

Who needs to file taxes?

Advancing Futures funding is taxable, therefore all Advancing Futures students must file a tax return.

What is the deadline to file a tax return?

To avoid penalties, you must file your 2018 tax return by April 30, 2019.

What are the benefits of filing a tax return?

By filing an income tax return, you may receive a tax refund if you overpaid taxes throughout the year. Additionally, you may be eligible for the following benefits and services, depending upon your income for the year, marital status, and other factors:

- **GST/HST Credit:** A tax-free quarterly payment that helps individuals and families with low and modest incomes offset all or some of the GST that they pay.
- **Canada Child Tax Benefit:** A tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under age 18.
- **National Child Benefit Supplement:** An additional tax-free monthly payment included with the Canada Child Tax Benefit paid to low-income families with children under 18 years of age.
- **Child Care Subsidy:** Financial assistance paid directly to the service provider for eligible lower-income families using approved child care services.
- **Alberta Adult Health Benefit/Alberta Child Health Benefit:** A Government of Alberta program that supports low-income Albertans to access prescription medications, as well as dental, optical and emergency services. This is the health benefit service that Advancing Futures supports students to access; low-income students may be eligible to have this coverage continue when they are not being funded by Advancing Futures.
- **Social and Affordable Housing Options:** Through community-based social and affordable housing services, lower-cost housing options or direct rent supplements may be available.
- **Lower Cost Recreation Programs:** Municipalities and community service organizations may offer reduced cost leisure passes to low-income individuals.

How do I file a tax return?

The most common ways to file a tax return are:

- Find a free/low-cost tax preparation service in your community (Remember, the Student Resource Centre at your institution and the public library in your area are great resources for this type of information!)
- Use an online tax preparation program, such as UFile.ca or TurboTax Canada
- Visit a tax preparation company, such as H&R Block

Once your tax return is prepared, you can submit it to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) either online by using EFILE or NETFILE, or by mail.

How much does it cost to file a tax return?

Filing your taxes is always free; it's having your tax return prepared that can cost money. There may be free services in your community for low-income individuals. Find out the cost of the service you're using before having your taxes prepared.

If you chose to use an online tax preparation program, it will likely cost you about \$20 to prepare your tax return. For about \$40, students can have their basic tax return prepared at H&R Block. Be aware that if you are eligible for a refund and take advantage of "Instant Cash Back" programs, you are going to pay additional fees for this.

It is possible that you may owe money to the Canada Revenue Agency after filing your taxes, depending on your income, deductions and taxes paid during the year.

Who do I contact if I have questions about filing my taxes?

Visit the Canada Revenue Agency's [website](#) or phone the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281.