



# Yale Law School

FINANCIAL AID HANDBOOK

2026-2027



## Yale Law School Office of Financial Aid

Yale Law School's financial aid policies and programs are designed to make it possible for students to pursue their legal education at Yale regardless of their financial circumstances. Using a combination of loans and scholarship grants, we make every effort to provide students with the difference between their resources – such as family resources, summer earnings and student savings – and the cost of attending Yale. Over 70% of the student body received financial aid in 2025-2026. Almost two-thirds of our students qualify for institutional scholarship, which is awarded solely on the basis of financial need.

### **The Financial Aid Office is committed to:**

- assisting you in understanding our program and the resources and options available to you;
- flexibility and concern in responding to individual circumstances and special needs, consistent with the guidelines of our general policies;
- protecting the confidentiality of the information you provide to us; and,
- doing our best to notify you of any changes in federal programs and University or Law School policies.

### **In return, we expect you and any person applying on your behalf, to:**

- provide us with true and accurate information about your financial situation and notify us of significant changes;
- expressly authorize Yale and any Yale agents to request and obtain information to verify accuracy of your application and related material; and
- meet deadlines and complete all financial aid requirements promptly and carefully.

The Financial Aid Office's Staff members are always pleased to answer your questions and to help you with your financial planning and individual concerns. We look forward to meeting and working with you.

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# I. ACADEMIC YEAR FINANCIAL AID

Academic year financial aid consists of need-based grants and loans. The primary goal of our financial aid program is to ensure that all admitted students can afford to attend Yale Law School regardless of their financial resources. Below is a discussion of the elements of our academic year financial aid.

Students who are not United States citizens or permanent residents are eligible for the same amount of need-based aid as all other students, including both loans and grants. Although federal loans are not available to non-U.S. citizens, the University has alternative loans available for international students without needing a U.S. citizen co-signer.

## STUDENT BUDGET/ COST OF ATTENDANCE

Our financial aid awards for 2026-2027 are based on a budget of tuition and fees plus allowances for living expenses, books, etc. This standard budget reflects our estimate of the cost of a moderate style of living in New Haven for the nine-month academic year.

<b>Estimated Cost of Attendance</b>	
Tuition	\$79,318
University Administrative & Activities Fee	\$2,500
University Health Insurance	\$3,764
Housing	\$12,200
Meals	\$7,100
Personal Expenses	\$4,815
Books	\$1,300
Federal Student Loan Fees	\$1,965
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$112,962</b>

### **University Administrative & Activities Fee:**

This fee includes University assessments for basic health coverage and use of university facilities and resources.

### **Housing, Meals, Personal Expenses, and Books:**

These are our best estimates of the costs of housing, meals, and other personal expenses. Housing cost assumes living in a moderate on or off campus apartment with a roommate.

### **University Hospitalization Coverage and Health Services Coverage:**

Mandatory fees include enrollment in Yale Health Hospitalization & Specialty Care Coverage, a comprehensive pre-paid group practice plan. For 2026-2027, Yale Health Plan membership fees are set at \$3,764 for single students, \$14,000 for student plus spouse, \$12,600 for student plus child/children, and \$23,490 for family coverage.

The cost of single student coverage is automatically added to the basic budget for all students. The health insurance fee for a single student is covered by financial aid for those with institutional scholarship eligibility. If a student has dependents and will be enrolling in the two-person or family coverage plan, a [Budget Revision form](#) (with documentation of enrollment) must be completed and submitted to the Financial Aid Office for a budget adjustment. Additional financial aid for this expense is available in the form of a student loan.

Students who wish to waive Yale Health Hospitalization & Specialty Care Coverage must show documented proof of an ACA-compliant plan. Non-compliant submissions (e.g. out-of-state Medicaid, international insurance, HMOs without full access in New Haven) will be denied. If a student obtains outside compliant insurance and waives Yale Health coverage, the fee will be removed from the student's bill, and financial aid will be adjusted accordingly.

Additionally, students who obtain vision and dental coverage through the Yale Health Plan will be eligible to borrow a COAP-eligible loan to cover the cost. Students must submit a Budget Revision form (with documentation of enrollment) to the Financial Aid Office.

### **Federal Student Loan Fees:**

This allocation accounts for the estimated loan fees for Federal Direct Loan borrowers only. More information about federal student loan interest rates and loan fees can be found in the Student Loan section of this Handbook or on the Federal Student Aid [website](#).

Student loan fees will not be included in the cost of attendance for students borrowing private, alternative, or institutional loans.

### **Travel:**

This allocation accounts for one roundtrip travel cost from the student's permanent home address (as reported on the FFAST and/or FAFSA) to New Haven based on a universal assessment of average travel costs on a state-by-state or country-by-country basis.

### **Children:**

For students with dependent children, an allowance of \$8,000 for each child is added to the applicable budget.

### **Bar License Fees:**

This allocation represents an average fee for bar license and is included in the cost of attendance for all 3Ls. 3Ls will have the option to borrow a COAP eligible loan to cover the cost. The amount can be increased with documentation of the student's actual cost.

### **Extraordinary Expenses:**

Adjustments to the basic budget may be made in the event of extraordinary expenses and special needs (e.g., higher cost housing). Additional financial assistance resulting from such an adjustment will be available in the form of a loan. Students are encouraged to discuss their individual situations with the Financial Aid Office, which is committed to being as responsive and flexible as possible.

### **Expenses Not Included:**

Moving expenses and credit card debt will not be considered as part of the student's budget in determining eligibility for financial aid.

## HOW WE DETERMINE YOUR FINANCIAL AID

### Award Packaging Parameters

YLS determines financial need and awards aid to meet that need based on the following two-part calculation:

1. Cost of Attendance (i.e. Budget)  
**minus** contribution (student + parent + spouse)  
= student's amount of financial need

*Need is then filled with a set amount of unit loan funds and then by a Yale Law School Institutional Scholarship*

2. Student's amount of financial need  
**minus** unit loans (based on class year)  
= YLS Institutional scholarship award

### Student Contribution

Students are expected to help meet the cost of their education through savings and employment.

#### Student Assets:

Students are expected to exhaust their savings and other financial assets (determined at the beginning of Law School) by contributing one-half in their first year and the remaining half in their second year. Students must conserve the assets anticipated for use in the second year; the Law School's second year financial aid calculation will assume that these assets are available. This schedule of expenditure (as opposed to one requiring all assets to be consumed before any grant aid is offered) is designed to lessen the financial impact of withdrawal from the Law School after the first year. It is also designed to backload loans and thus reduces the interest that accrues. Additional assets acquired during Law School are considered to be fully available to meet Law School expenses.

#### Summer Employment:

As a need-based aid institution, YLS students are expected to contribute towards the cost of their education through summer employment. The determination of the expected summer contribution for continuing students is based on the following steps:

1. The calculation of gross earnings is based on the weekly rate of pay for students' full-time job(s) applied to the number of weeks worked.
  - a. For students who split employment between more than one full-time employer, gross earnings will be derived by calculating a weighted average weekly income for all full-time weeks worked. This average income will be applied to the actual number of weeks worked.
  - b. For students who split employment between a full-time compensated position and a full-time unpaid internship, gross earnings will be derived by reducing gross income by the standard weekly living allowance for weeks working at the unpaid position.
2. Next, we calculate a tax deduction for federal, state, and FICA taxes. For the state tax rate, we use either the tax rate of the state in which the student worked or Connecticut's income tax rate (5% in 2025), whichever is greater. This tax deduction is subtracted from gross earnings.
  - a. For students who work in multiple states, we will base the state portion of the tax calculation on the state with the higher tax rate.

3. Next, we deduct \$8,000 for summer living expenses.
4. Next, we deduct a savings component (after taking into account the deductions above), which will be retained by students and thereby decrease the student contribution:
  - a. For weeks 1-10 we will deduct 15%; and
  - b. For weeks 11 and greater we will deduct 75%.
5. The remaining income will be the student's summer income contribution. In most cases, the summer income contribution is not paid to the law school, rather it is retained by the student to pay for part of the cost of living during the academic year.

Summer contributions of \$2,500 are imputed to students in all classes who choose not to work during the summer. We expect that students entering the Law School will contribute a minimum of \$2,500.

Continuing students interested in summer public interest and government employment should consider the Law School's programs of direct support for such work through Summer Public Interest Fellowships ([SPIF](#)). Students who participate in SPIF generally do not have a summer contribution as their SPIF grant is less than or equal to the \$8,000 exclusion.

### Supplemental Income from Private Sector Employers

All amounts paid by a summer employer—regardless of how the amount is characterized by the employer—will be used as part of our need-based analysis. Depending on students' specific circumstances, these amounts may impact (i) SPIF eligibility, and / or (ii) the summer income contribution.

- **Categorization of Compensation:** All amounts paid by a summer employer will be treated as a resource for purposes of our financial aid analysis. We will not differentiate based on how the firm characterizes the compensation (e.g., bonus, stipend, scholarship, income) or whether the payment is conditional or unconditional.
- **Timing:** All amounts paid by a summer employer before a student graduates will be attributed to either 1L summer or 2L summer unless a student is performing work during the term.
  - Any amount paid before 2L year begins will be considered income received during 1L summer.
  - Any amount paid after the beginning of 2L year and before graduation will be considered income received during 2L summer.
  - Any amount paid after graduation will not be considered except in connection with COAP eligibility.
  - If a student is employed during the term by the same employer who they worked for during the summer, the income directly attributable to the work completed during the term will be considered term-time income.
- **Summer Income Calculation:** A standard calculation for summer income will be made for the summer in which the income is received.
- **Interaction with SPIF:** If a student (i) receives an amount greater than the \$8,000 SPIF stipend from a law firm (or other summer employer) and (ii) works for a SPIF-eligible employer during the summer the amount is received, they are not eligible to receive SPIF.
  - Students can elect to receive a SPIF stipend if they need those funds to pay for their living expenses during the summer due to the timing of the payment (e.g., a law firm provides a stipend for public interest work at the end of 1L summer to a student who will be a summer associate during 2L summer). The SPIF stipend must be repaid before the beginning of the following academic year using money received from the law firm.
  - If a student receives an amount less than the \$8,000 SPIF stipend from a law firm (or other summer employer) this policy will be applied on a pro-rated basis to maximize the \$8,000 SPIF maximum cap.

- **Required Documentation:** Students must submit a copy of their Summer Employer Confirmation Letter. Additionally, if a student signs with an employer for future work, they are required to submit the employer letter detailing the offer. Please note that missing employer letters will delay the processing of SPIF and financial aid.

### Term-Time Employment:

Term-time gross income in excess of \$5,000 will be considered as an asset to meet financial need. Seventy percent of gross income minus \$3,500 (shelter) is considered the net income and will be applied first to replace any unmet family (student, parent and/or spouse) expectation, or to meet expenses more than the basic budget. If no such shortfall exists or if the net income exceeds the shortfall, the income (or that portion in excess of the shortfall) will be used to reduce the student's unit loan dollar-for-dollar. **If term-time GROSS income is \$5,000 or less, the student will not have to report the income to the Financial Aid Office.**

- For current 1Ls and 2Ls – adjustments for any Term-Time employment during the 2026-2027 academic year will be factored into your next academic year (2027-2028) aid award. A series of questions are included on FFAST specific to capture prior academic year Term-Time employment. From the FFAST data, students whose income exceeds the parameters outlined in the policy will see a calculation for Term-Time income on their 2027-2028 aid award letter in their student contribution (along with existing assets and summer earnings contributions). *Students should plan accordingly knowing that any income earned in 2026-2027 may affect their 2027-2028 aid award.*
- For 3Ls – students will receive an email at the beginning of the Spring 2027 term requesting that they report Term-Time employment for academic year 2026-2027. Based on this data, students will be informed if a Term-Time adjustment of their aid is required. If so, 3L students will have the choice of 1) having unit loan funds adjusted directly off their student account, or 2) having the adjustment made in the amount of COAP-eligible loans they have incurred while enrolled. By offering two options, students who cannot afford to lose direct funds in their spring term have the option of the COAP adjustment.

### Parental Contribution

For those students applying for **institutional scholarship support**, the Law School will take into account all resources available to meet the cost of their education, including, to some extent, family resources. (Please note: for students applying only for loans, parental resources are not considered).

The Law School considers family resources on a sliding scale, based on the age of the student:

- If the student is **26 or younger** on December 31 of the academic year for which the student is applying for financial aid, a parental contribution (as described below) will be expected. Parents' information must be submitted via the FFAST application (<https://faast.law.yale.edu>) to the Law School.
- If the student is **27 or 28** on December 31 of the academic year for which the student is applying for financial aid, the expected parental contribution will be decreased by 50%. Parents' information must be submitted via the FFAST application (<https://faast.law.yale.edu>) to the Law School.
- If the student is **29 or older** on December 31 of the academic year for which the student is applying for financial aid, no parental contribution will be expected. Parents' information does not need to be submitted via FFAST to the Law School.

### Expected Parental Contribution Calculation:

The expected parental contribution is calculated based on the information from the FFAST application. The FFAST methodology for measuring parents' relative financial position is based on the concept of available income. Available income is defined as that income available to the family to meet its economic needs after deductions from the parents' total taxable and nontaxable income for the following: U.S. income and social security (FICA) taxes; state and other taxes; medical and dental expenses; employment allowance (if appropriate); elementary and secondary tuition expenses; and minimum living expenses. The remaining income is considered available for the family's discretionary use, and a percentage of this available income is calculated as a reasonable contribution toward educational expenses. This calculation of available income also considers a number of factors like parental income, age, retirement needs, assets, family size, and whether both parents are working. As the amount of available income rises, the percentage considered available for education expenses also increases. This amount is then divided among family members enrolled in full-time higher education programs to determine the expected parental contribution. Students who receive only part or none of the expected parental contributions may increase the amount that is being borrowed (generally through the Grad PLUS loan) to make up the shortfall. These loans to support the parent contribution will generally be covered by COAP. We encourage students and parents to complete the FFAST application each year if COAP is a possibility for the future, as completing the application will allow the financial aid office to calculate the parent contribution (which is COAP eligible).

**Please Note:** Parents who are divorced or separated must submit separate FFAST applications.

## Spousal Contribution

Spousal contributions are calculated based on the following parameters:

- Spouse is full-time enrolled student (including a fellow YLS student) – no contribution assessed
- Spouse is documented unemployed – no contribution assessed
- Spouse is a stay-at-home parent due to childcare responsibilities – no contribution assessed (a \$7,500 living allowance for the spouse is also added to the Cost of Attendance in this circumstance)
- Spouse is maintaining separate household – no contribution assessed
- Spouse is gainfully employed – a contribution based on the gross income according to the schedule below:

Gross Income	Spouse Contribution
under \$50,000	None
\$50,000 to \$65,000	15% of income
\$65,000 to \$80,000	\$9,750 plus 30% of income over \$65,000
Over \$80,000	\$14,250 plus 60% of income over \$80,000

It is the student's responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office of any changes to the spouse's employment status during the academic year at which time an aid award adjustment may be made. The Financial Aid Office will also request documentation to verify the spouse's status as unemployed, full-

time student or primary childcare provider.

Students may opt to borrow additional loan funds to compensate for the calculated spouse contribution up to their Cost of Attendance. However, any additional borrowing for this purpose will not be eligible for the COAP program.

## Student Loans

The Law School expects all students to finance a portion of their education with loans. We strive to minimize and equalize our students' debt load. We allocate our grant resources to students with the greatest financial need and increase the proportion of grant as total need increases.

Students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents generally have the option of borrowing federal loans and / or private loans. Students who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent residents generally have the option of borrowing private loans and / or an institutional loan. These three options (private loans, federal loans, and institutional loans) are described below.

Before applying for a loan, please review the [Yale University Financial Aid Borrowing at Yale](#) for information on federal and private loan resources to help you evaluate your options. Private loan terms, conditions, and eligibility requirements will vary, and borrowers (and co-borrowers, if applicable) are responsible for researching the different lenders and their loan products in order to choose a loan product that best suits their needs.

In 2026-2027, students are expected to meet the first \$60,700 (1L), \$61,840 (2L), or \$63,030 (3L) of their need with loans. Students whose total need is less than this amount will normally receive only loan assistance. Students whose need exceed this amount will receive grants. You may decide how much or how little of the loan offer you wish to accept based on your personal needs and budget.

While law school debt may seem daunting, all YLS graduates are eligible to apply for the Law School's post-graduate loan forgiveness program (COAP) for private, federal, and institutional need-based loans.

## Private Loans

Yale is exploring multiple payment and financing options comparable to or better than the Grad PLUS Loan. The first such offering is available through SoFi. Eligible YLS students may apply for loans with SoFi or other alternative lenders beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year.

In addition to the loan program offered through SoFi, YLS students are welcome to explore other alternative loan options in order to evaluate lenders and select one that suits their loan needs. A few helpful resources:

- [ELMSelect](#) provides a comparison of different lenders, based on those lenders used by our students over the past three years.
- [AccessLex](#) has information available about various private lenders for law students.

Many of these programs offer competitive interest rates and program-specific repayment benefits and meet Yale's standard for accessibility with expanded eligibility criteria that make financing available to more students. When considering which loan program to choose, be sure to carefully compare all of the terms,

including interest rates (fixed vs. variable), lender fees, grace periods, deferment and forbearance options, ease of access, and customer service.

*Yale does not endorse, recommend, or promote SoFi or any of the lenders included in ELM Select or listed by AccessLex. YLS students are not obligated to borrow from these lenders and may select other lenders.*

## **Federal Loans**

Beginning in Fall 2026, law students entering law school (who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents) are eligible to borrow a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan up to a maximum of \$50K per year, with a cap of \$200K for graduate school and a lifetime cap of \$257.5K. For more details on the terms and conditions of the federal loan program, please refer to [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).

Returning students who are continuing in an existing program of study remain eligible for new Federal Grad PLUS Loans through the end of their program of study. These students are considered legacy borrowers, and must have been registered and in attendance in the spring of 2026 and have borrowed a federal student loan for their current program of study. Legacy borrowers who withdraw, take a leave of absence, or otherwise interrupt regular enrollment will lose the ability to borrow new Federal Grad PLUS loans.

Currently enrolled students are encouraged to continue with the legacy federal student loan program (Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan and Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan); however, these students can also pursue a private loan option.

- **Federal Direct Unsubsidized-**

- Maximum:
  - Current Students: \$20,500 per academic year and aggregate maximum of \$138,500 per student for all Direct (and/or previously awarded Stafford loans) for entire (undergraduate and graduate) enrollment.
  - New Students: \$50,000 per academic year, \$200,000 aggregate limit for JD program, and aggregate lifetime maximum of \$257,500 per student for all Direct (and/or previously awarded Stafford loans).
- Application: apply for eligibility by completing [FAFSA](#).
- Eligibility: no financial need test – however, Direct Unsubsidized loans may not exceed the difference between the Cost of Attendance and all other financial aid for the period of enrollment.
- Interest rate is established for loans specific to academic year and then carries as a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. Borrower is responsible for the interest which accrues while enrolled in school, either by making regular monthly or quarterly payments, or by capitalizing interest. The current interest rate is 6.54%.
- Fees: An origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement received and shown on the disclosure statement which will be sent to you. Presently, this fee is set at 1.057% but may vary (based on the Budget Control Act of 2011).
- Grace Period: Six-month grace period.

- **Federal Direct Graduate PLUS- (current students enrolled during the 2025-2026 academic year and borrowed a Federal Direct Loan)**

- Maximum: Credit worthy students may borrow up to the total Cost of Attendance (budget) minus any other financial aid per academic year. Application: apply for eligibility by completing [FAFSA](#).
- Eligibility: no financial need test – however, Grad PLUS loans may not exceed the difference between the Cost of Attendance and all other financial aid for the period of enrollment.
- Interest rate is established for loan specific to academic year and then carries as a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. Borrower is responsible for the interest which accrues while enrolled in school, either by making regular monthly or quarterly payments, or by capitalizing interest. The current interest rate is 7.54%.
- Fees: An origination fee will be deducted from each disbursement received and shown on the disclosure statement which will be sent to you. Presently this fee is set at 4.228% but may vary (based on the Budget Control Act of 2011).
- Grace Period: The Grad PLUS loan does not carry a grace period. However, students may request a "deferment" for up to six months post-graduation to delay payment.

- **For Both Federal Unsubsidized Loan and Grad PLUS Loan**

- Deferments/Forbearance: After graduation, loan repayment can be deferred for a variety of reasons, including further study, unemployment, and economic hardship. First-time borrowers will be subject to all terms and deferments which are in effect at the time the loans are disbursed. For borrowers who have any outstanding balance on a prior loan(s), the deferments which are stipulated in their original promissory note(s) will pertain to any new disbursements as well.

- **Documentation to Establish Loan Federal Loans**

- Students must complete the required online Entrance Interview and Master Promissory Note(s) before Federal Direct loans can be disbursed. Instructions on these requirements will be sent from Student Financial Services in mid-late summer preceding enrollment.

## **Institutional Loan – Yale Student Loan (for non-U.S. Citizens/Permanent Residents)**

Eligible non-U.S. Citizen/Permanent Resident students are awarded a Yale Student Loan up to the unit loan amount. Eligible non-U.S. Citizens/permanent residents may also be eligible for a private loan. Please review [ELMSelect](#) for private loan options.

Students whose loan needs exceed federal limits, who are not eligible for federal or private loans, or whose private loan need is less than \$1,000, may apply for the institutional loan (YSL) as a loan of last resort. The YSL does not require credit approval or co-signer, has a fixed interest rate of 9.19%, a 5% origination fee, a 10-year repayment schedule, and a 6-month grace period after graduation or enrollment of less than half time. YSL also offers incentives such as no payments during graduate study, no prepayment penalties and the ability to pay ahead while in repayment.

## **Short-Term Advances and Emergency Loans**

On a case-by-case basis, short-term advances up to \$3,000 per year may be available to help students meet basic needs temporarily. Short-term advances are intended to meet needs not covered by financial aid. Short-term advances are only granted to students to meet financial challenges as they enter/transition to YLS.

Currently enrolled students are expected to budget their financial aid across the academic year to meet their need and avoid shortfall of monies. Students facing financial difficulties at any time should come to talk to one of the counselors in the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office can offer support through numerous financial management resources as well as counseling on budget planning. Students are encouraged to speak with a member of the Financial Aid Office for details.

## Scholarship and Stipends

### Yale Law School Scholarship and Stipends:

YLS scholarships and stipends are provided from the Law School's resources and endowed scholarship funds. Grants are awarded solely based on financial need based on the following calculation:

Cost of Attendance  
 (-) minus  
 Contribution(s) (Student + Parent + Spouse)

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= Need

Need  
 (-) minus  
 Unit Loans (1L, 2L, or 3L levels)

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= YLS Scholarship and Stipend Amount

The Law School does not provide merit-based scholarships. The maximum possible grant is the amount of tuition, unless approved for a greater amount by the Financial Aid Office. The same need-based calculation applies to U.S. Citizens, permanent residents and international students who are reviewed for institutional scholarships eligibility.

Special or endowed scholarships, such as those listed in the Law School Bulletin, are awarded only to students with demonstrated financial need and do not increase the recipients' awards. Questions to assess a student's eligibility for specific endowed scholarships criteria are included on the FFAST form and as such, no separate application is necessary. Students will have the opportunity to upload a resume and biographical statement to FFAST for stewardship purposes. Scholarships are distributed by crediting 50% each term to the student's term bill account.

### The Hurst Horizon Scholarship:

The Hurst Horizon Scholarship is for J.D. students with very significant financial need and covers the full amount of tuition, administrative and activities fees, and University hospitalization coverage for the academic year. The Scholarship will be disbursed in equal amounts at the beginning of each semester and applied to the student's bursar account. Below is an example based on the budget for a 1L Hurst Horizon student.

#### Example AY2026-2027 Breakdown

$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of} \\ \text{Attendance} \end{array} - \text{Horizon Scholarship} = \text{Unit Loan}^*$
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\$112,962	-	\$85,582	=	\$27,380
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*\*The Unit Loan covers housing, food, personal expenses, books, and travel costs.*

Detailed below are the eligibility criteria and policy parameters for the Horizon Scholarship:

1. The Hurst Horizon Scholarship is awarded on an annual basis for the upcoming academic year. Only J.D. students who are enrolled and in good standing are eligible for the Scholarship.
2. The Financial Aid Office will assess eligibility using the financial data provided on FAAST for the student, the student’s parent(s), and the student’s spouse (as applicable). In addition, all students awarded the Horizon Scholarship must submit tax returns, and other financial information as required, to verify the reported data. The Scholarship may be revoked or adjusted if there is a difference between the information reported on FAAST and the tax return that affects eligibility.
3. In order to be eligible for the Hurst Horizon Scholarship, the student’s family must have income up to 200% of the [federal poverty guidelines](#), and their family’s assets must be below \$150K. The Financial Aid Office will evaluate financial information about the student’s custodial and non-custodial household(s) (as applicable). If one or both of a student’s parents has been waived from the Financial Aid process due to extraordinary circumstances, their income and assets will be ignored.
4. Students who are 29 or older must submit parental financial information to be considered for the Scholarship. Parents of these students will not need to submit a FAAST application; instead, they must submit a Parent Supplemental Form for Hurst Horizon, and their most recent tax return(s).
5. Student assets and income will be reviewed as part of the eligibility assessment process. The Hurst Horizon Scholarship may be reduced or not awarded if there are very significant assets or income. Under most circumstances, students will remain eligible for the Scholarship if they work during the academic year or summer. The Financial Aid Office will calculate summer income contributions, however, these contributions earned will not affect Scholarship eligibility.
6. Spouse assets and income will be reviewed as part of the eligibility assessment process. The Hurst Horizon Scholarship may be reduced or not awarded if there is very significant spousal income or very significant spousal or joint assets.
7. The Financial Aid Office will review all relevant financial information provided by students, parents, and spouses (as applicable) and has discretion to award, not award, or reduce the Hurst Horizon Scholarship based on professional judgment and individual, financial circumstances. Any special circumstances should be discussed with the Financial Aid Office.
8. Hurst Horizon Scholars are required to reapply for financial aid each year and will be expected to provide tax returns from students, spouses, and parents (as applicable) to confirm eligibility. However, upon satisfactory completion of the financial aid application requirements, the Scholarship will be renewed in each subsequent academic year. The Financial Aid Office reserves the right to reassess the aid award in the exceptional circumstance that there has been an extraordinary improvement in the family’s financial situation such that it is possible for the family to pay a substantial amount toward tuition and fees.
9. All need-based financial aid policies continue to apply to recipients of the Hurst Horizon Scholarship.

**The Yellow Ribbon Program:**

Yale Law School is a full participant in the Yellow Ribbon program, a supplemental scholarship designed to assist eligible veterans pay for college, graduate school, or professional school. Veterans who are 100% eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), 100% of tuition and fees (including mandatory health fees) will be covered by a combination of Chapter 33 benefits, the federal Yellow Ribbon contribution, and a Yellow Ribbon matching contribution from Yale Law School. Eligibility can vary

so individual veterans should consult with the Veterans Affairs to determine eligibility.

For veterans living in housing on a military base or for which they receive a basic allowance under section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, Yale Law School must include a reasonable allowance for food on-campus or off-campus but cannot include housing costs in the cost of attendance budget.

### Scholarships and Grants from Outside Sources:

Scholarships or grants from outside sources will reduce a student’s self-help (loan and student/family contribution) dollar-for-dollar. The only exception is if the outside scholarship exceeds the entirety of self-help. An example of each scenario is below:

- A 1L student has demonstrated financial need of \$82,300 and that need is initially met with the unit loan for \$60,700 and a Yale Law Scholarship for \$21,600. The student then receives an outside scholarship from ABC Foundation for \$25,000.
  - The outside scholarship from ABC Foundation will reduce the student’s unit loan by \$25,000, and the new unit loan amount is \$35,700 and the Yale Law Scholarship remains at \$21,600.
  - As a result of the outside scholarship, the student’s demonstrated financial need is then met with a \$25,000 ABC Scholarship, \$35,700 unit loan, and \$21,600 Yale Law Scholarship.
- A 1L student has a family contribution of \$9,300 and demonstrated financial need of \$82,300 and that need is initially met with a unit loan for \$60,700 and a Yale Law Scholarship for \$21,600. The student then receives an outside scholarship from ABC Foundation for \$70,000.
  - The outside scholarship from ABC Foundation will reduce the student’s unit loan by \$60,700 and the new unit loan amount is \$0; the family contribution will be reduced by \$9,300 and the new family contribution is \$0, and the Yale Law Scholarship amount remains \$21,600
  - As a result of the outside scholarship, the student’s family contribution and demonstrated financial need is then met with a \$70,000 outside scholarship and \$21,600 Yale Law Scholarship.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

The process of applying for financial aid differs for both [newly admitted students](#) and [continuing students](#), for U.S. Citizens and International students, as well as for those students only seeking loan support versus those seeking both loans and scholarship. The following charts outline the requirements for making initial aid applications as well as accepting the aid award and establishing student loans.

### Financial Aid Application Requirements - New Admit Students:

SUBMIT TO RECEIVE INITIAL AID AWARD				
Application Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships
<a href="#">Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA)</a>	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Financial Aid Application and Scholarship Tool (FAAST)</a>		✓	✓	✓
<b>SUBMIT TO FINALIZE AID AWARD:</b>		<b>May 15, 2026</b>		

Application Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships
Student 2025 1040 IRS tax return/ equivalent foreign documentation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parent 2025 1040 IRS tax Return/ equivalent foreign documentation <i>Only for student under age 29 as of 12/31 of aid year</i>		✓		✓
<a href="#">Notification and Confirmation Form</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Educational Purpose Form</a>			✓	✓
<b>SUBMIT TO ESTABLISH STUDENT LOANS: August 1, 2026</b>				
Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships
Master Promissory Note*	✓	✓	✓	✓
Entrance Counseling Session*	✓	✓		
Title IV Authorization*	✓	✓		
International Loan Disclosure*			✓	✓
Truth in Lending Act (TILA) Disclosure*			✓	✓
Truth in Lending Act Self Certification			✓	✓

\*Student will receive email notification from Student Financial Services to complete these requirements on the Student Information System ([www.yale.edu/sis](http://www.yale.edu/sis)) at the appropriate time.

### Financial Aid Application Requirements - Current (Returning) Students:

<b>SUBMIT TO INITIATE AID APPLICATION</b>				
Application Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships
<a href="#">Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA)</a>	✓	✓		
<a href="#">Financial Aid Application and Scholarship Tool FFAST</a>		✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Summer Employer Confirmation Letter</a> (must include number of weeks working and gross earnings per week)		✓		✓
<b>SUBMIT TO FINALIZE AID APPLICATION June 1, 2025</b>				
Application Requirement	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans Only	Non U.S. Citizen Seeking Loans and Scholarships
<a href="#">Notification and Confirmation Form</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<a href="#">Educational Purpose Form</a>			✓	✓

**\* Note - if you are a returning student who:**

- ***has not yet borrowed student loans at YLS you will also need to complete the requirements to “Establish Student Loans” under the Financial Aid Requirements for New Admits.***
- ***did not previously apply for need-based scholarship support but now seeks consideration - you must submit the required tax documentation identified under the Financial Aid Requirements for New Admits.***

**Application Requirement Notes:**

- FAFSA [used to determine eligibility for federal student loans]:
  - Yale Law School’s Title IV federal code number is 001426.
  - Regardless of your age, it is not necessary to submit parental information on the FAFSA.
  - Married students will need to submit their spouse’s information.
  - You must e-sign the FAFSA using your assigned FSA ID.
  
- FAAST [used to determine eligibility for institutional scholarships]:
  - Students who will be 28 years old (or younger) on December 31, 2026, must submit parental information.
  - Students who will be at least 29 years old on December 31, 2026, do not have to submit parental information.
  - Married students will need to submit their spouse’s information.
  - Some questions on FAAST reflect data required for the purpose of specific scholarship fund eligibility and are used solely for that purpose.
  
- Tax Documentation:
  - All copies of tax documentation must be signed.
  - If student, spouse or parent was not required to file taxes a Student/Spouse Non-Tax Filer Form or Parent Non-Tax Filer Form must be submitted with accompanying W-2 forms.
  - Married students must submit their spouses’ individual 2025 tax return or joint tax return.
  - For newly admitted students who will be 28 years old (or younger) on December 31, 2026, parent tax documentation must be submitted as part of the standard financial aid application.
  - YLS will not collect tax documentation on the student, spouse or parent as part of the routine financial aid re-application process for returning (2L and 3L) students, unless the student has been awarded the Hurst Horizon Scholarship. However, YLS Financial Aid reserves the right to request, and students are responsible for submitting additional documentation (including tax documentation), as needed for the purposes of reconciling discrepancies, providing clarification of application data, or for federal verification purposes.
  - International students should submit equivalent foreign tax documentation both for themselves and applicable spouse or parent.
  
- Notification and Confirmation Form (to be completed in its entirety):
  - This form acts as your acceptance of the aid award offered. Please complete Section A indicating if you are declining or accepting any portion of the loans awarded.
  - In addition to the unit loans offered in your award letter, you may choose to borrow additional funds to cover the calculated parent, spouse, or student contribution(s). If you choose to do

this, you should indicate the additional borrowing requested in Section A. Note that only additional borrowing to support the calculated parent contribution is COAP eligible.

- If you are opting to use a private loan, you should indicate the lender, lender ID and type of loan in the appropriate fields in Section A.
- Documents to Establish Loans:
  - The Yale Law School Financial Aid Office does not certify loans with lenders until after July 1. After the loans have been certified, Student Financial Services will alert you by email that you may now complete entrance counseling, promissory notes and other loan disclosures. International Students will receive similar email notifications with instructions on completing requirements for the Yale Graduate and Professional International Loan. Do not complete any promissory notes prior to receiving confirmation that the loan has been certified.
  - All of these requirements will be directly accessible as downloads from the student's [YaleHub](#) account. Student Financial Services will provide full instructions on how to access the specific requirements you must complete.
  - These loan documents will only need to be completed once as a new borrower at Yale Law School and will then be effective for your entire enrollment.

**Students are also responsible for submitting additional documentation as requested by the Financial Aid Office for the purpose of reconciling discrepancies, providing clarification of application data, or if selected for federal verification purposes. All internal Financial Aid Online Forms are available on our [website](#).**

## **AFTER RECEIVING YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER LETTER**

Once we have received your application, it will be reviewed, and an offer letter generated. Incoming students will receive their financial aid offer via their Admissions Slate Portal. Current students may use their permanent Net ID and password to retrieve their financial aid letter via [YaleHub](#).

Incoming students will receive a preliminary aid offer letter based solely on submission of their FAFSA and/or FFAST application and then will receive final offer confirmation upon submission of all pending financial aid documents (tax documents, Notification and Confirmation Form, etc.). Continuing students will receive final aid award letters based on the submission of their FAFSA and FFAST application, and federal taxes when applicable.

Your financial aid offer letter will specify the unit loan and grant amounts you are eligible for as well as the student, parental and spousal contributions (if applicable) that are expected from you. ***You are not obligated to borrow the full unit loan amount that is included in your offer letter. We encourage you to think carefully about the loan amount you will need.***

Legacy borrowers may borrow a Federal Direct Grad Plus, Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan or private loans to replace the expected student, and or/ spouse, and/or parental contributions. New students may borrow a federal loan or private loan to replace the expected student, and/or spouse, and/or parental contribution. Loans taken to replace the calculated parental contribution will be eligible for COAP. Loans taken to replace student and/or spouse contributions, and loans borrowed in excess of the standard budget, are not covered by COAP. If you have questions about whether or not a loan qualifies for COAP, please contact the Financial Aid Office. Subsequent documentation necessary to both accept your financial aid offer and establish your student loans are outlined in the Application Requirement charts. Note that all students must submit a Notification and Confirmation Form to accept (or decline) their financial aid offer.

## PAYING YOUR TUITION BILL

### Using Your Financial Aid to Pay Your Bill:

Student Financial Services creates a “student account”. This account is used for charges (tuition, fees, housing, health insurance, etc.), payments and financial aid awards. The student account is available for you to review at any time on [YaleHub](#). During the summer prior to initial enrollment, Yale sends incoming students a NetID along with instructions on how to activate the NetID and how to access your student account.

Financial aid awards (loans, scholarships and stipends) are disbursed to a student’s account ten days before the first day of classes. The loan and scholarship amounts are disbursed 50% in the fall term and 50% in the spring term.

You can view and pay your term bills and monthly bills using the SIS *eBill-ePay* system by selecting the *Student Accounts* tab at the top and then *eBill-ePay*. Any accepted aid will appear as “anticipated aid” until it disburses ten days prior to the start of the term. You are responsible for making payment of any charges beyond those covered by your financial aid. All bills must be paid in U.S. currency. Checks should be payable in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank. All other checks will be returned to the sender without being processed. Fall 2026 term bills are due by July 31, 2026, and Spring 2027 term bills are due November 30, 2026. Failure to pay any portion of the bill by the due dates will result in late fees. Yale Law School cannot waive late fees for any reason.

### Using Your Financial Aid to Receive a Refund:

Funds in your account are first applied to any core Yale institutional charges. For example, your term (tuition) bill and student fees, and then if there is a credit on your account due to excess aid funds over the amount of your core charges, you are entitled to a “refund.”

<i>Example:</i>		
Tuition and fees bill per semester	\$42,791	(debit)
YLS scholarship/stipend per semester	\$26,131	(credit)
Student loans per semester	\$30,350	(credit)
	-----	
Credit available to you as refund	\$13,690	_____

You can request refunds of credit balances on [YaleHub](#) by selecting the *Student Accounts* tab at the top and then *Refund Request from Student Account*. **Credit refunds will be available ten days before the first day of classes.** If you wish to have your refund directly deposited into your personal bank account, select the *Student Accounts* tab at the top and then select *Direct Deposit Authorization*. If you change bank accounts, please remember to update your new account information here as well. **To receive the credit refund, all financial aid requirements, and/or student holds must be satisfied.**

### The Yale Payment Plan:

The Yale Payment Plan (YPP) is administered by the University’s Office of Student Financial Services and enables students and families to pay all or a portion of the term bill in ten monthly installments beginning June 4. Students must enroll by June 4 for the ten-month plan. The only fee associated with YPP is an enrollment fee of \$50 per term. If you are participating in the Yale Payment Plan, your Yale student account will be credited with one-half of the annual contract amount each semester. If your YPP account becomes delinquent (not paid by the payment plan due date), the unpaid contract balance may be

charged to your regular Yale student account and be subject to applicable late payment fees. The enrollment form can be found online in the Yale Payment Plan section of the [Student Accounts website](#). For additional information, please contact Student Financial Services at (203) 432-2700 or email [ypp@yale.edu](mailto:ypp@yale.edu).

### **Yale Tuition Insurance:**

Yale Tuition Insurance (YTI) is designed to protect you by alleviating the loss of funds you paid for tuition, room and board should you find it necessary to withdraw from school during the term for medical reasons. This plan complements Yale's published refund policy, assuring you of a significant tuition refund any time during the term. YTI is available to all Yale students. The cost is based on the total amount of tuition and other insured expenses. Full details on coverage and exclusions are available on the [Student Accounts website](#). Interested students should contact: A.W.G. Dewar, Inc. at 617-774-1555 directly for an application form which contains the specific cost for your school. Complete and return the application to the address indicated on the application. The application and payment for YTI must be mailed so that it is postmarked prior to the opening date of classes.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL AID POLICIES**

### **Laptop Purchase Program:**

The Financial Aid Office and Yale Law IT have partnered to offer a program that provides all students with the opportunity to purchase a laptop computer through the Law School. Students are eligible to participate in this program, during the academic year of their choosing. A one-time purchase of up to \$3,000 is eligible for the program. This program has several advantages for students: (1) the laptop may be less expensive if purchased through YLS, and (2) the laptop can be purchased through a COAP-eligible student loan with no upfront costs. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office or click [here](#) for details.

### **YLS Safety Net Emergency Assistance:**

The Yale Law School Safety Net is intended to assist law students who face unanticipated, unforeseen, and unavoidable financial hardship that would likely impact or hinder academic progress. This funding is intended primarily for emergency circumstances and priority is given to students with the highest levels of financial need. In general, the fund does not cover recurring expenses; instead, it is intended for students who cannot reasonably resolve an immediate financial difficulty through other means. The funding is a one-time award and does not require repayment.

### **Yale Health Insurance Coverage:**

Scholarship recipients will receive the cost of Yale Health Insurance as part of their scholarship award. If the student waives the university health insurance, the Yale Law Scholarship will be adjusted downward by \$3,422. Students must notify the Financial Aid Office of their intent to accept or waive the insurance by June 15, 2025. Additionally, students who obtain vision and dental coverage through the Yale Health Plan will be eligible to borrow a COAP eligible loan to cover the cost. Students who obtain family health coverage are eligible for a non-COAP eligible loan. Students must submit a Budget Revision form (with documentation of enrollment) to the Financial Aid Office.

### **Federal Verification:**

FAFSA applicants are randomly selected for federal verification by the Department of Education. Your Student Aid Report (generated from your FAFSA) will indicate if you have been selected for verification. You will also be informed of your selection by the Financial Aid Office and provided with detailed instructions on the additional documentation required to satisfy the verification requirement. You will not receive an aid award letter until the verification process has been completed.

### **Institutional Verification:**

Students seeking first time consideration for grant/scholarship support undergo institutional verification for funds requiring applicants to submit a **signed** copy of their own and their spouse's complete (all pages, including W2s) 2025 Federal income tax returns (Form 1040). Students who are applying for grants and are age 28 or younger (by December 31 of the academic year) must also submit **signed** copies of their parents' tax returns. This information is used for internal audit only and will be treated in the strictest confidence. This requirement can be satisfied with photocopies, or the actual income tax return filed with the IRS. If you have not kept a copy, please go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to obtain Form 4506 to request a tax transcript.

### **Awards Disbursement:**

Scholarship funds will not be disbursed, and loans will not be processed until all required forms are in the student's financial aid file. Failure to provide these forms may result in substantial late fees charged to the student's bill.

### **Independence Determination:**

For the purposes of distributing Yale Law School grants/scholarships, we consider the financial resources of the parents of students who are age 28 or younger (by December 31 of the academic year for which aid is sought) as described on pages 8-9. In very rare cases, students who are younger than age 29 may be able to demonstrate independence from their parents. Please feel free to discuss your situation with the Financial Aid Office.

### **Default on Prior Student Loans:**

It is the University's policy to refuse financial aid to a student who is in default with any federal loan, university student loan or if a refund is owed to the Department of Education, Yale, or any other educational institution. If a student is found to be in default after being offered financial aid, the University will withdraw all aid immediately and continue to hold the student responsible for any charges that may have been incurred.

### **Fraud or Misconduct:**

Federal regulations require that the University conduct reviews of federal loan applications and report any credible information indicating that an applicant may have engaged in fraud or other criminal misconduct in connection with their federal loan application. The information will be reported to the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education or other law enforcement officials. Please note: For non-U.S. Citizens, the information on the student visa form and the financial aid application must correspond. If the information varies, it must be corrected, or it will be reported to the Office of International Students and Scholars.

We expect students, those submitting information on a student's behalf, and those submitting information in connection with a student's application to: (i) provide true and complete information to the best of their knowledge; (ii) recognize that a financial aid application is filed jointly by everyone who enters data into it; (iii) provide any information requested to verify the accuracy of the application and related materials; (iv) expressly authorize Yale or its agents to request and obtain information to verify the accuracy of the application and related materials; and, (v) expressly authorize all persons or entities to provide any information to Yale or its agents that will verify the application and related materials. Failure to comply can result in a range of consequences, including, but not limited to, a report to the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education, other law enforcement officials, and OISS; withdrawal, in whole or in part, of a financial aid award; a requirement to repay, in whole or in part, a financial aid award; and referral for disciplinary or other action.

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress:**

Title 34 Part 668 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires institutions to establish reasonable Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards for "determining whether an eligible student is making satisfactory academic progress in his or her educational program and may receive assistance under the Title IV, HEA programs" and institutional financial aid. Refer to the [Yale Law School Policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress for the Juris Doctor Degree](#).

### **Additional Semester in Residence:**

Under exceptional circumstances and if deemed medically necessary, a student may be granted permission to enroll for one additional semester at Yale Law School. The student must submit medical documentation to the Dean of Student Affairs. The Dean of Student Affairs, Assistant Dean and Registrar, Deputy Dean, and Associate Dean of Finance and Administration will review the documentation and approve or deny the request for one additional semester. If approved, the student will be eligible for need-based financial aid, which includes a scholarship or grant and COAP-eligible loans. If a student is granted permission to take less than a full-time load for the additional semester, tuition and financial aid will be prorated on the basis of a standard course load of twelve (12) units. Fees will be assessed at 100% for any semester in which the student carries less than a full-time course load.

### **Yale Law School Tuition Rebate and Refund Policy:**

On the basis of the Federal regulations governing the return of Federal Student Aid (Title IV) funds for withdrawn students, the rebate and refund of tuition is subject to the following policy:

1. For purposes of determining the refund of Title IV funds, any student who withdraws from the Law School for any reason during the first 60% of the term will be subject to a pro-rata schedule which will be used to determine the amount of Title IV funds a student has earned at the time of withdrawal. Funds are earned according to the percentage of the term completed. A student who withdraws after the 60% point has earned 100% of the Title IV funds. In 2026-2027, the last days for refunding Title IV funds will be November 5, 2026, in the fall term and April 5, 2027, in the spring term.
2. For purposes of determining the refund of institutional aid funds and for students who have not received financial aid, tuition will be rebated in accordance with the following policy:
  - a. 100% of tuition will be rebated for withdrawals which occur on or before the end of the first 10% of the term (September 6, 2026, in the fall term and January 31, 2027, in the spring term).
  - b. A rebate of one-half (50%) of tuition will be granted for withdrawals which occur after the first 10% but on or before the last day of the first quarter of the term (September 24, 2026, in the fall term and February 16, 2027, in the spring term).
  - c. A rebate of one-quarter (25%) of tuition will be granted for withdrawals which occur after the first quarter of a term but on or before the day of midterm (October 11, 2026, in the fall term and March 12, 2027, in the spring term).
  - d. Students who withdraw for any reason after midterm will not receive a rebate of any portion of tuition.
3. The death of a student shall cancel charges for tuition as of the date of death and the Bursar will adjust the tuition on a pro-rata basis.
4. If the student has received student loans or other forms of financial aid, funds will be returned in the order prescribed by Federal regulations; namely, first to Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans, if any;

then to Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans; next to any other Federal, State, private or institutional scholarships and loans; and finally, any remaining balance to the student.

5. Recipients of Federal and/or institutional loans who withdraw are required to have an Exit Interview before leaving Yale. Students leaving Yale receive instructions on completing this process from Yale Student Financial Services.

## II. ADDITIONAL YALE LAW SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

### Summer Public Interest Fellows (SPIF):

Yale supports one of the most expansive programs of summer public interest work in the law school world. In the summer of 2025, we provided fellowships for over 130 students through the Summer Public Interest Fellowship (SPIF). We will continue this program for the summer of 2026, supporting Yale students working in public interest, government, and not-for-profit organizations.

SPIF provides students with funds to support their living costs while they pursue unpaid employment at eligible public interest organizations. The Law School has guaranteed that a SPIF fellowship will be at least \$8,000 (pro-rated at \$666.67 per week for up to a maximum of 12 weeks). Students who receive outside funding from grants, stipends from their public interest employer, stipends, bonuses, fellowships from a future employer, or additional jobs should consult with the Financial Aid Office to determine if the additional income will impact SPIF eligibility. In most cases, part-time work will not impact SPIF eligibility.

Work in federal, state, and local government and with not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt statuses qualify for SPIF. For positions outside the United States, it is impossible to define a precise eligibility standard, but in general, governmental entities and those entities that would be 501(c)(3) organizations if they were located in the United States will qualify. All eligible employers must also comply with the Law School's Non-Discrimination Policy. To guide your job search and selection process, you may request an advisory ruling on whether the organization qualifies by giving the Financial Aid Office a description of the organization.

Full information, application information and guidelines are available on the [SPIF website](#). Note that guidelines for Summer 2027 SPIF will be released in Fall 2026.

### Career Options Assistance Program (COAP):

Yale Law School has pioneered a loan repayment assistance program to ensure that law school loans do not dictate a graduate's career choice: the Career Options Assistance Program (COAP). To allow YLS alumni to choose their jobs without regard to their student loans, COAP is designed to assist graduates with their loan payments.

Established in 1989, COAP was one of the first loan forgiveness programs of its kind. Since its inception, it has served as a model for similar programs at law schools across the country. Today, it is one of the most distinctive, generous, and flexible loan forgiveness programs available, with minimal eligibility requirements. Since its inception, more than 2,000 Yale Law School graduates have participated in COAP, receiving over \$100 million in benefits. Most recently in 2025, COAP disbursed over \$3 million to more than 290 alumni to assist in the repayment of their student loans.

COAP grants are calculated based on a graduate's income, indebtedness, and an imputed loan

repayment schedule. First, the graduate's income is adjusted to deduct retirement savings, childcare costs, etc. For graduates whose adjusted income is less than a certain "threshold" level, COAP covers their entire imputed loan payment. Graduates who earn more than the threshold are expected to contribute a percentage of their income to their loan repayment with COAP supporting the balance. Unlike most programs, COAP grants cover not only loans for Yale Law School, but also some need-based undergraduate educational loans as well.

As with all of Yale's policies and programs, individual factors and special needs are taken into account. The program's income levels, guidelines, and regulations are also reviewed and revised periodically. For COAP specifics, students should consult the COAP Program Description and COAP Handbook specific to their Class Year posted on the [website](#). An online COAP calculator is also available to assist both prospective and current students in estimating possible COAP support: <http://coapcalc.law.yale.edu/>.

### III. FINANCIAL AID TIPS

- It is your ethical obligation to inform the Financial Aid Office of any changes to your financial situation.
- Keep copies of all of your financial aid applications and forms.
- You do not need to borrow the full amount of loans included in your award letter. Please consider your budget and only borrow the amount you think you will realistically need.
- Develop a budget to allocate your financial aid funds and to ensure that you have sufficient resources during the academic year. Note that the Financial Aid Office can assist you in budget preparation.
- Keep an account of how much you have borrowed each year and be aware of your anticipated monthly payments. It is important that you know what your payments will be before you take out additional loans because that will increase your monthly debt. The Financial Aid Office can refer you to many loan repayment calculators which can help you estimate payments.
- Carefully read all of the documents you signed and verify the accuracy of all the information you provided.
- Review your credit record for accuracy. Even if you pay your bills on time, inaccurate information could be used to deny you credit. We strongly suggest that you obtain a copy of your credit report, review it for accuracy and dispute erroneous information promptly to avoid delays in obtaining your student loans. Credit worthiness could impact your eligibility for student loans (i.e. federal Grad Plus loan or private loans) and could also impact your approval for a private Bar Loan post-graduation.
- If you face any changes or challenges during the academic year impacting your finances, we encourage you to share that information with the Financial Aid Office so that we can review what support and options might be available to assist you.
- Credit refunds will be available ten days before the first day of classes. Please plan accordingly if you will arrive in New Haven prior to receiving your credit refund.

## IV. FINANCIAL AID GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accrued Interest:** Is interest that accumulates on the loan and is paid by the borrower.

**Capitalization of Fees and Interest:** When fees and accrued interest on a loan are “capitalized” they are added to the principal balance. The interest becomes part of the principal balance and begins to accrue interest.

**COAP:** The Career Options Assistance Program is available to graduates of Yale Law School within ten years of graduation and is a loan forgiveness/repayment program to assist alums pursuing lower-paying jobs in any field.

**Co-signer:** A co-signer on a loan assumes responsibility for the loan if the borrower should fail to repay it.

**Consolidation:** Combining several loans into a single loan to reduce the monthly payment amount and/or increase the repayment period. Most federal loans may be consolidated after graduation.

**Default:** The failure of a borrower either to make installment payments when due or to comply with other terms of the promissory note.

**Deferment:** A period during which the repayment of the principal amount of the loan is suspended as a result of the borrower’s meeting one of the requirements established by law and/or contained in the promissory note. During this period, the borrower may or may not have to pay interest on the loan. Deferments are often granted if the borrower continues to be a full-time student in another program after graduation from law school.

**Deferred Interest:** Is interest that accrues, but on which payment is delayed until a later date. Such deferred (accrued) interest may be capitalized.

**Delinquent:** A borrower who has failed to make one or more scheduled payments by the due dates.

**Disbursement:** The release of loan funds to the school for delivery to the borrower. Disbursements are usually made in two equal installments directly to the school.

**Forbearance:** An agreement to accept a temporary cessation of loan payments, smaller payments than were previously scheduled, or an extension of time for making payments. Forbearance may be given for circumstances not covered by deferment that adversely affect the borrower’s ability to meet loan payment obligations, such as economic hardship.

**Grace period:** Specified period of time between the date a student graduates or drops below half-time status and the date loan repayment begins.

**Interest:** A charge for the use of money. Interest is calculated as a percentage of the loan principal. The interest rate charged can be fixed, which means it does not change over the life of the loan, or the rate can be variable, in which case, it changes periodically.

**Loan:** A type of financial aid which must be repaid, with interest.

**Need-Based Financial Aid:** Need-based financial aid is determined by the student’s financial resources

and ability to pay for his/her education. When the amount he/she is able to pay is subtracted from the cost of education, the difference is the student's financial need. This need is usually met with federal loans, private loans, and/or Law School scholarships.

**Principal:** Principal refers to the total amount borrowed plus any capitalized fees and interest.

**Promissory Note:** A legal document signed by the borrower, and co-signer if required, when obtaining a loan. It lists the conditions under which the loan is made and the terms under which the borrower agrees to repay the loan.

**Scholarship:** A scholarship is a gift from the Law School to help defray the cost of tuition which does not have to be repaid.

**Stipend:** A stipend is a gift from the Law School to help defray the cost of tuition which does not have to be repaid.



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