

# TAXES 101

*for* Graduate Students  
*Tax Year 2025 Edition*

*Powered by*

Global Human Resources  
Office of Graduate Education  
Bursar's Office  
Grad Student Lounge



# Housekeeping

- This session is being recorded and you can access the recording and slides on the Graduate Education website shortly after the session.
- Hundreds of students are registered.
- Please utilize the Q&A feature of Zoom to ask questions.
- Due to the number of folks on the call, we won't respond via the chat – please use the Q&A.
- Please consider watching most of the session before you ask your question. We will cover most common questions.

# Welcome

- Introductions
  - James Black – Office of Graduate Education
  - Jessica Dunn – Global Human Resources
  - Quasaan Manuel – Bursar's Office
  - Camile Matthews – Office of Graduate Education (Fellowships Manager)

\*none of us are professional tax accountants/preparers

# Today's agenda

- High-level overview of income taxes
- Review of requirements for NRA taxpayers
  - Nonresident Aliens for tax purposes
  - U.S.-based income only—required by immigration status
  - Limited deductions and credits (no family allowances)
- Resources provided for NRAs by GT
- Fundamental issues and resources for U.S. taxpayers
  - U.S. citizens and permanent residents
  - Resident Aliens for tax purposes

# Income tax basics

- When you earn income, the government (state and federal) is generally owed tax on that income
  - W-2 pay (e.g. through Payroll): Federal and State income tax is withheld (pre-paid)
  - 1099 or other pay (e.g. through Bursar, Accounts Payable, or other source): no tax is withheld
  - 1042-S scholarship/fellowship income
- At the end of the year, you “file your income tax return” to report your income to the IRS and other financial information that may affect how much money you owe.
- If Taxes withheld > Taxes owed → **Tax Refund (you get \$)**
- If Taxes withheld < Taxes owed → **Tax Bill (you pay \$)**

# Tax deductions vs credits

- Most deductions and credits are available to US citizens and residents only!
- Deductions reduce your taxable income (i.e. the amount of money you pay tax on).
- Credits result in a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the taxes you pay.

Common Deductions	Common Credits
Standard deduction	Earned income tax credit
Student loan interest	Lifetime learning credit
State and local income tax	Saver's tax credit
Property tax	Child tax credit
Mortgage interest	
Retirement contributions	
Health savings account contributions	

- Common tax prep software will help you determine which, if any, deductions and credits you may qualify for.

# Progressive income tax: Tax Brackets

## 2025 Federal Income Tax Brackets: US citizen/resident alien

Tax Rate	Single Filers	Married Filing Joint
10%	\$0 to \$11,925	\$0 to \$23,850
12%	\$11,925 to \$48,475	\$23,850 to \$96,950
22%	\$48,475 to \$103,350	\$96,950 to \$206,700
24%	\$103,350 to \$197,300	\$206,700 to \$394,600
32%	\$197,300 to \$250,525	\$394,600 to \$501,050
35%	\$250,525 to \$626,350	\$501,050 to \$751,600
37%	\$626,350 or more	\$751,600 or more

Note: These tax brackets do not apply to nonresidents for tax purposes.

## State of Georgia Income Tax:

- “Flat” tax rate of 5.19% for 2025

Want to know more?



# Tax Considerations for International Students

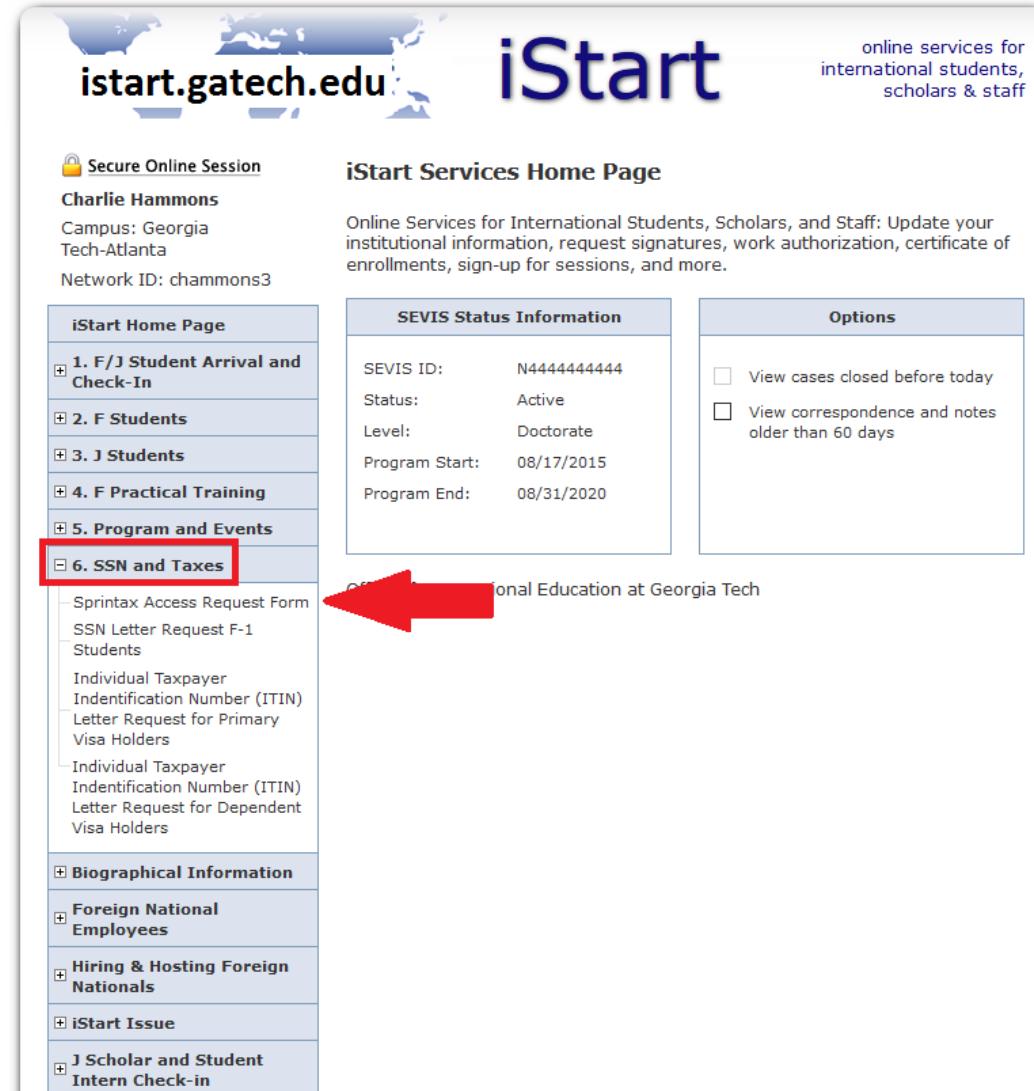
1. Are you a Resident or Nonresident for Tax Purposes?
  - If you have been in the US for **less than 5 years** as an F-1/J-1 student, you are likely a **Non-Resident**
2. Use GLACIER to determine Tax Status and Treaty Benefits
3. Were you employed in the US at all during 2025? Or received scholarship for room & board? Prize money?
  - If NO, go to [isss.oie.gatech.edu/nrtaxes](https://isss.oie.gatech.edu/nrtaxes)
  - Complete form **8843**

# International Students with Income

1. Obtain all W-2s and/or 1099s from all employers. (Not all students will have both of these forms! Most will not have 1099)
2. Use GLACIER to obtain 1042-S. (Necessary for both Residents and Nonresidents with treaties, Bursar refunds, prizes/awards that don't go toward tuition, etc.)
  - 1042-S will be released on or after February 13, 2026
  - Transfer student may need 1042-S from former school
3. Request Sprintax Access Code via iStart....almost all other tax prep programs will give nonresidents incorrect results!!!

# Sprintax

- Available to **Nonresidents only**
- Free **FEDERAL** Tax form preparation
  - State forms are **\$49.95** per state
- Request login code through iStart
  - Available on or before **February 13, 2026**
- E-filing now available for nonresident federal returns.



The screenshot shows the iStart Services Home Page. At the top, it displays the URL [istart.gatech.edu](http://istart.gatech.edu), the iStart logo, and a sub-header "iStart Services Home Page" with the text "online services for international students, scholars & staff". The page is divided into several sections: "Secure Online Session" (showing Charlie Hammons, Campus: Georgia Tech-Atlanta, Network ID: chammons3), "iStart Home Page" (with links for F/J Student Arrival and Check-In, F Students, J Students, F Practical Training, Program and Events, and SSN and Taxes), "SEVIS Status Information" (showing SEVIS ID: N444444444, Status: Active, Level: Doctorate, Program Start: 08/17/2015, Program End: 08/31/2020), and "Options" (with checkboxes for "View cases closed before today" and "View correspondence and notes older than 60 days"). A red arrow points to the "SSN and Taxes" link in the "iStart Home Page" sidebar. The footer of the page includes the Georgia Tech logo and the text "Office of International Education at Georgia Tech".

# Questions?

- 8843 Questions/General tax procedure questions – [isss.oie.gatech.edu/nrtaxes](https://isss.oie.gatech.edu/nrtaxes)
- All other nonresident tax questions – [asc.gatech.edu](https://asc.gatech.edu) and submit a ticket

# U.S. Taxpayers and Resident Alien Taxpayers

- One and the same
  - Worldwide income taxed
  - Lots of deductions and credits
    - Spouse and dependents
    - Lifetime Learning Credit, American Opportunity Credit, Earned Income Credit
    - Publication 970 "Tax Benefits for Education"
  - No filing requirements if income < \$15,750 (\$31,500) single (married, joint)
- Tax treaty benefits for:
  - Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, India, Malta, Netherlands, Pakistan and many others:  
<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/tax-treaties>

# Tax Liability for Graduate Fellowships: U.S./Perm. Resident

## What is a Fellowship?

- A fellowship is financial support provided to an individual to assist with the pursuit of **study, training, or research**.
- Fellowship funding may be **non-taxable** when used for **qualified educational expenses**, such as tuition and required fees.
- Funds used for **non-qualified expenses**—including housing, meals, travel, or optional equipment—are generally **considered taxable income**.

## Will I receive a W-2 for my fellowship payments?

- **No.** Fellowship payments are generally not considered earned income, so you will not receive a W-2 from the Institute.
- Instead, **you may receive a Form 1098-T**, which reports qualified tuition and related educational amounts for the calendar year.

### Qualified Expenses (Non-taxable)

- Required enrollment fees
- Required books and supplies
- Required course equipment
- Mandatory health insurance

### Taxable Expenses

- Housing and rent payments
- Meals and groceries
- Optional health insurance
- Optional equipment
- Personal expenses
- Travel

[IRS Publication 970](#) – Tax Benefits for Education (primary guidance for U.S. students)

# Tax Liability for Graduate Fellowships: Non-citizens

- Fellowship income is generally taxable in the U.S. unless a tax treaty applies.

## Visa Type

- The default tax rate for non-citizen students is 30%, but students with an F, J, M, or Q visa usually are taxed at 14%.

## Country of Residence

- Eligible non-citizen students may apply for tax treaty benefits to **reduce the tax withholding** rate to an amount less than the default 30% or **eliminate withholding entirely**.
- Click to [View a List of Countries with Tax Treaties](#)
- If you qualify for a tax treaty, complete a W-8BEN-E form through [OIE's iStart platform](#) for F and J visa holders at Georgia Tech.
- Non-citizen students typically receive Form 1042-S that reports fellowship income each year.

### Qualified Expenses (Non-taxable)

- Required enrollment fees
- Required books and supplies
- Required course equipment
- Mandatory health insurance

### Taxable Expenses

- Housing and rent payments
- Meals and groceries
- Optional health insurance
- Optional equipment
- Personal expenses
- Travel

[IRS Publication 519](#) – U.S. Tax Guide for Non-U.S. citizens (for international students)

# U.S./Resident Forms & Resources

- Forms
  - W-2s
  - 1099-misc, int, div, g
  - 1098-T (useful only for US citizens and resident aliens for tax purposes)
  - 1095-C (health insurance)
  - 1042-S (international students only)
- <http://www.bursar.gatech.edu/content/tax-credits>
- Trust the software
  - Beware of street corner tax offices—be an intelligent consumer
- More tax help for students with fellowships <http://pfforphds.com/>
  - Fellowship income could be taxed, but there are deductions to offset
  - <https://grad.gatech.edu/fellowships-and-funding>
  - <http://pfforphds.com/weird-tax-situations-fellowship-recipients/>

# 1098-T example form

<input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTED			
FILER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone number  GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  225 NORTH AVE, NW LYMAN HALL, SUITE 111 ATLANTA GA 30332 (404) 894-4618		1 Payments received for qualified tuition and related expenses  \$ 15,369.00  2  0.00	OMB No. 1545-1574  2025  Form 1098-T
FILER'S employer identification no. 58-6002023	STUDENT'S TIN xxx-xx-0000	3	<b>Tuition Statement</b>  <b>Copy B For Student</b>  This is important tax information and is being furnished to the IRS. This form must be used to complete Form 8863 to claim education credits. Give it to the tax preparer or use it to prepare the tax return.
STUDENT'S name  DARTH VADER		4 Adjustments made for a prior year  \$ 94.00	5 Scholarships or grants  \$ 3,200.00
Street address (including apt. no.)  610 SKYWALKER LN		6 Adjustments to scholarships or grants for a prior year  \$ 0.00	7 Checked if the amount in box 1 includes amounts for an academic period beginning January–March 2021  <input type="checkbox"/>
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code  ATLANTA GA 30332		8 Check if at least half-time student <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9 Checked if a graduate student <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  10 Ins. contract reimb./refund  \$ 0.00
Service Provider/Acct. No. (see instr.) 000000000			

Form 1098-T

(keep for your records)

[www.irs.gov/Form1098T](http://www.irs.gov/Form1098T)

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service



# 1098-T e-form

If you were eligible to receive one, your 2025 1098-T is posted in the Georgia Tech Bill Payment Portal.

The Bill Payment Portal link may be found at:  
<https://bursar.gatech.edu/>

Georgia Tech

Logged in as: [REDACTED]

My Account   Make Payment   Payment Plans   Deposits   Refunds   Help

Announcement

Welcome to the **Georgia Tech Bill+Payment system**. You can use our bill payment system to view your current account balance and student statement, and make payments.

- Students click [here](#) for instructions
- Authorized users (parents, employers, etc.) click [here](#) for instructions

The payment deadline for Spring 2021 semester is [Monday, January 25th, 2021](#).

Student Account   ID: xxxx [REDACTED]

Balance   \$0.00

[View Activity](#)   [Make Payment](#)

Statements

Your latest eBill Statement (2/1/21) Statement : \$0.00   [View Statements](#)

Your latest 1098-T Tax statement 2020 1098-T Statement   [View Statements](#)

My Profile Setup

Authorized Users

Personal Profile

Security Settings

Consents and Agreements

Electronic Refund

Term Balances

# Free-file & e-file

- Income  $\leq$  \$89,000 (US citizens/resident aliens only)
  - <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>
  - Check for federal + state and other restrictions
- E-file (US citizens/resident aliens only)
  - Want your refund this year or next?
- Extensions
  - 2026 Deadline: 15 April 2026
  - More time, but can't delay payment
- IRS Resources
  - [Pub 970 Tax Benefits for Education](#) & [Pub 4011 Foreign Student & Scholar Vol Resource Guide](#)



Registration is OPEN!  
Deadline: Monday, February 16

### Who is eligible to participate?

- Open to currently **enrolled** master's and doctoral students conducting **original research**.
- **All disciplines** are invited and encouraged to participate!
- Past winners are not eligible – **past participants are!**

### Why participate?

- Hone presentation & communication skills – *invaluable professional development*
- **Build your network** – *meet fellow grad students from different fields*
- Visibility and impact – *may lead to new opportunities*

## IMPORTANT DATES\*

### Preliminary Rounds (Multiple rounds will be offered each day)

- Tuesday, March 3
- Wednesday, March 4
- Thursday, March 5

### 3MT Final Competition

- Tuesday, April 7

\*\*\*Students must be available to participate in person for prelims and final competition.

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\***

**Grad Student Appreciation Week**  
**March 30 – April 3**