

HPILF Summer Grant Application 2022 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

Help! Why is the application interface asking me these questions?

The HPILF Summer Grant Application is located on a system called Academic Works. This is the same online platform that students use to apply for academic scholarships. You will use your Hastings email address and password as a single sign on. Once you log in, the system will direct you to fill out a general application. This general application gives you the option to be considered for multiple scholarships. Once you are in the general application, please select “HPILF Summer Grant Program” from the drop-down menu. The system will **NOT** allow you to access the HPILF Summer Grant Application page unless you answer all of the questions in the general application.

When do I apply?

Applications will be accepted through Academic Works beginning on **March 1, 2022**. The deadline to submit the HPILF Summer Grant Application is **March 29, 2022, at 11:59 PM**.

Where can I find the application?

You can access the application via the Academic Works website at <https://uchastings.academicworks.com/> or via the HPILF website at <http://www.uchpilf.org/>.

When will I know if I received a grant? When will the funds be disbursed?

TIMELINE:

March 1, 2022: HPILF Summer Grant Application opens.

March 29, 2022, at 11:59 PM: HPILF Summer Grant Application is due online—**LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Early to Mid April 2022: First round of HPILF Grant Recipients will be announced via email.

Late April to Early May 2022: Additional Grant Recipients may be announced if additional funding becomes available.

Early June 2022: The Financial Aid Office will disburse grant funds directly to recipients via their Fiscal Accounts.

Is there an advantage to applying early?

No. Reviewers will not begin reviewing applications until the application period closes on March 29, 2022, at 11:59 PM. **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to apply, as the system will inevitably slow down as last minute applicants try to submit their application before the deadline. **No late applications will be accepted.**

Should I look for summer funding outside of HPILF?

Yes. HPILF does its best to fund as many applicants as possible, but applicants are not guaranteed funding. Resources for additional funding are available on Hastings Careers Online, www.psid.org > summer funding, and MyHastings > Sites > Career Development Office > Contents > Funding Resources.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the HPILF grant?

For questions about eligibility, please contact the HPILF Board at hpilf@uchastings.edu.

For administrative questions, please contact the Career Development Office at careers@uchastings.edu and/or Darell Alforte alforted@uchastings.edu.

The Financial Aid Office is not part of the grant application process. Please *only* contact them if you have questions that directly pertain to financial aid.

If I receive an HPILF grant, will my financial aid award be impacted over the summer?

Yes. If you receive an HPILF grant in addition to financial aid over the summer, your living expenses will be reduced by the amount of your grant. The tuition amount for your classes will not be impacted. Please contact the Financial Aid Office if you have questions regarding your financial aid award.

If I applied for an HPILF grant as a 1L, can I apply as a 2L?

Yes. Regardless of whether you applied for and/or received an HPILF grant or not during your 1L summer, you can apply for an HPILF grant as a 2L. 3Ls and LLM students are not eligible unless they are working for an eligible organization over the summer and have an extended graduation date (e.g., December 2022). **2Ls who received an HPILF Grant during their 1L summer and did not fulfill their obligations to HPILF for this academic year will not be considered for a 2022 HPILF Grant.**

Does your immigration or citizenship status impact your ability to receive an HPILF grant?

No. There are no restrictions on receipt of an HPILF grant based on your immigration and/or citizenship status.

How do I know if my employer is an eligible organization?

HPILF broadly defines the terms “public interest” and “public sector.” Applicants working with 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, government agencies, and advocacy or policy groups are generally eligible organizations. Additional organizations may be eligible if the applicant is able to demonstrate how their summer work directly serves the public interest or public sector. This is a case-by-case evaluation. While HPILF strives to award grants to students doing a diverse range of work, it is important to remember that “public interest” and “public sector” mean much more than “unpaid.” **Generally, judicial externships are excluded from eligibility.** (See *Judicial Externships vs. Self Help Centers?*). Any questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the HPILF Board via email at hpilf@uchastings.edu.

Judicial Externships vs. Self Help Centers?

HPILF does not fund applicants who are pursuing a judicial externship. This does not include applicants who are working for a self-help center within a court, where the applicant is assisting low-income individuals (pro se/pro per) who cannot afford an attorney.

Who is on the selection committee and what are they looking for?

A committee composed of public interest/public sector attorneys, as well as UC Hastings faculty, alumni, and staff with public interest backgrounds will evaluate HPILF grant applications. The HPILF Board, CDO, and Financial Aid Office are not involved in the selection of HPILF Grant recipients, they only facilitate the process.

The review process is merit-based. The highest scores are given to applicants who best demonstrate how their summer jobs are part of an overall public service career trajectory, especially when viewed in relation to their past work and future goals. In reviewing an application, the committee considers

whether an applicant demonstrates the following attributes:

- Strong past, present, and future commitment to public interest/public sector law;
- Ability to contribute to the communities with/for whom they are working; and
Potential for development and growth as advocates through their summer work.

What qualifies as attorney supervision?

Applicants must have an attorney supervisor who oversees their summer work and performance. This does not have to be a direct supervisor. The supervisor may be an attorney whose license is “inactive” so long as they are in good standing with the state bar. If a supervising attorney is not available through the applicant’s employer, the applicant must find a professor or other attorney who is willing to provide supervision throughout the summer.

What if I’m already receiving funding from another source?

If applicants secure other sources of funding (such as work-study, scholarships or grants outside of HPILF, fellowships, or family contributions), they **MUST** report such to HPILF as soon as possible by emailing their name and the amount they have accepted to hpilf@uchastings.edu. **HPILF GRANT RECIPIENTS CANNOT RECEIVE MORE THAN \$5000 IN SUMMER FUNDS FROM ALL COMBINED FUNDING SOURCES!***

For example, if an HPILF Grant Recipient receives a \$3000 summer grant from a bar association, they will not receive more than \$2000 through the HPILF grant process. If grant money awarded by HPILF puts the recipient over the \$5,000 cap, the recipient will be expected to return the excess funds. Reporting other sources of funding WILL NOT have any negative effect on an applicant’s chance of receiving an HPILF grant.

**This does not include wages earned through other employment.*

Does HPILF require an Employer Verification Letter?

No. Applicants must fill out the Employer Verification section of the application. By filling out this section and checking the certification box, applicants are verifying their employment. HPILF and the Financial Aid Office may contact an applicant’s employer to verify that the information provided is accurate.