

## What is the VET Student Loans Program?

The **VET Student Loans program** is an Australian Government loan program that helps eligible students enrolled in **approved courses** at diploma level or above, at **approved course providers** pay their **tuition fees**. The loan has income-contingent repayment arrangements, which means you only need to make repayments if you are earning above the minimum repayment threshold. You can make voluntary repayments at any time.

If you are an eligible student, the Department of Education and Training (the department) may approve your VET Student Loan for an **approved course**. The department will pay your loan directly to your **approved course provider**. You will be responsible for any gap amount in the **tuition fees**, which are not covered by the loan. You will owe a debt to the Australian Government for the loan, which will be managed by the Australian Taxation Office (**ATO**).

## Who is Eligible?

To receive a VET Student Loan, you must:

1. be an eligible student
2. be studying an **approved course**
3. be studying with an **approved course provider**
4. apply to the government using the approved form (eCAF), which will be managed through your provider, and
5. confirm your engagement and continued progression to continue accessing the loan throughout your course.
6. meet the academic suitability requirements to undertake the approved course on the basis of either:
  - a. providing your Australian Year 12 Certificate or
  - b. providing your International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) diploma or
  - c. providing evidence of successful completion of a qualification that has been delivered in English and:
    - i. was at level 4 or above in the Australian Qualifications Framework (Cert IV or higher) or at a level in a framework that preceded the AQF that is equivalent to level 4 or above in the AQF or
    - ii. has been assessed by a federal, state or territory government agency which assesses overseas qualification as equivalent or comparable to: a qualification at level 4 or above in the AQF, or a qualification at a level in a framework that preceded the AQF that is equivalent to level 4 or above in the AQF or
  - d. displaying competence at or above Exit Level 3 in the Australian Core Skills Framework in both reading and numeracy through an approved Language, Literacy and Numeracy test and
  - e. in addition, the approved course provider must reasonably believe the student is academically suited to undertake the course and the student must meet any other specified entry requirements of the course

7. meet the enrolment and loan application requirements
  - a. be enrolled with an approved course provider in an approved course
  - b. be undertaking the course primarily at a campus in Australia
  - c. meet the Tax File Number (TFN) requirements
  - d. have a Unique Student Identifier
  - e. have given the required documents to your approved course provider and submitted the loan application form by the first census day and no less than two business days after enrolling.
  - f. Where a student is under 18 years old, they must:
    - i. have a parental consent form signed by a responsible parent or
    - ii. have evidence of the assessment of receipt of youth allowance on the basis the student is independent, for example a Centrelink Income Statement

To be an **eligible student**, student must be either:

- an Australian citizen (Australian Passport), or
- a qualifying New Zealand citizen<sup>1</sup>, or
- a permanent humanitarian visa holder, who is usually resident in Australia.

If you DO NOT have a CURRENT Australian Passport the evidence required to demonstrate Australian Citizenship will be dependent on the following:

- Applicants born in Australia BEFORE 20<sup>th</sup> August 1986
  - MUST provide their FULL birth certificate
- Applicants born in Australia ON OR AFTER 20<sup>th</sup> August 1986 and one of their parents was an Australian citizen at the time of their birth
  - MUST provide their FULL birth certificate
  - If neither parent was born in Australia, the applicant must also provide a parent's Australian citizenship certificate to prove at least one parent was a citizen at the time of their birth
  - If the parent was born in Australia on or after the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1986, the parent's full birth certificate or the parent's citizenship certificate is required.
  - Applicants born overseas and acquired Australian citizenship by application must provide ONE of the following
    - A current Australian passport
    - an Australian citizenship certificate
    - A citizenship by decent extract
- A NEW ZEALAND citizen is eligible if they hold a Special category Visa and:
  - Been residing in Australia for at least 10 years and
  - Was a dependent child aged under 18 years when they first arrived in Australia and
  - Has been in Australia for periods totalling 8 years during the previous 10 years and
  - Has been in Australia for periods totalling 18 months during the previous 2 years



# VET Student Loans Eligibility Criteria

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## Important Information for the student

Students will incur a liability to pay **tuition fees** for each part of your course on the **census day** for that part of your course.

If they do not wish to incur a liability for that part of the course they must withdraw their enrolment in that part of the course, before the **census day**. They must withdraw in writing and in line with Absolute Medical Response **approved course provider's** withdrawal procedure.

**Full fee paying/fee for service students** will incur a 20% loan fee on their VET Student Loan. Students enrolled in a diploma and advanced diploma level course whose enrolment is subsidised by a state or territory government do not incur a loan fee.

**Student MUST read following information on VET Student Loans BEFORE submitting the 'request for vet student loan eCAF' form:**

[https://www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022\\_fee\\_factsheet.pdf?v=1640216057](https://www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022_fee_factsheet.pdf?v=1640216057)

[https://www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/default/files/help\\_publications\\_2022\\_fee\\_help\\_booklet.pdf?v=1637039308](https://www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/default/files/help_publications_2022_fee_help_booklet.pdf?v=1637039308)

### **\*\* Important Note \*\***

If you do not qualify for a VET Student Loan, Absolute Medical Response is able to offer you a payment plan to assist you financially throughout the course. Please talk to our Student Enrolment Advisor about alternate payment options.