

2019



Australian Government

# THINKING ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION?

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

Visit

[www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au)

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



Published January 2019

In Australia there are two types of higher education places:

- fee paying places (which are not subsidised),
  - you pay your own tuition fees.
- subsidised Commonwealth supported places (CSPs),
  - the Government pays for some of your tuition fees.

This brochure focuses on fee paying places.

The Government does not subsidise these tuition fees. Tuition fees are set by approved education providers.

This means 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 job prospects. Once you enrol in a course, you will need to pay your tuition fees before the census date. Your provider will give you information about this date.

Don't think you can pay your tuition fees upfront? You may be able to apply for FEE-HELP. Your provider will assess whether you are eligible.

## 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 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](http://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, 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. Your provider will give you the form.

You **MUST** submit your TFN or a *Certificate of Application for a TFN* with the form. If you do not have a TFN, you must apply for one. The fastest way to apply for a TFN is with Australia Post. You can find out how to apply at [www.ato.gov.au/TFN](http://www.ato.gov.au/TFN).

### 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 you can borrow over your lifetime under the FEE-HELP and VET FEE-HELP/ VET Student Loans schemes.

In 2019, the general FEE-HELP limit is \$104,440 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 may apply to FEE-HELP for undergraduate courses. Check **Study Assist** for more information. Don't forget, for questions specific to your circumstances, always ask your provider first.

The loan fee will be added to your HELP debt that you must repay. However, it does not count towards your FEE-HELP limit.

## 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 2018–19 income year, you must make a compulsory repayment once your income is \$51,957 or above. You are not charged interest on your debt, but your debt is indexed each year to maintain its real value.



## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Go to **Study Assist** at [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://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, and
- get a copy of the *Beyond school study guide*.



Visit

[www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au)

