

VSL course list and loan caps

Information for providers

VET Student Loans are income contingent loans provided by the Australian Government to support eligible students undertake high quality training for skills that are aligned to workplace needs.

Eligible students can access VET Student Loans for approved courses only. The [VET Student Loans \(Courses and Loan Caps\) Determination 2016](#) (the Determination) sets out the approved courses and loan caps which may apply to you, as well as a smaller number of courses only approved for specified listed and not-for-profit providers.

Course list

The Determination is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure VSL courses retain industry and sector relevance, and to ensure that loan caps remain appropriate.

Courses are added to the Determination if they are at Diploma and above level and are either:

- on at least 2 state or territory skills needs lists
- science, technology, engineering or mathematics related
- tied to licensing requirements for a particular occupation.

Courses that meet this criteria are displayed on the Determination under Schedules 1 and 2.

Exceptions to the methodology are currently available for listed and not-for-profit providers who can provide evidence of strong employment outcomes, strong employer support, and a strong track record of student progression and completion through a particular course. These courses are displayed on the Determination under Schedule 3.

Superseded courses

Superseded courses will remain on the Determination until the update following the expiration of their teach-out period. Similar to the transition policy under the [Standards for Registered Training Organisations](#) (RTOs), you cannot offer loans to new students of the superseded course.

New versions of courses on the Determination

Replacement versions of courses on the Determination are automatically eligible for VSL by reference to the [National Register of VET](#). When you are approved to offer VET student loans for a superseded or non-current courses, you are automatically approved to offer the new course under the terms of the 'Superseding courses' condition of approval, subject to the new course being on your scope of registration.

For more information on how to seek approval to add courses, please refer to [Varying the conditions of approval](#).

Courses that are taken off the Determination

Students studying in a course that has been removed from the Determination will be 'grandfathered' for the remainder of their course, provided the student submitted an eCAF for the course prior to its removal from the Determination.

That is, those students with access to VET Student Loans will continue to receive a loan until they complete the course. From the date a course is removed from the Determination, no new student can access a VET Student Loan in that course.

The HELP IT System (HITS) will be updated to reflect the changes to the Determination. This will prevent any student from submitting an eCAF for a course that is no longer on the Determination. The onus is therefore on you to manage any student who may have commenced an eCAF to ensure they submit the eCAF and have loan access approved before the new Determination takes effect.

Loan caps

Courses that are approved for loans, and the amount students can borrow per course, are determined and set by the government.

In setting limits on which courses are available for a VET Student Loan and the amount that can be borrowed, the government is seeking to ensure that students are not incurring an inflated level of debt and that loans are only being provided for courses that are closely aligned to the skills Australian employers require, thereby enhancing the opportunities for graduates to work and repay the money lent to them by taxpayers.

Establishing loan caps does not prevent you from setting tuition fees above the cap. Rather, it sets a ceiling on the maximum loan amount the government is willing to lend to students for a specific course.

If a student wishes to undertake an approved course with an approved VET Student Loans provider that is charging above the allocated loan cap, the student will need to cover the difference.

Loan cap updates

Loan cap amounts are indexed annually as provided by the *VET Student Loans Act 2016* and according to the provisions set out in the Determination.

Table 1: VET Student Loans (Courses and Loan Caps) Determination 2016 – Loan amount indexation for years 2018–2025

	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	2022 (\$)	2023 (\$)	2024 (\$)	2025 (\$)	2026 (\$)
Band 1 (Part 1, Schedule 1)	5,171	5,264	5,358	5,406	5,595	6,031	6,278	6,428
Band 2 (Part 2, Schedule 1)	10,342	10,528	10,717	10,813	11,191	12,063	12,557	12,858
Band 3 (Part 3, Schedule 1)	15,514	15,793	16,077	16,221	16,788	18,097	18,838	19,290
Specific (Schedule 2)	77,571	78,967	80,388	81,111	83,949	90,497	94,207	96,467

More information

The [VET Student Loans \(Courses and Loan Caps\) Determination 2016](#) can be located on the Federal Register of Legislation (FRL). The Register will show Determination amendments and subsequent compilations. You should check the FRL site for the most current version of the Determination. Latest amendments are found in the [VET Student Loans \(Courses and Loan Caps\) Amendment Determination 2024](#).

You may also contact the VSL program area using the online enquiry form on [Provider Enquiries](#) for any clarification.