

# REAL WORLD FINANCIAL TIPS

*Published for the financial success of Stanford University students.*



## Tax tips for undergrads, graduate and international students!

### **FREE WEBINARS!**

#### **Stipends, fellowships and school supplies—what are the tax rules?**

Attend a free webinar to speak with a tax expert!

#### **Taxes 101 for domestic graduate students**

*Saturday, March 11th at 10:00 am*

Tax consultant Asha Kotra from Asha Tax & Accounting Services (CPAs) will provide essential information and tips on how graduate students should submit or complete their taxes.

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#### **Taxes 101 for international graduate students**

*Saturday, March 11th at 2:00 pm*

Tax consultant Asha Kotra from Asha Tax & Accounting Services (CPAs) will provide essential information and tips on how international graduate students should submit or complete their taxes.

► [REGISTER](#)

### **Speed up your tax refund!**

Did you know the IRS can direct deposit your tax refund into your checking or savings account? Just give them your bank's routing number and your account number. It's faster and safer than mailing a check!

► [LEARN MORE](#)

### **All about the 1098-T**

The 1098-T is a tuition statement that shows the total tuition paid during a specific calendar year (January 1 thru December 31). The 1098-T is an important tax form because it includes qualified tuition and related expenses like scholarships, fellowships, and grants that were credited to your student financial account throughout the year.

You can use the 1098-T to see if you might be able to claim an education tax credit like the [American Opportunity Tax Credit](#) and the [Lifetime Learning Credit](#).



**FIND MORE TAX INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY ON YOUR STUDENT  
SERVICES WEBSITE!**

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## Start building credit now for a secure financial future

You've likely heard the horror stories of people who get in trouble with their credit cards or too much debt. Many Americans owe more money than they earn in a year. It's a scary thought, yes, but there's a positive side to debt. Loans can help you buy a car or house much sooner than if you tried to save enough money to purchase them on your own. And without credit history, you won't qualify for any loan. Even apartment managers will check your credit history before renting to you.

*Now is the time to start building credit, so when the time comes to apply for a needed loan, you'll qualify for the lowest rate and highest loan amount:*

- 1.** *Start with a credit card or retail store card with a small credit limit.*
- 2.** *Use the card for small purchases, and carry a small balance.*
- 3.** *Be sure to make the monthly payments in full and on time—this will show lenders that you can manage debt.*



You should also begin monitoring your credit activity and score, which are used by lenders when they're reviewing applications. There are free online programs like [Credit Karma](#) where you can view your credit score. Stanford Federal Credit Union also provides all members with their free [FICO® Score](#) quarterly through Online Banking and the mobile app. And all consumers can get a free credit report annually to monitor your credit activity and history at [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com).



### LOOKING FOR MORE GREAT FINANCIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES?

Check out Mind Over Money, your Stanford University source for student financial education! You'll find free financial coaching, workshops, and tools specifically designed for Stanford students. ▶ [LEARN MORE](#)

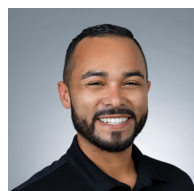
### Questions about financial products and services?

Contact Juan Vargas, your Personal Banker

▶ 650.643.6422

▶ [jvargas@sfcu.org](mailto:jvargas@sfcu.org)

▶ [schedule an appointment](#)



All tax information included here is intended for educational purposes and should not take the place of a professional tax advisor.

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