

2025 Up-front Payments Tuition Protection Levy

Calculation Guidelines

The Up-front Payments Levy is comprised of three parts:

$$\text{Up-front Payments Levy} = A + R + S$$

where:

- A = the Administrative Fee component;
- R = the Risk Rated Premium component; and
- S = the Special Tuition Protection component.

All non-exempt higher education providers who offer up-front fee-paying courses are required to pay the annual Up-front Payments Tuition Protection Levy (Up-front Levy). The Up-front Levy funds the student placement and refund activities of the TPS in the event of a provider default, as well as TPS operational costs. The Up-front Levy is paid into the Higher Education Tuition Protection Fund (HE Fund), which is managed by the TPS Director.

Legislative authority to collect the **Up-front Levy** is outlined in the [Higher Education \(Up-front Payments Tuition Protection Levy\) Act 2020](#).¹

Administrative Fee component

The Administrative Fee component is intended to contribute to the ongoing administration costs of the Up-front Payments tuition protection arrangements. The two amounts for the Administrative Fee component are determined by the Minister for Education through a legislative instrument (or indexed annually if the Minister chooses not to make a new legislative instrument for a particular year).

The two amounts for the Administrative Fee component for 2025 are \$129 (per provider charge) and \$10.85 (per student charge).

The Administrative Fee component (A) is calculated as:

$$A = \$129 + (\$10.85 \times \text{Up-front students})$$

where:

Up-front students = headcount of Up-front students for 2024 (calendar year).

Source: Tertiary Collection of Student Information (TCSI) - by the Tertiary Education Qualification and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Provider Information Request submitted by each provider as a requirement under section 28 of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011*.

Risk Rated Premium component

The Risk Rated Premium component is determined by the TPS Director through a legislative instrument each year. The TPS Director determines the annual Risk Rated Premium component

¹ www.legislation.gov.au/C2020A00102/latest/text

settings in collaboration with the Australian Government Actuary (AGA), the TPS Advisory Board and feedback from stakeholders.

The Risk Rated Premium component (R) is calculated as:

$$R = \left[\left(\frac{\$2}{\text{Up-front fee-paying students}} \right) + \left(\frac{0.04\%}{\text{Up-front payments}} \right) \right] \times \left(\frac{\text{sum of risk factor} + 1}{\text{values}} \right)$$

where:

Up-front fee-paying students = headcount of Up-front fee-paying student for 2024 (calendar year)

Source: TCSI

Up-front payments = total Up-front payments received for 2024 (calendar year)

Source: TCSI

There are three risk factors in the VSL Levy which comprise the 'sum of risk factor values' they are:

1. Financial Strength
2. Completion Rate
3. Non-compliance history and registration renewal

Sum of risk factor values

$$\text{sum of risk factor values} = \left(\frac{\text{Financial strength}}{\text{strength}} \right) + \left(\frac{\text{Completion rate}}{\text{rate}} \right) + \left(\frac{\text{Non-compliance history \& registration renewal}}{\text{registration renewal}} \right)$$

Financial strength

To calculate the financial strength risk value, follow these steps:

1. Calculate ratios as seen in Table 1.
2. Determine the associated score according to the calculation (Table 1).
3. Add scores, then identify the risk factor value in Table 2.

Table 1: Financial strength calculations and scores

Ratio	Formula	Low	Medium	High
Return on assets	$\left[\frac{\text{NPBT}}{\text{Total assets}} \right]$	≤ 0.0	$> 0.0 \text{ to } \leq 0.1$	> 0.1
Score		1.5	3.0	4.5
Debt to equity	$\left[\frac{\text{Total liabilities}}{\text{Total equity}} \right]$	$\geq 2.5 \text{ or } \text{total equity } \leq 0.0$	$\geq 1.5 \text{ to } < 2.5$	$\geq 0.0 \text{ to } < 1.5$
Score		1.5	3.0	4.5

NPBT = Net profit before tax.

Source: Financial statements provided in HITS.

Table 2: Financial strength risk factor value

Financial strength score	2025 risk factor value
9	0.0
6 or 7.5	1.0
3 or 4.5	2.0
Financial statements not provided	2.5

Completion rate

To calculate the completion rate risk value, follow these steps:

1. Calculate completion rate percentage:

$$\text{Completion rate percentage} = \left(\frac{\text{Passed EFTSL}}{(\text{Passed} + \text{Failed} + \text{Ongoing} + \text{Data Missing EFTSLs})} \right) \times 100$$

Source: TCSI, with completion rate using EFTSL counts for all categories for 2024

For more detail, see the accompanying fact sheet '[Unit Completion Rate Risk Factor Calculation](#)'²

2. Identify the completion rate risk factor value using Table 3 below.

Table 3: Completion rate risk factor value

Completion rate value	2025 risk factor value
85% or higher	0.0
60% to < 85%	1.0
35% to < 60%	2.5
0% to < 35%	3.5

Non-compliance history and registration renewal

$$\text{Non-compliance history and registration renewal} = \left(\frac{\text{Non-compliance}}{\text{history risk factor value}} \right) + \left(\frac{\text{Registration renewal}}{\text{risk factor value}} \right)$$

Non-compliance history is a penalty for late payment of the Up-front Levy over the previous three years. To calculate the non-compliance history risk factor value, follow these steps:

1. Establish the number of days a payment was late for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 Up-front Payments Levy. Apply these values to the formulas below.

Source: Up-front Payments levy receipt date (TPS).

Weighted late payment measure formula

$$2024 \text{ Up-front Levy days late} \times 0.7 = X$$

$$2023 \text{ Up-front Levy days late} \times 0.2 = Y$$

$$2022 \text{ Up-front Levy days late} \times 0.1 = Z$$

2. Add amounts together to calculate weighted late payment measure.
3. Identify non-compliance risk factor value in Table 4.

² www.education.gov.au/tps/resources/faqs-unit-completion-rate-risk-factor-calculation

Table 4: Non-compliance history risk factor value

Non-compliance history category	2025 risk factor value
A weighted late payment measure of 30 days or more	2.0
A weighted late payment measure of 15 days to < 30 days	0.9
A weighted late payment measure of 1 day to < 15 days	0.7
A weighted late payment measure of less than 1 day (including having a weighted late payment measure of 0)	0.0

Registration renewal risk factor value is as per the table below.

All Up-front providers will receive a registration renewal risk factor value of 0.0 (Table 5).

Table 5: Registration renewal risk factor value

Registration renewal category	2025 risk factor value
For registration periods less than the maximum allowable	1.0
For registration periods equal to the maximum allowable	0.0

Source: Provider's registration renewal length.

Special Tuition Protection component

The Special Tuition Protection component percentage is determined by the TPS Director through a legislative instrument each year. The Special Tuition Protection Component contributes to building the balance of the HE Fund to ensure there are sufficient funds available in the event of a large provider default, or multiple provider defaults.

The percentage for 2025 is 0.10%

The Special Tuition Protection component (S) is calculated as:

$$S = 0.10\% \times \text{Up-front payments}$$

where:

Up-front payments = total Up-front payments received for 2024 (calendar year).

Source: Request for Information directly to provider from the TPS.

Up-front Payments Levy calculation example

The following 2025 Up-front Levy calculation example is based on an Up-front provider that had:

- number of Up-front fee-paying students = 350
- amount received in Up-front payments in 2024 = \$400,000
- financial strength score = 6, therefore risk factor value = 1.0
- completion rate percentage = 30%, therefore risk factor value = 3.5
- non-compliance history calculation = 10 days, therefore risk factor value = 0.7
- registration renewal period = maximum allowable, therefore risk factor value = 0.0

Levy component	Levy calculation
(A) Administrative Fee	$\$129 + (\$10.85 \times 350 \text{ Up-front fee-paying students}) = \mathbf{\$3,926.50}$
(R) Risk Rated Premium	$R = \left[\left(\frac{\$2}{350 \text{ students}} \right) + \left(\frac{0.04\%}{\$400,000 \text{ Up-front payments}} \right) \right] \times \left(\frac{\text{Financial Strength value} = 1.0}{\text{Completion Rate value} = 3.5} \right) \times \left(\frac{\text{Non-compliance history value} = 0.7}{\text{Registration renewal value} = 0.0 + 1} \right)$ Therefore $R = (\\$700 + \\$160) \times 6.2$ $R = \mathbf{\\$5,332.00}$
(S) Special Tuition Protection	$0.10\% \times \$400,000 \text{ (Up-front payments received in 2024)} = \mathbf{\$400.00}$
Total 2025 Up-front Payments Levy A + R + S	$\$3,926.50 + \$5,332 + \$400 = \mathbf{\$9,658.50}$