VET FEE-HELP opt-in

From 1 January 2017, the VET Student Loans program will begin, replacing the current VET FEE-HELP scheme. This is a new vocational education and training student loans program, provided to give eligible students access to quality higher level VET qualifications, particularly to those students who could not otherwise afford to pay upfront.

To minimise disruption to existing students, a phased approach is being taken to transition from VET FEE-HELP to the new VET Student Loans program. Students wishing to continue their studies under the existing VET FEE-HELP arrangements will need to opt-in.

All current VET FEE-HELP students will be contacted by the Department of Education and Training (the department) where records indicate the student has not completed their course. Contact will be made via postal or electronic mail, with students who have an email address being contacted first.

For students that do not have an email on our records, the department will be sending you a letter in the postal mail. Due to the volume of students being contacted by the department, letters will be sent progressively commencing from December 2016.

Which students will have the option to opt-in?

Existing students who:

- enrolled in VET courses prior to 1 January 2017,
- have already received VET FEE-HELP assistance for units of those courses, and
- remain enrolled in those courses with their original provider

will be given the opportunity to continue their studies under the existing VET FEE-HELP arrangements for units with census dates* to 31 December 2017. In certain circumstances some students may be eligible to extend their VET FEE-HELP assistance beyond 1 January 2018. Such circumstances may include, for example, illness or caring responsibilities, or part-time students. Students will need to apply to continue using VET FEE-HELP for their existing course beyond 2017 and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Students will need to opt-in, letting the department know they wish to continue under the current arrangements.

Students must opt-in before returning to study - that is before attending any classes or logging in to continue a course - and no later than 31 March 2017.

*The census date is the date used by your VET FEE-HELP provider as the last date for students to either submit a Request for Commonwealth assistance form to access a VET FEE-HELP loan to pay for your study, or withdraw your enrolment without incurring the fees for that unit. Students should check with their providers to determine if they have any remaining census dates for their course.
What do students need to do to opt-in?

Students will be sent an email or letter from the department for each course, if they have accessed a VET FEE-HELP loan for studies since the commencement of the program in 2009 and records indicate the student has not completed their course. The letter will contain the information required for the student to opt-in for each course:

2. Sign in using the passkey number provided from your email/letter and your Date of Birth
3. Check the prefilled details and complete the form
4. Press the submit button
5. A confirmation email will be sent to you which will confirm the opt-in process has been accepted
6. Take this confirmation email to your provider so that you can continue to receive
   VET FEE-HELP

What should students do if they have not received an email/letter with their passkey?

If you are a VET FEE-HELP student enrolled with your original provider in a VET course which commenced before 1 January 2017 and you have a census date for units of study in that course falling to 31 December 2017, you should receive an email/letter containing your passkey. If you do not, please fill in the enquiry form on www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-fee-help-opt-in and select “Requesting passkey” in the “What is your question regarding?” field.

You will not receive an email or letter if:

- your provider is yet to advise the department you are a student of that provider,
- your course of study commenced after 31 December 2016,
- you are not in receipt of VET FEE-HELP, or
- you have completed your study.

How can your VET FEE-HELP provider assist?

VET FEE-HELP providers cannot submit the opt-in form on your behalf.

Students who have received an email or letter from the department must follow the steps outlined in the document to opt-in.

Once students have completed this online opt-in form, a confirmation email will be sent to the student. This confirmation email will need to be given to your VET FEE-HELP provider for their records. They will be able to conduct further eligibility checks to ensure you meet all their course requirements.


Please note: The purpose of this factsheet is to give you a snapshot of the arrangements applying to current students. It is not inclusive of all requirements of the new VET Student Loans program.

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