

VET Student Loans

An Australian Government Initiative

Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA) is approved by the Department of Education and Training (DET) to offer VET Student Loans to eligible students that are enrolled in:

- AVI50219 Diploma of Aviation (Commercial Pilot Licence – Aeroplane)
- AVI50519 Diploma of Aviation (Instrument Rating)

VET Student Loans is not available for students who are not eligible.

What is VET Student Loans?

VET Student Loans is an Australian Government loan scheme that helps eligible students enrolled in approved higher level vocational educational and training (VET) at approved training providers to have all or part of their tuition fees paid for by the Australian Government in the form of a loan up to the available course loan cap that are determined and set by the Government.

The loan gives rise to a VET Student Loans (VETSL) debt that continues to be a debt due to the Commonwealth until it is repaid.

Eligible students can borrow funds over their lifetime up to the VETSL limit. For 2021 the VETSL limit for most students is \$108,232. There is a loan fee of 20% for full fee-paying students accessing VET Student Loans. This fee will be included in the VET STUDENT LOANS (VETSL) debt.

The loan is re-paid gradually through the pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) tax system once your income is above the minimum repayment threshold, which is set by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). For the 2020-21 financial year, the threshold will be \$46,620.

Visit www.ato.gov.au for more details.

The loan may, until the debt is repaid, reduce your take home (after-tax) wage or salary and may reduce your borrowing capacity. You may wish to seek independent financial advice before applying for a loan.

Where Vet Student Loans are approved for a unit of study, the Australian Government pays the amount of the loan for that unit direct to AAPA. The amount of a VET Student Loan for a course is capped. You cannot borrow more than the maximum loan amount for your course (up to \$80,388 for 2021 amount). The loan may not be sufficient to cover all the **tuition fees** for a course. As Vet Student Loans provides loans for tuition fees only, you will be responsible for any gap amount in the tuition fees that are not covered by your loan such as such as accommodation, meals, uniforms, manuals, etc.

On 1st January 2017, VET Student Loans replaced VET Fee Help. All students enrolling in a new course from 1st January 2017 access Vet Student Loans, while students who were part way through a course on the 1st January 2017 continue to access VET Fee Help.

Please read the links below for more details and to understand your obligations under the Vet Student Loans:

<https://www.employment.gov.au/vet-student-loans>

<https://docs.employment.gov.au/documents/vet-student-loans-information-booklet>

Special loan fee exemption

All VET Student Loan amounts for full fee paying VET Student Loans students incurred on census days from 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2021 will not incur the usual 20 per cent loan fee. This follows the Australian Government announcement of the loan fee exemption in the Higher Education Relief Package on 12 April and further extension announcement on 30 September 2020. Students will not need to do anything for the exemption to be applied. Student VETSL debt records with the ATO will automatically reflect the loan fee exemption.

Who is eligible for a Vet Student Loan?

To be eligible for VET STUDENT LOAN, you must meet the following requirements:

VET Student Loans Information

- Are enrolled in a VET Student Loans approved course offered by a VET Student Loans provider;
- Meet the citizenship/residency requirements;
- Meet academic suitability requirements;
- Meet the course requirements;
- Meet the enrolment and loan application requirements;
- Submit Progression Forms to confirm your ongoing engagement with your studies, and continue accessing the loan throughout the course.

Citizenship/residency requirements:

- An Australian citizen; or
- Permanent humanitarian visa holder who are usually resident in Australia (as defined in the Migration Regulations 1994, Vol 1, Part 1 Regulation 1.03); or
- Qualifying New Zealand citizen*

**A qualifying New Zealand citizen is a New Zealand citizen who meets all of the following:*

- *holds a special visa category, such as the **New Zealand Special Category Visa (SCV)**;*
- *has been usually resident in Australia for at least 10 years;*
- *was a dependent child when he or she was first usually resident in Australia;*
- *has been in Australia for periods totalling 8 years during the previous 10 years; and*

has been in Australia for periods totalling 18 months during the previous 2 years.

Please note that other permanent residents/permanent visa holders are not eligible for a VET Student Loan.

Academic suitability requirements:

- Have sufficient knowledge of Mathematics, Physics and English to facilitate an understanding of the theoretical knowledge instruction content of the course.

Please note that you will need to provide documentary evidence of the citizenship and residency requirements and academic suitability requirements.

Course requirements:

- Age 18 and above;
- Able to obtain CASA Aviation Medical Certificate Class 1 and 2;

- Able to obtain the Aviation Security Identification Card; and
- Able to study full time and on campus; and
- Be a full paying student

Enrolment and loan application requirements

- Your course must be listed on the VET Student Loan eligible courses list;
- Your total loan for the course must be within the stated course loan cap;
- You have not exceeded your VETSL lifetime limit;
- You are able to provide your Unique Student Identifier (USI);
- You are able to provide Tax File Number (If you have applied for but not yet issued with a tax file number, you need to present a certificate from the Commissioner); and
- You enrol on or before first census date of your course and remain enrol in the unit of study until the end of the census date.

What if I am not eligible for a Vet Student Loan or my course is not eligible for Vet Student Loan or I am eligible but my tuition fees exceed the Vet Student Loan course cap?

If either you or your course are not eligible for a Vet Student Loan or if the cost of your tuition fees exceed the Vet Student Loan course cap, you would need to pay any fees/excess fees not covered by the Vet Student Loan upfront.

What are my rights and obligations when applying for VET Student Loan:

- That I have the following option for paying tuition fees:
 - Payment as fees become due and
 - A VET Student Loan
- That I may withdraw my enrolment from a course or a particular part of the course before the census day. The withdrawal must be in writing and in line with AAPA's withdrawal policy and procedures.

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- That if I withdraw before the census day for a course or part of a course, I will not incur a VET Student Loan for the course or part of the course and will receive a refund for any tuition fees already paid for the course or part of the course.
- That I am required during the course to communicate my agreement that the Secretary continue to use the VET Student Loan to pay tuition fees for the course as part of the progression and engagement requirements.
- That the amount of the loan cannot be greater than my remaining VETSL balance. You can check your HELP balance by logging onto [myHELPbalance](#) using your **Commonwealth Higher Education Student Support Number (CHESSN)**, which will be quoted on your **VET Student Loans fee notice**.
- That I remain contactable to verify my enrolment in the course.
- That without a TFN, I will not be able to use the loan for that study period.
- That I will notify AAPA of any change in my contact details.

How do I enrol?

- Enrol with AAPA for the course you wish to study. Please contact AAPA at enquiries@aapa.net.au on your interest.
- You will be issued an Enrolment Pack which contains VET Student Loans Information including Schedule of VET Tuition Fee, forms for your completion, Student Handbook and essential policies and procedures (see below) for your reading and understanding before you make a decision to enrol. Please note that formal assessment only occurs on receipt of all the completed forms and supporting documents.
- You need to attach supporting documents with the application form which include proof of Australian Citizenship (passport or birth certificate) or residency (humanitarian visa or qualifying New Zealand citizen), current driver's licence, passport, visa documentation and a copy of Australian Year 12 Certificate (with grades) or Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate IV or higher qualifications (where the language of instruction is English).
- You need to indicate in the Enrolment Form that you wish to apply for a Vet Student Loan.
- AAPA will contact you to confirm that the application has been received and information on when the course starts and the next steps in the enrolment process.

- You will be notified if you are successful in your application based on your meeting the above requirements.
- An email will also be sent to you with details to apply for Aviation Reference Number (ARN) and Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC). You will also be given a list of DAME for a Class 1 Aviation Medical.

Please note that an ASIC and Class 1 Aviation Medical are an entry requirement and failure to obtain either one will result in cancellation of your enrolment.

Please note that the number of full time Vet Student Loan students accepted by AAPA at each intake is subject to its Vet Student Loan provider cap and can change on short notice.

How to apply for a Vet Student Loan?

- If your enrolment is accepted, you will be issued with a “**VET Student Loan Statement of Covered Fees**” which shows the amount of the tuition fees that will and will not be covered by the VET Student Loan and at least 14 days before the first census day in the fee period a “**VET Student Loan Fee Notice**”.
- You will also receive an email from the Department to sign into the eCAF system. Once you sign in, you will need to verify the pre-populated information and complete the mandatory fields. You must then wait **at least two (2) full business days** after you have enrolled in your study before submitting the eCAF.
- You must **submit the eCAF on or before the first census day for which you would like the loan to apply.**
- Once you submit your eCAF, you will receive an email confirming your loan approval and providing you with a copy of your completed form. You should keep this form for your records.
- Please note that if you do not complete the eCAF by the required date for your course, you will have to wait until the next part of your course/unit to request a VET Student Loan for future study. Retrospective access to VET Student Loans is not allowed under any circumstances.

VET Tuition Fee Schedule

The VET Tuition Fee Schedule can be found [here](#).

Policies and Procedures

Our current policies and procedures (including enrolment, withdrawal and re-crediting VETSL Balance) can be found [here](#).

Additional Information

Vet Student Loans - <https://www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans>

VETSL Debts and Repayments - <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/paying-back-your-loan/loan-repayment>

Australian Taxation Office - <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Study-and-training-support-loans/>

Study Assist - <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/>

Centrelink - <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/centrelink>