Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

LRAP Overview

LRAP Timing

LRAP is designed and implemented on a calendar year (January through December). This pertains to employment, salary and loan payments.

The application is available annually on the Law School website on/by October 15. The annual deadline for submission is December 1.

Employment Covered by LRAP

A graduate must be a paid full-time employee working at least nine months in the calendar year in which the participant is requesting assistance. Graduates who participate in the University of Chicago post-graduate fellowship or public service initiative programs are also eligible for funding through LRAP. A graduate must be:

- Engaged in the full-time practice of the law, or in a position normally requiring a law degree.
- Working for the public interest broadly defined
- Working for a non-profit organization, defined as a 501(c) (3) (4), or (5), government office, or judicial clerkship, other than academia.

Note: Clerkships with salaries less than $80,000 are eligible and are not bound to the nine-month requirement but must complete their full clerkship.

Eligible Debt

All federal loans processed by the University of Chicago Graduate Financial Aid Office (GFA) and used to cover the standard cost of attendance at the Law School will be considered eligible debt. All loans must be in good standing and in active repayment.

Loans Not Covered by the Program

- Private alternative loans
- Personal Loans
- Credit Card
- Consumer Debt
- Educational loans acquired at other institutions

Required Repayment Plan

LRAP requires participants to place all of their eligible debt into Income-Based Repayment (IBR) offered by the Department of Education. Graduates who participate in IBR are never required to pay more than 15% of their discretionary income towards their loans. LRAP will not cover loan payments for loans placed in other repayment plans (PAYE, REPAVE, and ICR).
Eligibility Period

All participants with qualifying employment and salaries will be eligible to participate in the Law School's LRAP for up to ten years after graduation. These years do not need to be contiguous; a graduate may enter and exit the program at will. However, to reenter LRAP, the eligible debt must be in IBR.

Income Cap

Graduates with salaries up to $80,000 are eligible, provided they meet all other requirements. The income cap considers only the applicant's salary and excludes all assets and spousal income.

Award

The Law School will offer a forgivable loan equal to the amount of the total eligible yearly IBR payments. A participant will not receive more than the amount he or she is required to pay by the Department of Education. LRAP does not cover extra payments.

Application Materials

Application Form

- Submit the online application form (and supporting documentation) by December 1 to ensure funding is available in January for loan payments.

Employer Certification

- Submit the employer certification directly to the Law School's Financial Aid Office at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu by an applicant's employer by December 1.
- An employer certification submitted by the applicant are not accepted.

Loan Documentation

- All loans must be in good standing and in repayment.
- IBR confirmation letter
- The most recent bill/statement showing payment date and amount.
- Loan documentation must include loan summaries of loans included in IBR payment and loan summaries of any consolidation (post consolidation).
- Submit loan documentation to financialaid@law.uchicago.edu by December 1. Submit any documents not available by the deadline as soon as received.

Please note you must complete an application each year of participation to receive funding. In addition, you must send a notification and if applicable a Job/Salary Change Certification during the year if any of your circumstances change (for example, a job change or a change in income); this notification/certification must be submitted within 30 days of the change in order to remain eligible for LRAP funding.