

Eligibility for In-State Tuition, Fee Waivers, Financial Aid, and Scholarships in California

JANUARY 2015

	General Requirements	Granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)	Survivors of Serious Crimes: U Nonimmigrant Status	Trafficking Survivors: T Nonimmigrant Status	Prima Facie or Approved VAWA Self-Petition
In-State Tuition Rates (exemption from out-of-state rates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State resident¹ or AB 540² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State resident or AB 540 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State resident or Meet AB 540 criteria³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State resident or Meet AB 540 criteria³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State resident or AB 540
Board of Governors Fee Waivers	State resident or AB 540	State resident or AB 540	State resident or Meet AB 540 criteria	State resident or Meet AB 540 criteria	State resident or AB 540
State Financial Aid (Cal Grants)	State resident and “eligible non-citizen” ⁴ (use FAFSA form), Or AB 540 (use CA DREAM form) ⁵	AB 540 (use CA DREAM form)	State resident or Meet AB 540 criteria (use CA DREAM form)	State resident or Meet AB 540 criteria (use FAFSA form)	State resident or AB 540 (use FAFSA form)
Federal Financial Aid	“Eligible non-citizen” ⁴	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible ⁶	Eligible
Institutional Aid	Generally, state resident or AB 540	Generally, state resident or AB 540	Generally, state resident or meet AB 540 criteria	Generally, state resident or meet AB 540 criteria	Generally, state resident or AB 540

¹ **State resident** = lawfully present in California for 366 days. Individuals granted DACA, U or T status, a *prima facie* case determination or an approved VAWA self-petition are among those considered lawfully present in the U.S. However, for this purpose, students may not have a currently valid nonimmigrant status that requires individuals to maintain a residence abroad.

² **AB 540** = 3 years of high school in CA, or 3 years of high school credit in CA (if attend at least 3 years of elementary or secondary school in CA), graduate or obtain a G.E.D., and, if applicable, will legalize when eligible; all students regardless of status may be eligible except that nonimmigrants are excluded.

³ Although technically AB 540 does not apply to nonimmigrants, under AB 1899, students with T or U nonimmigrant status who meet the other criteria of AB 540 are eligible for in-state tuition, fee waivers, scholarships, institutional and state financial aid.

⁴ For **federal financial aid** purposes, **eligible noncitizens** include lawful permanent residents, refugees, asylees, parolees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, victims of trafficking, and “qualified” domestic violence survivors. Citizens of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, or Palau are eligible for certain programs.

⁵ FAFSA form: www.fafsa.ed.gov; DREAM form: www.csac.ca.gov/pubs/forms/grnt_frm/paper_dream_application.pdf.

⁶ In addition to those granted T status, trafficking survivors who are certified by or have an eligibility letter from the Office of Refugee Resettlement are eligible for federal financial aid.

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