



Administered by University of Maine System
Office of Strategic Procurement
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

ALTERNATIVE PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL LOANS

RFQ # 2023-070

Issued Date: March 13, 2023

Response Deadline Date/Time: [May 1st, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST](#)

Response Submission Information:

Submitted electronically to UMSResponses@maine.edu
Email [Subject Line – GNA: Alternative Education Loans- RFQ #2023-070](#)

Response Contact Information:

Strategic Sourcing Manager (SSM): [Gregg N. Allen](#)
Email: UMSResponses@maine.edu

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Definitions, Background, Purpose and Specifications

1.1.1 Definitions

The University of Maine System will hereinafter be referred to as the "University." Respondents to the document shall be referred to as "Respondent(s)" or "Respondent".

The Respondent to whom the Agreement is awarded shall be referred to as the "Contractor."

The University of Maine System and other components of the University shall be referred to as "Multi-Institution".

1.1.2 Background

Overview

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System (UMS) unites six distinctive public universities, comprising 10 campuses and numerous centers, in the common purpose of providing quality higher education while delivering on its traditional tripartite mission of teaching, research, and public service.

A comprehensive public institution of higher education, UMS serves more than 30,000 students annually and is supported by the efforts of more than 2,000 full-time and part-time faculty, more than 3,000 regular full-time and part-time staff, and a complement of part-time temporary (adjunct) faculty.

Reaching more than 500,000 people annually through educational and cultural offerings, the University of Maine System also benefits from more than two-thirds of its alumni population residing within the state; more than 123,000 individuals.

The System consists of six universities: The University of Maine (UMaine), including its regional campus the University of Maine at Machias (UMM); the University of Maine at Augusta (UMA); the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF); the University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK), the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI); and the University of Southern Maine (USM). The System also includes the University of Maine School of Law and the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center.

Campus thumbnails

University of Maine at Augusta

Founded in 1965, the University of Maine at Augusta transforms the lives of students of every age and background across the State of Maine and beyond through access to high-quality distance and on-site education, excellence in student support, civic engagement, and professional and liberal arts programs. UMA is the third largest public university in Maine. A leader in distance education, UMA has a statewide presence with two campuses in Augusta and Bangor, eight UMA Centers from Saco to Houlton, and 32 course receive sites across Maine. Flexible modalities, with classes onsite, online, through video conference, and at UMA Centers allow its students to take classes, while keeping work and family commitments. While UMA has a traditional-aged cohort, two-thirds of its students are over 25 years old. Over 50% of UMA's students are first generation and 68%

are Pell Grant eligible. These students are motivated to make a positive change in their lives by pursuing a college degree. With its multiple locations and long-term expertise in online and distance learning, UMA is generally considered the university of choice for Mainers of all ages who want to attend college without uprooting their lives.

University of Maine at Farmington

The University of Maine at Farmington is the birthplace of public higher education in Maine and has earned a national reputation for excellence. Established in 1864, it is a small, public liberal arts college, serving primarily full-time, and traditional-age undergraduates in a residential setting. UMF offers quality programs in teacher education, human services, arts and sciences and professional studies. At Farmington, students feel connected, and deeply woven in the roots of the community. Through hands-on learning, the sharing of ideas, debating of issues and pursuit of research, our professors become an active part of their student's lives helping them engage and succeed in a place where they are valued, inspired and empowered. Located in the foothills of the mountains of western Maine, UMF offers the perfect mix of the active outdoor lifestyle with the quintessential New England college town. With enrollment at around 1,800 full-time students, UMF is about the same size as many of New England's most selective private colleges and offers many of the same advantages at a very affordable price—providing a tremendous college value in a spectacular natural setting.

University of Maine at Fort Kent

Founded in 1878, the University of Maine at Fort Kent is a unique learning institution perfect for people seeking a challenging scholastic atmosphere combined with a wonderful mix of rugged outdoor vistas and access to cosmopolitan epicenters across two countries. The learning opportunities at UMFK are a model of a destination university that other New England campuses attempt to emulate. Strong academic programs include associate and bachelor's degrees in disciplines such as business, biology, forestry, nursing and cybersecurity among others. The student body at UMFK has one of the highest percentages of international students in New England, allowing immersion in a cultural opportunity that is unique in the world. UMFK enjoys national recognition for quality and value as well as championships in men's and women's soccer.

University of Maine at Machias

The University of Maine at Machias, the regional campus of the University of Maine, awards baccalaureate and associate degrees, and certificates. It is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education as part of the University of Maine. Established in 1909, UMM is the easternmost university campus in the United States. The area's bountiful natural resources, and rich environmental, recreational, cultural and educational traditions inform the campus. Through its distinctive baccalaureate programs and student-centered community, UMM creates enriching educational opportunities that prepare graduates for professional success and lifelong engagement with the world. UMM embodies an active community of diverse learners who share a commitment to exploration, leadership, collaboration and interdisciplinary problem solving. Inspired by its unique coastal location, UMM's creative energy, applied research and community engagement enhance the social, cultural, economic and natural environments of the state of Maine.

University of Maine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's land grant and sea grant university. As the state's only public research university, UMaine has a

statewide mission of teaching, research and economic development, and community service. UMaine is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast with nearly 100 majors and academic programs. It attracts students from Maine and 49 other states, and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls more than 11,400 undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in research, working with world-class scholars. UMaine offers more than 100 degree programs through which students can earn graduate certificates, master's, doctoral or professional science master's degrees. The university promotes environmental stewardship, with substantial efforts campus wide aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction.

University of Maine at Presque Isle

For more than a century, the University of Maine at Presque Isle has been helping students find their path to great professional careers, providing its 1,400 traditional and non-traditional students with life-changing opportunities in a caring, small-university environment. UMPI combines liberal arts and selected professional programs and serves as a cultural and educational resource for the entire region. The campus sits on 150 acres surrounded by the rolling hills and potato fields of northern Maine and strives to be the region's premier learning institution while helping to stimulate cultural and economic development in Aroostook County and the State of Maine. The University serves as an educational and cultural center for the area and its facilities are utilized for lectures, programs, concerts, dance performances, exhibits, and plays that benefit the entire region..

University of Southern Maine

Known for its academic excellence and student focus, the University of Southern Maine (USM) is a community-engaged university taking advantage of its three-campus location in the economic and cultural heart of Maine to provide unmatched, authentic, hands-on learning experiences. This gives our graduates a leg up in launching their careers while at the same time meeting the workplace needs of our region and state.

Our significant financial and academic support provides our students access to a high quality education, helps ensure their success once they are here and enables them to pursue and realize their dreams upon graduation.

Reflecting the community it serves, USM has become known as “the University of Everyone,” welcoming a diverse mix of ages, backgrounds and income levels to our 8,000 plus student body. Ranging from traditional high school graduates to adults completing their degree, from high achievers to those who may not have seen a college education in their future, from new Mainers to veterans who have served our nation, the University of Southern Maine supports their academic pursuits and encourages their advancement.

University of Maine School of Law

The University of Maine School of Law is the state's public and only law school, a vital resource serving our local, regional, national, and global community. Maine Law is an institutional public servant committed to providing an accessible and affordable student-focused program of legal education and achieving the highest standards of ethical behavior. Our rigorous doctrinal and experiential curriculum, influential scholarship, and signature programming prepare students to practice

law, promote respect for the rule of law, and advance justice for all members of society.

University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center

Located in Portland but serving students and employers statewide, the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center (the Maine Center) brings together academic programs in law, business, policy, and public health to train the workforce of the future and grow Maine's economy. The Maine Center is an academic consortium composed of the University of Maine School of Law, the University of Maine Graduate School of Business, the graduate programs of the Muskie School of Public Service, and the Cutler Institute of Health and Social Policy. Together with this consortium, the Maine Center develops interdisciplinary, experiential, and market-driven programming for graduate students in the Maine Center's focus disciplines. The Maine Center also delivers programming tailored to the evolving needs of Maine's civic, non-profit, business, legal, and entrepreneurial communities. These offerings include professional education, certificates, workshops, and internship placements. The Maine Center is supported by a challenge grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation.

1.1.3 Purpose

The University of Maine System (UMS) is seeking responses from firms having expertise in providing alternative private educational loans. The purpose of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is to create a list of qualified lenders from which UMS can identify and provide to its students and parents information regarding lenders of private loan products that have competitive rates, excellent customer service and borrower benefits. UMS seeks information from lenders interested in serving our traditional undergraduate, non-traditional undergraduate and graduate students, and parent populations for Alternative Educational Loan Programs. Students and their families will be notified of the loan products for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years, but will also receive information stating that UMS will process loans from any lender. Students and their families will be able to apply for loans through the lender of their choice without penalty. From this RFQ, UMS will develop a master list of qualified lenders and their loan products. Each campus of the UMS, at their sole discretion, will in turn publish a list of loan products and lenders offering private educational loans. These lists are subject to change without notice. The submission of information in response to this RFQ does not create any binding obligation of any nature on the UMS or the lender. Respondents should review **1.1.4 Specifications / Scope of Work** of this document to see the full Scope of Services/Products required.

All campuses in the University of Maine System must be afforded the use of this solution, with all the same terms and conditions applicable to the various University locations.

1.1.4 Specifications / Scope of Work

All lenders will be expected to adhere to the following minimum standards in order to be considered for inclusion in the list of loan products and lenders:

1. Resolution of loan certification, disbursement, and servicing issues within 24 Business hours
2. Superior customer service to our students and families

3. Dedicated customer service representative(s) as well as a toll free priority service telephone number to serve borrowers and Financial Aid staff at UMS
4. Commitment to honor benefits and loan terms that are described in lender responses to the RFQ for the entirety of the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 processing years (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). Academic years 2023/2024-2024/2025
5. Reporting of key operational and financial metrics, including but not limited to, loan volumes and approval rates on a quarterly basis
6. Online certification and ability to disburse loan funds via EFT

General Information

1.1.5 Communication with the University

It is the responsibility of the Respondent to inquire about any requirement of this document that is not understood. Responses to inquiries, if they change or clarify the document in a substantial manner, will be forwarded by addenda to all parties that have received a copy of the document. Addenda will also be posted on our web site, www.maine.edu/strategic/upcoming_bids.php

It is the responsibility of all Respondents to check the web site before submitting a response to ensure that they have all pertinent documents. The University will not be bound by oral responses to inquiries or written responses other than addenda.

Inquiries must be made using the **Response Contact Information** provided on the cover sheet of this document. Refer to table in **Section 1.3.1 Timeline of Key Events** for deadline requirements.

1.1.6 Confidentiality

The University must adhere to the provisions of the Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA), 1 MRSA §401 et seq. As a condition of submitting a response under this section, a respondent must accept that, to the extent required by the Maine FOAA, responses to this solicitation, and any ensuing contractual documents, are considered public records and therefore are subject to freedom of access requests.

The information contained in responses submitted for the University's consideration will be held in confidence until all evaluations are concluded and a Respondent selected (the successful Respondent). At that time the University will issue award notice letters to all participating Respondents and all Respondents' responses may be made available to participating Respondents upon request. Such request must be made by submitting a written request to the individual noted in the Response Contact Information shown on the cover sheet of this document, with a copy of the request provided to the other Respondents. Such requests are public records.

After the protest period has passed and the Agreement is fully executed, responses will be available for public inspection upon request.

Pricing and other information that is an integral part of the offer cannot be considered confidential after an award has been made. The University will honor requests for confidentiality for information that meets the definition of “trade secret” under Maine law. Clearly mark any portion of your submitted materials which are entitled to “trade secret” exemption from disclosure under Maine’s Freedom of Access Act. Failure to so identify as trade secret will authorize the University to conclude that no portions are so exempt; and that your entity will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the University in any and all legal actions that seek to compel the University to disclose under Maine’s Freedom of Access Act some or all of your submitted materials and/or contract, if any, executed between the University and your entity.

1.1.7 Costs of Preparation

Respondent assumes all costs of preparation of the response and any presentations necessary to the response process.

1.1.8 Authorization

Any Agreement for services that will, or may, result in the expenditure by the University of \$50,000 or more must be approved in writing by the Office of Strategic Procurement, Chief Procurement Officer and it is not approved, valid or effective until such written approval is granted.

1.1.9 Multi-Institutional

The University of Maine System, Office of Strategic Procurement reserves the right to authorize other University Institutions to use the Agreement(s) resulting from this document, if it is deemed to be beneficial for the University to do so.

1.1.10 Employees

The Contractor shall employ only competent and satisfactory personnel and shall provide a sufficient number of employees to perform the required services efficiently and in a manner satisfactory to the University. If the Agreement Administrator or designee, notifies the Contractor in writing that any person employed on this Agreement is incompetent, disorderly, or otherwise unsatisfactory, such person shall not again be employed in the execution of this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Agreement Administrator.

1.1.11 Environment Compliance

In the event that the resulting Agreement involves the generation, transportation, handling, disposal, and/or other operations or activities in relation to toxic, hazardous, radioactive, or otherwise dangerous gases, vapors, fumes, acids, alkali’s, chemicals, wastes or contaminants and/or other substance, material or condition, the Contractor agrees to indemnify save harmless and defend the University from and against all liabilities, claims, damages, forfeitures, suits, and the costs and expenses incident thereto (including costs of defense, settlement

and reasonable attorney's fees) which the University may hereafter incur as a result of death or bodily injuries or damage to any property, contamination of or adverse effects of the environment or any violation of state or federal regulations or laws (including without limitation the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, the Hazardous Material Transportation Act or the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act, as the same now exists or may hereafter be amended) or order based on or arising in whole or in part from the Contractor's performance under the Agreement, provided, however the Contractor shall not indemnify the University for any liabilities, claims, damages, (as set forth above) caused by or arising out of the sole negligence of the University, or arising out of any area of responsibility not attributable to Contractor.

1.1.12 Specification Protest Process and Remedies:

If a Respondent feels that the specifications are written in a way that limits competition, a specification protest may be sent to the Office of Strategic Procurement to the email address provided on the cover page of this document. Specification Protests will be responded to within five (5) business days of receipt. Determination of protest validity is at the sole discretion of the University. The due date of the proposal may be changed if necessary to allow consideration of the protest and issuance of any necessary addenda. Specification protests shall be presented to the University in writing as soon as identified, but no less than five (5) business days prior to the Deadline for Proposal Submission noted in Section 1.3.1. No protest against the award due to the specifications shall be considered after this deadline. Protests shall include the reason for the protest and any proposed changes to the specifications.

General Submission Provisions

1.1.13 Timeline of Key Events

| Reference Section | Event Name | Event Due Date |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| Section 1.2.2 | Deadline for Written Inquiries/Questions | March 22, 2023. |
| Section 1.2.2 | Response to Written Inquiries/Questions | March 30, 2023 |
| Section 1.2.2 | Deadline for Proposal Submission | May 1, 2023 |
| Section 2.2 | Award Announcement (subject to change) | TBD |
| | Estimated Agreement Start Date (subject to change) | TBD |

1.1.14 Eligibility to Submit Responses

Public entities, private for-profit companies, and non-profit companies and institutions are invited to submit a response to this document.

1.1.15 Debarment

Respondents must complete and submit the “Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification Form provided in Appendix B. Failure to provide this certification may result in the disqualification of the Respondent’s proposal, at the University’s discretion.

Submission of a signed response in response to this solicitation is certification that your firm (or any subcontractor) is not currently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any State or Federal department or agency. Submission is also agreement that the University will be notified of any change in this status.

1.1.16 Response Understanding

By submitting a response, the Respondent agrees and assures that the specifications are adequate, and the Respondent accepts the terms and conditions herein. Any exceptions should be noted in your response.

1.1.17 Response Validity

Unless specified otherwise, all responses shall be valid for ninety (90) days from the due date of the response.

1.1.18 Non-Response Submission

The University will not consider non-responsive submissions, i.e., those with material deficiencies, omissions, errors or inconsistencies or that otherwise do not follow instructions. The University in its sole discretion will determine what is Non-Responsive.

1.1.19 Response Submission

A **SIGNED** virus-free electronic copy must be submitted as follows:

The response must be received electronically to the E-Mail shown in the **Response Submission Information** section of the cover page of this document.

Electronic submission must be received by the required **Response Deadline Date/Time** reflected on the cover page of this document.

Response submissions that exceed 20 MB will be submitted with multiple emails modifying email subject line shown in the **Response Submission Information** section of the cover page of this document to include: Submission 1 of X ('X' representing the number of files being submitted).

EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS

1.2 Evaluation Criteria

1.2.1 Scoring Weights

The score will be based on a 100 point scale and will measure the degree to which each response meets the following criteria:

| Evaluation Appendices | Category | Points |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Attachment B | General Evaluation Form | 100 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total Points | | 100 |

1.2.2 Scoring Section Descriptions

1.2.2.1 Attachment A- Lender response sheet. For the repayment example requested, assume entry in Fall 2023, Graduate May 2027. Please provide an example for all 3 programs (undergraduate, graduate, Parent Loan)

1.2.2.2 General Evaluation
The evaluation team will use a consensus approach to evaluate and assign evaluation points using Attachment B. Reference checks may be performed on the top Respondent(s) only as determined by consensus scoring in the other categories.

1.3 Award

While the University prefers a single solution that is scalable to meet the needs of both large and small institutions, it reserves the right to award Agreement(s) to one or multiple Respondents, which may include awards to Respondents for a geographical area, if such award is in the best interest of the University.

The University reserves the right to waive minor irregularities, which may include contacting the Respondent to resolve the irregularity. Scholarships, donations, or gifts to the University, will not be considered in the evaluation of responses. The University reserves the right to reject any or all responses, in whole or in part, and is not necessarily bound to accept the lowest cost response if that response is contrary to the best interests of the University. The University may cancel this request or reject any or all responses in whole or in part. Should the University determine in its sole discretion that only one Respondent is fully qualified, or that one Respondent is clearly more qualified than any other under consideration, an Agreement may be awarded to that Respondent without further action.

Once responses have been evaluated, UMS will notify lenders that they have been deemed qualifies. The selected lenders will be placed on the UMS master list of lenders and services. Each campus of the UMS, at their sole discretion, will in turn publish a list of loan

products and lenders offering private educational loans. These lists are subject to change without notice.

UMS does not guarantee the volume of alternative loans. As federal guidelines permit, UMS campuses will advise students of their options in selecting a private loan product. UMS will offer specific recommendations to students and their families regarding its published alternative loan programs.

UMS reserves the right to remove any lenders' information from the master list, and the campus web sites, at any time if it is determined, in the sole judgment of UMS, that the lender has not fulfilled any of its obligations under this RFQ.

The RFQ does not create any contractual relationship between UMS and any party. UMS reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses to this RFQ.

1.4 Negotiations

The University reserves the right to negotiate with the successful Respondent to finalize a contract. Such negotiations may not significantly vary the content, nature or requirements of the proposal or the University's Request for Proposals to an extent that may affect the price of goods or services requested. The University reserves the right to terminate contract negotiations with a selected respondent who submits a proposed contract significantly different from the response they submitted in response to the advertised RFQ. In the event that an acceptable contract cannot be negotiated with the highest ranked Respondent, the University may withdraw its award and negotiate with the next-highest ranked Respondent, and so on, until an acceptable contract has been finalized. Alternatively, the University may cancel the RFQ, at its sole discretion.

1.5 Award Protest

Respondents may appeal the award decision by submitting a written protest to the University of Maine System's Chief General Services Officer within five (5) business days of the date of the award notice, with a copy of the protest to the successful Respondent. The protest must contain a statement of the basis for the challenge. Further information regarding the appeal process can be found at

http://staticweb.maine.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/APL_VII-A_20150630-FINAL.pdf?565a1d

If this RFQ results in the creation of a pre-qualified or pre-approved list of vendors, then the appeal procedures mentioned above are available upon the original determination of that vendor list, but not during subsequent competitive procedures involving only the pre-qualified or pre-approved list participants.

2.0 RESPONSE FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

2.1 General Format Instructions

2.1.1 Electronic Submissions

Documents submitted as part of the electronic response are to be prepared on standard electronic formats of 8-1/2" x 11" and of PDF file type. Submissions requiring additional supporting information, such as, foldouts containing charts, spreadsheets, and oversize exhibits are permissible and must be submitted as Appendices, clearly numbered and referencing the Section in which they provide supporting information.

For clarity, the Respondent's name should appear on every document page, including Appendices. Each Appendix must reference the section or subsection number to which it corresponds.

2.1.2 Respondents Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Respondent to provide all information requested in the document package at the time of submission. Failure to provide information requested in this document may, at the discretion of the University's evaluation review team, result in a lower rating for the incomplete sections and may result in the response being disqualified for consideration. Include any forms provided in the application package or reproduce those forms as closely as possible. All information should be presented in the same order and format as described in this document.

2.1.3 Brief Response

Respondents are asked to be brief and to respond to each question listed in the "Response to Questions" section of this document. Number each response in the response to correspond to the relevant question in this document.

2.1.4 Additional Attachments Prohibited

The Respondent may not provide additional attachments beyond those specified in the document for the purpose of extending their response. Any material exceeding the response limit will not be considered in rating the response and will not be returned. Respondents shall not include brochures or other promotional material with their response. Additional materials will not be considered part of the response and will not be evaluated.

2.2 Response Format Instructions

This section contains instructions for Respondents to use in preparing their response. The Respondent's submission must follow the outline used below, including the numbering of section and sub-section headings. Failure to use the outline specified in this section or to respond to all questions and instructions throughout this document may result in the response being disqualified as non-responsive or receiving a reduced score.

The University and its evaluation team for this document have sole discretion to determine whether a variance from the document specifications should result in either disqualification or reduction in scoring of a response.

Re-phrasing of the content provided in this document will, at best, be considered minimally responsive. The University seeks detailed yet succinct responses that demonstrate the Respondent's experience and ability to perform the requirements specified throughout this document.

2.2.1 Section 1 - Response Cover Page

- 2.2.1.1 Label this response - Section 1 – UMS Response Cover Page
- 2.2.1.2 Insert Appendix A – University of Maine System Response Cover Page
- 2.2.1.3 Insert Appendix B – Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification

2.2.2 Section 2 – Lender Response Sheet

- 2.2.2.1 Label this response - Section 2 – Lender Response Sheet
- 2.2.2.2 Insert Attachment A –

2.2.3 Section 3 Response to Questions

- 2.2.3.1 Label this response - Section 4 – Response to Evaluation Questions & Related Information
- 2.2.3.2 Insert Appendix F – Organization Reference Form
- 2.2.3.3 Insert Appendix G – Evaluation Question(s) -

Appendix A – University of Maine System Response Cover Page

RFQ # <<Insert RFQ Number>>
<<Insert RFQ Title>>

| | |
|---|--|
| Organization Name: | |
| Chief Executive – Name/Title: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Fax: | |
| Email: | |
| Headquarters Street Address: | |
| Headquarters City/State/Zip: | |
| Lead Point of Contact for Quote – Name/Title: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Fax: | |
| Email: | |
| Street Address: | |
| City/State/Zip: | |

1. No personnel currently employed by the University or any other University agency participated, either directly or indirectly, in any activities relating to the preparation of the Respondent's response.
2. No attempt has been made or will be made by the Respondent to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a response.
3. The undersigned is authorized to enter into contractual obligations on behalf of the above-named organization.
 - a. By submitting a response to a Request for Proposal, bid or other offer to do business with the University your entity understands and agrees that;
 - b. Your entity agrees that the resulting Agreement will be the entire agreement between the University (including University's employees and other End Users) and Respondent and in the event that the Respondent requires terms of use agreements or other agreements, policies or understanding, whether on an order form, invoice, website, electronic, click-through, verbal or in writing, with University's employees or other End Users, such agreements shall be null, void and without effect, and the terms of the Agreement shall apply.
 - c. Your entity will identify at the time of submission which, if any, portion or your submitted materials are entitled to "trade secret" exemption from disclosure under Maine's Freedom of Access Act; that failure to so identify will authorize UMS to conclude that no portions are so exempt; and that your entity will defend, indemnify and hold harmless UMS in any and all legal actions that seek to compel UMS to disclose under Maine's Freedom of Access Act some or all of your submitted materials and/or contract, if any, executed between UMS and your entity.

To the best of my knowledge all information provided in the enclosed response, both programmatic and financial, is complete and accurate at the time of submission.

Date: _____

Name and Title (Printed)

Authorized Signature

Appendix B – Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification

University of Maine System
DEBARMENT, PERFORMANCE and NON-COLLUSION
CERTIFICATION
RFQ # 2023-070
Alternative Private Educational Loans

By signing this document, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the aforementioned organization, its principals and any subcontractors named in this proposal:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, and declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from bidding or working on contracts issued by any governmental agency.
- b. Have not within three years of submitting the proposal for this contract been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:
 - i. Fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a federal, state or local government transaction or contract.
 - ii. Violating Federal or State antitrust statutes or committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - iii. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (b) of this certification; and
 - iv. Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this proposal had one or more federal, state or local government transactions terminated for cause or default.
- c. Have not entered into a prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services and this proposal is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. The above mentioned entities understand and agree that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards.

Failure to provide this certification may result in the disqualification of the Respondent's proposal, at the University's discretion.

Date: _____

Name and Title (Printed)

Authorized Signature

Attachment A- Lender Response Sheet (Available in Excel at: <https://www.maine.edu/strategic-procurement/upcoming-bids/>)

| GENERAL QUESTIONS | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Lender Name | | | |
| 2 | Program / Product Name | | | |
| 3 | Corporate Identity | For Profit | Non-Profit | |
| 4 | Lender Address | | | |
| 5 | Telephone | | | |
| 6 | Fax | | | |
| 7 | Email | | | |
| 8 | URL | | | |
| 9 | Primary Marketing Contact | | | |
| 10 | Primary Operational Contact | | | |
| 11 | Please attach your organization's mission statement and history in the student loan field. | | | |
| 12a | Will your organization honor the terms and benefits presented for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12b | How will you notify students, parents and schools if loan terms change during the academic year? | | | |

| BORROWER SERVICES | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 13 | What are your customer service call center hours for origination issues? | | | |
| 14b | What are the average wait times for calls to your customer service center for origination issues during peak and non-peak times? | Peak: | Non-Peak: | |
| 15 | Do you provide borrowers with online immediate help via email or chat? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15b | Can borrowers fully access their account online? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15c | Do you accept payments online? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | If so, please list URL. | URL: | | |
| 15d | Do you provide Loan Calculators? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | If so, please list URL. | URL: | | |
| 15e | Do you provide Debt Management / Financial Literacy Tools? If so, please list URL. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | URL: | | |
| 15f | Is there an option to e-sign a promissory note? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| 16a | Do you solicit other banking related products / services to borrowers? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16b | If yes, please attach a description of the available products / services. | | | |

| SCHOOL SERVICES | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 17 | Do you have designated account managers assigned to specific schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | No |
| 18 | What third party processing systems do you use (e.g., ELM, OpenNet, CommonLine)? | | | |
| 19 | With which guarantor(s) does your organization have a relationship? | | | |
| 20 | Do you participate in Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| 21a | Do you participate in electronic loan processing, disbursements, refunds? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21b | If yes, Disbursements, Refunds or Both? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Disbursements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Refunds | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Both | |
| 21c | If yes, which formats do you support? | <input type="checkbox"/> | CommonLine 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | CommonLine 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | CommonRecord:Commonline (CR:C) | |
| 22 | Which files do you support? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Application Send Files | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | (Check all that apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Disbursement Rosters | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Response Files | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Change Files | |

| LOAN SERVICING | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 23 | Do you service your own loans? | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | |

LOAN AMOUNTS & LOAN CHANGES

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Maximum per year | |
| Aggregate | |

FRONT END FEES

| | |
|--|--|
| Origination fee: | |
| Guarantee fee: | |
| Other (explain): | |
| Is there a loan application fee? If so, how much? What has it been for each of the past 3 years? | |

INTEREST RATE(S)

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|----|
| Do you have a tiered rate structure? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | No |
| If yes, how are your tiered rate structures utilized? | | |
| Interest rate with co-borrower: | | |
| Interest rate without co-borrower: | | |

REPAYMENT TERMS

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Deferment option available? | Yes | No |
| If yes, what conditions? | | |
| Interest only option? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Minimum monthly payment? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Co-signer release option? | Yes | No |
| Number of payments before release of co-signer? | | |

BACK END BORROWER BENEFITS

| |
|---|
| Please describe the benefit and the conditions that trigger the benefit. |
| Please provide utilization rates for benefits. If a reasonable utilization rate is not provided, the rate will be assumed to be zero. |

REPAYMENT EXAMPLE

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Please complete using \$40,000 as loan amount (\$10,000 per year for four years).</i> | |
| Assume disbursements on 9/1 and 1/1 and repayment beginning after graduation on 5/15/2027. | |
| Assume the interest is not paid (if an option on your product) while the students is in school or during the grace period. | |
| With no borrower benefits: | |
| With all borrower benefits: | |

| OTHER QUESTIONS | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----|-----|-----|----|----------------------|--|---------|---------------------------------|
| Please provide the current default rate of your lender's private loan portfolio: | | | | | | National %: | | | |
| | | | | | | If available, Maine: | | | |
| | | | | | | UMaine: | | | |
| Please provide your current approval / denial percentages for UMaine families? | | | | | | Approval: | | Denial: | |
| Will you have sufficient capital to maintain lending for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2024 academic years? | | | | | | Yes | | No | |
| <p>Are you affiliated in any capacity with any other higher education loan lender? If so, please describe the nature and details of the affiliation.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| ELIGIBLE BORROWERS | | | | | | | | | |
| Student | | Yes | | No | | | | | |
| Parent | | Yes | | No | | | | | |
| Other | | Yes | | No | | | | | |
| International/Non citizen students | | Yes | | No | | | | | |
| Student must make satisfactory academic progress | | | | Yes | | No | | | |
| Students enrolled less than half-time | | | Yes | | No | | | | |
| Students <i>not</i> enrolled in a degree program | | | Yes | | No | | | | |
| Students enrolled in a <i>Certificate Program</i> | | | Yes | | No | | | | |
| Loan can be taken for past due balance | | | Yes | | No | | | | If yes, how old can balance be? |
| Is a co-signer required? If not, under what conditions? | | | | Yes | | No | | | Conditions: |

If you offer multiple loan products for University of Maine students, please provide information on all products offered.

RFQ Evaluation Form 2021 (for illustrative purposes- to be scored by UMS)

| | | | |
|----|---|--|---|
| 1 | Average wait time for calls (minutes) | | 0 |
| 2 | Do you provide borrowers with online help via email or chat? | | 0 |
| 3 | Can borrowers fully access their account online? | | 0 |
| 4 | Do you accept payments online? | | 0 |
| 5 | Do you provide loan calculators? | | 0 |
| 6 | Is there an option to e-sign a promissory note? | | 0 |
| 7 | Do you use third party processing systems? | | 0 |
| 8 | Do you participate in EFT? | | 0 |
| 9 | Do you participate in electronic loan processing, disbursements, and refunds? | | 0 |
| 10 | If yes, disbursements, refunds, or both? | | 0 |
| 11 | Provide the current approval/denial percentages for UMS families | | 0 |
| 12 | Eligible borrower - student | | 0 |
| 13 | Eligible borrower - parent | | 0 |
| 14 | Origination fee | | 0 |
| 15 | Guarantee fee | | 0 |
| 16 | Other fees | | 0 |
| 17 | Is there a loan application fee? | | 3 |
| 18 | Interest rate with co-borrower | | 0 |
| 19 | Interest rate without co-borrower | | 0 |
| 20 | Deferment option available? | | 0 |
| 21 | Interest only options | | 0 |
| 22 | Minimum monthly payment | | 0 |
| 23 | Co-signer release option | | 0 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Total Points for Lender | 0 |
|--------------------------------|----------|

Appendix F – Organization Reference Form

Respondent's Organization Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide a minimum of three (3) current professional references who may be contacted for verification of the Respondent's professional qualifications to meet the requirements set forth herein. We strongly prefer references from higher education institutions similar in size and requirements to the University of Maine System, including those with multi-campus integrated solutions.

We request that the references include one long-standing customer (minimum of 3 year engagement) and one new customer (one who has been engaged with Respondent for less than one year).

| REFERENCE #1 | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Institution/Company Name | |
| Contact Name | |
| Contact Title | |
| Contact Phone Number | |
| Contact eMail Address | |
| Relationship Length | |

| REFERENCE #2 | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Institution/Company Name | |
| Contact Name | |
| Contact Title | |
| Contact Phone Number | |
| Contact eMail Address | |
| Relationship Length | |

| REFERENCE #3 | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Institution/Company Name | |
| Contact Name | |
| Contact Title | |
| Contact Phone Number | |
| Contact eMail Address | |
| Relationship Length | |

| REFERENCE #4 | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Institution/Company Name | |
| Contact Name | |
| Contact Title | |
| Contact Phone Number | |
| Contact eMail Address | |
| Relationship Length | |

Appendix G – Evaluation Question(s) - Organization, Qualifications and Experience

Respondent's Organization Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Respondents shall ensure that all information required herein is submitted with the response. All information provided should be verifiable by documentation requested by the University. Failure to provide all information, inaccuracy or misstatement may be sufficient cause for rejection of the response or rescission of an award. Respondents are encouraged to provide any additional information describing operational abilities.

Evaluation Question(s)

1. Provide a statement describing your company to include name, number of employees, locations, number of years in business, number of years offering/supporting the proposed solution, and any and all acquisitions or mergers in the last five years. Is the company publicly or privately held?
2. If subcontractors are to be used, provide a list that specifies the name, address, phone number, contact person, and a brief description of the subcontractors' organizational capacity and qualifications.
3. Please provide information about contract cancellations or non-renewals your company has experienced over the last three years.
4. Describe your experience offering a solution for the business requirements identified in this document within higher education. Provide a client list that includes any and all higher education clients.
5. Provide a statement that explains why your company would be most qualified to provide products and services to the University of Maine System and Maine Community College System. What differentiates you from your competitors? In the response the Respondent must demonstrate that they are a recognized leader in the services and/or products covered in this document.
6. Financial Stability
No financial statements are required to be submitted with your responses, however, prior to an award the University may request audited financial statements from your company, credit reports and letters from your bank and suppliers.