



Welcome to FAME's New Mainers Website

- Meet Floreka!
- Get Ready for College
- Paying for College
- Credential Evaluation
- Resources
- FAQ
- How Floreka Can Help!

[FAMEmaine.com/newmain](https://famemaine.com/newmain)

New Mainers


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Make a Plan

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- Previously Incarcerated Students
- Resources For Professionals
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Start to Save

Pay for School



FREE COLLEGE IS HERE!
High school graduates from the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 qualify for a Free College Scholarship at any of the seven community colleges across Maine.

[Learn More](#)



WHERE TO GET HELP
Maine has a number of agencies and organizations offering a variety of programs and services to new Mainers.

[Additional Resources](#)


FAME Can Help New Mainers with Higher Education

We're glad you're here! In Maine and throughout the United States, higher education is one of the best ways to open the door to a better-paying job and more opportunities. But as a new Mainer, navigating higher education may include some additional steps or challenges. If you are the first in your family to attend college, the process may be unfamiliar and intimidating. If you attended college in another country, higher education in the United States might look very different.

FAME can help recent immigrants and refugees navigate higher education in the United States. FAME offers College Access and Financial Education staff working across Maine to help students reach their higher education goals. Floreka Malual is FAME's dedicated college planning advisor working with new Mainers.

Regardless of your starting point, FAME is here to provide information, resources, and personalized support. Let us know how we can help you reach your educational goals!


Meet Floreka Malual, College Planning Advisor





Floreka Malual
(she/her)
College Planning Advisor
(207) 620-3530
[Email Floreka](#)

Floreka Malual is FAME's dedicated college planning advisor working with new Mainers. At one time a new Mainer herself, Floreka spent her first nine years in Africa, living seven years in South Sudan and two years in Egypt. She is fluent in both Arabic and Dinka. In the early 2000s, Floreka and her family moved to Maine in order to have more opportunities. She attended Portland area schools and graduated from Portland High School in 2009. In 2014, she received her bachelor's degree in Health Care Studies from Husson University. As an immigrant and first-generation attending college, Floreka felt this was her calling. She joined the FAME team in 2017 as a college planning advisor and enjoys working with new Mainers exploring the college world for the first time- just as she once did.

Learn more about...

 [Getting Ready for College](#) →
Knowing how higher education is organized in the U.S. can help you understand and explore your options.

 [Paying for College](#) →
Whether you're an immigrant, refugee, or a new U.S. citizen, there is money available to help new Mainers pay for higher education.

 [Credential Evaluation](#) →
Do you have a degree or certificate from your home country? If so, you may be able to use it in the United States for work or schooling.

Student Testimonials



Paying for College Helpful Tools

- Tracking Status of Immigration Application
- Paying for Higher Education Video
- Scholarships for New Mainers

Not sure if you're eligible?

If you're not sure of your eligibility, you can use our interactive eligibility questionnaire to help you determine your status:

Interactive Eligibility Questionnaire:

1.) Are you a US Citizen?

- Yes
 No

Track Your Case Status Online

Are you waiting to hear back about your case status immigration application, petition, or request with the [online case status tool](#).

VIDEO: Paying for Higher Education for New Mainers



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Are you a new Mainer wondering how you'll pay for your higher education? This video will tell you what you need to know, guide you through options for paying for college, and help you navigate the New Mainers section of the FAME website.

Scholarships for New Mainers

Scholarships provide money, often from private institutions or community organizations, that you will not need to repay. If you are not eligible for federal or state financial aid, you may be able to pay for some of your higher education expenses using scholarships.



Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce

Workforce Training, All in One Place

The Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce coordinates all short-term workforce training programs for Maine's community colleges, working closely with business leaders and workforce specialists throughout the state.

The Center, launched in 2021, speeds the delivery of critical training to both trainees and employers. The Alfond Center will serve almost 100,000 Mainers by 2030 in these three areas:

Pre-Hire Training – learn the skills needed to enter a new profession.

Incumbent Worker Training – upskill your current, front-line workforce.

Scholarships – continue on in a certificate or degree program.

Training is grant-funded and usually free for the trainee. Let's get started!



HAROLD ALFOND CENTER
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
MAINE'S WORKFORCE

Short-term workforce training through Maine's community colleges



Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce



Pre-Hire Short-Term Training

Designed to equip underemployed individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to secure employment.

Designed to meet the needs of regional employers and developed in collaboration with business and industry leaders. Short-term pre-hire training programs offer pathways into certificate and degree programs at Maine's community colleges.

Advancement and Equity

- Unemployed
- Underemployed
- Students 18-24
- Rural Mainers
- Individuals in Recovery
- New Americans
- Justice Involved
- Career Changers
- Remote Workers

Learn more at: mccs.me.edu/workforce-training/for-trainees/non-credit-courses/



Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program

Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program

- Grants for up to \$1,000 are available to help pay for the costs associated with the process of becoming work-ready while waiting for issuance of a work permit by federal immigration authorities.
- Funds are limited – first come, first served

Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program

The Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program assist eligible immigrants living in Maine who are not yet eligible to prepare for entry into the workforce.

Grants for up to \$1,000 are available to help pay for the costs associated with becoming work-ready while waiting for issuance of a work permit by federal immigration authorities.

How do I apply?

The Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program is applied for online. Funds are limited and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will be accepted as long as funds are available.

1. The application for the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Grant Program must be completed online. *You will not be able to save an application until you have completed it—once you begin the application, you will need to complete it.*
2. Before you begin, have all documents required to complete your application ready to upload (e.g., photo, scan, PDF):
 - A copy of identification documentation, such as a passport (valid only), consular identification card, or other government-issued identification, even if expired;
 - Either a copy of your USCIS receipt (electronic or paper) for your I-765 with an eligibility category beginning with C, or a copy of your USCIS Form I-589 is currently pending, a copy of your filing receipt;
 - Invoices or screenshots of expenses that the grant funds can be used for.

What can the grant be used for?

Grants can be used for eligible costs.

“Eligible costs” include, but are not limited to, the following examples incurred or to be incurred by an applicant prior to obtaining a work permit and incurred or to be incurred for the purpose of improving the applicant’s work-readiness once they obtain a work permit:

- Costs of translation into English of any diplomas, transcripts, certifications or other proof of trainings or experience in trades, or other documents establishing courses studied or the completion of secondary school or of higher education at either the undergraduate or graduate level.
- Fees related to education evaluations establishing the equivalency level of education or experience attained abroad.
- Costs of translation into English of documents related to professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of trainings or other experience obtained abroad.
- Costs of translation into English of letters of reference or recommendations related to education or experience obtained abroad.
- Fees related to test preparation courses or registration fees for a standard test of English as a foreign language such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language® (TOEFL) or other standardized test recognized worldwide that measures English language proficiency, when necessary for an immigrant’s work.
- Expenses for employment or professional applications, certifications, licensing fees and related requirements for seeking employment, including but not limited to fingerprinting and required tests.
- Fees related to obtaining a Maine driver’s license, including a commercial driver’s license, including but not limited to driver’s education course fees, learner’s permit application fees and driver’s license fees.
- Costs to travel to the nearest location of any exam or test needed to establish the applicant’s skills or credentials or English language proficiency, such as the TOEFL, if there is no location within 60 miles of the Maine town in which the immigrant resides.
- Costs of a filing fee required by the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, or any successor federal agency, to apply for the immigrant’s initial work permit.