



# CPRL Scholar Award and Employment Verification Process

Financial Support for CPRL Participants

CPRL Scholar Award applicants must:

- Submit a completed application for the CPRL Scholar Award and the full-semester program
- Complete a Financial Aid Data form the semester prior to your participation in CPRL
  - Form must be signed/certified by your home school's Financial Aid Office
- Complete CPRL's full-semester program during the fall or spring term
- Commit to work qualifying employment for three of the first five years after graduating from their professional program in a full-time role.\*

## WHAT IS THE CPRL SCHOLAR AWARD?

The CPRL Scholar Award recognizes exceptional students who commit to work for three of the first five years after graduating from their professional program in a full-time governmental or non-profit position in PK-12 public education OR in a position in support of PK-12 public education sector.\* Employment can take place in and/or outside the United States. Award amounts are based on your financial need, merit, and the amount of funding available during the term. Financial need is certified by your home institution's Office of Financial Aid. Scholars must accept the terms of the award as outlined in the promissory note. Scholars must attend an entrance and exit interview prior to accepting the award and at the end of the semester to review the terms of their scholarship and preview the Employment Verification process. The Award is processed during the student's participating semester as a scholarship via their home institution. CPRL works with our partner institutions so that scholarships are processed near the beginning of the semester. However, please note that delays can happen, and we cannot guarantee any timeline.

## What happens if I don't meet the terms of the CPRL Scholar Award?

The CPRL Scholar Award automatically defaults to a loan if the terms, outlined in the promissory note, are not met. The award plus interest (the interest rate for each year after the note is signed is 5%) must be repaid to CPRL in full, prorated for any time period in qualifying employment.

## TERMS OF THE CPRL SCHOLAR AWARD

- 1** **CPRL Course Completion**  
Completion of the Structural Change in Public Education course offered by CPRL and reception of a passing grade reflected on your transcript.
- 2** **On-time graduation from home institution**  
Obtain a degree from your home institution fulfilling all outstanding graduation requirements within the time-period provided by your home institution.
- 3** **Scholar Award Entrance and Exit Counseling**  
Meet with CPRL staff to learn about the terms of your reward before signing the agreement and review the terms of your award after signing.
- 4** **Submission of annual employment verification forms (EVF) to [cpri@law.columbia.edu](mailto:cpri@law.columbia.edu)**  
You and your employer complete the EVF form to note qualified and non-qualified employment for CPRL's records. Return your completed EVF by sending it to [cpri@law.columbia.edu](mailto:cpri@law.columbia.edu).
- 5** **Three years of qualified employment completed within the first five years after graduating from their professional program.**  
Full-time (35+ hours) employment primarily serving the public education of preK-to-high school students, or in a public or non-profit organization in a role that primarily serves preK-to-high school students access to high-quality education.

# Examples of Employment Requirements Fulfilled

Questions? Email [cpri@law.columbia.edu](mailto:cpri@law.columbia.edu)

Example	Grad Month & Year	5 Year Deadline	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3	Status of Meeting Scholar Award Terms	Notes
Student 1	November 2018	November 2023	Admissions Coordinator at K-1 Teacher QWERTY Charter School 2 years August 2022 - present	N/A	N/A	Yes; in progress Completed 2 years of qualifying employment at present	Charter School's are publicly funded and qualify for employment verification.
Student 2	May 2019	May 2024	Project Consultant at STATE DOE 4 months September 2019 - December 2019	Teacher, Universidad Linguo de México 3 years and 9 months February 2020 - October 2023	N/A	Yes; completed Scholar recipient meets all terms of award	Award recipients may work outside of the United States.
Student 3	May 2020	May 2025	Assistant Principal ABC Public Elementary School 9 months May 2020 - January 2021	PM at Childcare Collaborative Nonprofit 2 years and 4 months May 2022 - August 2024	N/A	Yes; completed Scholar recipient meets all terms of award as of August 2024	N/A
Student 4	August 2023	August 2027	PhD Candidate at DEF University 4 years and 1 month August 2019 - August 2023	Associate Counsel at West Coast Coalition 1 year and 8 months January 2024 - August 2025	Attorney at CITY Schools 2 months August 2025 - present	Yes; in progress Completed 1 year and 10 months of qualifying employment at present	Deadline to meet post-graduation employment requirements is extended for any recipients in full-time PhD programs or clerking. Timeline is paused.

# Examples of Employment Requirements Not Fulfilled

Questions? Email [cpri@law.columbia.edu](mailto:cpri@law.columbia.edu)

Example	Grad Month & Year	5 Year Deadline	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3	Status of Meeting Scholar Award Terms	Notes
Student 5	January 2017	January 2022	Residential Aide Local Family Shelter  4 year and 2 months September 2017 - October 2021	After-School Counselor at Sunnyside Preschool  3 months November 2021 - January 2022	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>worked non qualifying employment</li> <li>will repay full cost of award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>worked 0/36 months of qualifying employment 5 years after graduating their program</li> </ul>
Student 6	December 2018	December 2023	Teacher Assistant at XYZ Middle School  1 year and 4 months September 2017 - December 2018	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>worked qualifying position before graduation</li> <li>will repay full cost of award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>employment outside the 5-year Employment Verification Process.</li> </ul>
Student 7	June 2018	June 2023	Education at DO GOOD B-CORP  4 years and 10 months September 2018 - June 2023	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>worked non qualifying employment</li> <li>will repay full cost of award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>worked 0/36 months of qualifying employment 5 years after graduating their program</li> <li>a "B-Corp" is not a qualifying non-profit or governmental institution</li> </ul>
Student 8	June 2018	June 2023	Associate Attorney Private big law firm  8 months August 2018 - March 2019	Associate Counsel CITY DOE  1 year and 8 months May 2019 - Dec 2020	General Attorney World Bank  11 months Aug 2022 - June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>qualifying position for less than 36 months</li> <li>will repay prorated cost of award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>worked 20/36 months of qualifying employment 5 years after graduating their program</li> </ul>