



## ABSTUDY students – Post-secondary study

This factsheet provides information about ABSTUDY support available to students who have completed secondary school and are transitioning to further study or training.

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students participating in tertiary study are eligible for some level of ABSTUDY assistance, depending on their study load and income.

### Full-time study/training

Students undertaking further full-time study or training may be eligible for support under the ABSTUDY Tertiary Award.

Under the Tertiary Award, students may be entitled to:

- means tested Living Allowance and Rent Assistance, to meet day-to-day living costs, including:
  - Relocation Scholarship, for the costs of establishing new accommodation to attend university, if they have to live away from home to study,
  - Student Start-up Loan, for upfront costs of text books or specialised equipment,
- Fares Allowance, for the costs of travel if they meet travel time and access rules, and
- a range of other non-means tested supplementary payments, including:
  - Incidentals Allowance, for costs associated with commencing study.

### Part-time study/training

Students who study a post-secondary course but are not doing a full-time workload may be eligible for the ABSTUDY Part-time Award. Under this Award, students may be entitled to:

- Incidentals Allowance, for costs associated with commencing study,
- Away from Base Assistance, including Fares Allowance.

### Distance education

Students may be eligible for assistance if they undertake an approved course that requires them to travel away from their home or study location for a short time to participate in the necessary components of the course, for example distance education.

### Testing for Eligibility

Students who wish to test their eligibility for support under the ABSTUDY Tertiary Award are advised:

- they can lodge an application from October in their final year of secondary schooling,
- there is no need to wait until they get an offer from a university or TAFE, students simply need to intend to study in the following year, and
- they are eligible to be paid from 1 January of their course commencement year.

**Top tip:** Apply early! Students who choose to go on to further study, and are eligible for ABSTUDY support, are payable from 1 January of their course commencement year.