



UTS Student Legal Service  
**Employment Tips  
for International  
Students**



- **You have rights** – international students have the same work rights as anyone else working in Australia. You have a right to be paid no less than the minimum wage, and to have a safe place to work. You also should be paid superannuation, and other benefits.
- **Minimum wage** – you should be paid at no less than the minimum wage, which from 1 July 2022 is \$21.38/hour, and you might be entitled to be paid more. This is true, even if you agreed to be paid less than the minimum wage.
- **It is not illegal to be paid cash** – you are not doing anything wrong if you are being paid in cash by your employer. But keep good records of when you are paid, and how much you are paid. If you can, send your employer a text/wechat/whatsapp message to confirm the amounts that you are paid, and when.
- **Find out who you work for** – make sure that you know or find out the full name and address of the person or company that you are working for. All employers should have an Australian Business Number – an ABN. Try to find this out.
- **Keep records** – try to keep records of the days and hours that you work, including meal breaks. This will make it far easier to check if you have been paid the right amount, and, if not, to get your employer to pay you properly.
- **Cash back schemes are illegal** – your employer cannot ask you to pay any of your wages back to them in cash. This is illegal.
- **If I complain will I be sacked?** If an employer isn't paying you the right amount, then you shouldn't be sacked if you complain – that would be illegal. But if you prefer, you can chase underpayments of wages after you stop working for an employer.
- **Rights of international students to work in Australia** – Until 30 June 2023, there are no restrictions on the number of hours that you can work while studying in Australia. After 30 June 2023, you will only be able to work for 40 hours per fortnight during the university semester. These restrictions do not apply once the semester ends. Visit Department of Home Affairs: Unrestricted work rights for student visa holders
- **How long will it take to get paid properly?** Sometimes we can get you paid properly within a few weeks, but it can take up to 6 months. Talk to us to find out more.

**If you think you are being underpaid or you are not being treated properly at work, then we can help you.**

Email the UTS Student Legal Service at [studentlegalservice@uts.edu.au](mailto:studentlegalservice@uts.edu.au) to make an appointment, or call us on **02 9514 2484**, or drop in to see us. Our service is totally free and confidential.