

Harvard Medical School
AbundanceFound Global Health
Loan Forgiveness Program for Graduating Students
Program Description

The Harvard Medical School Financial Aid Office is pleased to continue a pilot debt-relief scholarship program targeted to graduating HMS students who have an intention of pursuing careers in global health delivery. This program is designed to reduce educational debt through loan forgiveness for students who possess outstanding leadership skills and who have demonstrated intention to pursue a career in global health delivery following residency/fellowship training. Award amounts will vary; however, the maximum award per recipient will be \$60,000.

Eligibility for this program will include the following:

- demonstrated career path in global health delivery (i.e., delivering health care and/or planning and developing health care delivery systems, and/or a commitment to basic or applied research that impacts the delivery of global health)
- demonstrated possession of outstanding leadership skills (i.e., initiating projects, developing new ideas, as well as demonstrating a passion and commitment to global health delivery)

Note: All students meeting the criteria of global health delivery above are encouraged to apply. However, priority will be given to students who have accumulated educational debt in excess of \$98,000.

While awards will be offered in the student's graduating year of study, disbursement of funds will occur in two phases: (1) the first payment, representing 20% of the total award, will be disbursed upon graduation from medical school; (2) the second payment will be made upon completion of residency training *and* at least one year of work primarily centered in global health delivery. "Work" is defined as paid service or an academic appointment primarily centered in global health delivery. The work should address health equity in resource-poor settings (domestic or abroad, although priority will be provided to those aiming to work abroad). The second disbursement, representing up to 80% of the total award, will be disbursed to recipients who plan to complete at least two years of post-residency work primarily centered in global health delivery. Recipients who do not plan to pursue more than one year of post residency work primarily centered in global health delivery will receive 40% of the total award as the second disbursement. Recipients who do not pursue at least one year of post residency work in global health delivery will forfeit the second disbursement of the award.

Prior to completion of residency training, recipients will be required to notify the HMS Loan Forgiveness Committee of their post residency work plan. The HMS Loan Forgiveness Committee will inform the recipient whether the work plan meets the criteria for second disbursement funding. If approved, the recipient will be required to follow-up with the HMS Loan Forgiveness Committee upon completion of one year of post residency work. At that time, the recipient will address whether or not he/she plans to continue to complete a second year of work primarily centered in global health delivery. If the recipient indicates that a second year of work will be pursued, employer certification of this second year of work will be required. The second award payment, based upon the percentages described above, will be made at that time.

HMS students will apply to this program in their graduating year. The application process includes a one-page Statement of Purpose, providing citations of the student's leadership abilities, prior commitment to *and* impact on global health delivery, an explanation regarding how the student's intended residency program further enhances this pursuit, and a detailed description of the student's intended career path in global health delivery, including plans for post residency work and how it is focused in global health delivery. Three letters of recommendation, the academic Dean's Letter and two one-page letters from people knowledgeable about the student's work in global health delivery, are required. An official HMS transcript and the student's Curriculum Vitae are also required.

Selection of recipients will be based on a combination of factors, including the students' demonstrated commitment to global health delivery, leadership skills, and letters of recommendation. Financial need is also a significant factor in the selection process. Recipients are determined once confirmation is received regarding a student's match in a residency program. Award amounts will be based upon a percentage of a recipient's total HMS educational debt. Amounts will depend upon number of recipients selected.

**Harvard Medical School
2014-15 AbundanceFound Global Health
Loan Forgiveness Program**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Demonstrated commitment to and career path in Global Health Delivery (*i.e., delivering health care and/or planning and developing health care delivery systems, and/or a commitment to basic or applied research that impacts the delivery of global health*)
- Demonstration of leadership skills (*i.e., initiating projects, developing new ideas, as well as demonstrating a passion and commitment to global health delivery*)
- Confirmation of match in a residency program
- Financial Need (*priority will be given to students with educational debt in excess of \$98,000*)
- Academic Excellence
- 2015 HMS Graduate

Statement of Purpose (one-page limit):

Please describe which dimensions of global health you plan to focus on in your future work and the types of contributions you foresee making in global health delivery. Include examples of activities in which you have engaged that demonstrate your commitment to these and their impact. Indicate how your residency program will prepare you for continued pursuit of a career in global health delivery. Please describe how your career plans demonstrate a commitment to global health delivery.

Statement of Purpose requirement: 12 point font with 1 inch margins will only be accepted.

Letters of Recommendation:

Three letters of recommendation are required. Your academic letter should be your official Dean's Letter (*send request to the HMS Registrar's Office; do not request from your Society*). Two remaining letters should be **no more than one page**, focus on your global health activities and be from people who have detailed knowledge of your commitment to global health delivery. These letters should address how committed you are to a career in global health delivery, elaborating on your relative experience, creativity, initiative and leadership skills. Recommenders should have detailed knowledge of your future career plans.

Caution: if you are planning to request a recommendation letter from your Society advisor, be sure this person has direct and extensive knowledge of your commitment to global health delivery.

Curriculum Vitae:

Please submit a Curriculum Vitae with your application. This document should indicate your prior Global Health activities. Please provide a timeline for these activities (start/end period, # of hours pursuing activity per week or month, etc.). *CV's without a clear understanding of your time commitments to activities will weaken your application.*

HMS Transcript:

Please submit an official HMS transcript with your application.

Application Deadline: April 1st

Send all completed application materials to:

Harvard Medical School Financial Aid Office
25 Shattuck Street, Room 211
Boston, MA 02115

Harvard Medical School 2014-15 Loan Forgiveness Application

Please read the eligibility requirements for the loan forgiveness program(s) to which you are applying. If you are applying to more than one program, please note that only one set of application materials will be accepted: one statement of purpose referencing your interest in both public service and global health, a total of three letters of recommendation (one being the Dean's Letter), one curriculum vitae (indicating your time commitment to public service/global health activities), and one HMS transcript.

I am applying for (*check all that apply*):

____ Presidential Scholars Public Service Initiative

____ AbundanceFound Global Health Loan Forgiveness Program

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Society: _____

Residency Site: _____

Field of Medicine: _____

Do you plan to pursue a specialty during/after residency: _____

If yes, in what field: _____

Should I be awarded funding from either the HMS Public Service Initiative or the AbundanceFound Global Health Loan Forgiveness Program, I authorize the HMS Financial Aid Office to publicize my name as a recipient of this/these award(s). I understand that no personal financial information will be released in this announcement.

Signature _____ Date _____

Application Deadline: April 1, 2015