

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA • IRVINE

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<https://www.ofas.uci.edu>

UPDATED: January 11, 2022

The UCI Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, with guidance from the Department of Education, is working to address concerns from those directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19. We have prepared this FAQ to answer some of the most frequently asked questions and will continue to update this document as new information is received.

I have questions for Financial Aid and Scholarships. Can I make an appointment or call with questions?

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships staff is working remotely. The office is closed to in-person visitors and staff. The office remains fully operational and you can reach a financial aid advisor by phone at (949) 824-8262 or [register with Qless](#) for a phone appointment.

I heard that the Department of Education has distributed additional emergency grant funding to colleges and universities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. How do I qualify for this grant?

The U.S. Department of Education has distributed additional funding to UCI for emergency financial assistance grants to qualified students for the 2021-22 school year. The *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund* (also known as 'HEERF') provides emergency grants to assist students with economic hardships related to disruptions caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is awarding these funds to qualifying undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

To be considered for a *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III)* award, you must be enrolled for the Fall 2021 term and submit / have submitted a 2021-22 financial aid application no later than **October 15, 2021**. Most students have already filed an aid application for this upcoming school year. If you have not already done so and wish to be considered for a HEERF grant, follow these instructions:

US Citizens and Eligible Non-Citizens: Students who are [eligible](#) to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) who have not already done so, should complete and submit the online application at www.studentaid.gov.

AB540 fee exemption recipients: Students who are not eligible to file a FAFSA and who qualify for the AB540 fee exemption should complete and submit the online California Dream Application at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>.

International students: are not eligible to complete the FAFSA or the California Dream Application. Instead, visit our Net Price Calculator at: <https://ofas.uci.edu/cost/net-price-calculator.php> and complete all the fields with your information. Once you submit your information, our website will instantly calculate your estimated aid eligibility. Print a copy of your aid estimate and fax to our office at 949-824-4876. We cannot open email attachments.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships must receive your 2021-22 financial aid application (or aid estimate for international students) no later than October 15, 2021.

If you qualify, you will receive an email informing you that you have been awarded an emergency grant. Our office plans to start awarding these funds in late October.

If I did not receive a HEERF III emergency grant in the fall, can I appeal for one?

An appeal process was made available in December 2021. The appeal process is now closed. Appeal applications are processed in the order received until funding is exhausted. HEERF III emergency grant appeals that are approved will be awarded beginning Monday, January 17, 2022.

What expenses are these emergency grants intended to pay?

Funds may be used to cover the following (but are not limited to these expenses):

- Travel and moving expenses associated with the transition to on-line learning,
- Housing, food and utilities,
- Child care,
- Technology or other resources needed for online coursework,
- and medical expenses.

I received an email from your office regarding the submission of a professional judgment appeal. Should I submit one?

You do not need to submit an appeal to be considered for HEERF Grant funding – as mentioned above, all you need to do to be considered for a HEERF Grant is be enrolled for the Fall 2021 term and have a 2021-22 financial aid application on file (or a financial aid estimate on file if you are an international student). If you or your family's income this year will be significantly less than the 2019 tax year income reported on your 2021/22 FAFSA, our counselors can reassess your family's ability to help with your educational expenses. To initiate an appeal, send an email to finaid@uci.edu with the subject "Special Circumstance Appeal 2021/22."

Will the government waive the interest on my federal student loans?

The Department of Education maintains a [webpage](#) with the latest announcements regarding the coronavirus and forbearance information for students, borrowers, and parents.

How can I submit a required document to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships?

Documents required to complete your 2021-22 financial aid application may be uploaded during our office closure. Log into MyAid to find out which documents you must submit. Only documents that show "Needed" on the "My Aid Application Status" of the MyAid portal for the 2021-22 year should be uploaded. As a reminder, documents cannot be submitted as email attachments.

For additional information, please contact our office:

Website: ofas.uci.edu

Phone: (949) 824-8262

Email: finaid@uci.edu

Phone appointments: [Qless](#)

Sincerely,



Rebecca Sanchez, Director

