



Harvard Undergraduate World Pre-Health Conference

Financial Aid Policy 2025-26

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I. Purpose

The Harvard Undergraduate World Pre-Health Conference (HUWPC) is committed to fostering equal access and opportunity for all attendees, irrespective of financial background. The Financial Aid Policy outlined governs the eligibility, verification, and amounts awarded for the in-person and virtual conferences for the 2025-26 cycle.

II. Aid Documentation Standards

Attendees must demonstrate need for financial aid via documentation or written statement. **All documentation received will be handled confidentially and used solely for the purpose of financial aid evaluation.**

Awarded aid is based on the type and strength of documentation submitted, as described. Each applicant may be considered for a single award per conference.

Acceptable Documentation

Applicants may submit any of the following categories of documentation to demonstrate financial need. Documentation submission does not guarantee receipt of financial aid.

1: Official Institutional Financial Aid Verification	Pell Grant eligibility confirmation Official FAFSA report (including Estimated Family Contribution) CSS profile Official Higher Education Institution (HEI) financial aid documentation
2: Certified Income Documentation	Tax returns or W-2 forms clearly indicating family income
3: Supplementary Government or Institutional Support Evidence	Official letters from food/nutrition services (e.g., free/reduced-price meal eligibility) Bank statements demonstrating low balances (e.g., <\$2,000 for a family) State or government-issued financial assistance letters
4: Alternative Proof of Financial Aid	Pay stubs or wage slips Images of unofficial estimated family contribution communications Images of bank balances or earnings from gig work (e.g. Uber, DoorDash, etc.) Images of fundraising documentation (e.g. GoFundMe pages)
5: Personal Statement of Financial Circumstances	Written personal statement detailing financial circumstances, provided without additional supporting documentation

III. Financial Aid Award Structure

Financial aid may be awarded as a percentage of the conference registration fee based on the strongest documentation submitted. The categories listed below are presented in order of strength, with Category 1 being the most definitive proof of need and Category 5 being the least.

Documentation Category	Aid Award Policy	Conditions for Possibility of Full Aid
1: Official Institutional Financial Aid Verification	Up to 100% of conference fee	Up to 100% of conference fee granted if documentation is provided
2: Certified Income Documentation	Family income between \$45,001 and \$60,000: up to 70% of conference fee Family income of \$45,000 or less: up to 100% of conference fee	Up to 100% of conference fee granted if tax documents show a family income of \$45,000 or less and the applicant also meets any other "low-income marker" (such as SNAP, Pell, or EFC $\leq$ \$2,500)
3: Supplementary Government or Institutional Support Evidence	Up to 70% of conference fee if there is documented participation in major benefits programs (e.g., free/reduced lunch, SNAP, TANF) Up to 50% of conference fee if documentation demonstrates some hardship but not qualifying for major programs	Up to 100% of conference fee may be granted in cases where: There is clear, sustained enrollment in multiple government assistance program <u>or</u> The applicant submits a combination of verified public benefit documentation and a compelling statement of hardship These cases are subject to committee discretion and may require additional review or verification
4: Alternative Proof of Financial Aid	Up to 40% of conference fee, depending on persuasiveness of documentation	Full aid (100%) is rare, but may be considered at committee discretion in cases of very well-substantiated hardship when no stronger official documentation is provided
5: Personal Statement of Financial Circumstances	Up to 30% of conference fee	Full aid (100%) is extremely rare, and may only be granted in extraordinary cases at committee discretion, based on personal statement

IV. Policy Exceptions and Special Cases

International Applications: Where U.S.-based forms are unavailable, equivalent local documentation is accepted (e.g. national university award letters, household income statements, welfare/benefits statements from non-US governments) and will be weighted according to the standards above.

Ambiguous Documentation: If documentation is ambiguous or incomplete but substantial need is demonstrated, the Finance Committee may exercise discretion to adjust awards.

Currency Exchange: Reported income and assets originating outside the U.S. may be converted or assessed using alternative, committee-approved methods when necessary.

Committee Discretion: Financial aid may be provided outside of the standard policy at the discretion of the Finance Committee in exceptional cases. All committee discretion decisions will be documented for fairness and consistency.

V. Award Decision Notification

Award decisions will be communicated by official conference correspondence. Recipients will receive instructions for utilizing their award toward conference registration.