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## Duke University to Extend Need-Based Financial Aid to International Students

By [ALEX P. KELLOGG](#)

Duke University's board of trustees has approved a plan to offer need-based financial aid to a limited number of undergraduates from abroad.

For the first time in the history of the university, undergraduate international students will receive need-based financial aid beginning in the 2002-3 academic year. The program will be phased in over three years so that eventually 15 to 20 foreign students will benefit. Duke had previously discouraged applications from international students who could not afford to pay the university's hefty annual fees upfront.

The university's provost, Peter Lange, said the move was merely an extension of the university's dedication to need-blind admissions and not an effort to stay competitive. "We have a commitment to fully aiding the students who are admitted to Duke" solely based "on their quality," he said on Monday.

Duke joins an elite handful of universities that extend need-based financial aid to international students -- among them, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale.

According to Mr. Lange, the university does not yet know how much the plan will cost or how students will be picked, but he says the university hopes the move will broaden the economic diversity of the international-student population and put it more in line with that of the student body in general.

There are currently 493 international students enrolled as undergraduates at Duke. They constitute approximately 8 percent of the undergraduate population.

The board of trustees also approved a 4.4 percent increase in tuition and mandatory fees, to \$26,768 in the 2001-2 academic year from the current \$25,630. The total cost for entering freshmen next year will be \$34,416.

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