

ABSTUDY

Improving education outcomes
for Indigenous Australians



centrelink



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

humanservices.gov.au

What ABSTUDY is

ABSTUDY is a group of Centrelink payments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and Australian Apprentices paid on behalf of the Australian Government.

Why ABSTUDY is paid

ABSTUDY helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians while they're studying or training.

ABSTUDY can help with costs including:

- study
- housing
- living expenses, and
- travel.

Who can get ABSTUDY

To get ABSTUDY you must be all of the following:

- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian
- an Australian citizen who normally lives in Australia
- covered by an ABSTUDY Award (see page 6), and
- studying an approved course or doing an Australian Apprenticeship.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are all of the following:

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

Australian citizenship

You need to give us proof of Australian citizenship if you were born outside of Australia.



Approved courses

To get ABSTUDY as a student you must be enrolled in and studying an approved course at an approved institution.

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**.

Full time Australian Apprentices

To get ABSTUDY as a full time Australian Apprentice you need to:

- be a full time apprentice, trainee, or trainee apprentice in the Australian Apprenticeships scheme, and
- have met the minimum requirements for leaving school in your state or territory, or have an exemption letter from your education authority allowing you to do an apprenticeship.



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 could get yourself, follow these three steps.

1. Find out which ABSTUDY Award you're covered by.

2. Go to page 10 to see which payments you could get based on that Award.

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**.

What the ABSTUDY Awards are

You don't need to know which Award you're covered by unless you want to explore payments yourself. When you apply we'll tell you which payments you can get based on your own situation.

There are seven ABSTUDY Awards that help us work out which payments you can get.

- Schooling A Award
- Schooling B Award
- Tertiary Award
- Part time Award
- Testing and Assessment Award
- Masters and Doctorate Award
- Lawful Custody Award

The Awards help organise ABSTUDY payments based on your study, training and personal circumstances.

Use the following table to work out which Award you're covered by.

ABSTUDY Awards	This Award is for...
Schooling A Award	Full time primary school students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 or older at 1 January in the year of study, and• living at home. Full time secondary school students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 or younger, and• living at home, or not approved for the living away from home or independent rates of ABSTUDY.
Schooling B Award	Full time secondary students studying at a secondary school <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 or older• 15 and in state care or considered independent for ABSTUDY for certain reasons, or• 15 or younger and approved to live away from home. Full time secondary students studying somewhere other than a secondary school <ul style="list-style-type: none">• meet the ABSTUDY progress and duration of assistance rules, and• meet the minimum requirements for leaving school or have an exemption to these. Full time primary school students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• repeating the final year of primary school.

ABSTUDY Awards

This Award is for...

Tertiary Award

Full time tertiary students

- studying full time or approved for a concessional study load
- meet the ABSTUDY progress and duration of assistance rules, and
- meet the minimum requirements for leaving school or have an exemption to these.

Apprentices

- doing a full time Australian Apprenticeship (see page 4).

Part time Award

Part time tertiary students

Part time secondary students

- 18 or older at 1 January in the year of study.

Testing and Assessment Award

Students doing tests or assessments

- doing tests or assessments for the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program, or travelling away from your home for a tertiary course admission test or interview
- can't be assessed on previous study, and
- not getting any other financial help for the test or interview.

ABSTUDY Awards

This Award is for...

Masters and Doctorate Award

Full time Masters degree or Doctorate students

- studying full time or approved for a concessional study load, and
- not getting other financial help under the Australian Government Research Training Program.

Lawful Custody Award

Students and apprentices in a correctional institution, remand centre or youth training centre

- studying an approved course or a full time Australian Apprentice (see page 4), and
- in lawful custody for more than 2 weeks.



Payment	What it helps with	Schooling A Award	Schooling B Award	Tertiary Award	Part time Award	Testing and Assessment Award	Masters and Doctorate Award	Lawful Custody Award
Regular ABSTUDY payments								
ABSTUDY Living Allowance	Living expenses	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Supplementary ABSTUDY payments								
Additional Assistance	Costs in exceptional circumstances	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Additional Incidentals Allowance	Essential course costs	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Assistance to pay student contributions (formerly HECS) or tuition 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	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗

Payment	What it helps with	Schooling A Award	Schooling B Award	Tertiary Award	Part time Award	Testing and Assessment Award	Masters and Doctorate Award	Lawful Custody Award
School Fees Allowance	School fees	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
School Term Allowance	Materials for school	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Thesis Allowance	Costs of presenting a thesis	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Under 16 Boarding Supplement	Boarding school or hostel costs	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Other payments and assistance								
The Energy Supplement	Living expenses	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Pensioner Education Supplement	Study costs if getting a certain income support payment (not ABSTUDY)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Pharmaceutical Allowance	Buying prescription medicines	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Relocation Scholarship	Costs of living away from home	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Remote Area Allowance	Costs of living in a remote area	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rent Assistance	Rent	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Student Start-up Loan	Extra costs Note: this is an optional loan and must be paid back	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗

What the payments are

There are:

- **regular ABSTUDY payments**—usually paid every two weeks and help with living expenses
- **supplementary ABSTUDY payments**—usually paid less often for more specific costs, or
- **other payments and assistance**—other payments and assistance ABSTUDY students can get.

Regular ABSTUDY payments

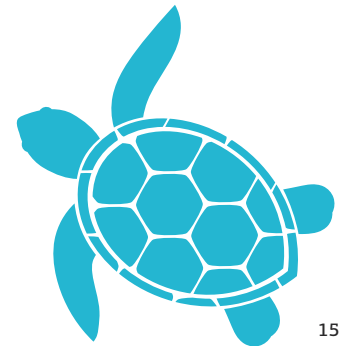
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance

Supplementary ABSTUDY payments

- Additional Assistance
- Additional Incidentals Allowance
- Assistance to pay student contributions (formerly HECS) or tuition fees
- Away From Base assistance
- Fares Allowance
- Incidentals Allowance
- Lawful Custody Allowance
- Relocation Allowance
- School Fees Allowance
- School Term Allowance
- Thesis Allowance
- Under 16 Boarding Supplement

Other payments and assistance

- The Energy Supplement
- Pensioner Education Supplement
- Pharmaceutical Allowance
- Relocation Scholarship
- Remote Area Allowance
- Rent Assistance
- Student Start-up Loan



How you get it

To get ABSTUDY, you must submit a claim. Depending on the student's situation, the student, apprentice, their family or place of study can do this. Students, apprentices and families claim by calling us on **Freecall™ 1800 132 317**.

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.



Who ABSTUDY is paid to

ABSTUDY can be paid to one of the following:

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

This depends on the specific ABSTUDY payment and the student's situation.

Where to find more information

You can find more information on the following websites.

For ABSTUDY go to **humanservices.gov.au/abstudy**

For Australian Apprenticeships go to **australianapprentices.gov.au**



How to contact us

You can contact us in several ways.

Social media

Connect with us through our Facebook and Twitter accounts for students, Student Update.



Facebook—visit facebook.com/studentupdate



Twitter—tweet [@StudentUpdateAU](https://twitter.com/StudentUpdateAU)

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 humanservices.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 humanservices.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.



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