



The facts about higher education reform



Australian Government



Your future is Australia's future

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Higher education – it's worth doing



Your future is Australia's future. That's why higher education is so important to all of us, and why the Australian Government is committed to helping students get a world-class education.

On average, university graduates can earn up to 75% more than school leavers over their lifetime, so higher education is worth doing.

And with the Government paying a big share, around half, of your undergraduate course fees and HECS available to cover the rest, eligible students don't have to pay anything up front.

Learn what types of assistance are available if you want to get a higher education at www.studyassist.gov.au

Why we need changes



It's important that Australia's higher education system remains one of the best in the world and that all Australians have access to a world-class higher education.

The Government plans to make our higher education system even better, opening more pathways, providing more support and offering students more choice.

The Government's reforms will give universities the flexibility to specialise, innovate and excel, which is good news for students.

The changes will help our higher education system compete globally and be more sustainable for generations to come.

What is changing?



The Government has plans to:

- **extend Government support** to higher education students undertaking a wider range of accredited undergraduate courses, such as higher education diplomas, advanced diplomas, or associate degrees at a wide range of higher education institutions including public or private universities, TAFEs or colleges
- **make the system fairer** with the removal of the 25 per cent FEE-HELP and 20 per cent VET FEE-HELP loan fees and lifetime loan limits
- put in place measures that ensure **no domestic student pays more for their course than an international student**
- provide **more opportunities** for thousands of disadvantaged students through new scholarships schemes
- **strengthen** the higher education system by allowing higher education providers to set their own tuition fees for any courses they offer
- provide **more financial support** for new parents by introducing an interest rate pause on HECS loans for primary caregivers of children under five years old, who earn under the HECS minimum repayment threshold of over \$50,000.

What isn't changing?



The Government's plans for higher education won't change:

- **government assistance** will cover around half your undergraduate university course fees and HECS is available for the rest, so you **pay zero course fees up front**
- **no HECS limits** so you can borrow as much as you need to complete your undergraduate course, or retrain later if you choose to
- **the indexation rate on HECS** will remain at the consumer price index (CPI) meaning the real value of HECS loans will never rise
- **fair repayment arrangements** which only require you to begin to repay your HECS debt when you earn over \$50,000
- **quality assurance** arrangements through the national quality regulator, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)
- **existing fee arrangements** for students already studying will remain the same until the end of 2020 (this includes those students who have commenced a course, or deferred commencement, on or before 13 May 2014).

Need more information?

To learn how you can benefit from changes to higher education **call 1800 020 108 or visit australia.gov.au/HigherEd**