

2018



Australian Government

THINKING ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION?

You could get a FEE-HELP loan to pay your tuition fees.

Visit

www.studyassist.gov.au

for up-to-date information on FEE-HELP.



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In Australia there are two types of higher education places:

- fee paying places, and
- subsidised Commonwealth supported places.

This brochure focuses on fee paying places.

These places are not subsidised by the Australian Government (Government) and tuition fees are set by approved education providers (providers).

This means that before you decide what and where you will study, it is up to you to compare courses and costs at different providers. Things to compare include tuition fees, resources, facilities, course delivery and job prospects. Once you enrol in a course, you will need to pay your tuition fees by the census date.

WHAT IS FEE-HELP?

FEE-HELP is a Government loan scheme that helps eligible higher education students enrolled in fee paying places pay their tuition fees.



AM I ELIGIBLE FOR A FEE-HELP LOAN?

To be eligible for FEE-HELP, make sure you can tick ALL the requirements below. You must:

- meet the citizenship* and residency* requirements,
- undertake study with an approved higher education provider—listed on **Study Assist** at www.studyassist.gov.au,
- be enrolled in a fee paying place for an eligible unit of study by the census date,
- meet the tax file number (TFN)* requirements,
- read the *FEE-HELP information* booklet (the booklet),
- submit a valid *Request for a FEE-HELP loan* form (the form) for your unit(s) of study by the census date, and
- have not exceeded the FEE-HELP limit.*

*Check the requirements in the booklet on **Study Assist**.

HOW DO I GET A FEE-HELP LOAN?

If you are eligible for a FEE-HELP loan, you need to submit your correctly completed form to your provider by the census date. You **MUST** give your TFN or submit a *Certificate of Application for a TFN* with the form. If you do not have a TFN you need to contact the Australian Taxation Office at: www.ato.gov.au.

How much can I borrow?

You can borrow up to the FEE-HELP limit to pay your tuition fees. The FEE-HELP limit is the total amount available to you under the FEE-HELP and VET FEE-HELP/VET Student Loans schemes over your lifetime.

In 2018, the general FEE-HELP limit is \$102,392 for most students (a higher limit applies for specific medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses). The FEE-HELP limit is indexed on 1 January each year.

Once you have reached the FEE-HELP limit, you can no longer use FEE-HELP to pay your tuition fees.

Is there a loan fee?

A 25% loan fee applies to FEE-HELP for undergraduate courses. The loan fee does **NOT** apply for postgraduate study, and there are other exceptions too—check **Study Assist** for information. Don't forget, for questions specific to your circumstances, always ask your provider first.

The loan fee does not count towards your FEE-HELP limit but it is included in your accumulated HELP debt.

REPAYING MY FEE-HELP LOAN

If you get a FEE-HELP loan, you will have a legal obligation to the Government to repay your debt. Your debt is repaid through the tax system once you earn over a certain amount. In the 2017–18 income year, you must make a compulsory repayment once your income is \$55,874 or above. Your debt is indexed each year to maintain its real value.



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Go to **Study Assist** at www.studyassist.gov.au to:

- get your copy of the booklet,
- check to see if you are eligible to receive any student income support payments while you are studying, and
- get a copy of the *Beyond school study guide*.



Visit

www.studyassist.gov.au

