



HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

GRADUATE PROGRAM & INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The information and instructions below are for Harvard Law School (HLS) LL.M. or S.J.D. applicants who wish to be considered for financial aid from the Harvard Law School Graduate Program. Please review the instructions carefully before you proceed with the financial aid application.

IMPORTANT: Before beginning the financial aid application, applicants to the LL.M. or S.J.D. program must complete the "Personal Data" page of the application for admission to the appropriate academic program and click "Continue."

1. FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINE
2. COST OF ATTENDANCE
3. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID
4. FINANCIAL AID FOR U.S. CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS
5. ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
6. ON-CAMPUS "TERM-TIME" EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
7. COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING YOUR FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION
8. SPOUSE FORM
9. PARENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM
10. VERIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION
11. REQUIRED CERTIFICATION
12. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY
13. CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY
14. CHECKING THE STATUS OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION
15. FINANCIAL AID DECISIONS
16. TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE APPLICATION

1. FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINE

To be considered for financial aid from the Harvard Law School Graduate Program, you must complete and submit the online financial aid application (including the Parent Financial Information Form and, if applicable, the Spouse Form) by the appropriate deadline.

LL.M. Applicants – December 1

IMPORTANT: *You must submit a financial aid application even if you are also seeking funding through the Fulbright Commission or other programs (e.g., Boas Scholarships) that send your application separately to Harvard Law School.*

Your application for financial aid will have no bearing on your application for admission, since the two decision processes are completely separate. Financial aid applications are not reviewed until **after** admission decisions have been reached.

2. COST OF ATTENDANCE

Tuition for the 2023-2024 academic year was \$73,600; in addition, the student activity fee and health fees, plus the estimated costs of housing, food, books and supplies, and personal and travel expenses for a single student totaled at least \$37,900, for an estimated total cost of at least \$111,500. For 2023-2024, the standard budget for married students included at least another \$16,000 in living expenses for the spouse and at least \$8,400 for each child. These amounts do not include the cost of health insurance for a spouse and/or children, which could amount to an additional \$15,634 for a family of four or more. These costs are expected to increase for the 2024-2025 academic year. (Note: Students who are U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens and intend on using the U.S. federal loan program will be subject to federal regulations, which include a budget formulated using the criteria set by the U.S. Department of Education. The budget information provided here is not intended to comply with such criteria.)

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Students who cannot afford the cost of attendance are eligible for financial aid from Harvard Law School. Our financial aid awards are based on the applicant's demonstrated financial need, as determined from information provided in the financial aid application. Financial aid may take the form of grants (scholarships), loans, or a combination of the two.

4. FINANCIAL AID FOR U.S. CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who wish to apply for financial aid from Harvard Law School must also complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form as well as the online financial aid application for aid from Harvard Law School. The FAFSA form is available online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

5. ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Please note that HLS financial aid is need-based only, and that HLS generally does not provide full-tuition grant awards. To increase the likelihood of substantial grant funding, we encourage you to apply for outside scholarships in addition to HLS financial aid.

International applicants seeking financial assistance should investigate funding sources in their home countries well in advance. Examples of such sources include employers, government agencies, and foundations.

The United States embassy or consulate in an international applicant's home country may have information on U.S. government grants under the Fulbright program and other information on fellowship opportunities. *Note that even if you are seeking funding through Fulbright or other programs (e.g., Boas Scholarships, etc.), you must complete and submit the Graduate Program's online Financial Aid Application if you wish to be considered for financial aid from Harvard Law School.*

Applicants who are from certain countries or who meet certain specific criteria may be eligible for a limited number of scholarships administered by Harvard University's Committee on General Scholarships. For more information, please check the Committee's website at <https://scholarships.harvard.edu/>. Please note that many of these scholarships have their own application procedures and deadlines, and students wishing to apply for some of these funds must contact committees or agencies in their home countries.

Students receiving financial aid from HLS must notify the Graduate Program if they receive grants or scholarships from outside sources within 10 days after learning about such an award. We realize that many of you will be applying to outside funding agencies and will not know the status of these applications at the point you apply to Harvard Law School. You should complete the financial aid application by the deadline, and then advise us of the results of your outside grant applications **as soon as** they become available.

6. ON-CAMPUS "TERM-TIME" EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In some cases, it may be possible for students to undertake part-time employment on campus, e.g., working in the Law School Library or as research assistants for faculty members. Generally speaking, students who are able to work on campus can expect to earn up to a total of \$3,500 over the course of the academic year for 6-8 hours of work per week. The Graduate Program can include an estimate of these earnings in your financial aid award, but cannot arrange these positions for you. If you are interested in such employment, you must seek out a position after arrival at Harvard Law School. Off-campus employment during the year of study is not permitted for international students.

7. COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING YOUR FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION

All applicants who wish to apply for financial aid must complete and submit the online financial aid application (including the Parent Financial Information Form and, if applicable, the Spouse Form) by the applicable deadline (December 1 for LL.M. applicants).

- Please be sure to **answer all questions**. Provide **all amounts in U.S. dollars**.
- If you are uncertain of a specific amount, you may estimate as necessary.
- When a question calls for a dollar amount, **do not use a currency symbol (\$ or €), commas, or decimal data (fractions of a dollar should be rounded down)**, e.g., \$109.54 would be entered as 109.
- If the answer to a quantitative question is "None," "Zero," "No value," or "Not applicable," enter the numeral "0" in the appropriate box.
- The total sum in each category will be automatically calculated by the online form.

Please answer each question carefully and completely. Applicants for financial aid (and their parents and spouse, if applicable) must disclose all actual assets and sources of income, including all resources that are available to fund their studies (e.g., contribution from grandparents).

If you believe that any aspects of your financial situation have not been adequately reflected in the financial aid application, you may upload a written description of your special circumstances in the uploader labeled "ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES INFORMATION" on the "Upload Documents" page of the financial aid application.

You are responsible for assembling and submitting all of the information necessary for evaluating your financial aid application, and for making sure that all related materials are received by the appropriate deadline.

We cannot accept physical hard copies of financial aid materials, or financial aid materials sent by fax or email (with one exception - the Parent Financial Information Form can be submitted by email as specified below in [Section 9: Parent Financial Information Form](#)).

8. SPOUSE FORM

If an applicant for financial aid is married or will be married during the academic year for which they are applying for aid, their spouse or spouse-to-be must complete and submit the Spouse Form as part of the online application for financial aid.

To the applicant's spouse or spouse-to-be: Please answer the questions on the Spouse Form to the best of your ability. We realize that this may be difficult, but we must have some idea of the resources that will be available to meet your expenses and those of your spouse during the academic year (mid-August through May). *If particular resources or obligations are held jointly by applicant and spouse and have already been listed in any of the previous pages of the financial aid application, please do not repeat them on the Spouse Form.*

- Provide **all amounts in U.S. dollars.**
- If you are uncertain of a specific amount, you may estimate as necessary.
- Do not provide decimal data (e.g., values less than \$1 should be *rounded down*).
- If the answer to a quantitative question is "None," "Zero," "No value," or "Not applicable," enter the numeral "0" in the appropriate box.
- The total sum in each category will be automatically calculated by the online form.

9. PARENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM

Parent financial information is required regardless of the applicant's age.

Parents of all applicants for financial aid must provide information about their financial resources by completing the Parent Financial Information Form, preferably using the online form. If parental information is not provided, the Graduate Program will not be able to make a need-based aid calculation and may then impute a certain amount of financial contribution from the parents, regardless of their resources. We encourage applicants to share this information with their parents to help them understand the importance of providing parental data.

If parental financial information cannot be obtained (e.g., due to divorce or death), the applicant must provide a statement explaining why the information is unavailable.

How to register your parent(s) for the online Parent Financial Information Form: To use the online Parent Financial Information Form, the applicant must register the parent(s) who will be completing the form(s) by submitting the "Parent Contact Information Form." This form will be made available after you have selected which parent(s) will be submitting information on the "Parent Information" page of the financial aid application. After you have submitted the Parent Contact Information Form, an automated email will be sent to your parent(s) from noreply@law.harvard.edu.

How to access the online Parent Financial Information Form: The email will include a hyperlink to a unique Parent Financial Information Form associated with your application and instructions on how to complete the form. **No log in is required for your parent(s) to access the Parent Financial Information Form associated with your application.** Please remind your parent(s) that they should not, under any circumstances, forward the email or the enclosed link, as doing so will compromise the security of their data.

How to fill out the online Parent Financial Information Form: Please remind your parent(s) to read the instructions in the email carefully before proceeding to the online Parent Financial Information Form.

- When they access the online Parent Financial Information Form, your parents should **answer all questions** on the form in one session. **They will not be able to save their work and return to the form later.**

- They should provide **all amounts in U.S. dollars**.
- They should not provide decimal data (e.g., values less than \$1 should be *rounded down*).
- If the answer to a quantitative question is “None,” “Zero,” “No value,” or “Not applicable,” they should enter the numeral “0” in the appropriate box.
- The total sum in each category will be automatically calculated by the online form.

Parent Financial Information Form on PDF: If your parent(s) will be unable to complete the Parent Financial Information Form online, you may contact the Graduate Program Admissions Office (gpquery@law.harvard.edu) to request a PDF copy of the Parent Financial Information Form to print. If you do so, please DO NOT also submit the Parent Contact Information Form. When your parent(s) have completed the pdf form, please ask them to email it to the Graduate Program at gpfinaid@law.harvard.edu.

We cannot accept physical hard copies of financial aid materials or financial aid materials sent by fax. Materials must be submitted to us electronically.

IMPORTANT: Please note that all materials related to your application will be filed by your family name (also known as surname or last name). Please include your full name (exactly as it appears on your passport) and underline your family name(s) on all correspondence with the Graduate Program.

10. VERIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Harvard Law School Graduate Program reserves the right to request bank statements, income tax reports, and other documents verifying the financial information provided.

11. REQUIRED CERTIFICATION

To submit a financial aid application, you will need to make the required certification:

I certify that the information presented in my financial aid application has been carefully determined and constitutes an accurate, complete, and honestly presented statement of my financial situation. I also certify that any information submitted on my behalf is authentic, including information provided by my spouse, spouse-to-be, and/or parents. I understand and agree that any inaccurate information, misleading information, or omission will be cause for an investigation of misconduct in the financial aid process, cancellation of all or part of any financial aid offer, rescission of any offer of admission, and/or cause for discipline or dismissal from Harvard Law School.

I understand that it is my obligation to notify the Harvard Law School Graduate Program within ten (10) days if there are any changes in the information I have provided in this application. I understand that any award from Harvard Law School may be reduced or rescinded completely at any time due to a change in my financial situation, and that failure to timely notify the Graduate Program of any funding received from other sources may be cause for disciplinary action as well as the cancellation of all or part of my award from the Graduate Program (and, if applicable, from any other Harvard-affiliated programs).

If requested by the Harvard Law School Graduate Program, I will promptly provide an official copy of my income and earnings tax reports, bank statements, and any other documentary verification of the above information.

12. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Harvard University’s policy is to make decisions concerning applicants, students, faculty, and staff on the basis of the individual’s qualifications to contribute to Harvard’s educational objectives and institutional needs. Harvard Law School fully embraces this principle, and does not discriminate against any person on the basis of characteristics such as race, color, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, disability, source of income, or status as a veteran in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities.

Questions about the Non-Discrimination Policy

Inquiries regarding the application of the Law School’s non-discrimination policy may be referred to the following Law School coordinator of that policy, the Assistant Dean for the Graduate Program and International Legal Studies, at gpquery@law.harvard.edu or 617-496-8214.

Inquiries concerning the application of non-discrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, J. W. McCormack POCH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

13. CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

The financial aid application, together with all supporting materials, becomes the property of the Harvard Law School Graduate Program upon submission. No materials will be returned to the applicant or forwarded to other schools or agencies. All information submitted by the applicant, the applicant's parents, and, where applicable, the applicant's spouse, will be treated as confidential and, subject to relevant laws, will not be shared with persons outside of Harvard University without the permission of the applicant, the applicant's parents, or the applicant's spouse, as appropriate.

14. CHECKING THE STATUS OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION

After you have submitted your financial aid application, you will be able to track the status of your application as it is processed by our office on your [Status Page](#) in the online application. Your Status Page will indicate whether supporting documents (Parent Financial Information Form or any additional information that has been requested by the Graduate Program) have been received. You will not have access to your Status Page, and the status of materials sent to the Graduate Program will not be updated, until AFTER your financial aid application is submitted.

Keep in mind that financial aid applications will not be reviewed until **after** admission decisions have been made. Therefore, once your Financial Aid Application has been successfully submitted, there will be no further information on the status of your application until several weeks after admission decisions have been announced.

If there is a problem with any of the materials you submit, we will contact you. Please do not contact the Graduate Program to inquire about the status of your application materials. Instead, we ask that you check your Status Page in the online application and return to it periodically to see if specific items have been received.

NOTE: There may be a processing time of more than two weeks before the status of a particular item is updated.

15. FINANCIAL AID DECISIONS

Financial aid decisions for admitted LL.M. applicants will generally be made by the end of March. Once financial aid decisions have been reached, you will be notified promptly via email.

All Harvard Law School Graduate Program grant awards are subject to change at any time in the event you receive additional funding from any other sources (including family members or outside scholarship programs). The Graduate Program also reserves the right to make any adjustments to a student's aid at any time if we discover an inaccuracy relating to a student's reported financial situation. Failure to notify the Graduate Program of funding received from other sources may result in the cancellation of your award from the Graduate Program (and, if applicable, from any other Harvard-affiliated programs); it may also be cause for disciplinary action. Please notify the Graduate Program at GPFinaid@law.harvard.edu as soon as possible about any award from an outside source or any other change in your financial situation, **but no later than 10 days after learning about such an award or change**. Your obligation to report within 10 days of learning about any such funding change continues through the summer and throughout the academic year after enrollment.

16. TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE APPLICATION

Please note that the Graduate Program application works best when it is accessed through the Chrome web browser on a computer (as opposed to a tablet or smartphone). You can [download Chrome here](#) for free if you do not already have it installed on your computer.

Some actions within the application may require you to click a pop-up dialog box to confirm the action you have selected. If your browser has a pop-up blocker enabled, you may need to disable the pop-up blocker or create an exception for graduateprogram.law.harvard.edu. If you are completing the application on a public computer terminal and the application seems to be "stuck," you may need to contact the system administrator to create a pop-up blocker exception in order to complete the application.

If you are using the Chrome browser, pop-up dialog boxes may offer the option to "prevent this page from creating additional dialogs." **DO NOT SELECT THIS OPTION.** Dialog boxes are required to perform certain actions (including submitting the application), and blocking dialog boxes will prevent you from being able to complete those actions.

If you inadvertently select the "prevent this page from creating additional dialogs" option in Chrome, you should immediately click "Continue" at the bottom of the page to save your work and then close the browser and completely exit the Chrome. When you reopen the browser and return to the application, dialog boxes should be re-enabled. If you do not know how to disable the Chrome pop-up blocker or if exiting and restarting the browser fails to restore the dialog box function, please consult the pop-up information on the [Chrome support site](#) for instructions before contacting the Graduate Program.

If you experience any technical problems using the Graduate Program application, please email gpquery@law.harvard.edu for assistance.