LL.M. Programs in Intercultural Human Rights and Environmental Sustainability

2012-2013 FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION SHEET

To assist students with financing their educational costs St. Thomas University offers financial assistance to eligible students primarily through the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Direct Student Loan Programs. Scholarship opportunities and private/alternative loans may also be available to eligible students.

To be considered eligible for all Federal Student Aid Programs (Stafford Loans, Graduate PLUS Loans, Perkins Loan, and Federal Work Study) available you must meet the following eligibility requirements.

1. Be accepted and enrolled at least half-time (4 graduate credits per semester) in an LL.M Program offered by St. Thomas University School of Law.
2. Be a citizen, national, or eligible non-citizen of the United States with a valid Social Security Number.
3. Be registered with selective service if required to do so by law.
4. Be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress
5. Meet credit criteria established by the U.S. Department of Education (for Direct Plus Loan borrowers only)
6. Not owe a refund of any Title IV funds or be in default of any previously borrowed student loans.

To apply for the Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan and/or the Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate and Professional Students, you will need to complete the following:

Request your Personal Identification Number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov. Your federal student aid PIN is used to electronically apply for federal student aid and access your federal student aid records online. Your PIN serves as your electronic signature. Be sure to keep your PIN in a safe place.

2012-2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the web at www.fafsa.gov. The result of your FAFSA is called the Student Aid Report (SAR) and it summarizes the data you reported on your application. You will receive your SAR via e-mail confirmation. Please be sure to read and review this information carefully for accuracy. Should you need to make corrections you may do so electronically by submitting a FAFSA correction online at www.fafsa.gov.

St. Thomas University's Federal School Code is 001468

Loan Entrance Counseling. Federal regulations governing the borrowing of Federal Student Loans require that all students receiving a Direct Stafford and/or Direct Grad PLUS Loan must complete a Loan Entrance Counseling. If you are borrowing a Direct Stafford or Graduate PLUS Loan for the first time as a student of St. Thomas University's School of Law, you must complete an Entrance Counseling online at www.studentloans.gov before your loans can be disbursed. You will only be required to complete the Loan Entrance Counseling once.

Direct Stafford Unsubsidized Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN). You must have an MPN on file with the U.S. Department of Education before your loans can be disbursed. If you are borrowing a Direct Stafford Loan for the first time as a student of St. Thomas University's School of Law, you must complete a Stafford Unsubsidized MPN online at www.studentloans.gov. You may be eligible to borrow up to $20,500 per academic year through the Stafford Loan program. These loans are unsubsidized so interest will begin accruing at disbursement at a fixed rate of 6.8%. This loan is subject to a 1% federal loan fee deducted at the time of disbursement. There is no credit check required and no payments are required while you are in school at least half-time. Several repayment options are available. You will only be required to complete this MPN once.

2012-2013 Direct Stafford Loan Request Form. You must submit this form every time you are requesting a new loan online at www.stu.edu/faforms. If you are completing this form for the first time, you will be required to create your own username and login. If you are requesting a loan for both the Fall and the Spring semesters be sure to select both terms on this form.

Direct PLUS Loan MPN for Graduate/Professional Students. In some cases, it may be necessary for you to request more than the maximum loan limit under the Stafford Loan Program. The Direct PLUS Loan program may allow you to borrow up to your cost of attendance minus all other forms of financial aid you will be receiving. This loan is subject to credit approval by the U.S. Dept. of Education. Interest on this loan will begin accruing at disbursement at a fixed rate of 7.9% and a 4% federal loan fee will be deducted at disbursement. Although the Direct PLUS Loan enters repayment immediately after the loan is fully disbursed, you are not required to make payments while you are in school at least half-time. To apply for a Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate/Professional Students you must complete a Grad PLUS MPN online at www.studentloans.gov. You must have an MPN on file with the U.S. Department of Education before your loans can be disbursed. In some cases, you may be required to apply for this loan using an endorser. To learn if you will need to apply with an endorser, you may complete the "Request Direct PLUS Loan" Process online at www.studentloans.gov after May 1, 2012.

2012-2013 Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Request Form for Graduate Professional Students. You must submit this form every time you are requesting a new Grad PLUS loan online at www.stu.edu/faforms. However, before you request a Grad PLUS Loan you must first request a Stafford Loan (above). If you are requesting a Grad PLUS Loan for both the Fall and the Spring semesters be sure to select both terms on this form, and indicate the amount of loan you are requesting from the Grad PLUS Loan program.

For more information on the Federal Direct Student Loan Programs please visit www.direct.ed.gov.

Private or Alternative Loans

Private Loans are non-federal student loans typically borrowed by students who are not eligible for Federal student loans. Private loans are subject to credit approval by your lender of choice. In some cases, you may be required to apply with a credit-worthy cosigner. Although the private loan may allow you to borrow up to your total cost of attendance, you should borrow only what you need. In most cases, these loans have variable interest rates and repayment terms may vary between lenders. International students may be required to apply with a credit-worthy United States citizen as a co-signer/borrower. In some cases, the lender may require that you submit additional information along with your application such as, proof of U.S. citizenship or proof of income. For more information or to apply for a private loan, please visit STU's Financial Aid home page at www.stu.edu/financialaid and select "Student Loan Programs" to view a listing of private lenders and compare their benefits.

Scholarships

Scholarships may be available to eligible students and are typically awarded at the time of admissions by the Admissions Committee. Other scholarship opportunities may also be available to deserving students, subject to availability of funds, and are awarded and administered by the Program Director for your LL.M Program.

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

To assist you with your financial planning we have included the following estimated 2012-2013 Cost of Attendance (COA) based on full-time enrollment (24 credits for the year). Your total financial aid award (including all scholarships, grants, loans, and other awarded financial assistance) cannot exceed the total COA based on your housing status provided on your FAFSA. These are estimated costs, it is strongly recommended that you review your individual financial needs before borrowing any student loans and borrow only what you need. When planning your educational costs, it is essential that you also plan for future repayment of any amounts borrowed.

Estimated 2012-2013 Cost of Attendance for Fall and Spring (August – May)

	On-Campus	Off-Campus	With-Parents
Tuition & Fees	$25,004	$25,004	$25,004
Books & Materials	1,200	1,200	1,200
Room & Board	16,380	14,072	2,707
Loan Fees	685	685	685
Transportation	2,206	3,213	3,213
Personal Expenses	2,628	2,628	2,628
TOTAL	**$48,103**	**$46,802**	**$35,437**

Estimated figures are subject to change without notice

Additional Documentation

In some cases, you may be required to submit additional forms of documentation such as: proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residency, income verification, copies of a valid Driver's License or Social Security Card, proof of Selective Service Registration, and/or proof of non-default before your financial aid request can be completed. Your financial aid file can only be processed once you have submitted all required documents. It is important that you submit all required documents in a timely manner to the Office of Student and Financial Affairs to avoid any unnecessary delays. You can view the status of your financial aid file online at https://bobcat.stu.edu.

Award Notification

You will receive an award notification shortly after your financial aid file has been completed. By accepting a loan as part of your financial aid package, you incur a binding obligation to repay the loan in full, including interest and any applicable fees. You can view your award letter and check on your financial aid status online at https://bobcat.stu.edu.

For information regarding the conditions of your financial aid award, including Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress, Dropping and Withdrawing, and Loan Repayment options please visit our website at www.stu.edu/lawfinancialaid.

Direct Deposit and Refunds

If after your financial aid payment has been received by the University your student account reflects a credit balance, a refund for the credit balance will be directly deposited into your personal bank account. To complete the Direct Deposit Form, please go to www.stu.edu/BASIC , select Forms, and complete the Direct Deposit Form. For assistance, please contact the University's Student Accounts Office at (305) 474-6977.

How to borrow wisely

- Don't borrow without looking into alternate methods of financing your education (i.e. scholarships, fellowships, savings, family assistance, etc.)
- If you borrow a private loan, carefully compare the terms of the loan, interest rates, loan fees, and repayment incentives.
- Repay your debts as soon as possible, the longer you owe, the more you will pay.
- To help secure your financial future, don't borrow more than what you will be able to afford to repay.
- Try to borrow as little as possible. **Borrow ONLY what you need.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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