



Australian Government

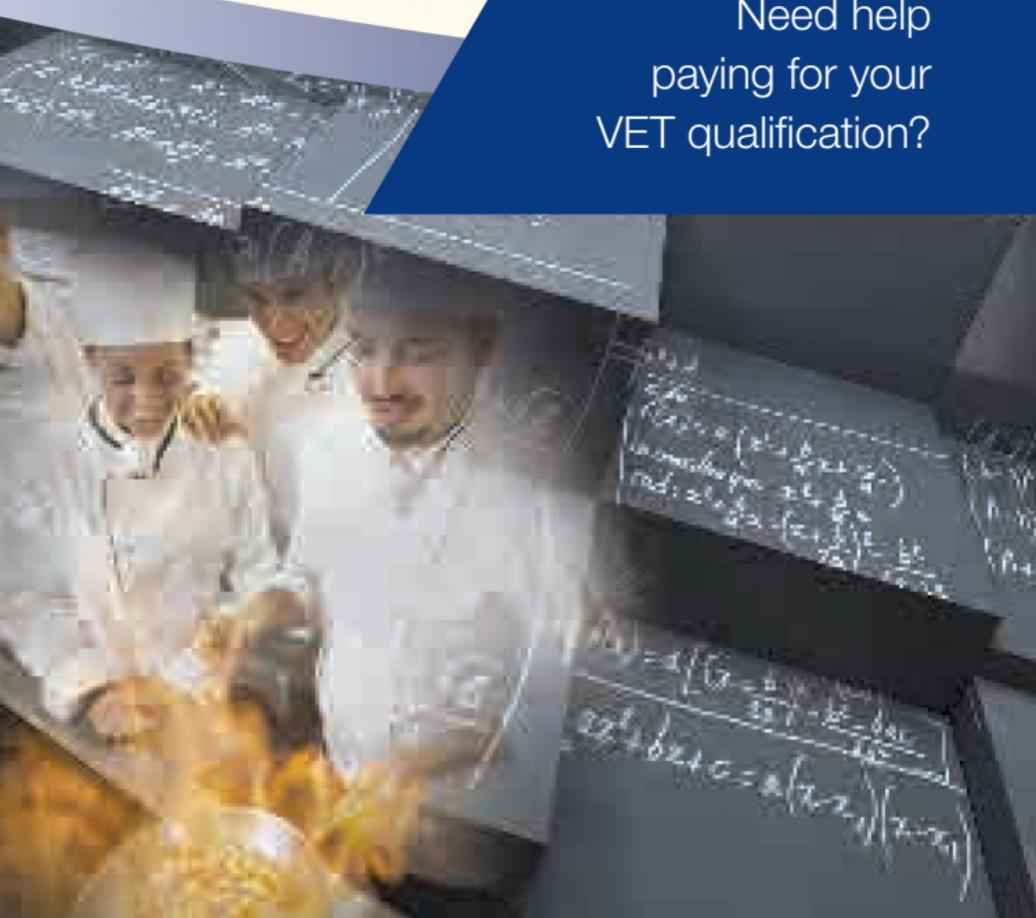
# Want to study a vocational education and training (VET) qualification?

VET FEE-HELP 2014



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

Need help  
paying for your  
VET qualification?



## What is VET FEE-HELP?

VET FEE-HELP is an Australian Government loan scheme that assists eligible students to pay their tuition fees for higher-level VET courses (at the diploma-level and above) undertaken at approved VET FEE-HELP providers (approved VET providers).

For a trial period, VET FEE-HELP loans are to be extended to subsidised VET students enrolled in selected certificate IV qualifications (that are specifically part of the trial) in certain states/territories.

Visit [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au) for more information regarding all eligibility requirements that relate to this trial.

## What is an approved VET FEE-HELP provider?

It is an organisation that has been approved under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to offer VET FEE-HELP loans to eligible students. Approved VET providers are listed at [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au).

## Am I eligible for VET FEE-HELP?

You may be eligible for a VET FEE-HELP loan if you:

- are an **Australian citizen**; or
- a **permanent humanitarian visa holder** who will be resident in Australia for the duration of your unit(s) of study;
- are a full fee paying/fee for service student, or a subsidised student in a state or territory that has implemented subsidised VET FEE-HELP arrangements (contact your approved VET provider for more information);
- are enrolled in an eligible course at an approved VET provider; and
- have read the *VET FEE-HELP information for 2014* booklet before you complete and submit the *Request for VET FEE-HELP assistance* form (the form) by the census date.

## How do I apply?

You must complete, sign and submit the form (only available from your approved VET provider) to the appropriate officer at your approved VET provider. This must be done by the census date of the first unit of study that you wish to pay for with a VET FEE-HELP loan.

You will need to provide your tax file number (or a *Certificate of application for TFN*) to complete the form.

If you access a VET FEE-HELP loan, you will have a legal obligation to the Commonwealth to repay your loan.

## How much can I borrow?

There is a set maximum amount you can borrow through VET FEE-HELP (and FEE-HELP) over your lifetime. This is known as the FEE-HELP limit. In 2014, the FEE-HELP limit is **\$96,000**. The FEE-HELP limit is indexed on 1 January each year.

## Does previous study affect my eligibility for VET FEE-HELP?

Only previous study paid with a VET FEE-HELP (or FEE-HELP) loan will affect the amount of VET FEE-HELP you can borrow.

## Is there a loan fee?

If you are a fee paying/fee for service student you will incur a 20% loan fee. This is included in your VET FEE-HELP debt. Subsidised students accessing VET FEE-HELP do not pay the loan fee.

## How do I repay the loan and is interest charged?

Your HELP debt is repaid through the tax system. In the 2013-14 income year, you will be required to make a compulsory repayment if your income is \$51,309 or above. The debt is indexed each year to maintain its real value, but is otherwise interest free.

At the time this brochure went to print, the Australian Government had announced, but not legislated, changes to the HELP voluntary repayment bonus (to be in effect from 1 January 2014). Until the relevant legislation is passed, the current arrangements apply. Visit [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au) for more information.

## Current arrangements

Voluntary repayments of \$500 or more receive a 5% bonus. This means your account at the ATO will be credited with an additional 5% of the value of your repayment, not 5% of your outstanding debt. For example, if you make a voluntary repayment of \$500, the bonus increases the value of your repayment so your account will be credited with \$525.

## Proposed arrangements

If the proposed changes go through, voluntary repayments would no longer be eligible to receive a bonus. For example, if you made a voluntary repayment of \$500, your account would be credited with \$500 only.

## Would you like further information?

The free *VET FEE-HELP information for 2014* booklet contains comprehensive information. **YOU MUST** read the booklet before applying for a VET FEE-HELP loan. The booklet is available from approved VET providers or online at [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au). You can also call the Skilling Australia line on **13 38 73** for more information.

You may also be eligible to receive a student income support payment whilst you are studying. Visit [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au) for more information about eligibility criteria.

