

VET Student Loan – Additional Student Information

What do I need to know about a VET Student Loan?

VET Student Loans are available to assist eligible students studying higher level vocational education and training (VET) qualifications to pay their tuition fees. Higher level VET qualifications are at those at a Diploma level and above. VET Student loans are capped at a maximum for each course of study and the amount of the loan cannot be greater than your remaining FEE-HELP balance.

What are my payment options?

Your options for paying tuition fees for courses that are eligible for VET Student Loan are:

- up-front payment; or
- Government loan through the VET Student Loan scheme for students who meet the eligibility criteria

Materials fees incurred and tuition that exceeds your course cap can be paid upfront or via an instalment arrangement with TAFE Gippsland.

A VET Student Loan can be used to pay all or part of an eligible student's tuition fees up to the nominated cap for the qualification and cannot be used for additional study costs such as accommodation or textbooks.

You may wish to seek independent financial advice prior to applying for a VET Student Loan.

What does signing up for a VET Student Loan mean for me financially?

VET Student Loan assistance is a loan from the Commonwealth;

- the loan will remain as a personal debt obligation until it is repaid to the Commonwealth;
- the loan may affect (by reducing) your take-home (after-tax) wage or salary until the debt is repaid, and may affect your borrowing capacity until the debt is repaid to the Commonwealth;
- the signed Request for Commonwealth Assistance form (CAF) applies to a loan for the entire VET course of study, charged on a unit by unit basis, unless you pay some of the tuition fees upfront;
- census date(s) will apply to each of the VET units of study in which you enrol, you will be taking out a loan for any tuition fees that remain unpaid at the end of each census date;
- you may cancel your enrolment by withdrawing from each VET unit of study on or before the census date. This will result in not incurring a VET Student Loan debt and/or receiving a refund for any up-front tuition fee payments made on or before the census date.

A 20% loan fee applies for VET Student Loans accessed by full fee paying/fee for service students. The loan fee does not count towards your FEE-HELP limit. You will **not incur** the loan fee if you are a student who is subsidised by a state or territory government, however the total amount of the loan could be 120% of the debt.

Where do I find the tuition fees and census dates?

Fee periods and census dates

All covered tuition fees will be reasonably apportioned across at least three sequential fee periods.

Due to the flexible nature of TAFE Gippsland's enrolments, the particular census date for your Unit of Study will be calculated based on your expected individual start date in that unit and being no less than 20% of the way through the study period. Students will receive individual notification on the census dates applicable to their course.

Published Tuition Fees, a list of census dates, and TAFE Gippsland's withdrawal policy can be found on our website: <http://www.tafegippsland.edu.au/>

Below are 2022 census dates:

Study Period	Start Date	Census Date (last date to withdraw)
Study Period 1	13/01/22	28/02/22
Study Period 2	01/03/22	29/04/22
Study Period 3	01/05/22	30/06/22
Study Period 4	01/07/22	31/08/22
Study Period 5	01/09/22	31/10/22
Study Period 6	01/11/22	19/12/22

What do I need to complete the VET STUDENT LOAN INTENTION TO APPLY request?

Eligible students can advise their intention to apply for a VET STUDENT LOAN by completing and signing a **VET STUDENT LOAN INTENTION TO APPLY Request**. These forms are available from all of the TAFE Gippsland Customer Service Centres.

You will need:

Your Tax File Number

A Unique Student Identifier

Evidence of your Citizenship and Academic Suitability

And if you are under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian signature.

TAFE Gippsland will provide the Department of Education with your enrolment information, including the nearest applicable census day, via the eCAF system to proceed your application.

Note: To receive a VET Student Loan you must complete the 'VET Student Loan – Intention to Apply Request Form' and submit your electronic 'VET Student Loan application – eCAF' form prior to the census date.

More information about applying for a VET Student Loan is available at www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans or www.studyassist.gov.au.

*Please note: A TAFE Gippsland Customer Service and Support Officer will complete the estimated cost of the course. This is an estimation only and does not include any loan fees.

The below flowchart outlines the student requirements in regards to their VET Student Loan and continued use of a VET Student Loan to defer course tuition fees.

