



# Supporting Australia's International Education Sector

## FEE-HELP student loan fee exemption extension

On 30 April 2021 the Australian Government announced a package of measures to support the Australian international education and training providers most affected by COVID-19 and border closures. Subject to the passage of legislation, this package includes extending the **FEE-HELP loan fee exemption** for a further six months to 31 December 2021, providing significant relief for about 30,000 higher education students.

An initial six-month exemption FEE-HELP loan fee exemption from 1 April to 30 September 2020 was part of the Government's Higher Education Relief Package. The exemption has already been extended by nine months to 30 June 2021. The further extension of the loan fee exemption to 31 December 2021 will provide financial relief to students as they recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Waiving the loan fee provides an incentive for current students to continue their studies and may encourage more Australians to undertake study, building the educated and highly skilled workforce essential to Australia's economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. By encouraging more people to undertake study, the Government is supporting higher education providers to retain and build their workforce, and to continue delivering high quality education and training.

### Who is eligible?

This extension of the loan fee exemption will benefit about 30,000 students studying for a higher education qualification at mostly private higher education institutions for units of study with census dates between 1 July and 31 December 2021. Students at public universities do not pay these fees.

### Start Date

The current loan fee exemption is set to end on 30 June 2021. Subject to the passage of legislation, the extension will exempt the loan fee for a further six months, to 31 December 2021.