

Money Matters for Future/Prospective Students

@ Info Day 2022

This sheet offers a brief and general information guideline for prospective students of UTS applying for admission in 2022.
Disclaimer: The information in these pages was deemed correct at the time of publication in Jan 2022.

Services Australia (Centrelink) \$\$\$ & Living Expenses

For a Quick and Easy online guide to Centrelink 'Student Income Support' – [see the 'Centrelink' section on the UTS Financial Assistance Service website](#)

Note that Centrelink is also now referred to as 'Services Australia'

Centrelink information can now be accessed via the [Services Australia](#) website

1. Youth Allowance (YA)

YA is for **eligible** full-time enrolled students:

- **completing 18-24 credit points per session/semester or a minimum 36 credit points per year (within a calendar year over a trimester calendar)**
- and for students who enrolled in the approved course (award courses such as a Bachelor's Degree and Graduate Certificate) between the ages of 18-25 years
- And who are a citizen; permanent resident (PR) pre-Jan 2019 of >2 years, PR post Jan 2019 of > 4 years; or a permanent humanitarian resident visa.

Here are the different types of YA benefits:

1.1 YA Dependent

The 'dependent' YA is for eligible students **under 22yrs of age** who are enrolling in a new course and are living at (parent/s') home.

Current rate per fortnight (p/f) for new full-time students for 2022 (updated Jan2022)

single student with no children, over 18 years AND living at home	\$367.00 p/f
single student with no children, under 18 years and living at home	\$313.80 p/f

(For more detailed figures on [benefit payments and Centrelink benefit types](#))

[Parental Income Test & Centrelink \\$\\$\\$](#)

Am I eligible for the YA Dependent benefit? A student **may** still receive Youth Allowance even when the parent/s earns up to \$150 000 per annum in combined income/earnings - as Centrelink will take into account the number of other dependent children under the age of 22 yrs currently supported by parents. Maximum benefit rates are paid when combined PARENTAL gross income with one child is less than **\$55,626** (as per 2019-2020 Tax Year for 2021 assessments). Benefits reduce by 20 cent per \$1 over this threshold.

Where parental income fluctuates substantially (e.g. due to a redundancy pay-out or fluctuating income for a business proprietor) the Parental Income Test will be based on your parental income in the current tax year.

For a Services Australia [online 'estimation' of what you may receive](#) on the **dependant YA benefit**.

Further information about the Centrelink ['means and assets tests' on the UTS Financial help website](#)

1.2 YA Independent Rate

The Independent YA rate may apply to students between 18 and 24 years of age, who fulfil the eligibility criteria, below.

Rate per fortnight (p/f)

single with no children, 18 years and over and not living at home	\$530.40* (p/f)
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* You may also be eligible for additional Rent Assistance - see para below

How do I qualify to be deemed 'independent'?

YA rate eligibility criteria include:

- You have worked for **30hrs p/w for 18 months** in the last 2 year period

Or;

- You are eligible for Dependent YA, but your parental home is too far away from Uni (more than 90 minutes travel each way, as assessed by Centrelink). You may then receive the **'Living Away from Home YA'**, the same payment rate as the Independent YA, if you move out-of-home, closer to your place of study. This rate applies to rural/regional/remote students

Or;

- If you are **over 22 years of age**, you will automatically be assessed as independent. This means that the parental income test will not affect your Independent YA payments from your 22nd birthday.

[Full criteria listed on Services Australia website](#)

[Regional & remote students have special qualifying 'part-time work' conditions, which include if:](#)

- you have worked part-time for at least 15 hours a week for at least two years since leaving school
- you earned at least 75 per cent of the maximum rate of pay under [Wage Level A of the National Training Wage Schedule](#) (Jan 2022 = \$27,608) included in a modern award in an 18-month period since leaving school

1.3 YA _ Living Away from Home

This is to help students from regional/remote or students with a commute of over (over 90 minutes) to settle in closer to their studies. This is only for students who qualify under the parental income 'Dependent' YA, and it will provide a higher 'Independent' YA fortnightly payment, with the additional option of possible Rent Assistance.

Rate per fortnight for YA 'Living Away from Home' (p/f)

single with no children, 18 years and over and not living at home	\$530.40* (p/f)
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1.4 Rent Assistance (RA)

RA may be paid when living away from the parental home. Minimum rents apply to be in receipt, and leases/landlord letters required. Students on Independent YA rate, Austudy, Abstudy or other eligible Centrelink benefits may apply. You will need to provide evidence of your rental property/room.

The two types of RA are for **shared** accommodation, and for those who are the only name on the lease, the **not shared** accommodation. UTS Housing attracts the 'not sharing' rate of RA. Jan 2022 rates.

[Rent Assistance details, and how much can I get](#) in my specific circumstance

Family situation	Maximum payment per fortnight is (p/f)	if your fortnightly rent is more than	Or: part payment if your rent is below \$318 and above
Single, not sharing	\$142.80	\$318	\$127.60
Single, no children, & sharing	\$95.20	\$254.54	\$127.60

1.5 Personal Income/Earnings & Centrelink \$\$\$

As a student on YA, Austudy or Abstudy

- you can **earn up to \$452 before tax per fortnight** before your payment is affected

How will my earnings affect my YA, Austudy or Abstudy payments?

- income over \$452 and up to \$524 reduces your YA payment by 50 cents in the dollar earned from \$452 to \$524 per fortnight
- earnings of over \$524 per fortnight reduces your YA payment by \$43.50 plus 60 cents in the dollar earned over \$524

Student's status/ max earnings examples	To continue to receive full Allowance (pf) –with no deductions from CL payments you may earn before tax:	To receive a part Allowance (pf) in 2022 you must earn, before tax:
Single, aged under 18, at home	up to \$452 gross	less than \$996.05
Single, over 18, living away from home, no dependants	Up to \$452 gross	less than \$1,362.67

[Further age and income scenarios are listed on Services Australia](#)

2. Austudy

Austudy is paid to eligible full-time [students over 25 years of age, if starting new studies](#) in an approved course.

Rate per fortnight (p/f) for Austudy in 2022

Single or partnered	\$530.40* (p/f)
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* You may be eligible for additional Rent Assistance - see above para 1.4

3. Abstudy

Sample rates per fortnight (pf) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students

18 – 21 year student living at home	\$367.00(pf)
16 – 21 Year old living away from home	\$530.40 (pf)

22 and older - living away from home	\$629.50 (pf)
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More on payment rates on: [Services Australia](#)

Abstudy and the Residential Cost Option

The **residential cost option** covers your rent at UTS Housing and meals. [See if you are eligible](#) on Services Australia website

Please consult with the [UTS Jumbunna](#) Institute for further assistance with all Abstudy payment applications

4. Services Australia (Centrelink) Loans & Scholarships

4.1 The Start-Up Loan

The Start Up loan is optional. It is interest free. The loan debt is added to your HECS/FEE HELP Loan, and will incur CPI. The loan intended for study material or other discretionary expenses.

Students on a Youth Allowance/Austudy/Abstudy who wish to receive the loan must apply online through My Centrelink.

Students in receipt of any other type of Centrelink Benefit will are not eligible for the Start Up Loan.

2022

The Start Up Loan offers 2 annual payments of \$1,132 each between:
1 Jan to 30 June and
1 July to 31 December. The Loan debt you incur will be **added to your HECS HELP Loan**

[Additional information on Services Australia](#)

4.2 Relocation Scholarship

Recipients of Dependant YA or Abstudy Allowance who are under 25 years and from regional/remote areas and **have to** live away from the home to study may be eligible. **The Relocation Scholarship excludes previous support to students from a city/metro area, and those who are moving within or between major cities to study. It applies only to Regional/Remote Areas**

First year payments are \$4,788 reducing to \$2,395 for second & third year studies on a city campus.

[Further details on the Relocation Scholarship on Services Australia](#)

Tips on Centrelink

- **Apply early for Youth Allowance/Austudy/Abstudy. Lodge your claim early January**
- **You can apply BEFORE your course offer is confirmed.**
- **Orientation weeks also qualify for payment if you receive YA/Austudy/Abstudy**

- If you are deemed eligible for YA/Aus/Abstudy, you will receive back pay to the date you applied starting earliest at Orientation.
- Prepare (and save \$\$) for Centrelink processing delays, as it may take 3months before your application is processed...and you receive your benefit plus back pay
- If you have cash-flow problems while waiting for YA; Austudy; Abstudy, let us know
- Admin: Once on Centrelink, always keep them informed of your enrolment (subject load) and your earnings. Report your earnings every two weeks.
To do this: use the Centrelink Online Services and Express Plus Centrelink mobile app. See: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/express-plus-mobile-apps>
- Avoid Centrelink debts: If you have a debt, please talk to Centrelink, immediately. Repayment plans may require \$30 p/f repayments with up to 15% of income per fortnight, if you cannot make the full repayment immediately.
- Going overseas: Your YA payment stops when you leave the country, unless you are completing credit point studies overseas, in which case you will need a letter from UTS. Check details at Centrelink: see Portability rules.

5. What to do if I am in Financial Difficulty???

5.1 UTS Financial help

If you are having budgetary problems or ongoing financial hardship, we encourage you to speak to us at the **UTS Financial Assistance Service**. All discussions are confidential.

We assist with:

- **Advocacy on:**
 - Centrelink student support payments
 - Free tax return assistance for PAYG incomes of <60K
 - Wide-range assistance and referrals regarding; budgeting and planning; debt oversight and free financial counsellor referrals; money scams and ASIC; minimum wage and Fair Work and Welfare Rights guidelines; Industry ombudsmen;

as well as financial help through:



- **UTS Equity Scholarship/Equal Access Scholarship and Financial Support Grant programs for low income students and students living with additional disadvantages such as sole parent students; remote and or Indigenous students; carers; students of a refugee background and students living with a disability.**
- **Financial Assistance Programs at UTS:**
 - No-cost loans (zero % interest and capped value) for cash flow problems
 - Grants which do not need to be repaid, to help low-income local students with costs relating to course requirements, such as completing practicals, clinicals, internships, studios and for project materials
 - Grant support towards essential living costs and high medical costs, unexpected life and family/sponsor occurrences on considered grounds
 - Providing struggling domestic students with access to course-related devices, laptops, software and mobile internet as well as text book assistance and UTS Housing Rental Subsidy

Call to see us: 02 9514 1177 (City Campus) for an appointment. Or call-in at Student Services, Level6 Bldg1

Further information on the [UTS Financial help website](#)

5.2 UTS Equal Access Scholarship (aka: Diversity Access Scholarships and Equity Scholarship)

– administered by UAC and UTS Scholarships Office

The UTS Equal Access Scholarship is for **local** students in **financial hardship, who may have additional disadvantages** (such as: students who are carers, single parents, Indigenous, from rural or remote regions, or with ongoing disabilities which affect their studies).

Online applications can be accessed from Jan to June for the current year, and from Aug to Dec for the following year. 2022 applications are now open at: www.uac.edu.au

Other scholarships are listed on the [UTS Scholarships website](#) for School Leavers; TAFE Diplomists; Academic and Merit Scholarships; Indigenous Scholarships; Scholarships for Women; Disability Scholarships; Faculty Scholarships and other...

5.3 Non- Governmental Loans and Financial Instruments

Students seeking loans on the commercial market will find comprehensive current comparative loan rate information and costs of loans for students on www.mozo.com.au or www.ratecity.com.au or www.canstar.com.au Some Credit Unions offer **deferrable loans** – with loan repayments only starting after 3 years or more. **Check out the Mozo Student Room and their comparisons on the cheapest credit cards, bank accounts, car loans etc.... and home loans!!**

5.4 Accommodation

For [UTS Housing & Residence](#) options as well as private listed external accommodation and info: See also - Multiple 'share accommodation' websites on the internet.

6. Tuition Fees & Government Loans

6.1 UTS Tuition Fee Structure/Student Contributions

To calculate your tuition fee course cost, see the [UTS Tuition 'Fees Search'](#)

6.2 HECS-HELP; FEE-HELP; SA-HELP: OS-HELP and Commonwealth Supported Position

If you are enrolled in an **Undergraduate or Postgraduate award course**, and are:

- an Australian citizen, or
- a holder of an Australian permanent humanitarian visa (but not TPV);

you are **eligible** to apply for:

Combined HELP loan limit for 2022 (being HECS and FEE HELP @ \$109,206)
(except for medicine, dentistry, vet science @ max \$156,847)

And applies to CSP course students and fee paying students in award courses

SA HELP (for student amenities fees) and

OS HELP (for accredited subject-studies abroad)

See all details on: [Study Assist website](#)

The HELP LOANS will give an enrolled student the option to **defer** payment of your tuition and Student Amenities fees. [Compulsory repayments start at 1% of your salary when you earn \\$47,014 to \\$54,282 in 2021-2022.](#) Deductions from your salary will increase as your salary/income increases.

6.3 How to apply for a HELP LOAN

- enrol in your subjects
- ensure you have your TFN (Tax file number)
- complete a request for Commonwealth Assistance form (eCAF) before census date, online at UTS 'My Student Admin' or at the UTS Student Centre and ensure you defer all fee types you wish to: i.e. for tuition and for SSAF (Amenities fees)

FAQ's on HELP Loans:

- **Combined HELP = for CSP courses at undergraduate level and for postgraduate course-work studies**
- **SA HELP = only for Student Services Amenities Fees (SSAF)**
- **Overseas HELP = for living expenses when completing credit points abroad which are recognised as part of Aus degree. Must still have to complete min 1 subject in Aus Uni on return**
- **Fee Help loan cost of 20% applies only for undergraduate studies at private colleges and non-CSP courses, not post graduate courses at Uni**
- **HECS-HELP upfront discount: From 1 January 2021: If you pay \$500 or more up-front (before due census date) towards your tuition fees for subjects with the same census date, the Government increases the up-front payment you made to UTS by 10%. This means you that you will pay less for your studies if you pay \$500 or more up-front.**
- **HELP loans are repayable even if you are living & earning overseas**
- **No-interest is charged on HELP loans, but indexation using CPI increases is added to your total loan**

4. Budgeting

Actual costs depend on your individual lifestyles, with **rent** being the primary cost. Here are a few rent & essential cost scenarios for students living out-of-home

Rent scenarios & comparisons:

Cost of Essentials/week (estimated)	Shared off-campus Room/House/Unit	Studio/1 Bedroom Unit off campus	UTS Housing (Self-catered) on campus
Weekly Rent (excl. bond deposit)	\$200-\$300	\$380-\$500	\$260 - \$420
Groceries & coffees/uni lunches, take-away/basic entertainment costs	\$100	\$100	\$100
Utilities (gas, electricity, phone)	\$30	\$35	--
Internet	\$15	\$15	--
Mobile phone	\$15	\$15	\$15
Transport (varies on distance from UTS & regularity)	\$40	\$40	\$10
Household products (cleaning material furniture etc)	\$20	\$30	\$10
Incidentals/Personal	\$30	\$30	\$30
Approx. weekly total	\$450 to \$550	\$645 to \$765	\$425 to \$585
Total estimate of essentials	\$23.5K to \$28.5K	\$33.5K to \$ 40K	\$21K to \$30K

In addition, you may have:

- **text book/printing and materials costs** for studies; technical devices; hard- software; excursions;
- medical;
- sports; and
- other circumstantial costs (children, caring etc).
- **entertainment (coffees; take-away meals & on-campus lunch; movies; clubs & pubs etc)**
- vehicle

Personal choices may influence this further