

Bar Loan FAQ's

Why should I consider applying for a BAR Loan?

Bar Loans are intended to be used for expenses related to completing the Bar. Living expenses, Bar Review Courses and actual Bar costs are considered eligible expenses. This might be a good option for you if you don't have the funds available and are not receiving assistance for these costs from your future employer.

How much am I eligible to borrow?

We have a \$10,000 cap in our office, as this is sufficient for most people. If you have higher expenses and would like to request that we make an exception, please send an email to lawfinaid@umich.edu. Your email should include the amount that you are requesting and a list of your living expenses. Please include actual Bar costs on the list. We recommend borrowing as little as you need.

Where can I find up-to-date interest rate information?

The following Web site offers current interest rate information: www.bankrate.com/cbsmw/ratehm.asp. You can also check directly with the lender.

How can I determine which loan is best for me?

Interest rates and fees can vary by lender. We would like to encourage you to visit the following Web site: www.finaid.org/calculators/loananalyzer.phtml. This comprehensive Web site allows you to compute the various terms set by each lender, using their listed interest rate, fees, and repayment period.

I have chosen a lender and know how much I want to borrow, what do I do now?

Most lenders offer an online application process. If you feel more comfortable with a hard copy application, you may contact the lender to request one. In order to ensure proper processing, your application must be certified by the school before any lender will disburse funds.

I have completed the loan application and have been approved. When will I receive the funds?


Disbursement of Bar Loans is different from academic year loans. The Bar Loan check will be mailed to your current address. You get to choose the disbursement date/dates. It is a good rule of thumb that the total process takes two to three weeks from submission of the application until funds are available.

How can I obtain a copy of my Credit Report?

Any of the following national credit bureaus will send you a copy for a small fee.

Experian: 1-888-397-3742
TransUnion: 1-800-888-4213
Equifax Credit: 1-800-685-1111

2011-2012 BAR Loans - Sample List of Alternative Loan Providers

|  | * CITIBANK Bar Loan | * Sallie Mae: LawLoans Bar Study Loan (BSL) |
|---|--|--|
| Phone Web site | 800.967.2400 http://www.studentloan.com/schools/umich/law/ | 800.695.3317 https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/bar-study-loan/ |
| Loan Limits | Maximum: \$10,000 | Maximum: \$10,000 |
| Fees: insurance, origination and/or guarantee | Zero or three percent (determined by credit history) | Zero or five percent (determined by credit history) |
| Interest Rates | Interest rates range from 3 month LIBOR rate plus 3.25% up to 3 month LIBOR plus 11% (determined by credit history) both while in school and in repayment | LIBOR rate plus 5% to LIBOR plus 13% |
| Repayment | 9-month grace period after graduation Up to 20 years No pre-payment penalty .25% interest rate reduction when you sign up for auto debit Cosigner release option available | 9-month grace period after graduation Up to 15 Years No pre-payment penalty .25% interest rate reduction when you sign up for auto debit Cosigner release option available |
| Eligibility | May be enrolled less than half-time Available during third year of Law School and up to 12 months after graduation Qualifying credit history | Enrolled at least half-time Available during third year of Law School and up to 12 months after graduation Qualifying credit history |

* = Lenders that offer loans to international students. Some require a US citizen as a co-signer. (Terms may be different than those listed above. Please contact the lender)

Please note that these terms and rates are subject to change. For current terms/interest rates please contact your lender.

June 28, 2011