

HIGHER ED IS  
*expensive*



**The JELF Mission:**

JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) provides interest-free loans for Jewish students in need for higher education, which includes undergrad, graduate or technical school.

**Applicants must:**

- Be a resident of FL, GA, SC, NC or VA (excluding metro DC)
- Be enrolled full-time in a degree or certificate program + remain in good academic standing
- Fill out FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) and plan to accept federal college loans.
- Be a U.S. citizen or have lawful immigration status
- Have an eligible cosigner

**How JELF Loans Work:**

JELF's interest-free loans are intended to be 'last dollar' loans, which means that students are expected to assemble a financial aid package *before* applying for funding from JELF. JELF's 0% interest loans are most often used to pay for necessary living expenses, such as housing, meals, books, transportation, healthcare and more.



In addition to the online application, all applicants and their cosigners must meet with a Local JELF Administrator (LJA) for a personal interview. JELF conducts a semi-annual Loan Review process, during which each JELF applicant is screened anonymously to make tough funding decisions.

**Application Period:**

- The application is open on **January 3 - April 30** for the full, upcoming academic year; and
- **August 1 – September 30** for spring and/or summer semester only.

**[JELF.ORG/APP](http://JELF.ORG/APP)**

Students/parents may register anytime to receive pertinent reminders about deadlines and dates.

**Loan Repayment:**

JELF loans are always deferred while a student is in school. Then, 6 months after a student's final graduation, JELF's repayment period begins. Students then have 8 years to repay their loan at a graduated repayment rate, which means that monthly payments increase gradually (every two years).

JELF's repayment rate has been at a consistent 99% for over 12 years. This tells us that not only are our students becoming capable, independent professionals, but they also value the need to recycle JELF's funds within the Jewish community.

*What goes around comes around*