

# Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF2) FAQ

## What is HEERF2?

In December 2020, the federal government signed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 ([CRRSAA](#)) and provided over \$20 billion in emergency funding to higher education institutions. Similar to the CARES Act, half of these funds must go directly to students in the form of emergency grants, but the CRRSAA also requires that institutions prioritize providing funding to students with **exceptional need**.

## When will HEERF2 awards be made to students?

Under the leadership of Vice Provost of Enrollment Management, Youlonda Copeland-Morgan, Financial Aid and Scholarships Office consulted with campus partners, including Graduate Division, Student Affairs, Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC), and Graduate Student Association (GSA) to ensure relief funds are awarded and distributed in an equitable and inclusive way and in alignment with federal requirements. Our goal is to maximize all available sources of relief funding to award as many eligible students as possible, as quickly as possible. **We expect to be able to start making awards in early June of 2021.**

## Who is eligible for HEERF2 funding?

HEERF2 funds are available to citizens, permanent residents and undocumented (AB-540 and non AB540 eligible) students who can demonstrate exceptional financial need on their financial aid application or via an appeal.

International students at UCLA are required to document financial means to obtain appropriate student visas and enroll at UCLA. Thus, international students at UCLA do not complete a means test application such as the FAFSA or DREAM Act application. Given this background, it would be difficult for international students to demonstrate the exceptional financial need status required for HEERF funding while maintaining their legal student visa status.

That said, UCLA recognizes that the global pandemic has negatively impacted international students at UCLA and plans to identify limited institutional emergency funding for international students on an appeal basis. If you are experiencing a financial crisis due to the pandemic, please contact the Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT) by completing the ECRT [Self Assessment Intake Form](#).

## How was eligibility determined?

HEERF2 “block grants” are awards made by Financial Aid and Scholarships based on the data on your financial aid application. Your eligibility was based on the information available on

your 2020/2021 FAFSA or Dream Act application. Awarding priority was given to students with exceptional financial need as measured by their Expected Family Contribution and who are registered in the Spring Quarter/Winter Semester and enrolled full time at census (end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Spring term). For graduate and professional students, the assessment of exceptional need also included the analysis of federal/state loans borrowed in 2020/21 academic year.

<b>Undergraduate Students EFC</b>	<b>Full Time Award</b>	<b>Graduate/ Professional Students EFC</b>	<b>Full Time Award</b>
<b>0</b>	\$1,700	<b>0</b>	\$2,000
<b>1 - 2500</b>	\$1,400	<b>1 - 2500</b>	\$1,700
<b>2501 - 5,576</b>	\$1,100	<b>2501 - 5,576</b>	\$1,400
<b>5,577 - 10,000</b>	\$500	<b>5,577 - 10,000</b>	\$500
<b>10,001 - 14,070</b>	\$300	<b>10,001 - 14,070</b>	\$300

### **I did not receive HEERF2 block grant; what can I do?**

If you did not receive a block grant and you can demonstrate exceptional need related to a change in your circumstances because of the pandemic please submit an appeal. Financial Aid and Scholarships office will evaluate appeals from students who do not have a FAFSA/DREAM Act application on file for 20/21, who completed their financial aid application after HEERF2 block grants were awarded and students who need additional support due to being affected by the pandemic. A link to the HEERF Grant appeal form is available on our [home page](#).

### **What are the allowable uses of HEERF2 Emergency Grants?**

The institution can award HEERF2 emergency grants to help students cover any component of their cost of attendance or any emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition, food, housing, health care and child care. The institution is required to prioritize students with exceptional need when making awards.

### **How will eligible students be notified of their award?**

You will receive a new Financial Aid Notification for 2020/2021 academic year showing your award.

### **How will awards be paid to students?**

HEERF2 Emergency Student grants will be released to your BruinBill Account. These awards will bypass any student charges in your account and you will receive a refund for the entire amount of the HEERF grant. Refunds will be processed by Student Accounts office. If you are signed up for [BruinDirect](#) (recommended option) your refund will be deposited to your bank

account within 2-3 days. If you do not have BruinDirect, please review other [BruinBill Refund Methods](#) available.