

2018



Australian Government

THINKING ABOUT STUDYING PART OF YOUR COURSE OVERSEAS?

You could get an OS-HELP loan.

Visit

www.studyassist.gov.au

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



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WHAT IS OS-HELP?

OS-HELP is an Australian Government (Government) loan scheme that helps eligible students based in Australia and enrolled in a Commonwealth supported place (CSP) to undertake some of their study overseas.

OS-HELP loans can be used for a range of expenses, such as air fares, accommodation and other travel or study costs.

Note: if you are undertaking your whole course outside Australia, or wanting to complete a qualification at an overseas institution, you are not eligible for OS-HELP.



AM I ELIGIBLE FOR AN OS-HELP LOAN?

To be eligible for OS-HELP, make sure you can tick ALL the requirements below. You must:

- have been selected by your university to receive an OS-HELP loan,
- be enrolled in a CSP,
- have completed one equivalent full-time student load (EFTSL) of study,
- meet the OS-HELP citizenship* requirements,
- not have received an OS-HELP loan more than once before and will not receive a second OS-HELP loan for the same six-month period,
- be studying full-time overseas and have that study count towards your Australian course,
- have study left to complete* in Australia once you have finished your overseas study,
- meet the tax file number (TFN)* requirements,
- have lodged a completed *OS-HELP debt confirmation* form (the form) with your university, and
- have read the *OS-HELP statement of terms and conditions* booklet (the booklet).

*Check the requirements in the booklet on the **Study Assist** website at: www.studyassist.gov.au.

HOW DO I GET AN OS-HELP LOAN?

If you are eligible for an OS-HELP loan, you need to submit your correctly completed form to your university by the required date. You **MUST** give your TFN or submit a *Certificate of Application for a TFN* with the form. If you do not have a TFN you need to contact the Australian Taxation Office at: www.ato.gov.au.

You may only receive an OS-HELP loan after completing one EFTSL of your course in Australia—usually this is one year of full-time study. You must also have at least 0.125 EFTSL of your course left to complete in Australia—usually this is one unit of study.

Each university sets their own application process, including the dates by which you will need to submit your form. Contact your university to confirm their process for application and selection.

How much can I borrow?

The amount of OS-HELP you can borrow will be determined by your university. There will be an amount for the overseas study, plus if you are eligible, a supplementary amount for Asian language study. In 2018, the maximum OS-HELP loan amount for a six-month period is:

- \$6,665 for study outside of Asia, and
- \$7,998 for study in Asia.

You may also borrow an additional \$1,065 if you will be undertaking approved Asian language study in preparation for your study in Asia.

REPAYING MY OS-HELP LOAN

If you get an OS-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 2017–18 income year, you must make a compulsory repayment once your income is \$55,874 or above. Your debt is indexed each year to maintain its real value.



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Go to **Study Assist** at www.studyassist.gov.au to:

- get your copy of the booklet,
- check to see 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

