

INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS

ABSTUDY

Help for Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Australians to study



Australian Government



Services
Australia





What ABSTUDY is

ABSTUDY is a group of payments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and Australian Apprentices.

It helps to support students and their families through secondary, tertiary, masters and doctorate studies. It also helps Australian Apprentices doing an apprenticeship or traineeship.

ABSTUDY can help with:

- study costs
- boarding and tuition fees
- living expenses
- travel costs
- rent.

Who can get ABSTUDY

To get ABSTUDY payments, the student or apprentice must be all the following:

- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian
- an Australian citizen who normally lives in Australia
- in an approved course, Australian Apprenticeship or traineeship
- not getting another payment to study or train.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AUSTRALIANS

For ABSTUDY purposes, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are all the following:

- of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- accepted as an Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both by the community they live in or have lived in.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

We need proof of Australian citizenship if the student or apprentice was born outside of Australia.

APPROVED COURSES

Students must be enrolled in and studying an approved course at an approved institution to get ABSTUDY. Most courses at schools, colleges, TAFEs and universities are approved.



Courses at private (non-government) education providers are often approved if they lead to a recognised qualification.

To find out if your course is approved you can call the ABSTUDY line on **Freecall™ 1800 132 317**.

AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICES

Apprentices, trainees or trainee apprentices need to be registered in the Australian Apprenticeships scheme to get ABSTUDY.

Which payments are right for you

You don't need to know which payments you can get before you apply. When you apply we'll talk with you about your situation and work out which ones are right for you.

If you'd like to work out which payments you may get yourself, follow these three steps.

- 1** Find out which category you or your child may be in.
- 2** Go to page 8 to see which payments you may get based on that category.
- 3** Read the specific eligibility criteria for those payments on our website, ask us on social media or call us on **Freecall™ 1800 132 317**.



Which category you may be in

You don't need to know which category you are in unless you want to explore payments yourself. When you apply we'll tell you which payments you can get based on your or your child's situation.

There are 8 different categories which may apply based on your study, training and personal circumstances.

Use the following table to work out which category best applies to you or your child.

Student category	This is for:
	Younger full time secondary school students who are both: • 15 or younger • living at home, or not approved for the independent or living away from home rates. Full time primary school students who are both: • 14 or older at 1 January in the year of study • living at home.
	Other full time secondary school students who are one of these: • 16 or older • 15 and in state care or meets ABSTUDY independence criteria • 15 or younger and approved to live away from home. Or, a full time secondary student studying somewhere other than a secondary school.

Student category	This is for:
	Full time apprentices, trainee or apprentice trainee in the Australian Apprenticeships scheme. If you're part time, you may be in the tertiary student or part time student category.
	Tertiary students who are either: • studying full time • approved for a concessional study load.
	Part time students who are either: • secondary students 18 or older at 1 January in the year of study • tertiary students.
	Masters or doctorate students who are both: • studying full time or approved for a concessional study load • not getting financial help under the Australian Government Research Training Program.
	Students or apprentices in a correctional institution, remand centre or youth training centre who are both: • studying any approved training or study course, including short courses and full time apprenticeships • in lawful custody for more than 2 weeks.
	Students applying for a course who are both: • travelling away from home to do a tertiary course admission test, audition or interview • not getting any other financial help for the test or interview.

Payment	What it helps with
Living Allowance	Living expenses
Additional Assistance	Costs in exceptional circumstances
Additional Incidentals Allowance	Essential course costs
Assistance with masters and doctorate compulsory course fees	Tuition fees for masters or doctorate students
Away From Base Assistance	Approved travel for study at a different location
Fares Allowance	Approved travel between home and place of study
Incidentals Allowance*	Study costs
Lawful Custody Allowance	Essential study costs if in lawful custody for more than 2 weeks
Relocation Allowance	Moving to another place for study
Remote Area Allowance	Costs of living in a remote area

* Secondary students must be aged 18 on 1 January in year of study

	Younger secondary students living at home	Other secondary school students	Full time Australian Apprentices	Tertiary students	Part time students	Masters and doctorate students	Students or apprentices in lawful custody	Students doing tests or assessments
								
	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X
	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X
	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X
	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X
	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X



Payment	What it helps with
School Fees Allowance	School fees
School Term Allowance	Materials for school
Thesis Allowance	Costs of presenting a thesis
Other payments and assistance	
Energy Supplement	Living expenses
Pensioner Education Supplement	Study costs if getting an income support payment (not ABSTUDY)
Pharmaceutical Allowance	Buying prescription medicines
Relocation Scholarship	Costs of living away from home
Rent Assistance	Rent
Student Start-up Loan	Extra costs (Note: this is an optional loan and must be paid back)
Tertiary Access Payment	Costs of moving from outer areas

	Younger secondary students living at home	Other secondary school students	Full time Australian Apprentices	Tertiary students	Part time students	Masters and doctorate students	Students or apprentices in lawful custody	Students doing tests or assessments
								
	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X
	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X
	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X
	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X
	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X
	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X



What the ABSTUDY payments are

HELP WITH LIVING EXPENSES

ABSTUDY Living Allowance is a payment made every two weeks to help with living costs. How much we pay depends on personal and partner income, or parental income.

HELP WITH TRAVEL

ABSTUDY Fares Allowance helps with travel costs between home and place of study.

ABSTUDY Away From Base Assistance helps students attend short term study activities that are away from their home or study location. It helps with the costs of travel, meals and accommodation.

ABSTUDY Relocation Allowance helps with the costs of relocating for masters or doctorate study.

HELP WITH STUDY COSTS

ABSTUDY Additional Assistance can help students and apprentices in severe financial difficulties and at risk of dropping their studies or apprenticeship.

ABSTUDY Incidentals Allowance is a payment to help with the cost of starting or continuing study or training.

ABSTUDY Additional Incidentals Allowance can help tertiary, masters or doctorate students who have high essential course costs.



Assistance with ABSTUDY masters and doctorate compulsory course fees helps masters and doctorate students. It covers the cost of the tuition fees, or student contribution commitment, previously known as HECS.

ABSTUDY Lawful Custody Allowance helps students and apprentices with study and training costs while in custody.

ABSTUDY School Fees Allowance helps with the cost of school and boarding fees for secondary students. Some of this allowance depends on parental income.

ABSTUDY School Term Allowance helps with cost of secondary schooling for children living at home.

ABSTUDY Thesis Allowance helps masters and doctorate students with the cost of producing a thesis.

OTHER PAYMENTS AND ASSISTANCE

- Energy Supplement
- Pensioner Education Supplement
- Pharmaceutical Allowance
- Relocation Scholarship
- Remote Area Allowance
- Rent Assistance
- Student Start-up Loan
- Tertiary Access Payment.



How you get ABSTUDY

To get ABSTUDY, you must submit a claim. Depending on your situation, you, or your parents can do this.

SECONDARY STUDENTS

Secondary students and families claim by calling us on **Freecall™ 1800 132 317**. We encourage you to claim by November, so you can get ABSTUDY before the school year starts. We need to process your claim before we can help with the cost of travel to and from school.

When claiming over the phone you'll need to confirm the information you've given us is true and correct. We'll tell you if you need to return documents to support your claim.

After the phone call, we'll send you a Customer Declaration Form with the information you told us. If the information is right, you don't need to return the form.

If any of the information is wrong, you'll need to return the form with the right information.

TERTIARY STUDENTS AND AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICES

As a tertiary student or Australian Apprentice, you can claim online up to 13 weeks before your course starts. You'll need a Centrelink account linked to myGov. You can claim both or either of these payments online:

- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- ABSTUDY Incidentals Allowance.



Who ABSTUDY is paid to

ABSTUDY can be paid to any of the following:

- the student or apprentice
- the student's parents or guardians
- the student's place of study.

This depends on the specific ABSTUDY payment and your situation.

You can find more information about ABSTUDY at **servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy**



HOW TO CONTACT US

You can contact us in several ways.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with us through our Service Australia Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Facebook—visit **facebook.com/servicesaustralia**

Twitter—tweet **@ServicesGovAU**

Social media is not private or secure. Don't share personal information on social media. If you need to talk about your personal circumstances call or visit us.

Find out more about our social media at **servicesaustralia.gov.au/socialmedia**



BY PHONE

You can call our ABSTUDY line Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm on **Freecall™ 1800 132 317**.



IN PERSON

You can find our locations at **servicesaustralia.gov.au/findus**

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services.

It's your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances. Calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate.

That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers.

Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.