



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF LAW

2023-2024 FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES BOOKLET FOR J.D. STUDENTS

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1. Introduction

Message from the Financial Aid Office

Dear Students,

The goal of the Financial Aid Program is to ensure that the Faculty of Law is financially accessible to all J.D. 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 Committee strives to create a financial aid system that is fair to all students who require assistance and demonstrate financial need and ensures 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 subsidies on approved lines of credit amounts.

Every effort is made by our Financial Aid Office to ensure that student records remain private and confidential.

- 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 Financial Aid Committee for consideration
- Student Records are kept in accordance with U of T's Record Retention Policy

We hope that this booklet provides you with useful information not only about our Financial Aid Program but also other programs and resources available during and after law school. 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. We welcome all inquiries.

Regards,

The Financial Aid Office Team
financialaid.law@utoronto.ca

Important Things to Know about Financial Aid

Written and updated in consultation with the student members of the Financial Aid Committee

Financial Aid is calculated based on unmet 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. The difference is your “unmet need”. Financial aid is distributed proportionate to the unmet need of all J.D. students applying for financial aid.

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 in fact 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 a law school education.

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 is dependent on the financial situation of the entire pool of J.D. students applying for financial aid. Therefore, the amount of financial aid that you receive in one year does not guarantee that you will receive the same amount in other years.

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 are allowable expenses.

Pre-law educational loans

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

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 unpaid positions such as internships and volunteering should contact the Financial Aid Office for further guidance.

Use the Financial Aid Estimator

You can use the [Financial Aid Estimator](http://www.law.utoronto.ca/financial-aid-estimator) to get an estimate of your financial aid assessment (www.law.utoronto.ca/financial-aid-estimator)

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 email financialaid.law@utoronto.ca which we answer within 2 business days or stop by Student Services Hub for an appointment.

Request for Re-consideration

If you feel that your financial aid award does not reflect the special circumstances you face, you may request a reconsideration of your file within 30 days of receiving your notice of 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 enquiries within 2 business days. If reassessment is warranted, the Financial Aid Office will endeavor to complete the reassessment and notify the student within two weeks from the time of the receipt of all supporting documents required to complete the reassessment. As funding is issued by a separate unit of the University, the Financial Aid Office cannot guarantee when the funds will be issued to the student but stipulates that typically students receive funds within 30 days of submitting a completed request. Requests that require consultation with the FAC may take longer to resolve as they are dependent on the schedule of the Committee. Regardless, the student will be notified of the situation and the timing of the request's 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 the information 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.

All information submitted after the initial financial aid application will be used by the Faculty to re-calculate students' financial aid applications. Recalculation may result in students receiving additional funding or being required to pay back an over-payment to the law school. The Financial Aid Office will work with the student to capture the change. 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 who are required to repay their bursary overpayments may also be subject to academic sanctions as explained in the Faculty of Law Academic Handbook.

Students are also required to report any changes to their financial situation to their government student financial assistance program.

Financial Aid Estimator

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

2. Eligibility to Receive Faculty of Law Financial Aid

A. Student Status

Students must be University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, Juris Doctor (J.D.) students and enrolled in the J.D. Program in order to be eligible to apply for financial assistance.

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

Students who are going on exchange programs abroad are eligible to apply for financial aid. The same deadlines are in place for these students.

Upper-Year transfer students

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

International students

Students who are not Canadian citizens or do not hold Canadian permanent residency status, and who enroll in the J.D. Program 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. Only upon presentation of this documentation are international students provided with student visas to study in the country.

Letter of permission, incoming exchange, and National Committee on Accreditation students

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 who are 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 financial aid committee may consider their eligibility to apply for financial aid if funds are available.

B. Government financial assistance

All financial aid applicants are required to apply for government student financial assistance.

C. Acceptable credit rating/score

An acceptable credit rating/score is necessary to access certain forms of financial assistance, such as a line of credit from one of our preferred lenders or a government loan.

The individual lenders (bank and government) set the credit criteria according to their policies. Therefore, it is important to maintain a good credit rating prior to and during law school.

It is highly recommended that students who are applying for financial assistance verify their credit rating on their own in addition to verifying it with Scotiabank and TD. You can access several free credit rating bureaus online if needed.

The lack of a positive credit history, including no credit history, can be a significant obstacle to accessing financing for your legal education. Prospective students who do not have a positive credit history are encouraged to take the

steps necessary to establish or to rehabilitate their credit histories well in advance of seeking financing for educational expenses. **The Faculty of Law is not a lender and is unable to provide loans to students who are unable to secure credit from banks.** For more information about credit histories and credit scores, please see <https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/credit-reports-score/understand-credit-report.html> <https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/credit-reports-score.html>

3. Calculating Financial Need

Overview

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

A deemed basic budget is set by the Financial Aid Committee and applied to all students. A set of allowable expenses may be claimed in addition to the deemed basic budget published in this booklet. A student’s personal/family deemed contributions, government assistance, income from different sources and assets are then deducted from the student’s allowable budget. If the allowable budget is greater than the personal/family resources and government assistance, the student may be eligible for a Faculty of Law bursary and/or an interest subsidy on eligible students’ lines of credit 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.

Expenses

- Deemed expenses
- Allowable expenses

Resources

- Government Student Loans and Grants
- Student personal contribution (income/assets/investments)
- Student socio economic index
- Spousal deeming contribution
- Summer earnings deeming contribution
- External scholarships

$$\text{UNMET FINANCIAL NEED} = \text{Deemed expenses} + \text{Allowable expenses} \text{ MINUS Resources}$$

Unmet need is covered or met through a combination of bursaries and interest subsidies on eligible student line of credit amounts.

The ratio of a student’s unmet need to the total unmet need of all students in the same year level will be used to determine that student’s bursary allocation, as follows:

$$\text{BURSARY} = \frac{\text{Student's Unmet Need*}}{\text{Total Unmet Need of All Students in the Same Year Level}} \times \frac{\text{Total Bursary Funds Available for All Students in the Same Year Level}}$$

The remaining portion of a student’s unmet need that is not covered by a bursary will be covered through an approved amount of a student line of credit. The Faculty of Law will pay the interest on this amount (interest subsidy).

$$\text{APPROVED LINE OF CREDIT AMOUNT} = \text{Student's Unmet Need MINUS Student's Bursary}$$

Bursaries are issued to students whose need exceeds \$8,000. The first \$8,000 can be covered by a line of credit (LOC). If a student chooses to use their LOC for this purpose, the Financial Aid Program will reimburse the student for the interest incurred while a student is in the program. The available funding for each financial aid applicant is affected by individual student’s financial circumstances, the amount of Faculty funds available, and the number of eligible applicants. These factors fluctuate from year to year; thus, students may receive different amounts of bursary funding every year. The Faculty’s Financial Aid Estimator at <https://www.law.utoronto.ca/financial-aid-estimator> will show you approximately how much you will receive in financial aid from the Faculty.

Expenses:

A. Deemed Expenses - Basic Student Budget

8 months from Sept 2023* to April 2024

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

Ontario Residents:

	First Year*	Second Year	Third Year
Domestic Tuition 2023-2024**	\$33,040	\$33,040	\$33,040
Incidental/Ancillary Fees**	\$1,881	\$1,831	\$1,831
Books and Supplies	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$1,000
Personal Expenses ***	\$2,550	\$2,400	\$2,400
Room and Board – living away ****	\$16,703	\$15,720	\$15,720
Room and Board - living with parents/guardians *****	\$4,803	\$4,520	\$4,520
Total Budget – living away	\$55,274	\$53,991	\$53,991
Total Budget – living with parents/guardians	\$43,374	\$42,791	\$42,791

* First year students: the budget reflects the fact that classes begin in mid-August rather than after Labour Day.

** We expect the university to post the official tuition and ancillary fees for the upcoming academic year in mid-July at <https://studentaccount.utoronto.ca/>

*** Personal Expenses amount includes entertainment, gifts, clothing, personal maintenance and routine medical and dental expenses

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

Out of Province Residents:

	First Year*	Second Year	Third Year
Domestic Tuition 2023-2024**	\$35,730	\$35,730	\$35,730
Incidental/Ancillary Fees**	\$1,881	\$1,831	\$1,831
Books and Supplies	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$1,000
Personal Expenses ***	\$2,550	\$2,400	\$2,400
Room and Board – living away ****	\$16,703	\$15,720	\$15,720
Room and Board - living with parents/guardians *****	\$4,803	\$4,520	\$4,520
Total Budget – living away	\$57,964	\$56,681	\$56,681
Total Budget – living with parents/guardians	\$46,064	\$45,481	\$45,481

* First year students: the budget reflects the fact that classes begin in mid-August rather than after Labour Day.

** Subject to provincial and university policies, for financial planning purposes, please budget for an increase in tuition which may not exceed 3% of the current year’s amount. We expect the university to post the official tuition and ancillary fees for the upcoming academic year in mid-July at <https://studentaccount.utoronto.ca/>

***Personal Expenses amount includes entertainment, gifts, clothing, personal maintenance, and routine medical and dental expenses.

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

B. Allowable Expenses (in addition to the Basic Budget Expenses)

Allowable expenses are **not reimbursed dollar-for-dollar**; the amounts of any allowed 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 go up 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. If there is no name on the receipt, students should ask for a receipt or invoice with their full name printed on it. Receipts that do not have students’ full names will not be processed.

For medical expenses not covered by the student health plan, medical documentation such as doctor's notes for prescriptions with the student's name can be submitted along with a receipt for payment. Please note that there is an allowance for routine medical expenses under Personal Expenses. The additional medical expenses noted here are for large medical expenses. Please reach out to the Financial Aid Office if you are not sure whether your medical expenses are eligible.

Copies of receipts must be submitted as early as possible. **The deadline for submitting receipts for allowable expenses is December 12, 2023.** Only unanticipated receipts will be accepted after this date, accompanied by an email explaining the situation to the Financial Aid Office.

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

List of allowable 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 additional 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 an allowable expense by the Financial Aid Committee, **with supporting documentation**.

Dependents

Students with dependent children will be allowed an additional \$5,000 per dependent.

Medical Expenses

Students are automatically covered by the UTSU Student Health & Dental Plan. Any cost that is eligible under that plan should be claimed against the health plan first. **Please be advised that a medical certificate and proof that the medical expenses are not covered by the student health plan must be submitted for any extra medical costs for treatment and/or prescriptions that are not covered by an insurance plan.**

Documentation can be provided to the Financial Aid Office before the December 12, 2023, deadline. For changes in expenses after this date, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

Example:

A second year Ontario resident will be living away from home and incurring medical expenses not covered by the University Health Plan. The student estimates monthly expenses to be \$270. The Financial Aid Office will add $\$270 \times 8 = \$2,160$ to the student's projected budget of \$54,991 to set the budget at \$57,151. If the student's expenses change (increase or decrease) by more than \$1,000 over the term, the student must submit an updated estimate and supporting documentation to the Financial Aid Office, and we will reassess the student's financial aid package. **A change in expenses can be provided at any time during the year and is not subject to deadlines noted elsewhere.** The student will need to provide supporting documentation indicating that these expenses are not covered by other plans, as well as the receipt with the student's name or prescription with the student's name.

Moving Expenses

Moving expenses will be considered as allowable expenses on a one-time basis in any year (e.g., if a student is commuting from Hamilton in Year One but decides to move to Toronto in Year Two, the student can claim the moving expenses in Year Two). 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 permitted is based on the distance of the move from the student's previous residence to the University of 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, things like buying furniture and other housewares are not eligible moving expenses. Pet expenses are also not eligible.

Students need to provide receipts/supporting documentation showing the expense was incurred by the student. The amount must be stated and the student's name visible.

Base Moving Expense

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

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 should not exceed the actual costs associated with the move as per the receipts paid by the student.

Example #1

A student moved from British Columbia to Toronto with 2 dependent children. Actual moving expenses as per receipts of \$2,500.

Moving expenses as per receipts	\$2,500
[A] Base moving expenses - Maximum allowable amount	\$1,900
[B] Additional moving expenses for 2 dependent children ((25% x \$1,900) x 2)	\$950
[A+B] Total calculated moving expenses	\$2,850
Total moving expenses allowed	\$2,500

Example # 2

A student moved from Ottawa with 1 dependent child. Actual moving expenses as per receipts of \$1,000.

Moving expenses as per receipts	\$1,000
[A] Base moving expenses - Maximum allowable amount	\$750
[B] Additional moving expenses for 1 dependent child (25% x \$750)	\$188
[A+B] Total calculated moving expenses	\$938
Total moving expenses allowed	\$938

In both of these examples, additional moving expenses for dependent children are allowed and added to the maximum allowable amounts.

Travel Home

Students who live outside of the Greater Toronto Area are entitled to an additional allowance for reasonable travel expenses for one trip from Toronto to their family home for the 2023-2024 academic year, up to a maximum of \$400 within Ontario and \$1,000 outside Ontario. Even within these allowances, expenses must be reasonable.

Students need to provide information about their traveling home expenses when completing their application form. If this information is not provided, the Financial Aid Office will assume that the travel home expense is \$0.

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.

C. Non-allowable Expenses

List of expenses that are not allowed

Credit Card Debt

Credit card debt, other consumer debt and associated interest costs are not considered by the Financial Aid Committee to be education-related and are thus not allowable expenses.

Loans for Pre-Law Studies

Government student loans and lines of credit taken out to help pay for pre-law studies are not allowable expenses. Government student loans do not need to be re-paid and are in an interest-free status for as long as a student is in full-time studies. Lines of credit that do not require a student to demonstrate financial need are considered general consumer debt and are not allowable expenses.

JD/MBA Student Tuition

JD/MBA students in their 3L and 4L years who pay the MBA tuition amount are not allowed to claim the MBA tuition. Only their law tuition will be considered as part of their deemed expenses. For these students, any Rotman scholarships and awards they receive will not be considered in the calculation of their Faculty of Law bursary. Please note that the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) and other awards external to Rotman will be considered.

Pets

Expenses related to pets will **not** be considered by the Financial Aid Committee.

Resources

A. 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.

Students are eligible for a government student loan if they are a Canadian citizen or a Permanent resident of Canada and if they are enrolled in at least 60 percent of a full course load. Students are considered residents of the province in which they have most recently lived for at least 12 consecutive months not including anytime spent as a full-time student at a post-secondary educational institution. Please contact the [University Registrar's Office](#) if you require further information about government student aid.

Please contact the Financial Aid Office if you require further information about government student loans.

Each provincial government administers and maintains a student financial aid program in cooperation with the federal government's Canada Student Loan Program. Each provincial program varies in its eligibility requirements and maximum borrowing amounts. Please consult Appendix I for your province's website details.

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. Students will be notified about their eligible bursaries at the end of September. The Faculty will report bursary information directly to OSAP. Students from outside of the province will be responsible for notifying their provincial government agencies once they have received the bursaries.
- Students must take screenshots of each of the application pages. Ontario students [can download a pdf copy of their application form](#). These must be submitted with the application form. The final assessment must be emailed to financialaid.law@utoronto.ca once received.

The Faculty will review students' government student 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.

UPDATE

Beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year, 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.

OSAP Inquiries

The University of Toronto Registrar's Office is responsible for processing and reviewing Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) applications for all University of Toronto students, including J.D. students. OSAP information is available at [UofT Registrar's Office](#). Additional inquiries should be addressed to osap.staff@utoronto.ca.

B. Resources - Personal

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.

i. Student Assets (including Spousal Assets)

Students' assets must be declared and will be deemed at 100% of current value, including assets owned by spouses or partners. Assets include but are not limited to chequing and savings accounts; investments such as GICs, bonds, mutual funds, TFSAs, RRSPs, RESPs, an owned vehicle; and equity in a home, cottage, or property. Liabilities associated with declared assets should also be reported. **A vehicle owned (not leased) by a student will be deemed to be an asset.**

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). **With respect to shared assets, students must provide a detailed verification of the value of their share of the asset in question.** Any amount of cash savings or investments must be recorded on the application form.

Students with assets are encouraged to apply to the financial aid program regardless. While students might not qualify for assistance in year 1, their eligibility can change in years 2 and 3. For example, a student with \$40,000 of assets may not qualify for any bursaries in the first year, however, they will be deemed as using part of their assets (e.g., \$30,000) to pay for first year expenses. In the second year, the student is considered to have only \$10,000 in assets, and their eligibility for bursaries changes.

A student who reports \$10,000 equity in a home, or property and requires \$6,000 to meet their financial need for an academic year will be deemed to use \$6,000 from the equity in their home to meet their financial need for that year. If the student's need for the following year is \$7,000, the Financial Aid Committee will only deem the remaining \$4,000 from the home equity, unless the equity has risen since.

ii. 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.

Examples

- A first-year student who declares RRSP assets of \$25,000 will be deemed \$10,000 in each of years 1 and 2 of the J.D. program for a total of \$20,000.
- A first-year student who declares RRSP assets of \$7,000 will be deemed \$7,000 in year 1 of the J.D. program.
- A first-year student who declares RRSP assets of \$15,000 will be deemed \$10,000 in year 1 and \$5,000 in year 2 of the J.D. program.

iii. 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 before the beginning of summer (May 1) 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.

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 \$3,210 of a student's gross summer income is exempted.
- Students will be deemed to save 50% of gross summer income between \$3,200 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 \$8,810 of a student's gross summer income is exempted.
- Students will be deemed to save 50% of gross summer income between \$8,810 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 school starts** 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	\$1,000
Second	\$1,500
Third	\$3,000

If a student cannot work during the summer months due to a medical condition, medical documentation will be required.

Students are required to record on the financial aid application the actual amount of gross income from all sources and are expected to provide final documentation at the end of the summer. **Students who do not record the actual amounts in the hopes of greater financial assistance hinder the ability of the Faculty to help those students who are in greatest financial need and are in violation of the signed declaration on the financial aid application.**

iv. Student Socio-Economic Index

Information about 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.

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 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 of the most recent Canadian Income Tax Return Notice of Assessment (NOA) or equivalent income tax returns from other jurisdictions) for both parents/guardians. 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 parents' income tax notices of assessment. The average of these three (3) year's 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 prior to beginning law school, the financial aid program will make an adjustment to their student socio-economic index with the provision of appropriate documentation.

To qualify for a downward adjustment to the students' socio-economic index, a student must provide *all* NOAs for the period after they begin law school (in addition to the NOAs that would have previously been submitted for the three years prior to beginning law school). The adjusted parental income will reflect the average of *all* the NOAs.

Example

Let us suppose a student began law school in the fall of 2022 and submitted parental NOAs for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 taxation years. The default presumptive parental income for them during law school will be the average of those three (3) NOAs. The special provision for material decreases in parental income during law school would work as follows.

- If parental income for the 2022 taxation year dropped by more than 25% from the 2019-2021 NOA average and the student would like this drop to be considered for fall 2023 financial aid, they would submit their parents' 2022 taxation year NOAs. The student's socio-economic index for their fall 2023 financial aid calculation will now be the average of the NOAs for the four (4) years from 2019-2022. Note that the student will be required to provide additional NOAs (e.g., 2023 taxation year) when they apply for financial aid in future years of the program, at which point parental income will be averaged across all available years (e.g., average of 2019-2023 taxation years).
- Now suppose the student does not submit an NOA for the year 2022. If parental income for the 2023 year drops by more than 25% against the 2019-2021 NOA average and they would like this drop to be considered for their fall 2024 financial aid calculation, they would need to submit NOAs for their parents for both the 2022 and 2023 taxation years. The student's socio-economic index for their fall 2024 financial aid calculation will now be the average of the NOAs for the five (5) years from 2019-2023.

Student Socio-Economic Index Calculations

For one-household families

A basic exemption of \$82,283 per family will be deducted from the total averaged parental income. \$4,000 for each dependent child under the age of 18 will also be deducted from this amount. In rare and exceptional circumstances, other dependents may be considered if sufficient documentation is provided to the Financial Aid Committee.

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

15% of total parental gross income between \$82,283 and \$199,876

Plus

25% of total parental gross income more than \$199,876

Parental Income <i>(Assuming no other dependents living in the same household)</i>	Deemed Contribution
82,283 or less	0
100,000	2,658
150,000	10,158
200,000	17,670
250,000	30,170

Examples:

<i>1. Assume a combined parental income (both parents) of \$90,000</i>	
Aggregate Contribution	$0.15 \times (\$90,000 - \$82,283) = \$1,158$
Student socio-economic index contribution = \$1,158	

<i>2. Assume a combined parental income (both parents) of \$220,000 and 1 child in university (the applicant) and 1 dependent child under 18 years of age.</i>	
Gross income after one dependent child under the age of 18 exemption = $\$220,000 - \$4,000$ = \$216,000	
Aggregate Contribution	$= 0.15 \times (\$199,876 - \$82,283) + 0.25 \times (\$216,000 - \$199,876)$ $= \$17,639 + \$4,031$ $= \$21,670$
Student socio-economic index contribution = \$21,670	

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

A basic exemption of \$120,803 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 \$120,803 and \$199,876
Plus
25% of total parental gross income more than \$199,876

Parental Income <i>(Assuming no other dependents living in the same households)</i>	Deemed Contribution
120,803	0
150,000	4,380
200,000	11,892
250,000	24,392

v. **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.

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

Example of Student Socio-Economic Index with Age Inclusion Index

Assume a combined parental income (both parents/guardians) of \$85,500 and 1 child in university (i.e., the applicant, aged 32)

Aggregate Contribution = $0.15 \times (\$85,500 - \$82,283) = \$483$

Student Socio-economic Index x Age Inclusion Index = $\$483 \times 0.75 = \362

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’ 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. A declaration is included in the financial aid application and must be completed by the spouses or partners of students.

The first \$41,141.50 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 \$41,141.5 and \$99,938

Plus

25% of total spousal gross income more than \$99,938

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

Example:

Spouse earns \$45,000

Spousal contribution = $0.15 \times (\$45,000 - \$41,141.5)$
= **\$579**

Spouse earns \$100,000

Spousal contribution = $0.15 \times (\$99,938 - \$41,141.5) + 0.25 \times (\$100,000 - \$99,938)$
= $\$8,819 + \15.5
= **\$8,834.50**

A married student must also 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.

vi. 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. Faculty policy states that students should 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 students' resources.

Example:

Student reports total income of \$5,000 from their part-time job during the academic year.

$$\$5,000 - \$1,000 \text{ (exempted)} = \$4,000$$

$$\$4,000 \div 2 = \$2,000 \text{ (deemed)}$$

Academic term income included in financial aid assessment = \$2,000

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.

vii. External Scholarships

Students are encouraged to apply for funding from other organizations during their law school years. For instance, some students may be eligible for tuition support from their parents' and/or guardians' or partner's employers or Indigenous students can apply to their bands for funding. 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 2023-2024 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.

This formula does not apply to Rotman awards for JD/MBA students or Centre for International Exchange – CIE bursaries.

Examples:

1. Student reports an award of \$10,000.

$$0.50 \times \$10,000 = \$5,000 \text{ will be deemed.}$$

2. Student reports a scholarship of \$20,000.

$$0.50 \times \$15,000 = \$7,500$$

$$0.70 \times (\$20,000 - \$15,000) = \$3,500$$

$$\$7,500 + \$3,500 = \$11,000 \text{ will be deemed.}$$

Articling bonuses that are paid to the student will be deemed as part of the student's income.

C. Resources - Faculty of Law Financial Aid

The Faculty of Law provides two forms of financial aid: non-repayable bursaries, and interest subsidies on the approved amounts of the student lines of credit.

i. Faculty of Law Bursary Program

The bursary calculation is based on the information students provide in their Faculty of Law financial aid application. There will be no bursary allocated for the first **\$8,000** of unmet need.

The Faculty's Financial Aid Program operates on fixed financial resources. If the formulas governing bursary allocation led to a shortfall of bursary funds, adjustments will be required, and awards reduced proportionately. In the same way, it is possible that a surplus of bursary funds available to the Faculty could lead to a situation in which further assistance to students may be provided in accordance with the general principles of financial aid described in this booklet.

ii. Faculty of Law Interest Subsidies on Approved Student Lines of Credit Amounts

Our financial aid policy states that the first \$8,000 of students' needs must be met through alternative funding, typically, a line of credit. The remaining need is met both through a combination of a faculty bursary and a line of credit. Depending on the student's need and the collective need of all students applying for financial aid, the authorized line of credit amount varies. The Financial Aid Office reimburses students for the interest incurred on their line of credit up to the amounts calculated in their financial aid assessment. The eligible amount of authorized line of credit is communicated to students on September 25th, as part of their financial aid assessment.

Students may choose to borrow more than the approved amount; however, the Faculty interest subsidy will apply only to approved amounts. Students who choose to borrow less than the approved amount will have the interest paid on the amount borrowed. Since the students submit their January or February statements for reimbursement, the Lines of Credit are prorated (divided by 0.75) to anticipate borrowed amount for the remainder of the year.

The Faculty will reimburse the interest from the time the student takes the loan until two months after the last day of term of their final year of law school. The student is responsible for applying the Faculty interest subsidy to their line of credit.

For example, a first-year student is advised by the Faculty that their eligible amount to receive an interest reimbursement on their line of credit 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 line of credit.

The student is eligible for an interest subsidy 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, the interest subsidy does not apply. The subsidy is **not cumulative**. If a student chooses not to borrow anything their first year, in their second year they can only receive an interest subsidy on the authorized \$5,000.

Approved amounts taken from a student line of credit are eligible for the Faculty's Post-graduation Debt Repayment Assistance Program.

iii. Student Lines of Credit

Scotiabank and TD are the Faculty of Law's preferred lenders, specifically, the Scotiabank branch at Queen St. W and McCaul St., and TD branch at 77 Bloor St. W in downtown Toronto. **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 the expertise regarding the Professional Student Loans Program.** Students are also encouraged to use the Scotia Professional® Student Plan and TD Student Line of Credit instead of other banks' lines of credit. Scotiabank and TD have put together a competitive package for J.D. students, with interest rates at prime. As well, the Faculty can advocate on students' behalf with Scotiabank and TD should any issues arise; this is not possible with other banks.

The Scotia Professional® Student Plan and TD Student Line of Credit are interest-bearing lines of credit from which students can borrow funds. Students apply only once to be eligible for financing for all three years of the J.D. program. If a student applies in the first year and is eligible to receive the maximum program limit of \$160,000 at Scotiabank and \$180,000 at TD Bank, the student will be able to access a maximum of \$53,300/\$53,300/\$53,400 per year from Scotiabank or \$60,000 per year from TD bank in the each of the three years.

Students who are eligible for the interest subsidy on approved student lines of credit amounts, but who find it necessary to take out a line of credit with a different financial institution, will also be eligible for a subsidy for their interest payments. **The Scotiabank and TD interest rate of prime will be used in determining these students' interest subsidies.**

Students who are otherwise not eligible for Faculty of Law funding and/or government student financial assistance are advised to apply for this plan instead of other banks' lines of credit to take advantage of the preferred interest rate of prime that the Faculty of Law negotiated for its students.

Important notes about Student Lines of Credit

The Scotiabank and TD applications will be processed assuming students will require the maximum loan amount. Students are advised to *request* (but not withdraw) the maximum loan amount; interest will only be assessed by Scotiabank and TD on the amount that students take out from their line of credit. For example, if a student is approved by Scotiabank for \$53,300 or TD for a \$60,000 line of credit but only takes out \$15,000, the interest will be assessed on the \$15,000, not the entire amount approved.

Scotiabank and TD require that students be Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents, have a credit history in good standing (i.e. not recently bankrupt, in default of a current loan or have a history of chronically missed payments) and not overly debt-involved (maximum loans at time of graduation cannot exceed \$160,000 (Scotiabank) and \$180,000 (TD), with certain exceptions. Life insurance is optional.

Funds can be accessed at Scotiabank and TD after registration has been confirmed by the Faculty of Law in September. However, first year students can access the funds in mid-August as their program starts at that time.

Although the Faculty of Law may provide interest subsidies, the loans must be repaid to Scotiabank and TD. The loan is treated as any normal bank loan and is repayable to Scotiabank and TD after graduation. Repayment options have been made flexible by Scotiabank and TD.

Comparison of Line of Credit Products between Scotiabank and TD		
	Scotiabank Professional Student Plan	TD Student Line of Credit
Maximum Line of Credit Amount	\$160,000	\$180,000
1st year borrowing limit	\$53,300	\$60,000
2nd year borrowing limit	\$53,300	\$60,000
3rd year/articling borrowing limit	\$53,400	\$60,000
Access to funds after articling	Allowed to have access to remaining funds on Line of Credit up to 24 months after articling	Upon completion of articling, no longer have access to the LOC.
Interest rate	Prime	
Interest calculations	Interest is calculated daily on the closing balance and charged every monthly billing cycle. The monthly interest is added to the principal amount outstanding. A monthly statement is generated and mailed out or downloaded to online banking. The monthly statements show exactly how much interest was charged	
Reimbursement for students in Financial Aid Program	The Faculty deposits the amount equal to annual interest on authorized amounts (if at least 75% of LOC is withdrawn by Jan/Feb). The deposit is in March to account provided by student	
Deferred Principal Repayment Period	24-month grace period in which the student can pay interest-only on the loans after completion of their articling period.	
Principal Repayment period	Maximum 15 years	10 years for amounts up to \$10,000, 15 years for amounts over \$10,000 and up to \$100,000 and 20 years for amounts over \$100,000
Optional other features	Line of credit protection, no monthly or annual fees, free cheques, pre-approved credit card; Unlimited debit transactions and Interac e-Transfer transactions	Line of credit protection, no monthly or annual fees, free cheques, pre-approved credit card, free All Inclusive Bank account and no fee credit card for the duration of the program including articling
Credit Score	Must have good credit score otherwise need co-borrower.	
Approval	5 days	
Application Process	Once, before starting law school or at any time a LOC is desired	

Students who are in a J.D./Ph.D. program who have completed the J.D. program and are working on the thesis portion of the combined degree will be responsible for their Scotiabank and TD loans after graduating from the J.D. program.

Important tips about Student Lines of Credit

In reviewing applications, Scotiabank and TD check applicants' outstanding debt as well as access to credit at the time of application. Students should consider:

- Paying down any outstanding consumer or credit card debt as much as possible before applying to Scotiabank or TD. For example, if outstanding credit card debt is \$10,000 at the time of application to Scotiabank or TD, the applicant's Scotiabank and TD lines of credit limit can potentially be \$10,000 less.
- Closing down any outstanding credit or store cards that are not being used or are being used minimally. An applicant who has three store cards, each having a maximum limit of \$1,000, will be considered by Scotiabank and TD to have access to \$3,000 in credit. This applicant will be given by Scotiabank and TD a lower limit on their line of credit.
- When closing these cards, request for a cancellation slip from the credit providers so that it can be provided to Scotiabank and TD. Simply cutting up these cards will not be enough since the access to credit will still exist.

For the most up-to-date information about the Scotiabank Professional® Student Plan and TD Student Line of Credit, please visit the Scotiabank website at www.scotiabank.com/studentprofessional and the TD website at: <http://www.tdcanadatrust.com/uoflaw/>.

4. 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. The Eligibility (p.6) section of this booklet provides information regarding eligibility to participate in the program.

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 subsidies.

First-time applicants

- Use the Faculty's Financial Aid Estimator to get a provisional assessment.
- The due date for Financial Aid Applications for Final Assessments is **June 1, 2023**.
- All supporting documents (except for the final summer paystub and lease agreement) for final assessments should be submitted by **August 3, 2023**.
- The final summer paystub and lease is due **September 6, 2023**.
- Final assessments will be released no later than **September 25, 2023**, for completed applications.

Returning applicants

- Submit an application and all supporting documents by **August 3, 2023**.
- Final summer paystubs and lease agreement for completing applications are due on **September 6, 2023**.
- Final assessment will be provided no later than **September 25, 2023**, for completed applications.

If students are unable to meet the above deadlines, the Financial Aid Office will be accepting certain supporting documentation until December 12, 2023. No financial aid will be assessed after this date unless due to an emergency situation.

Applying for student lines of credit

If students elect to apply for a Line of Credit students are required to apply only once to be eligible for financing for all three years of the J.D. program. Scotiabank and TD will review the student's credit history and will determine if the student can access the line of credit. It will communicate its decision and will advise the student on the maximum credit line amount that may be borrowed. The Faculty will determine the amount that students can borrow from this line of credit for which the Faculty will provide interest subsidies for the interest while they are enrolled in the J.D. program.

Applying for government financial assistance

Students who apply for Faculty financial assistance must apply for government student financial assistance from their province, or territory of residence. Applications should be submitted as early as possible since eligibility for Faculty financial assistance is contingent on receiving assistance from the government student loan programs. Students must apply for government student financial assistance and submit their government student financial assistance application screen shots (or PDF documents for OSAP), WITH their financial aid application. Please refer to Appendix I for a list of web addresses for various provincial and territorial authorities.

Financial Aid Timeline 2023-2024

Action	Timing	Purpose	NOTE	Processing Time
Apply for Government student financial assistance	April-May	Proof of student financial aid is used to defer University of Toronto tuition and fee payments until funding is received. Required for 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
Apply for Scotia Professional® Student Plan and TD Student Line of Credit® if a student elects to	Before the start of school year	To secure sources of 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	June 1	To be considered for the Faculty's Financial Aid program	Application should be submitted by the appropriate due date (June 1 or August 3) even if some receipts/supporting information are not available. These can be submitted later up until December 12.	Students with completed applications will be notified by September 25, 2023. Students submitting supporting documents after the September 6 deadline, allow 3-4 weeks to process applications
Returning applicants - Apply for Faculty of Law Financial Aid program	August 3			
Submit supporting documentation	August 3			
	September 6	Lease and final pay stub documentation is due		
Submit copy of January/February line of credit statement	February 15	To be reimbursed for the eligible line of credit interest payment subsidy	Confirm direct deposit information is accurate in ACORN	Issued in March

Tuition Payment Schedule

Students may pay tuition by term or pay the entire amount by the Fall Term fee payment deadline.

New First Year and New Upper Year Students: Fee Payment Status	2023 Fall Term Fees			2024 Winter Term Fees	
	Minimum Payment to Register*	Fall Fees Due*	Service Charges on unpaid Fall Fees begin*	Winter Fees Due*	Service Charges on unpaid Winter Fees begin*
Students granted Government Loans Fee Deferral	August 2, 2023	September 29, 2023	October 16, 2023	January 31, 2024	February 15, 2024
No Fee Deferral granted	August 2, 2023	September 29, 2023	October 16, 2023	November 30, 2023	December 15, 2023

Returning Upper Year Students: Fee Payment Status	2023 Fall Term Fees			2024 Winter Term Fees	
	Minimum Payment to Register*	Fall Fees Due*	Service Charges on unpaid Fall Fees begin*	Winter Fees Due*	Service Charges on unpaid Winter Fees begin*
Students granted Government Loans Fee Deferral	September 6, 2023	September 29, 2023	October 16, 2023	January 31, 2024	February 15, 2024
No Fee Deferral granted	September 6, 2023	September 29, 2023	October 16, 2023	November 30, 2023	December 15, 2023

** Tentative Dates and Subject to Change*

Required Documents

Final assessment and disbursement of award payments are contingent on students completing the application, including submitting all required supporting documentation, within the required timelines. **No financial aid funds will be released without copies of all supporting documents with full, accurate and complete information as specified.** If students do not submit these documents on time (no later than Dec. 12, 2023), they are responsible for any costs incurred such as service charges and other penalties. Below is a list of required information and documentation. 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		Submitted with the application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2020, 2021 and 2022 Income Tax year notices from each parent/guardian – 2022 NOA for partner, if applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Submit 2022 NOA for partner, if applicable – Only submit Parental NOAs if requesting consideration due to <i>Material Decreases in Parental Income</i> policy 	
GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FORMS – 2 documents:		
Government student financial assistance application – this is a screenshot of the APPLICATION Summary NOT the final Notice of Assessment or funding summary. OSAP applicants can find pdf copies online		As soon as available
Government student financial assistance Notice of Assessment - listing the actual (not estimated) amount of funding		
OTHER DOCUMENTS		Submitted with the application
End-of-April paystub, <i>if student worked for the same employer between January 1 and April 30 to determine summer earnings only</i>		
Child-care receipts/bill/signed letter from the child-care provider <i>with child's name on receipt</i>		
Spouse/Partner's loan repayment documents		
Summer earnings final pay stub showing GROSS not NET summer earnings		Sept 6, if you wish to receive assessment by Sept 25, 2023
Lease agreement, if living away from home		
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 supporting documentation for special requests and consideration		
First-time applicants - Copy of pre-law government student loans documents, <i>if applicable</i>		
REIMBURSEMENT OF INTEREST CHARGES		Feb 15, 2024
January or February 2024 bank statement to receive interest subsidy on eligible student lines of credit amounts.		

Late Applications

Students who submit applications for financial aid after the deadline date need 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 will 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 Assistant Dean, JD Program. We understand the uniqueness of each situation and the circumstances which lead to these decisions. The impact on the student's financial aid award will vary and a prorating method may be used. For a student on-leave for a full term, the financial aid assistance will be prorated to account for a one-term budget assessment. If students have received the award payments for a full-year assessment, they may be required to return a portion of the award amount to the Faculty.

Students should refer to the Student Accounts website at www.fees.utoronto.ca for more information on their tuition fees adjustment schedule.

Not Applying for Faculty of Law Financial Aid Assistance

All students are encouraged to apply for Faculty of Law financial assistance. Students who do not apply for financial aid assistance from the Faculty are encouraged to:

- Apply for federal and provincial government student financial assistance (both loans and bursaries). These loans are interest-free while a student is registered full-time; loan repayment assistance and debt-relief programs are also available. These loans are also considered eligible loans for the Post Graduation Debt Repayment Assistance Program (see explanation on PDRAP further down).
- Apply and access the interest-bearing Scotiabank or TD Student line of credit. Contact the banks directly for further information.

5. Disbursement of Financial Aid Award Payments

Scholarships & Bursaries

Faculty scholarships and bursaries awarded to students will be credited to the student account on ACORN at the University of Toronto. If the award exceeds the outstanding balance on the student account, the student will receive a credit. Please set up [Direct Deposit](#) on ACORN to facilitate crediting your account. The disbursement of the award payments will be transferred to the student account no later than October 15 to avoid service charges.

The Faculty will report Faculty 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 own provinces' government student financial assistance are responsible for reporting their Faculty bursaries to these government student financial assistance agencies.

Student Lines of Credit and Confirmation of Enrolment Letters

Students who have been approved for student lines of credit can access the funds via their Scotia Professional® Student Plan and TD Student Line of Credit after their registration has been confirmed.

Students can prepare confirmation of Enrolment letters by following the steps outlined in [this video](#) (How do I generate a confirmation of enrollment letter on ACORN).

Interest Subsidies

Interest charges will be reimbursed by the Faculty in March. The interest subsidy will cover interest for a 12-month period (September to August) for first- and second-year students and a 10-month period (September to July) for third-year students. Students who take out at least 75% of their approved line of credit by February 15 will receive an interest subsidy for the full approved loan amount. The interest subsidy will be pro-rated for students who take out less than 75% of their approved line of credit amount by February 15.

Students eligible for an interest subsidy on the approved amount of their student lines of credit are required to submit a copy of their January or February 2024 bank statement showing the amount they have taken out from their line of credit to the Faculty's Financial Aid Office by February 15. The interest subsidy will be credited to the U of T student account on ACORN in March. Students are responsible for applying these interest subsidies to their Scotiabank and TD lines of credit. **Statements submitted after February 15 will not be considered.**

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

The authorized amounts are for a specific year. If a student is authorized \$8,000 in first year and the student does not take out any money on their LOC, no interest is reimbursed. Next year if a student is authorized to take out \$8,000 and they take out \$10,000, the interest reimbursement is only on the authorized amount of \$8,000.

6. 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 Financial Aid Committee ("the Committee") by emailing financialaid.law@utoronto.ca

Students have thirty days after receiving the Financial Aid Assessment to request reconsideration.

Students will have a meeting with a staff member of the Financial Aid Office to discuss their application. A Financial Aid Office staff member will answer their questions and attempt to resolve any minor issues.

If, after meeting with the Financial Aid Office staff member, 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 supporting documentation as possible

Once submitted, the Committee will consider the request for reconsideration. The Committee is co-chaired by a faculty member and by the Assistant Dean, J.D. Program; other members include three faculty members, the staff of the Financial Aid Office and three Students' Law Society (SLS) student representatives. Faculty and student members of the Committee have regular voting rights. The Assistant Dean, J.D. Program holds a tie-breaking vote.

Request for reconsideration letters are anonymized and redacted before being presented to the Committee. Voting Committee members will 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 Committee meets monthly during the academic year and reviews reconsiderations on an ongoing basis. The Committee makes a special effort to meet in September to consider requests for reconsideration as early as possible in the school year.

Common Topics of Requests for Reconsideration

Requests for reconsideration usually involve students whose circumstances are exceptional in some way.

List of circumstances under which past Committees have granted changes in financial aid awards (not exhaustive)

- Variation of deemed summer savings, either before or within the J.D. program, e.g., student has exceptional expenses during the summer, which reduce their summer resources (receipts required).
- Interest payments on pre-law debt, e.g., interest on credit cards, lines of credit (non-governmental education loans) or personal loans; **student must show proof that these are for educational purposes** and that the debts are accruing interest that is payable during the academic year.
- Student Socio-Economic Index, including issues relating to estrangement, or unusual or dramatic changes to parental financial circumstances.
- Major changes in personal life/economic situations, e.g., there is an unexpected medical occurrence/accident and/or dental expenses.
- Students who own a home and are the custodial parent or care giver of an elderly relative.
- Students who support their older parents during their retirement.
- Students who pay out-of-pocket medical expenses for their parents and/or children.
- Other dependents may be considered if sufficient documentation is provided to the Financial Aid Committee.

For all examples mentioned above, complete supporting documentation will be required. Students may be asked to provide documents regarding their parents' assets and financial situation.

Bases of requests for reconsideration that are less likely to succeed (not exhaustive)

- Student Socio-Economic Index:
 - Differences in parental liquid and invested assets.
 - Retirement of parents during education.
 - Policy arguments concerning the structuring of the deeming system.
- No receipts for recorded expenses.
- Pre-law school debt that cannot be demonstrated to be tied to educational expenses.
- Past receipt of greater financial aid through the program.

Contact Information

Financial Aid Office, Faculty of Law

3rd floor, Jackman Law Building Student Services Hub
Email: financialaid.law@utoronto.ca
Phone: 416-978-3716

OSAP & Government Student Loan Inquiries

University Registrar's Office
172 St George St. (at Bloor St.) Toronto, ON M5R 0A3
Phone: 416-978-2190

Ontario Inquiries:
Email: [**osap.staff@utoronto.ca**](mailto:osap.staff@utoronto.ca)

Out of Province Inquiries:
Email: can.oop.financialaid@utoronto.ca

Appendix I: Provincial Government Student Financial Assistance Programs

Province/Territory	Website
Alberta	https://studentaid.alberta.ca/
British Columbia	http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/welcome.htm
Manitoba	http://www.gov.mb.ca/educate/sfa/pages/sfaFrontDoor_en.html
New Brunswick	http://www.studentaid.gnb.ca
Newfoundland & Labrador	http://www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid
Northwest Territories	https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/student-financial-assistance
Nova Scotia	https://novascotia.ca/studentassistance/Financing/
Nunavut	https://gov.nu.ca/education/fans
Ontario	http://osap.gov.on.ca
Prince Edward Island	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/student-loans-bursaries-grants-and-awards
Quebec	https://www.quebec.ca/en/education/student-financial-assistance/loans-bursaries-full-time-studies/
Saskatchewan	https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/student-loans
Yukon	http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/advanceded/index.html

Appendix II: Financial Aid Examples

Please consult the [Financial Aid Estimator](#) for an estimate based on your situation. If you have any questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office via email financialaid.law@utoronto.ca.

EXAMPLE 1: First Year Student, Ontario Resident, living on their own

Samra is a 25-years old Ontario resident and will be starting her first year of studies at the Faculty of Law during the 2023-2024 academic year. In June 2023 she submits a financial aid application that shows that she is single with no dependents, and that she will be renting an apartment for the academic year.

Her parents have a total combined average income of \$110,000 (based on the 2020, 2021 and 2022 tax years). Samra is their only child.

Samra will be working full-time for 12 weeks during the summer before she starts the first year, with gross weekly earnings of \$700. She will be living at home with her parents for most of the summer. Samra's personal assets include \$2,000 in her bank account as of May 1 and a 2012 Honda Civic which she calculates is worth \$7,000. She will also be applying to OSAP for loans and grants.

Samra estimates she will pay \$1,000 for a new computer and estimates \$300 for her move from Ottawa to Toronto.

Based on the information provided by Samra, her financial aid assessment is as follows:

Her Total Expenses are \$57,577 based on

Deemed Basic expenses of \$56,277 for first-year student living not with parents/guardians	See budget table on page 10
Further Allowable Expenses of \$1,300 for her moving expenses and computer purchase	See pages 10-13 for further allowable expenses

Her Total Resources are \$25,752.55 based on

Student Socio-Economic Index of \$4,157.55	See pages 18-21 for socio-economic index formula
Summer deeming contribution of \$2,595	See pages 17-18 for summer deeming formula
Savings and value of vehicle of \$9,000	See pages 16-17 for student assets information
Government student assistance of \$10,000	See pages 14-15 for government student financial assistance

Samra's Unmet Need will be \$31,824.45, the difference between her Total Expenses and Total Resources (\$57,577 - \$25,752.55). The Faculty of Law will advise Samra that it will provide her with a combination of bursaries (non-repayable grants) and an interest subsidy on her approved student lines of credit amounts.

The Faculty will require Samra to submit the following documents by June 1, 2023, to determine her Financial Aid Assessment:

- Her parents' 2020-, 2021- and 2022-income tax notices of assessment
- Copy of computer purchase receipts and moving receipts (or as soon as available)
- Copy of her 2023-2024 government student aid application.

By September 6th, Samra needs to submit the following documents if she wishes to have her financial need assessed by September 25 deadline:

- Final summer earnings paystub showing year-to-date earnings.
- Her rental agreement for the academic year.
- Notice of assessment for her 2023-2024 government student financial assistance.

EXAMPLE 2: First Year Student, Out of Province Resident

Steve is a 23-year-old student from Alberta, starting his first year at the Faculty of Law in September 2023. In June 2023, he submits a financial aid application showing that he is single with no dependents, and that he will be living in a shared rental apartment during his first year.

Steve’s mother is a sole-support parent whose 2020, 2021 and 2022 average income was \$83,400, and who has two other children under 18. His father died two years ago.

Steve worked for only six weeks during the summer before his first year and earned \$500/week. He rented an apartment for most of the summer. He applied for and expects to receive OSAP funding. Steve will be buying a new computer and he estimates he will pay approximately \$1,850 for it. Based on the information provided by Steve, his provisional financial aid assessment is as follows:

His Total Expenses are \$58,796 based on

Deemed Basic expenses of \$57,296 for first-year student living not with parents/guardians	See budget table on page 10
Further Additional expenses of \$1,500 for his computer purchase	See page 11 for allowable computer expense

His Total Resources are \$11,000 based on

Student Socio-Economic Index of \$0	See pages 18-21 for socio-economic index formula
Summer deeming contribution of \$1,000	See pages 17-18 for summer deeming formula
Government student assistance of \$10,000	See pages 14-15 for government student financial assistance

Steve’s Total Expenses exceed his Total Resources by \$47,796, which represents his Unmet Need (\$58,796 - \$11,000). The Faculty of Law will advise Steve that it will provide him with a combination of bursaries (non-repayable grants) and an interest subsidy on his approved student lines of credit amount (repayable to the bank from which the loan is received).

EXAMPLE 3: First Year Student, Ontario Resident Living at Home with High Total Resources

Joe is a 27-year-old student who is starting first-year in September 2023. In June 2023 he submits a financial aid application that shows that he is single with no dependents, and that he will be living with his father in Toronto during the academic year.

His parents are divorced and live in separate households with no other dependents. Their total combined average income is \$230,000 (based on the 2020, 2021 and 2022 tax years).

Joe will be traveling in Mexico and South America during the summer; thus he is unable to work and save money. His personal assets include \$15,000 in his bank account and \$12,000 in RRSPs. He plans on applying to OSAP.

Joe estimates he will pay \$2,000 for a new computer and estimates \$1,000 for his move from Vancouver (where he is currently studying) to Toronto.

Based on the information provided, Joe’s financial aid assessment is as follows:

His Total Expenses are \$46,877 based on

Deemed Basic expenses of \$44,377 for first-year student living at home	See budget table on page 10
Further Allowable expenses of \$2,500 for his computer purchase and moving expenses	See pages 11-13 for further allowable expenses

His Total Resources are \$55,392 based on

Student Socio-Economic Index of \$19,392	See pages 18-21 for socio-economic index formula
Summer deeming contribution of \$1,000	See pages 17-18 for summer earnings formula
Savings of \$15,000	See pages 16-17 for student assets information
RRSP of \$10,000	See pages 16-17 for RRSP deeming formula
Government student assistance of \$10,000	See pages 14-15 for government student financial assistance

Joe’s financial aid assessment shows that he has \$8,515 more in Total Resources than Total Expenses (\$55,392 –\$46,877) thus, all his needs can be met by his personal assets, family contribution and government financial assistance. He is thus not eligible for any Faculty of Law funding for his first year.

He can investigate taking out a line of credit with Scotiabank or TD, however, he will not be considered eligible for an interest subsidy.

For his second year, Joe may be eligible for Faculty of Law funding, depending on the information he provides in his second-year financial aid application. For example, his expenses may increase if he decides to rent an apartment for his second year instead of living with his father. His resources may also go down; his savings may have already been depleted, and his RRSP assets will be deemed to be \$2,000 at the beginning of his second year.

EXAMPLE 4: Second Year Student, Married with Dependent

Jasmine is a 27-year-old Ontario second-year student during the 2023-2024 academic year. In August, she submits a financial aid application that shows that she is married with one four-year old child.

Her father is deceased, and her mother is retired with a 2019, 2020 and 2021 average income of \$50,000. Jasmine does not need to resubmit her mother’s NOAs for the current year.

Jasmine worked full time during the summer between her first and second years and declares a weekly gross summer earning of \$1,000 for 12 weeks. Her spouse works full-time, and his 2022 income is \$40,000.

Based on the information provided by Jasmine, her financial aid assessment is as follows:

Her Total Expenses are \$59,991 based on

Deemed Basic expenses of \$54,991 for second-year student living not with parents/guardians	See budget table on page 10
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Further Allowable expenses of \$5,000 for one dependent child.	See pages 11-12 for further allowable expenses – dependents
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Her Total Resources are \$10,595 based on

Student Socio-Economic Index is \$0	See pages 18-21 for socio-economic index formula
Spousal deeming contribution of \$0	See pages 21-22 for spousal deeming formula
Summer deeming = \$595	See page 17-18 for summer deeming formula for students with dependent children
Government student assistance of \$10,000	See pages 14-15 for government student financial assistance

Jasmine’s Unmet Need will be \$49,396, the difference between her Total Expenses and Total Resources (\$59,991- \$10,595). The Faculty of Law will advise her that it will provide her with a combination of bursaries (non-repayable grants) and an interest subsidy on the approved student line of credit amount (repayable to the bank from which the loan is received).

The Faculty will require Jasmine to submit the following documents by August 2023 to determine her Financial Aid Assessment:

- Copy of her 2023-2024 government student aid application.
- Copy of her partner’s 2022 income tax Notice of Assessment

By September 6th, Jasmine needs to submit the following documents if she wishes to have her financial need assessed by September 25th deadline:

- Final summer earnings paystub showing year-to-date earnings.
- Her rental agreement for the academic year.
- Notice of assessment for her 2023-2024 government student financial assistance.

EXAMPLE 5: Third Year Out of Province, Mature Married Student

Olumi is a 35-year-old third year Faculty of Law student during the 2023-2024 academic year. In September 2023 he submits a financial aid application that shows he is married with no children. He and his wife, who has a 2022 salary of \$70,000, are renting an apartment during the academic year.

Both of Olumi’s parents are retired, and the average of their combined retirement income for 2018, 2019 and 2020 is \$100,000. Olumi is the only child in the family.

Olumi worked for 12 weeks earning \$2,500/week. Olumi received a preliminary government aid assessment of a loan for \$6,420.

Olumi’s financial need assessment, based on the information he provided, is as follows:

His Total Expenses are \$56,010 based on

Deemed Basic expenses of \$56,010 for third-year student living not with parents/guardians.	See budget table on page 10
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His Total Resources are \$26,673 based on

Socio-Economic Index of \$1,329	See pages 18-21 for socio-economic index formula
Spousal deeming contribution of \$4,329	See pages 21-22 for spousal deeming formula.
Summer deeming contribution of \$14,595	See pages 17-18 for summer deeming formula
Government student assistance of \$6,420	See pages 14-15 for government student financial assistance

Olumi's Total Resources are less than his Total Expenses by \$29,337 which means he has Unmet Need. The Faculty will advise him that he is eligible for both bursaries (non-repayable grants) and an interest subsidy on the approved student line of credit amount (repayable to the bank from which the loan is received).

Appendix III: Resources to Access after Law School

a. Post-Graduation Debt Repayment Assistance Program (PDRAP)

The Post-Graduation Debt Repayment Assistance Program (PDRAP) is a low-income assistance program for graduates who have lower incomes following graduation. The goal is to ensure that the Faculty of Law's graduates can make career choices based on their interests rather than debt-induced financial pressure.

PDRAP loans assist graduates with the repayment of eligible academic student debt after graduation. **The assistance provided to the participant is in the form of loans from the Faculty of Law.** The PDRAP loan covers the annual amount that the participant is required to pay on their law school debt (e.g., the monthly minimum payment for government student loans and the faculty approved amounts on the Professional Lines of Credit).

A participant can enter, leave, and re-enter the program any time within 10 years of their graduation. Graduates may be eligible based on the nature of their employment, health or disability-related issues, staying at home to care for dependents, and/or because they are continuing as full-time students after law school.

At the end of the first year, a certain percentage of the loan is forgiven. For each subsequent year that the student qualifies, the Faculty of Law will continue to provide a loan and forgive a higher percentage of the cumulative loan. PDRAP's loan forgiveness schedule is designed to provide the most forgiveness to those participants who remain in lower-paying careers for the longest period. If a student stays in the program for 10 years, the PDRAP loan will be forgiven in its entirety.

The Basic Income Level (BIL) for 2023 has been set at \$69,873 per year. If a participant's income does not exceed the Basic Income Level, the Faculty of Law will loan the participant their entire annual eligible debt repayment obligation.

A participant with a higher income may still qualify for a PDRAP loan. If the participant's income exceeds the Basic Income Level, the participant will be expected to contribute 30% of the excess income per annum to reduce their loan obligation. If the participant's expected contribution is higher than their annual debt repayment obligation, the participant will be ineligible for PDRAP assistance.

If the participant is no longer eligible to participate in PDRAP due to an increase in income, they will be required to start paying back the remaining balance of their PDRAP loan (i.e., amount that was not forgiven). The loan is non-interest bearing and must be paid back by the end of the participant's 10-year eligibility period.

Example:

Participant Details:	
Participant's Income	\$96,600
Monthly Government Loan Amount	\$205
Monthly LOC Repayment Amount	\$357
Annual Debt Repayment	$(\$205 + \$357) \times 12 = \$6,744$
Basic Income Level	\$69,873
Number of Dependents	0
Participant's Pre-Law School Debt	\$2,500
Adjusted Projected Income	$\$69,873 + \$2,500 = \$72,373$
Expected Contribution Towards Debt Repayment	$(\$96,600 - \$72,373) \times 0.3 = \$7,268.10$
This contribution is greater than debt repayment of \$6,744. So, the participant can repay the debt on their own and is no longer eligible for the program thus they will need to start repaying their PDRAP loan. Their loan was interest free, and the participant can pay \$100/month. The participants' 10-year timeline ends in 4 years, so they have 4 years to repay the faculty.	

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

b. Government Repayment Assistance Program

The Government Interest Relief Program is designed to assist students who are temporarily having trouble in repaying their Integrated Student Loans due to an inability to find employment or a temporary disability. Each provincial government student financial assistance program offers its own assistance program. For more information visit the websites listed in *Appendix I: Provincial Government Student Financial Assistance Programs*.

c. Programs at Various Law Societies

Graduates are encouraged to check with their provincial law societies to determine if there are any funding programs for which they are eligible.

Repayment of Government Student Loans using Scotiabank Professional Student Plan and TD Student Line of Credit

In situations where the interest rate for paying government student loans is higher than the prime rate charged by the banks for the Lines of Credit, the alumni may wish to consolidate their loans by paying down their government student loans with their Lines of Credit.

However, repaying the government loans will make the alumnus ineligible for government repayment assistance program (RAP). Thus, this decision should be made by weighing the likelihood of a need for government assistance in the future versus the potential savings on the interest rates.

Any law-related government student loan that is paid down using line of credit funds will still be eligible for the Post-Graduation Debt Repayment Assistance Program.