



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Go to www.studyassist.gov.au to:

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



Visit

www.studyassist.gov.au



2020



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.



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In Australia there are two types of higher education places:

- fee paying places (which are not subsidised)
- Commonwealth supported places which are subsidised by the Australian Government (Government).

This brochure focuses on fee paying places.

It is up to you to compare courses and costs at different providers before you decide what and where you will study. Things to compare include tuition fees, facilities, course delivery and graduate outcomes. Once you enrol in a course, you will need to pay your tuition fees before the census date. Tuition fees are set by approved education providers (providers).

Your provider will assess whether you are eligible for FEE-HELP.

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, you must:

- meet the citizenship and residency requirements
- undertake study with a provider listed on 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
- submit a valid *Request for a FEE-HELP loan* form (the form) for your unit(s) of study by the census date
- have not exceeded the combined HELP loan limit.

HOW DO I GET A FEE-HELP LOAN?

You need to submit your correctly completed form to your provider by the census date. Your provider will give you the form and tell you what your census date is.

You MUST submit your TFN or a *Certificate of Application for a TFN* with the form. If you don't have a TFN yet, the fastest way to apply for one is with Australia Post. Find out how at www.ato.gov.au/TFN.

How much can I borrow?

The combined HELP loan limit

You can borrow up to the combined HELP loan limit to pay your tuition fees. It is the total amount you can borrow over your lifetime and includes all previous and new FEE-HELP, VET FEE-HELP (closed)/VET Student Loans amounts (and all HECS-HELP loans from 2020).

In 2020, the combined HELP loan limit is \$106,319 for most students (a higher limit of \$152,700 applies for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses leading to initial registration, and for certain aviation courses). The FEE-HELP limit is indexed on 1 January each year.

The renewable HELP balance

This is the amount you have left to use before reaching the combined HELP loan limit. It is now renewable so any repayments from the 2019–20 income year and onwards will 'top up' your available HELP balance for further study.

Is there a loan fee?

A 25 per cent loan fee may apply to FEE-HELP for undergraduate courses. Check *Study Assist* for more information. The loan fee will be added to your HELP debt but it does not count towards your combined HELP loan limit.

REPAYING MY FEE-HELP LOAN

If you use FEE-HELP, you 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 2019–20 income year, you must make a compulsory repayment once your income is \$45,881 or above. You are not charged interest on your debt, but your debt is indexed each year to maintain its real value.