



Australian Government

2023 OS-HELP INFORMATION



www.studyassist.gov.au

OS-HELP

An OS-HELP loan is for students who wish to study part of their course overseas, but are worried about the cost. OS-HELP is an Australian Government loan scheme that helps eligible students based in Australia and enrolled in a Commonwealth supported place (CSP) to undertake some of their study overseas.

OS-HELP loans can be used for a range of expenses, such as airfares, accommodation and other travel or study costs.

You will not be able to get an OS-HELP loan if you are undertaking your whole course outside Australia or wanting to study at an overseas institution.

You can only receive an OS-HELP loan after completing one EFTSL of your course in Australia—usually this is one year of full-time study.

You must also have at least 0.125 EFTSL of your course left to complete in Australia—usually this is one unit of study.

Once approved, your university will pay the OS-HELP loan amount directly to you.

Eligibility criteria for OS-HELP include:

- be enrolled in a CSP
- be an Australian citizen
 - OR a permanent humanitarian visa holder resident (or eligible former)
 - OR an eligible New Zealand Special Category visa (SCV) holder (or eligible former) who will be resident in Australia at the time of applying
- have been selected to receive an OS-HELP loan (each university will have their own application process)
- have completed the equivalent of one full-time year study load (EFTSL) in your course
- not have received an OS-HELP loan more than once before
- be studying full-time overseas and have that study count towards your Australian course
- have at least one unit of study left to complete in Australia when you return
- submit your completed OS-HELP form (also known as an eCAF) to your university and have read the 2023 OS-HELP statement of terms and conditions.

The full list of eligibility criteria can be found in the 2023 OS-HELP statement of terms and conditions.

How do I get an OS-HELP loan?

If you are interested in studying part of your Australian course overseas (e.g. a semester exchange) – then talk to the student support area or international office at your university. The subjects at your destination university must be approved to count toward your Australian course. Ask your university for information about their application and selection process.

Once you know what study trip or exchange you will take, and you have been selected to receive an OS-HELP loan, your university will then provide you with an OS-HELP eCAF to complete.

Borrowing and repaying

For a six-month study period, you can borrow up to:

- \$7,348 if you do not study in Asia
- \$8,817 if you study in Asia; plus an extra \$1,172 for approved Asian language study.

To access your loan history, including checking how much OS-HELP you have borrowed previously, log in to www.myHELPPbalance.gov.au.

You start repaying your HELP debt through the Australian tax system once you earn above the compulsory repayment threshold, which is \$51,550 from 1 July 2023.

Your HELP debt is reduced when you make repayments, but could also grow as indexation is applied on 1 June each year.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS:

Step 1

Be enrolled in a CSP and understand the OS-HELP requirements

Step 2

Ask your university about their selection and application process

Step 3

Ensure your overseas study counts towards your Australian course

Step 4

Complete your OS-HELP eCAF

Step 5

Start repaying your debt when you begin earning above the threshold