackets may not avail as much, comparatively. Those that earn upto **\$100,000** will receive an average of about **\$49,603** whereas those who earn more than that will receive a substantially low amount of **\$23,647**.