



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF LAW

2024-2025 FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR J.D. STUDENTS

Financial Aid Office
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May 2024 Version 1.0

Message from the Financial Aid Office

The goal of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law Financial Aid Program is to ensure that the J.D. program is financially accessible to all domestic students. This program is administered following policies and procedures defined by the Financial Aid Committee (FAC). The Faculty of Law's FAC is comprised of staff, faculty, and students. The FAC strives to create a financial aid system that is fair to all students who require assistance and demonstrate financial need while ensuring that students with the most demonstrated financial need obtain the highest level of financial support.

Our mission statement is:

The Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto shall be accessible to the best and brightest students irrespective of financial means. The goal of the Financial Aid Program is to ensure that the faculty's graduates can make career choices based on personal interest rather than debt- induced financial pressures.

Under our Financial Aid Program, students are expected to access a variety of sources to fund their legal education. This includes using personal resources (income and assets), parental and spousal contributions, and government student loans and grants. To supplement the shortfall between the student's resources and the cost of attending law school at the University of Toronto, we provide a combination of bursaries and interest reimbursements on authorized Professional Lines of Credit (PLOC) amounts.

The Financial Aid Office ensures that student records remain private and confidential as follows:

- We abide by [Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (FIPPA) principles.
- Only authorized members of the Financial Aid Team can access student information and correspondence in the Financial Aid Office.
- All information is stored securely in compliance with [U of T's Privacy Policy](#).
- Student information is anonymized and redacted when submitted to the FAC for consideration.
- Student Records are kept in accordance with [U of T's Record Retention Policy](#).

You may also wish to review our [website](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or individual concerns regarding your eligibility.

The Financial Aid Office

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Important Things to Know about Financial Aid

Financial Aid is based on your unmet financial need.

Unmet need is calculated by subtracting the resources you are deemed to have available for your education from the costs of tuition and deemed living expenses. Financial aid is distributed proportionately to the unmet need of all J.D. students applying for financial aid.

The Student Socio-Economic Index is not meant to capture actual parental contributions.

Information about your parents', guardians', spouse's or partner's income is required to make a financial aid assessment. You will be deemed to receive a certain amount of financial assistance from applicable family members based on their income. We recognize that your family members may not contribute to your education costs at the levels deemed (or at all). Rather than reflecting actual contributions, the deeming of family support serves as a proxy measure of socio-economic background. It is intended to recognize the relatively greater obstacles faced by students from low-income backgrounds in obtaining access to financial resources.

Financial Aid can fluctuate from year to year.

The Financial Aid Budget is shared among all students who are eligible for financial aid. The bursary amount for each eligible applicant depends on the individual's circumstances and the final situation of the entire pool of J.D. students applying for financial aid. Therefore, the amount of financial aid received in one year may be different than the amount received in another year.

You can claim some “big ticket items”.

Big ticket items such as moving expenses, purchasing a computer, medical expenses (*not covered by health insurance*) and daycare can be claimed as additional budget items as needed.

Pre-law educational loans are excluded from need calculations.

Pre-law educational loans, unless in repayment while you are a J.D. student, are not considered in the calculation of unmet need.

Summer and school term earnings are included as student resources.

Summer and school term earnings are considered as financial resources in the calculation of your unmet need. Students who are unable to work in the summer due to medical reasons or accept full-time unpaid positions such as internships and volunteering should contact the Financial Aid Office for guidance.

Use the Financial Aid Estimator to check your eligibility and bursary estimate.

You can use the [Financial Aid Estimator](#) to get an estimate of your financial aid assessment.

The Financial Aid Office is here to help and answer your questions.

The Financial Aid Staff are available to answer your questions. You can reach us by emailing financialaid.law@utoronto.ca we strive to answer within 2 business days or stop by the Student Services Hub (3rd floor, Jackman Building) for an appointment.

You can request re-consideration of your assessment.

If you feel that your financial aid assessment and funding does not reflect your individual circumstances, you may request a reconsideration of your application within 30 days of receiving your Financial Aid Assessment.

Changes in Financial Situation During the Academic Year

In circumstances where students' financial situations have changed, students may submit a request to the Financial Aid Office for reconsideration. The Financial Aid Office will confirm receipt of the request and notify the student about further action, if any. Whenever possible, the Financial Aid Office will respond to all student inquiries within 2 business days.

If reassessment is warranted, the Financial Aid Office will try to evaluate it and notify the student within two weeks of receipt of all supplemental documents required to complete it. As funding is issued by the University of Toronto Registrar's office (*not the Faculty of Law*), the Financial Aid Office cannot guarantee when the funds will be issued to the student but typically students receive funds within 30 days of submitting a completed request. Requests for reconsideration that require consultation with the FAC may take longer to resolve as they are dependent on the schedule of the FAC members. Regardless, the student will be notified of the situation and the timing of the decision.

Students' Responsibilities

Students are expected to provide the Financial Aid Office with accurate information about their financial situation and promptly notify the Financial Aid Office in writing **within 30 days** of any changes in their financial situation. These include, but are not limited to:

- changes in marital status
- receipt of additional scholarships and awards
- employment during the academic year
- or changes of more than **\$1,000** in assets provided in the original financial aid application

Students should carefully review the obligations as set out in the Declaration and Consent portion of the financial aid application.

Any information submitted after the initial financial aid application will be used by the Faculty to recalculate students' financial aid assessments. Recalculation may result in students receiving additional funding or being required to pay back an overpayment. The Financial Aid Office will work with students to make the change to their information. The Financial Aid Office reserves the right to review students' government student financial assistance and OLSAS information to accurately assess students' financial situations.

If a student does not report a change in their financial situation, the Financial Aid Office reserves the right to adjust or deny a student's entitlement to financial assistance. Students required to repay their bursary overpayments may also be subject to academic sanctions as explained in the [Faculty of Law Academic Handbook](#).

Students must report any changes to their financial situation to their government student financial assistance program. Bursaries issued by the Faculty will be reported to OSAP; however, students from other provinces are responsible for notifying their respective governments of the amount of any bursary received.

Financial Aid Estimator

To get an immediate estimate of your financial aid assessment, please use the Faculty's estimator: www.law.utoronto.ca/financial-aid-estimator

Eligibility to Receive Faculty of Law Financial Aid

Student Status

Eligible Students:

University of Toronto, Faculty of Law students currently enrolled in the Juris Doctor (J.D.) program are eligible to apply for financial assistance.

Students in combined J.D. programs (i.e., J.D./MBA, J.D./MSW, etc.) can apply for Faculty of Law financial assistance during the years they are registered full-time at the Faculty of Law.

Students going on outbound exchange programs are eligible to apply for financial aid. They may also apply for funding to help with their exchange costs through the Centre for International Experience.

Students admitted to the J.D. Program as transfer students are eligible to participate in the Faculty's Financial Aid Program.

Non-Eligible Students:

Students enrolled in the J.D. Program who are not Canadian citizens or do not hold Canadian permanent residency status, are not eligible to apply for the Faculty's Financial Aid Program. International students must present documentation to the Canadian government proving that they have sufficient funds to pay for all their living and study expenses while studying in Canada.

Incoming letter of permission students, incoming exchange students and National Committee on Accreditation students who are obtaining or have obtained their law degree from another institution, are not eligible.

J.D. students on a letter of permission at another institution are not eligible to apply for financial aid for the term or year during which they are not registered at the Faculty of Law. However, in certain exceptional circumstances, the FAC may consider their eligibility to apply for financial aid if funds are available.

Government Financial Assistance

All financial aid applicants are required to apply [for government student financial assistance](#).

Calculating Financial Need

Overview

The central goal of the Faculty's Financial Aid Program is to assist those students with the greatest financial need. To determine which students have the greatest financial need, all students are expected to report and access all personal and deemed family resources and government assistance before being considered for Faculty financial assistance.

A deemed basic budget is approved by the FAC and applied to all students each year. A set of supplementary expenses may be claimed in addition to the deemed basic budget published in this document. The total of basic budget and supplementary expenses is considered as student's expenses.

The total of student's personal and family's deemed contributions, government assistance, income from different sources and assets are considered as student's resources. Student resources are deducted from the student's expenses. If the expenses are greater than the resources the student is said to demonstrate unmet financial need.

Unmet Need = Basic Budget + Supplementary Expenses - Student Resources

Students with unmet need are eligible for a Faculty of Law bursary and/or an interest reimbursement on eligible Professional Student Line of Credit (PLOC) amounts.

Information about a student's parents', guardians', spouse's or partner's income is required to make a financial aid assessment. Students will be deemed to receive a certain amount of financial assistance from applicable family members based on their ability to contribute even if family members do not in fact contribute to a student's education.

Resources

Government Student Loans and Grants

Government student financial assistance programs are a primary form of financial assistance available to students. Students who apply for the Faculty's Financial Aid Program must apply for government student financial assistance.

If a student has applied for government financial assistance and will not be receiving funding, they should reach out to the Financial Aid Office **as soon as possible** for further assistance.

Important notes about government loans and grants

When completing the government student financial aid application:

- Students should select bachelor or undergraduate study as their level of study
- Students should **NOT** include any anticipated bursary amounts from our online estimator on their application form
 - o Students will be notified about their eligible bursaries at the end of September
 - o The Faculty will report bursary information directly to OSAP
 - o Students receiving funding from other provincial programs will be responsible for notifying their province once they have received the bursaries
- Students must take screenshots of each of the application pages
 - o Ontario students can download a [pdf copy of their application form](#)
- The screenshots or PDF of the government financial aid application must be submitted with the JD financial aid application form
- The final government funding assessment must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office once it has been received

The Faculty will review students' government financial assistance information to accurately assess their Faculty of Law financial aid applications. Any resources reported in the government student financial assistance application that are not reported in the financial aid application will be considered as part of a student's resources.

The first \$10,000 of government student financial assistance (loans and grants) will be counted as part of students' resources in the Faculty's Financial Aid Program. Students receiving aid of less than \$10,000 will have this amount counted as part of their resources. Any government financial assistance above this amount will NOT be counted as part of students' resources.

Students who applied for government financial assistance and are not issued any funding, although they were issued funding in prior years, should contact the Financial Aid Office **as soon as possible** for further assistance.

Personal and Partner Resources

Students are expected to report accurately and **completely all sources of income and resources** for the academic year in which financial aid is requested, including all scholarships and bursaries, articling bonuses, gifts, or other income. Specific rules apply with respect to family contributions, summer and other employment income, and assets.

Student Assets (including Partner Assets)

Students are required to declare their assets. Assets include but are not limited to cash, savings, GICs, FHSAs, TFSAs, RRSPs, vehicles that are owned (not leased) and real estate. Married or common-law students must disclose assets held in their accounts as well as in their partner's accounts. Liabilities associated with declared assets should also be reported.

A vehicle owned (*not leased*) by a student or partner will be deemed to be an asset.

Students are required to provide a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for an owned vehicle.

Equity in a property should be clearly documented. Equity is the difference between the value of the property (*or purchase price*) and liability (*loan or mortgage on property*). Students must provide current evaluation and mortgage documentation for their wholly or partly-owned property. The difference between the property's value and outstanding mortgage obligation will be considered an available resource. **With respect to shared assets, students must provide a detailed verification of the value of their share of the asset in question.**

For all asset disclosures, the Financial Aid Office may request additional supplemental documentation, if necessary.

Students with substantial assets are encouraged to use the [Financial Aid Estimator](#) to determine whether applying for the JD Financial Aid Program is warranted. The Financial Aid Office is available to meet with students to discuss their options.

Student Assets - RRSPs

A student's (and spouse's/partner's) RRSPs will be deemed up to \$10,000 per year for two years, which is the maximum annual amount that can be withdrawn under the federal government's Lifelong Learning Program (LLP). The LLP currently allows individuals to withdraw tax-free up to \$20,000 in RRSPs, with a maximum of \$10,000 per year, to assist with financing higher education. Amounts withdrawn must be repaid within 10 years, otherwise the withdrawn amounts are included in the individual's income in the year in which repayment is due. Students interested in withdrawing funds from their RRSP should contact their provider to ensure they are informed of all potential financial implications.

Deemed Summer Income and Savings

The Faculty expects that most students will work full time during the summer months and based on those earnings, save some money to pay for the costs associated with the next academic year. Students are required to submit their final summer paystub showing their gross earnings (*total earnings before taxes and other deductions*) to date.

If work commenced prior to May 1st or the student worked with the company/organization previously in the same calendar year, students must also provide their end-of-April paystub showing gross earnings as of that date, for the Financial Aid Office to calculate gross summer earnings. Only earnings for May 1st to August 31st are considered for summer deeming.

Students' living situations during the summer will be factored into the amount of summer income that will be deemed.

For students living with parents/guardians during most of May to August

The first \$3,340 of a student's gross summer income is exempted.

Students will be deemed to save 50% of gross summer income between \$3,340 and \$10,000 plus 70% of gross summer income more than \$10,000

For students living independently during most of May to August

The first \$9,160 of a student's gross summer income is exempted.

Students will be deemed to save 50% of gross summer income between \$9,160 and \$10,000 **plus** 70% of gross summer income more than \$10,000

Students with eligible dependent children will be allowed \$2,000 per dependent child to be subtracted from the summer income deeming formula above.

If a student chooses to travel for leisure or chooses not to work **before the start of the academic term** or if the student works less than full time, the student will be deemed to save the following amounts:

Year Level	Amount of Summer Deeming
First	\$2,000
Second	\$2,500
Third	\$4,000

If a student cannot work during the summer months due to medical reasons, they must provide a note from their physician indicating that they are not able to work. If a student is working full time in a volunteer capacity, they must provide supplemental documentation with the contact information for volunteer organization supervisor and a letter confirming the nature of the work and that you volunteered 40 hours per week for a minimum of 12 weeks.

Student Socio-Economic Index

Information about parents', guardians', spouse's, or partner's income are required to make a financial aid assessment. Students will be deemed to receive a certain amount of financial assistance from applicable family members based on their ability to contribute even if family members do not in fact contribute to a student's education.

Underlying this rule is one of the core principles of the financial aid program – ensuring that the law school continues to be accessible to students from all backgrounds. Access is of particular concern for students from low- income backgrounds. Students from low-income families often have personal histories or circumstances which make a law school education less obtainable. **Parental income is a proxy for a student's socio-economic status. It provides a means of indicating the availability of access to financial resources and accounting for differences between students.**

Parental income information is required from all financial aid applicants. Parental income is defined as the combined gross income (line 15000 or total gross income stated on the Canadian Income Tax Return Notice of Assessment (NOA) or equivalent income tax returns from other countries) for parents/guardians. If documentation is in a different language, students are encouraged to reach out to the Financial Aid Office for instructions regarding translations. Social assistance and retirement income will be considered as eligible parental income.

First-time applicants to the financial aid program are required to provide the previous three (3) years of their parent(s)/guardian(s) income tax notices of assessment. The average of these three (3) years' incomes will be considered the parental income for all three (3) years of law school.

Special Provision for Material Decreases in Parental Income During Law School

If a student's parental income falls by 25% or more from the average of the three notices of assessment ("NOAs") submitted with their first application to the financial aid program, an adjustment to their student socio-economic index with the provision of appropriate documentation will be calculated. Both parents'/guardians' income must be included in the recalculation.

To qualify for a downward adjustment to the students' socio-economic index, a student will be required to provide *all* NOAs for each subsequent application to the JD Financial Aid Program. The adjusted parental income will reflect the average of all the NOAs.

Student Socio-Economic Index Calculations

For one-household families

A basic exemption of \$85,574 per family will be deducted from the total averaged parental income. The resulting income will be further reduced by \$4,000 for each dependent child under the age of 18. In rare and exceptional circumstances, other dependents may be considered if sufficient documentation is provided to the FAC.

From the balance of parental income remaining, the student socio-economic index rate is calculated:

15% of total parental gross income between \$85,574 and \$207,871 **plus** 25% of total parental gross income more than \$207,871

For two-household families (i.e., students with separated or divorced parents)

A basic exemption of \$125,635 per family will be used. Student socio-economic index rate for students with two- household families is calculated:

15% of total parental gross income between \$125,635 and \$207,871 **plus** 25% of total parental gross income more than \$207,871

Age Inclusion Index

The inclusion index below will be used in tandem with the student socio-economic index formula described above. The addition of an age inclusion index is premised on the idea that the older the student is, the more likely the student is to be financially independent.

Student Age	% of Student Socio-economic Index
Under 30	100%
30 - 34	75%
35 - 39	50%
40 and above	25%

Deemed Spousal Income Contribution (Spouse/Partner)

A married student, or a student with a partner, regardless of age, will be deemed to receive spousal or partner support. For this program, a 'spouse/partner' is a person to whom the student is married or with whom the student has cohabited in a conjugal relationship for a period of three or more years or has a child with. Filing joint income tax returns is proof of common-law relationship even if the period of cohabitation is less than three years.

The first \$42,787 of gross spousal income is exempt from deeming. A spouse or partner is deemed to contribute the following towards the student's expenses:

15% of total spousal gross income between \$42,787 and \$103,936 **plus** 25% of total spousal gross income more than \$103,936

The gross spousal income is first reduced by the spousal or partner student loan repayments, if any.

A married student must provide parental or guardian income information in addition to spousal or partner income information and will be deemed to receive support according to the student socio-economic status principles set out above.

A student's parental/guardian, spousal and/or partner's contribution will be the combined student socio-economic index.

Academic Year Employment and Income

The Faculty does not expect students to work during the school year. However, some students may choose to do so. The Faculty recommends that students confine their outside activities, including employment, to no more than 10 hours per week.

The first \$1,000 of employment income will be exempted. Half of any income beyond \$1,000 will be deemed and included in the students' resources.

If the Financial Aid Office becomes aware of a change in a student's financial situation and such a change is not reported, the Financial Aid Office reserves the right to adjust or deny a student's entitlement to financial assistance.

External Scholarships

Students are encouraged to apply for funding from other sources. For instance, students may be eligible for funding from their parent(s)/guardian(s)/partner's employers, or local community groups. Students in combined programs may also be eligible for Ontario Graduate Scholarships or Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) fellowships.

External Scholarships Deeming

Any scholarships, awards, and bursaries received during and for the 2024-2025 academic year must be declared on the Financial Aid application. Students are required to submit documentation showing the bursary and/or scholarship amounts. Indigenous students' external funding received due to Indigenous status **are not** included as external scholarships.

50% of the first \$15,000 scholarship amount, **plus** 70% of amounts higher than \$15,000 will be deemed as part of students' resources

Rotman awards for JD/MBA students and/or bursaries from the Centre for International Experience (CIE) are exempt. Articling bonuses that are paid to the student will be deemed as part of the student's income.

Faculty of Law Financial Aid

The Faculty of Law provides two forms of financial aid: bursaries, and interest reimbursements on the authorized amounts of the PLOC.

Bursary Program

Students whose expenses are larger than their resources demonstrate unmet financial need. Our policy ensures that students with the greatest need receive the greatest amount of financial support. As a result, only students whose need exceeds \$8,000 are issued bursaries.

Students whose need is less than \$8,000 are issued interest reimbursements if they choose to finance that need with a PLOC for amounts authorized by the Financial Aid Office.

Professional Student Lines of Credit (PLOC)

Professional Student Lines of Credit are a source of funds for students who do not have access to other resources.

The Faculty has negotiated favorable terms for our JD students with Scotiabank and TD, specifically, the Toronto branches of Scotiabank at Queen St. W and McCaul St., and TD branch at 77 Bloor St. W in Toronto. These terms are [outlined in greater detail on our website](#). Students are encouraged to use these branches even if they have an existing bank account with a different Scotiabank or TD branch, as the Queen & McCaul and Bloor St. branches have familiarity with the University of Toronto, JD Program.

Students who are eligible for the interest reimbursement on authorized PLOC amounts, but who take out a PLOC with a different financial institution, will be reimbursed the **lower of prime interest or interest charged by student's financial institution**.

Interest Reimbursements on Authorized Professional Student Lines of Credit Amounts

The Financial Aid Office will inform all students participating in the Financial Aid program of the authorized amount of PLOC on September 25th, as part of their financial aid assessment. Students are advised to only borrow what they require, as they will ultimately be responsible for paying back these amounts.

Students may choose to borrow more than the authorized amount; however, the Faculty interest reimbursement will apply only to authorized amounts. Students who choose to borrow less than the authorized amount will have the interest paid on the pro-rated amount borrowed. Since students submit their January/February statements for reimbursement, the reimbursements are prorated (divided by 0.75) to anticipate the borrowed amount for the remainder of the year. Students are responsible for applying for the Faculty interest reimbursement for their PLOC by submitting their January or February PLOC statement to the Financial Aid Office by February 15th. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Students in 1L and 2L will have their interest reimbursed for 12 months (*September to August 31st*), whereas 3L students will have their interest reimbursed for 10 months (*September to June 30th*).

Example:

A first-year student is advised by the Faculty that their eligible amount to receive an interest reimbursement on their PLOC is \$8,000. The student applies separately for a Scotia Professional® Student Plan or TD Student Line of Credit® and borrows \$10,000 from the PLOC. The student is eligible for an interest reimbursement from

the Faculty for the interest charged on the first \$8,000 and is responsible for covering the interest on the remaining \$2,000.

When this student applies for Faculty funding during their second year, the student is advised by the Faculty that they are eligible to borrow \$5,000 during their second year. The total amount that the student is eligible to be reimbursed for at the end of the second year is interest on the \$13,000 (\$8,000 + \$5,000) authorized over the two years.

If a student elects not to borrow the authorized amount, then there is no interest being charged and therefore, they will not be eligible to receive an interest reimbursement.

If a student in the above example chooses not to borrow funds their first year and is authorized to borrow \$5,000 in their second year, they will only be eligible to receive an interest reimbursement on the authorized \$5,000.

Authorized amounts taken from a PLOC are eligible for the Faculty’s [Post-Graduation Debt Repayment Assistance Program](#).

Expenses:

Deemed Expenses - Basic Student Budget

8 months from September 2024 to April 2025*

In determining a student’s financial need for the academic year, the following is the eight-month projected budget that has been set by the FAC.

Ontario Residents:

	First Year*	Second Year	Third Year
Domestic Tuition 2024-2025	\$33,040	\$33,040	\$33,040
Incidental/Ancillary Fees**	\$1,881	\$1,831	\$1,831
Personal Expenses ***	\$3,8000	\$3,540	\$3,540
Room and Board – living away ****	\$17,370	\$16,350	\$16,350
Room and Board - living with parents/guardians *****	\$4,900	\$4,600	\$4,600
Total Budget – living away	\$56,091	\$54,761	\$54,761
Total Budget – living with parents/guardians	\$43,621	\$43,011	\$43,011

* First year students: budget reflects the start of Legal Methods in mid-August rather than after Labour Day

** Subject to change – The University of Toronto posts the approved ancillary fees for the upcoming academic year in mid-July at: <https://studentaccount.utoronto.ca/>

*** Personal Expenses include supplies, cell phone, entertainment, gifts, clothing, personal items and routine medical and dental expenses

****Room and Board amount includes rent, food expenses, transportation, and utilities

Out of Province Residents:

	First Year*	Second Year	Third Year
Domestic Tuition 2024-2025	\$37,510	\$37,510	\$37,510
Incidental/Ancillary Fees**	\$1,881	\$1,831	\$1,831
Personal Expenses ***	\$3,800	\$3,540	\$3,540
Room and Board – living away ****	\$17,370	\$16,350	\$16,350
Room and Board - living with parents/guardians ****	\$4,900	\$4,600	\$4,600
Total Budget – living away	\$60,561	\$59,231	\$59,231
Total Budget – living with parents/guardians	\$48,091	\$47,481	\$47,481

* First year students: budget reflects the start of Legal Methods in mid-August rather than after Labour Day

** Subject to change The University of Toronto post the approved ancillary fees for the upcoming academic year in mid-July at: <https://studentaccount.utoronto.ca/>

*** Personal Expenses include supplies, cell phone, entertainment, gifts, clothing, personal items, and routine medical and dental expenses.

**** Room and Board amount includes rent, food expenses, transportation, and utilities.

Supplementary Budget Expenses (in addition to the Basic Budget Expenses)

Supplementary expenses are **not reimbursed dollar-for-dollar**; the amounts of any supplementary expenses do not necessarily result in an equivalent increase in bursary funding (*e.g., if a student incurs \$1,500 in computer expenses, their bursary may not increase by \$1,500*). Instead, the expenses are added to the budget and are considered as part of the student’s total budgetary expenses.

Copies of receipts must be submitted to claim any of the listed expenses below. All receipts must show students’ full names and must clearly state the date of payment.

If there is no name on the receipt, students should request a receipt or invoice with their full name printed on it. Receipts without the students' full names must be accompanied with proof of payment in the student's name to be processed.

Receipts must be submitted as early as possible. **The deadline for submitting receipts for supplementary expenses is February 12th, 2025.** Only unanticipated receipts will be accepted on a case-by-case basis after this date, accompanied by an email explaining the situation to the Financial Aid Office.

Students who incur additional expenses after submission of their financial aid application should contact the Financial Aid Office to update their circumstances and determine whether a recalculation of aid is warranted.

List of Supplementary Budget Expenses

Computer

Students are eligible to claim computer costs up to a maximum value of \$1,500 during their time at the law school.

For first year and new transfer students, computer costs are eligible if the computer was purchased **after** the date of their offer of admission.

For new transfer students, computer costs are eligible if documentation is provided that shows these costs were not given credit by their previous law school's financial aid program.

For upper-year students, an amount is permitted if the total amount claimed in prior years is less than \$1,500 up to an amount totaling \$1,500.

The following computer-related items purchased at reasonable costs can be claimed: computer, operating system (e.g., Office software), mouse, USB flash drive, printer, monitor/external display.

Day Care for Children

For students with children 12 years of age or younger, reasonable day care costs will be considered as a supplementary budget expense by the FAC, **with supplemental documentation.**

Dependents

Students with dependent children will have an additional \$5,000 per dependent added to their budget.

Medical Expenses

Medical expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement under your health plans *may* be added to your budget. To be eligible, these expenses must be prescribed by a doctor and be medically necessary.

Please note that the student budget has an allocation for typical over-the-counter medications and prescriptions. These additional medical expenses are specifically for larger, unique, or unexpected occurrences.

If submitting medical expenses for consideration, please include a prescription or a note by your attending physician as well as invoice, payment receipt and proof of the expense not being covered under any other insurance plan. *The Financial Aid Office does not require a diagnosis, but rather a confirmation from a physician that the treatment is medically necessary.*

- Eligible expenses incurred over the summer months will be subtracted from summer earnings for the calculation of summer deeming.
- Eligible expenses over the academic term will be added to the student's budget for determination of financial need.

Documentation can be provided to the Financial Aid Office before the February 12th, 2025, deadline. For changes in expenses after this date, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

Moving Expenses

Students may submit eligible moving expenses only once during law school. For first year and transfer students, moving expenses are eligible only if the move to Toronto occurs **after** the date of offer of admission. The maximum allowable amount is based on the distance of the move from the student's previous residence to Toronto.

Eligible moving expenses may include reasonable airfare expenses for the most direct route for the student to travel to Toronto, gasoline expenses incurred while moving, moving truck rental, hiring of movers, and reasonable hotel accommodations for the student. However, purchasing furniture and other housewares are not eligible moving expenses. Pet expenses are not eligible.

Students are required to submit an invoice and a receipt stating the student's name as a purchaser and payer. In cases where expenses have been paid by a third party, please upload proof of reimbursement for the expenses.

Base Moving Expense:

Moving from	Maximum allowable amount
Greater Toronto Area	\$250
Manitoba, Quebec, and within Ontario	\$750
Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island	\$1,900
Overseas	A reasonable cap of \$1,900, as determined by the FAC

Additional Moving Expenses with Dependent Children

Students with dependent children may claim an additional 25% of their base moving expenses per dependent child. The total moving expenses allowed will be the lesser of the actual costs associated with the move as per the receipts paid by the student or the calculated amount based on distance.

Travel Home

A fixed travel allowance will be automatically added for students travelling home once a year.

Students living outside the GTA, but within a 500 km radius will have a \$250 expense once a year as a travel home allowance added to their budget.

Ontario students living outside a 500 km radius from the GTA will have a \$400 once per year as a travel home allowance added to their budget.

Students living outside Ontario will have \$1,000 once a year as a travel home allowance added to their budget,

Home Ownership

Students who do not live with their parents/guardians, but live in properties they own, are allocated an additional budget of \$500.00 per year.

Financial Aid Application Procedures and Timelines

Application Procedures – Overview

The Faculty's Financial Aid Program is available to all students enrolled in the Juris Doctor (J.D.) Program who meet the eligibility criteria (see p. 8 of this document).

A Faculty of Law financial aid application **must be submitted each year for which assistance from the Faculty is requested**. This application will be used to consider applicants for both Faculty of Law bursaries and interest reimbursements.

First-time Applicants

- Use the [Faculty's Financial Aid Estimator](#) to get a provisional assessment of your financial aid package
- The Financial Aid Applications are due at the end of the day on **July 8th, 2024**
- The final summer paystub, government funding summary and lease documentation (if living independently) information must be submitted no later than **September 6th, 2024**
- Financial aid assessments will be emailed on **September 25th, 2024**, for completed applications

Returning Applicants

- Submit an application and all supplemental documents by the end of the day on **August 5th, 2024**
- Final summer paystubs, government funding summary and lease documentation (if living independently) are due on **September 6th, 2024**
- Financial aid assessments will be emailed on **September 25th, 2024**, for completed applications

If students are unable to meet the above deadlines, the Financial Aid Office will be accepting supplemental documentation for submitted applications until February 15th, 2025. No additional financial aid will be assessed after this date unless due to an emergency.

Financial Aid Timeline 2024-2025

ACTION	TIMING	PURPOSE	NOTE	PROCESSING TIME
Apply for Government Student Aid	May – July <i>Depending on when the portal opens</i>	Proof of student financial aid is used to defer tuition and fee payments until funding is received. Required for the JD financial aid application	DO NOT report any anticipated Faculty of Law bursaries on the application. The reporting will be done ONCE the bursaries are allocated	4-6 weeks The University Registrar's Office confirms student enrolment for the JD Program. For further information on the process please visit their website
Apply for Scotia Professional® Student Plan or a TD Student Line of Credit® <i>*optional</i>	Before the start of school year	To secure pre-approval for funding	Students are charged interest on the amount borrowed. Only borrow what is immediately needed	2-4 weeks
First time applicants Apply for Faculty of Law Financial Aid program	July 8 th	To be considered for the Faculty's Financial Aid program	Application should be submitted by the appropriate due date (July 8th or Aug. 5th) even if some receipts/ supplemental information are not available. These can be submitted later up until Feb. 15.	Students with completed applications will be notified by Sept. 25 th , 2024 Students submitting supplemental documents after Sept. 6 th , allow 3-4 weeks to process applications
Returning applicants Apply for Faculty of Law Financial Aid program	Aug. 5 th			
Submit supplemental documentation	Sept. 6 th			
Submit copy of January/February PLOC statement	Feb. 15 th	To be reimbursed for the eligible interest reimbursement on the authorized amount on their PLOC	Confirm direct deposit information is accurate on ACORN	Issued in March

Required Documents

Final assessment and disbursement of bursary payments are contingent on students completing the application, including submitting all required supplemental documentation, within the required timelines.

No financial aid funds will be released without copies of all supplemental documents with full, accurate and complete information as specified. Other documentation may be required at the discretion of the Financial Aid Office.

FIRST TIME APPLICANT	RETURNING APPLICANT	DUE DATE
INCOME TAX NOTICES OF ASSESSMENT (NOA) SUBMISSION		
Income tax notices from each parent/guardian for 2021, 2022 and 2023 2023 NOA for partner, <i>if applicable</i>	Submit 2023 NOA for partner (<i>if applicable</i>) Only submit parental NOAs if requesting consideration due to material decreases in parental income	Submitted with the application
GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FORMS – 2 documents:		
Copy of government student financial assistance application – <i>this is a screenshot of the application or a summary of all of the application sections (NOT the final Notice of Assessment or Funding Summary)</i>		
Government student financial assistance Notice of Assessment (or Funding Summary) - <i>listing the actual (not estimated) amount of funding</i>		As soon as available
OTHER DOCUMENTS		
End-of-April paystub, <i>if student worked for the same employer between January 1st and April 30th to determine summer earnings only</i>		Submitted with the application
Childcare receipts/bill/signed letter from the childcare provider with their dependent(s) name on receipt		
Spouse/Partner’s loan repayment documents, <i>if applicable</i>		
Summer employment final pay stub <i>showing GROSS not NET summer earnings</i>		
Lease agreement, <i>if living away from home</i>		Sept 6 th , to receive assessment by Sept 25 th , 2024
OTHER APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS		
Computer receipt, <i>with student name on the receipt</i>		
Moving expenses, <i>actual receipts not estimates with student name on the receipt</i>		
Medical expenses (<i>not covered by health insurance</i>)		
Other supplemental documentation for special requests and consideration		
REIMBURSEMENT OF INTEREST CHARGES		
January or February 2024 PLOC statement to receive interest reimbursement on the authorized professional student lines of credit amounts		Feb 15 th , 2025

Late Applications

Students who submit applications for financial aid after the deadline date are required to email the [Financial Aid Office](#) explaining the reason for the delay. It will be up to the Financial Aid Office's discretion as to whether the application can be accepted or not.

Early Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence

Students who are considering withdrawing or taking a leave of absence are encouraged to discuss their plans with the Accommodation and Considerations Committee, accommodations.law@utoronto.ca. We understand the uniqueness of each situation and the circumstances which lead to these decisions. The impact on the student's financial aid will vary and a prorating method may be used. For a student on-leave for a full term, financial aid assistance will be prorated to account for a one-term budget assessment. If students have received the funding from the financial aid program for a full-year assessment, they may be required to return a portion of the aid amount to the Faculty.

Students should refer to the [Student Accounts website](#) for more information on the tuition fee and refund schedules.

Disbursement of Financial Aid Payments

Faculty bursaries provided to students will be credited to the student account on ACORN at the University of Toronto. If the amount exceeds the outstanding balance on the student account, the student will receive a credit. Please set up [Direct Deposit](#) on ACORN in order to receive a refund of any credit amount. The disbursement of the funding payments will be transferred to the student account no later than October 15th to avoid service charge fees.

Students are responsible for making sure that their minimum tuition payment balance is paid in full by the stated deadlines to avoid service charges.

The Faculty will report the JD Financial Aid Program bursaries received by OSAP recipients directly to OSAP; this means that **OSAP applicants do not have to declare their Faculty bursaries**. Students from other provinces who receive both Faculty bursaries, and their provincial government funding are responsible for reporting their Faculty bursaries to these government student financial assistance agencies.

Interest Reimbursements

Interest charges will be reimbursed by the Faculty in March. The interest reimbursement will cover interest for a 12-month period (*September to August*) for 1L and 2L students and a 10-month period (*September to June*) for 3L students. Students who take out at least 75% of their authorized PLOC by February 15th will receive an interest reimbursement for the full authorized loan amount. The interest reimbursement will be pro-rated for students who take out less than 75% of their authorized PLOC amount by February 15th.

Students eligible for an interest reimbursement on the authorized amount of their PLOC are required to submit a copy of their January or February 2025 PLOC statement reflecting the amount they have taken out from their PLOC to the Faculty's Financial Aid Office by February 15th.

The interest reimbursement will be credited to the U of T student account on ACORN in March. Students are responsible for applying these interest reimbursements to their PLOC. **Please note that statements submitted after February 15th will not be considered, no exceptions.**

The Financial Aid Office assesses student's needs each year and based on that assessment determines the PLOC amount on which interest will be reimbursed.

Requests for Reconsideration

Students can request reconsideration of decisions regarding their Financial Aid assessment. The request for reconsideration provides recourse for students who have experienced exceptional or changing circumstances or who have extraneous factors that are not accounted for in their financial aid calculation.

Reconsideration Process

Students who feel that their Financial Aid Assessment does not accurately represent their financial needs, may request a reconsideration by the FAC by emailing financialaid.law@utoronto.ca.

Students have thirty (30) days after receiving their Financial Aid Assessment to request reconsideration. Students will have a meeting with a staff member of the Financial Aid Office to discuss their application.

If, after meeting with the Financial Aid Office, the student wishes to request a reconsideration of their Financial Aid Assessment, they must submit a letter outlining the basis for the request, and the specific relief sought.

- Specifically, they should explain why a departure from the financial aid policy is warranted in their case
- Citation of specific aspects of the financial aid policy, including references to the rationales for these policies, will provide the strongest grounds for a reconsideration
- Students should provide as much detail and supplemental documentation as possible

Once submitted, the Financial Aid Committee will consider the request for reconsideration. The Financial Aid office will relay FAC's decision to the student.

Request for reconsideration letters are anonymized and redacted before being presented to the FAC. Voting committee members are required to recuse themselves from the discussion of requests for reconsideration that pose a conflict of interest or where they know or have identified the requesting student. The FAC meets periodically during the academic year and reviews reconsiderations on an ongoing basis. The FAC makes a special effort to meet in September to consider requests for reconsideration as early as possible in the school year.