



ABSTUDY Travel – The start and end of year and school holidays

This factsheet provides information on ABSTUDY travel assistance available for secondary students travelling at the start and end of the study year and for school holidays. This factsheet should be read in conjunction with the other factsheets on ABSTUDY travel arrangements:

- ABSTUDY Travel – Overview
- ABSTUDY Travel – Other types of travel

Travel at the start and end of the year

The purpose of travel at the start and end of the year is to enable the student to travel between their usual place of residence and their school address.

Students who qualify for this type of travel are entitled to:

- one single journey from their usual place of residence to their school address at the start of study for the year, and
- one single journey from their school address to their usual place of residence at the end of study for the year. This journey could be due to either the student completing or discontinuing study for the year.

Travel for school holidays

The purpose of school holiday travel is to enable the student to be reunited with their family during school holiday periods.

Students who qualify for school holiday travel are entitled to one return journey between their usual place of residence and their school address to coincide with each of the school holiday periods. Students are eligible for a maximum of three return trips for school holiday travel across the academic year.

Approved travellers

In addition to a student who is approved to travel under Fares Allowance, other people may also be approved for Fares Allowance to travel with the student at the start and end of the year and for school holidays. This includes:

- supervisor travellers,
- travelling companions (if the student has an illness, injury or disability), and
- dependent travellers (if the student has a dependent child who lives at their term address).

Where larger cohorts of students are travelling, more than one supervisor traveller can receive travel assistance to accompany the students. A general rule of one supervisor to six students is normally applied, however this depends on the particular circumstances.

Travel to locations other than home or school

ABSTUDY Fares Allowance includes flexibility for students or other approved travellers to start or end their journey in locations other than their usual place of residence or school address in certain circumstances. For example, if a student attends a camp or excursion near the end of term then they are able to travel from the camp/excursion location to their home for school holidays rather than returning to school first, as long as the location is along their usual route.

This can also include locations that are not on the usual travel route, including:

- to reunite a student with immediate family who have temporarily moved,
- to attend a funeral, or
- if the student is unable to travel to or from their usual place of residence due to adverse weather events.

Approved travellers can choose to travel one-way and terminate the journey at the destination, or earlier in the case of multiple legs.

Reasonable travel

DHS will book travel that is reasonable in the circumstances. This will include minimising the number of days of school the student would miss due to travelling.

This ensures that, where possible, travel arrangements pre-booked through DHS do not lead to the student missing a significant amount of school when travelling home/to school.

Top tip: approved travellers, including students and supervisors, can travel to locations other than the student's permanent home and school, if required.