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Study and training support loans

Explains income contingent loans for undertaking higher education, trade apprenticeships and other training programs.

How study and training support loans work

A brief overview of how study and training support loans work, including a video.

Types of loans

You can find a number of loans available from the Australian Government to help you complete further training and study.

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See changes related to any new legislation for student and training support debts.

QC 27090

How study and training support loans work

A brief overview of how study and training support loans work, including a video.

Last updated 8 April 2024

The government provides financial assistance (in the form of loans) to people undertaking higher education, trade apprenticeships and other training programs. We have responsibility for the collection of these loans through the tax system.

These are income contingent loans and when your income exceeds the repayment threshold, you will have to start repaying your loan. Compulsory repayments are made through the tax system. You may also make voluntary repayments to reduce your balance faster. The debt will be indexed annually to keep up with changes in the cost of living. Your loan may grow over time if no compulsory or voluntary repayments are made.

Watch

Media: Income Contingent Loans
https://tv.ato.gov.au/ato-tv/media?v=bd1bdiuncjh54m (**Duration:** 01:17)

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

QC 72394

Types of loans

You can find a number of loans available from the Australian Government to help you complete further training and study.

Last updated 25 November 2024

HELP

The Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) assists eligible students with their student contribution or tuition fees from a university or other higher education provider.

There are different types of HELP loans available, depending on the student's circumstances.

For more information see Study Assist.

VSL

The VET Student Loans (VSL) program offers protection for students and focuses on courses that address industry needs, creating better opportunities for employment.

VSL offers income contingent loan support to eligible students studying certain diploma level and above vocational education and training qualifications. Use the VSL Eligibility Tool as a guide to help check your eligibility for a VET Student Loan.

For more information, see Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, for:

- Information for VET Student Loans Students
- VET Student Loans Information Booklet

VET FEE-HELP (VFH)

The former VET FEE-HELP (VFH) scheme operated between 2008 and 2016, with some VFH students continuing to access the scheme until 2018.

Between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023, people with VFH loans could apply to have their loans re-credited under the VET FEE-HELP Student Redress Measures, in circumstances where their training provider engaged in 'inappropriate conduct.' These measures have now closed.

To understand more about VFH, see Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, for Information for former VET FEE-HELP students.

SFSS

The Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS) was a voluntary loan scheme to help tertiary students cover their expenses while they studied.

This scheme closed on 31 December 2003. However, all existing SFSS loans continue to be collected through the tax system.

For more information see Department of Social Services: SFSS.

SSL and ABSTUDY SSL

The Student Start-up Loan (SSL) and ABSTUDY Student Start-up Loan (ABSTUDY SSL) schemes started on 1 January 2016 and replaced the Student Start-up Scholarship payment.

This is a voluntary loan available to eligible students in higher education who receive:

- Youth Allowance
- Austudy
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance.

The Services Australia administers the payments.

For more information see Services Australia – Student Start-up Loan.

AASL

Generally, under the Australian Apprenticeship Support Loan (AASL) – previously known as Trade Support Loan (TSL) – program, eligible Australian apprentices are offered loans over a 4-year period. An Australian Apprentice may attract payments at the fourth-year rate for any additional years of their apprenticeship (past the fourth year) until they complete their apprenticeship or reach the lifetime limit.

A 20% discount will be granted where an Australian Apprentice successfully completes their apprenticeship. The discount applies to the amount borrowed and does not include any indexation that has been applied or repayments that have been made.

AASL payments are administered by the Apprentice Connect Australia Provider and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

For more information see Australian Apprenticeships.

QC 44853

View your study loan account online

How to use the ATO app or ATO online services to view your study or training support loan account.

Last updated 18 December 2025

> **Refund of loan credit**
>
> Have a credit on your student loan account? Refunds are processed separately, and you don't need to do anything to get it. Most refunds will be completed by end of March 2026. Existing offsetting rules may apply. For more information see Refund of loan credit.

Going online

We manage any study or training support loans you have deferred for payment through the tax system. Your ATO account contains a record of your loan (or loans) including:

- indexation amounts
- voluntary repayments and compulsory repayments
- the 20% loan debt reduction
- overseas levy amounts.

It's easy to keep track of your study or training loan using the ATO app or ATO online services. You can view your loan account and other information, such as your payment reference number (PRN) and voluntary repayment options.

To access our online services for individuals, you need to create a myGov account and link it to the ATO. Using a Digital ID, such as myID, is the most secure way to access ATO online services and the ATO app.

If you already have a myGov account linked to the ATO, you can sign in at any time.

Find the balance of your loan accounts

To locate the balance of your loan accounts using the **ATO app**:

1. Log in to the **ATO app.**
2. Select **Accounts** from the Home screen.

To locate the balance of your loan accounts using **ATO online services**:

1. Log in to **ATO online services.**
2. Select **Tax.**
3. Select **Accounts.**
4. Select **Loan accounts**.

You can make voluntary repayments at any time to reduce the balance of your loan.

Sign in to myGov and update details

Can't see your loan information?

As your study or training loan information is transferred to us from other government agencies, **there may be a delay** between when you incur the loan and when it is reflected in your loan balance.

At any time during the year, you can contact us to request a statement.

Indexation

Your loan may grow over time if you don't make any compulsory or voluntary repayments.

There is no interest charged on loan accounts. However, loan amounts that are more than 11 months old are subject to indexation. The indexation figure is calculated each year and is applied on 1 June each year.

Indexation maintains the 'value' of the education so that no matter how long it takes to repay, a student would repay an amount that is more like the cost of education today.

The indexation rate for study and training loans is based on the consumer price index (CPI) or wage price index (WPI) – whichever is lower.

20% debt reduction

If you had a student debt on 1 June 2025, you are eligible for the 20% reduction (see Study and training loans – what's new).

What you see on your loan account after the 20% reduction will depend on your circumstances:

- If you've finished studying and your last loan was added before July 2024, you'll see one transaction on your loan account for the 20% reduction. You'll also see the adjustment to your 2025 indexation.
- If you're currently studying:
  - you'll see additional 20% reduction transactions on your loan account covering loans that are added before 1 July 2024, from 1 July to 31 December 2024, and from 1 January to 31 May 2025 – see Example 1
  - and started studying from 1 July 2024, you won't see an indexation transaction because loans less than 11 months old are not indexed.
- If your study loan is in credit after the 20% reduction, you may get a refund. This refund will be processed separately, so there will be a delay between the 20% reduction and your refund. See Refund of loan credit.

Note: You may see effective dates other than 1 June 2025 for the 20% reduction on your loan account – these dates are for our system calculations. Rest assured; the full 20% reduction has been applied to your loan account based on your student debt balance as at 1 June 2025.

Example 1: currently studying with new loans

Maylin has a $110,000 HELP debt on 31 May 2025, made up of:

- $90,000 debt from 1 July 2024
- an $11,000 debt added in November 2024
- a $9,000 debt added in May 2025.

On 1 June 2025, indexation of $2,880 is applied to Maylin's $90,000 loan debt. Indexation doesn't apply to loans the 2 new HELP debts that are less than 11 months old.

On 26 November 2025, we process her 20% reduction. Maylin will see 4 transactions on her HELP account:

- $18,000 credited to the $90,000 HELP debt on 1 June 2025, before indexation was applied
- 2 credits of $2,200 and $1,800 – one for each of the new HELP debts
- 2025 indexation adjusted so it applies to the reduced HELP debt amount of $72,000 ($90,000 − $18,000).

Maylin's HELP account is credited the excess indexation of $576.

After the reduction, Maylin's HELP debt is $90,304.

Figure 1: Transactions on Maylin's HELP account

Maylin's HELP loan account listing the transactions covered in this example.

Refund of loan credit

If your study loan account is in credit after the 20% reduction you will receive a refund, unless you have other outstanding tax or Commonwealth debts.

On your study loan account, you will see a:

- transaction to transfer the credit to your income tax account – this will show as a debit in the loan account
- credit on your income tax account ready to refund to your nominated bank account
- debit transaction in your income tax account when the refund issues.

If you made a compulsory repayment after 1 June 2025, your refund will be issued by amending your tax return to adjust your compulsory repayment. You'll receive a notice of amended assessment, and the refund will issue to your nominated bank account – provided there are no outstanding tax or Commonwealth debts.

Example 2: loan in credit – 2025 tax return lodged before 20% reduction

On 31 May 2025, Asha has a $10,000 VET student loan (VSL) debt and is no longer studying.

On 1 June 2025, Asha's debt is indexed and increases to $10,320.

Asha lodges her 2025 tax return in August 2025, which results in a $9,000 compulsory repayment credited to her VSL account.

In November 2025:

- a 20% reduction of $2,000 is credited to Asha’s $10,000 VSL debt as at 1 June 2025, before indexation and her compulsory repayment is applied
- Asha’s 2025 indexation of $320 is adjusted, so it applies to the reduced debt amount of $8,000. Asha’s VSL account will show an indexation credit of $64.
- after the reduction, Asha’s VSL account is in **credit** $744.

We will amend Asha's 2025 tax return to recalculate her compulsory repayment, resulting in a tax refund of $744.

Asha's VSL account will now have a nil balance.

As Asha has no outstanding tax or other Commonwealth debts, her Income tax account has a $744 refund from her amended tax return. This will be transferred into her nominated bank account.

QC 44857

When you must repay your loan

You must start repaying your loan when your repayment income exceeds the minimum repayment threshold.

Last updated 9 October 2024

Repaying your loan

You must start making compulsory repayments against your study or training support loan when your repayment income exceeds the minimum repayment threshold. This is even if you are still studying or undertaking an apprenticeship.

The repayment thresholds are adjusted each year to reflect any changes in average weekly earnings.

Compulsory repayments are made through your tax return. You can also make voluntary repayments at any time to reduce your loan balance.

Find out more about overseas obligations when repaying loans.

For more information see:

- Voluntary repayments, for information about the best time to make voluntary repayments
- Indexation, for information on indexation on loans
- Study and training loan repayment thresholds and rates
- StudyAssist website

Your repayment income

Your repayment income is calculated using the following amounts from your tax return and payment summaries:

- taxable income – not including any assessable First Home Super Saver (FHSS) released amounts
- any reportable fringe benefits (regardless of the exempt status of your employer)
- total net investment loss (which includes net rental losses)
- reportable super contributions
- any exempt foreign employment income amounts.

Example: repayment income for an income year

Christina has a taxable income of $50,420. In her tax return she claims:

- total net investment loss of $1,250
- total reportable fringe benefits of $4,560
- exempt foreign employment income of $2,580
- reportable super contributions of $15,000.

Christina's repayment income is
$73,810 ($50,420 + $1,250 + $4,560 + $2,580 + $15,000).

For more information see:

- Compulsory repayments
- Income you must declare

Going overseas

If you have moved overseas and have a Higher Education Loan Program (HELP), VET Student Loan (VSL) or Australian Apprenticeship Support Loan (AASL) – previously known as Trade Support Loan (TSL) – you will have the same repayment obligations as those who live in

Australia. This applies even if you already live or intend to move overseas for a total of more than 6 months in any 12 month period.

You will need to update your contact details using our online services through myGov. You will also be required to advise us of your worldwide income if your income exceeds 25% of the minimum repayment threshold for the income year and make a compulsory repayment. This also applies when you pay an overseas levy towards your loan if you earn over the minimum repayment threshold.

If you have a Student Financial Supplement Scheme (SFSS), Student Start-up Loan (SSL) or ABSTUDY Student Start-up Loan (ABSTUDY SSL) loan and go overseas, we will continue to maintain your loan account. Your loan will not be waived and the amount outstanding will continue to be indexed each year until you have paid off your loan. Your loan may grow over time if no compulsory or voluntary repayments are made.

You can still make voluntary repayments when you are overseas.

For more information see:

- Overseas obligations when repaying loans
- Voluntary repayments

Deceased estate

A trustee or executor needs to lodge all outstanding tax returns on behalf of a deceased person, up to the date of the person's death.

Any compulsory repayment included on a notice of assessment or overseas levy included on a notice of overseas levy that relates to the period before the person's death must be paid from the estate. The remainder of the loan is cancelled. Neither the deceased person's family, nor the trustee, is required to pay the rest of the loan.

Bankruptcy

Loan accounts are not provable under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*. This means you will have to pay those loans as if you had not been declared bankrupt.

QC 44858

Tell your employer about your study or training loan

How to tell your employer about your study or training support loan, and why it's important.

Last updated 14 October 2025

Why it's important

To help avoid an unexpected bill at tax time, tell your employer you have a study loan. In the same way your employer withholds tax throughout the year to cover your end of year tax liability, they can also withhold extra amounts to cover your study or training support loan compulsory repayment. This amount is calculated when you lodge your tax return.

Your employer will determine how much extra to withhold based on the income you earn with them. If you receive income from other sources, your employer’s withholding may not cover the total compulsory repayment amount. For more information, see multiple income sources.

If you don't tell your employer

If you don't tell your employer about your study or training support loan, they won't know to withhold extra amounts for your compulsory repayment. This will likely result in you getting a tax bill when you lodge your tax return. You’ll need to pay your tax bill in full and on time to avoid general interest charge being applied.

Understanding compulsory repayments

You need to start making compulsory repayments when your repayment income is more than the minimum repayment threshold. This applies even if you're still studying or in an apprenticeship.

From 1 July 2025, compulsory repayments have moved to a marginal repayment system and are only calculated on [your repayment income](#) that is above the minimum repayment threshold (instead of your total repayment income). The more income you earn, the higher your compulsory repayment will be. See Study and training loans – what's new.

Your compulsory repayment amount is calculated when you lodge your tax return. Any voluntary repayments made towards your loan will not reduce the compulsory repayment amount.

Work out your compulsory repayment

To estimate your compulsory repayment, use our Study and training support loans repayment calculator.

Note: This calculator **has not** been updated with the compulsory repayment changes from 1 July 2025. It may estimate your 2025–26 compulsory repayment higher than your actual repayment amount as it is using the old repayment calculations. The calculator will be updated from 1 July 2026.

For current and historical thresholds and rates, see Study and training loan repayment thresholds and rates.

Withholding amounts for your compulsory repayment

When you tell your employer you have a study or training support loan, they will start withholding extra amounts from your income if your annual income is expected to be over the minimum repayment threshold.

The additional amounts withheld are not applied to your loan balance until:

- you lodge your tax return, and
- a compulsory repayment has been calculated based on your repayment income.

This means the amount withheld by your employer won't reduce your loan after each pay cycle. The compulsory repayment amount will reduce your loan as a lump sum once your tax return is processed.

The withholding amount for your loan compulsory repayment may not be listed separately on your payslip. It will be included in the total pay as you go (PAYG) withholding amount.

If too much is withheld during the year, and you don't have any outstanding tax or other Commonwealth debts, you will receive a refund of the overpaid amounts at tax time.

How to tell your employer

To tell your employer about your study or training support loan:

- when starting a new job, complete a Tax file number declaration (NAT 3092) and answer 'Yes' at Question 10, or
- if you're already working, and you're not sure if your employer knows you have a loan, complete a Withholding declaration (NAT 3093) and answer 'Yes' at Question 6.

Give the completed form to your employer so they can work out how much extra to withhold. If you have more than one employer, provide a completed form to each employer.

When you pay off your loan in full, complete a new *Withholding Declaration* (NAT 3093) to inform your employer that you no longer need extra amounts withheld. Do not complete a *PAYG withholding variation application* (NAT 2036).

Multiple income sources

If you earn business or investment income, you may be registered for pay as you go (PAYG) instalments. This is where you make regular payments throughout the year towards your tax liability. If you are making PAYG instalments, we take your study or training support loan into account when calculating your instalment amount and rate.

If you earn income from multiple sources, you may need to adjust how much is withheld during the year. This is because your employer doesn't know how much you earn outside of your employment with them. Therefore, the amount they withhold may not be enough to cover your total compulsory repayment amount.

You can adjust your withholding amounts by:

- asking your employer to increase the amount of tax they withhold from your pay, or
- voluntarily registering for PAYG instalments and varying the instalment amount to suit your personal circumstances.

Stay informed and proactive about your loan repayments to avoid financial surprises and manage your loan effectively. For more information, see Study and training support loans.

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

QC 103827

Compulsory repayments

How and when compulsory repayments of your study and training support loan are made through the income tax system.

Last updated 7 August 2025

How compulsory repayments work

Compulsory repayments of your study and training support loan are made through the income tax system.

You don't have to provide loan information in your tax return. If you have a loan when you lodge your tax return and your repayment income is above the minimum repayment threshold, we will work out your compulsory repayment and include it on your notice of assessment. This will occur even if your tax return is for an income year before you started studying.

Your compulsory repayment rate increases as your income increases. The more you earn, the higher your repayment. Your compulsory repayment is based on your income alone – not the income of your parents or spouse.

You won't have to make a compulsory repayment if you have a spouse or dependants and if (due to low family income) you:

- are entitled to a reduction of the Medicare levy
- don't have to pay the Medicare levy.

If you don't have to make a compulsory repayment, you may ask your employer not to withhold additional amounts from your pay by completing the *Medicare levy variation declaration* form (NAT 0929).

You can also make additional voluntary repayments.

Ask a question or read answers to questions at our online community:

ATO community

For more information see:

- Study and training loan repayment thresholds and rates
- Medicare levy variation declaration
- Study and training loan repayment calculator

Compulsory repayment changes

Change to compulsory repayments are now law. From the 2025–26 income year, you only need to make a compulsory repayment when your repayment income exceeds $67,000. Your compulsory repayment will only be calculated on the portion of your income that exceeds $67,000.

For more information, see Study and training loans – what's new.

Advising your employer

You must advise your employer if you have a study or training support loan. Under the pay as you go (PAYG) withholding system, your employer will withhold an additional amount from your salary and wage income to cover your compulsory repayment.

Advise your employer by ticking the relevant box on one of the following forms that applies to your situation:

- If you're starting a new job, complete a *Tax file number declaration* (NAT 3092) and include your loan type when asked to do so.

- If you're already working and being paid, complete a *Withholding declaration* (NAT 3093) and include your loan type when asked to do so.
- When you pay off your loan in full, complete a new *Withholding declaration* (NAT 3093) to advise you no longer have an outstanding loan. Update your loan type when asked to do so.

These forms are usually given to you by your employer.

Employer deductions showing on your account

When your employer withholds additional amounts to cover your anticipated compulsory repayment, these amounts are remitted to the ATO as part of the employer's PAYG withholding obligations.

The additional tax withheld is not applied to your loan account until:

- you have lodged your tax return, and
- a compulsory repayment has been calculated based on your repayment income.

Your loan balance doesn’t reduce after each pay cycle; it is only applied as a lump sum after your income tax return is lodged.

For more information see:

- Types of loans
- Tax file number declaration (NAT 3092)
- Withholding declaration (NAT 3093)
- Tax in Australia: what you need to know
- Tax tables

If you earn business or investment income

Pay as you go (PAYG) instalments is a system where you make regular payments towards your expected tax liability if you earn business or investment income. You pay your tax in instalments throughout the year rather than when you lodge your tax return.

If you are making PAYG instalments, we take your loan into account when working out your PAYG instalment amount and rate.

You can vary your instalment amount or rate to allow for your personal circumstances, see How to vary your PAYG instalments.

QC 44859

Voluntary repayments

You can make voluntary repayments at any time to help reduce your study or training loan balance.

Last updated 6 November 2025

Making repayments

You can make voluntary repayments at any time to reduce the balance of your study or training loan.

You may still have to make a compulsory repayment or pay an overseas levy if, after making your voluntary repayment:

- you still have an outstanding loan
- your repayment income is above the minimum repayment threshold.

Voluntary repayments are in addition to compulsory repayments or the overseas levy. They are **not refundable**.

Best time to make a voluntary repayment

If you plan to pay off your total loan balance with a voluntary repayment, it's best to make your repayment before you lodge your tax return or worldwide income.

If you lodge your tax return or worldwide income before your voluntary repayment is credited to your account, a compulsory repayment or overseas levy may be included on your notice of assessment. You may also benefit if you make a voluntary repayment (which will reduce the loan amount) before indexation is applied on 1 June.

If you intend to make a voluntary repayment before indexation is applied, **allow enough time for the payment to be received and processed by us before 1 June**.

Payments made electronically or at Australia Post can take up to 4 business days from the day you make the payment to be received by us and to appear on your ATO account.

If you mail a cheque or money order to us, you will need to take into account postage delivery times. Once we receive your payment, it may take a further 4 business days to be allocated to your ATO account.

Indexation will apply if your payment is not received and processed in time. Refer to Indexation to see its impact on the loan.

Note: Don't make voluntary repayments to us before you have incurred a loan.

For more information, see Study and training loan indexation rates.

How to make a voluntary repayment

You can make a voluntary repayment by a range of payment options both in Australia and overseas. Our preferred payment methods are:

- BPAY® (registered to BPAY Pty Ltd ABN 69 079 137 518)
- credit card.

If you pay using BPAY, credit card or direct credit, you will need your payment reference number (PRN).

For more information, see:

- myGov
- How to pay
- Contact us.

Salary packaging

Some people use salary packaging arrangements with their employers to pay off their loans faster by making voluntary repayments.

If you make a salary packaging arrangement, you must:

- make your voluntary repayments by BPAY, credit card or direct credit
- stop making repayments as soon as you have paid off your loan.

Voluntary repayments made through salary packaging are in addition to compulsory repayments. If your income is above the minimum repayment threshold for an income year, you will still need to make a compulsory repayment. This will be included in your notice of assessment.

Entering into a salary sacrifice arrangement may result in your payer providing a fringe benefit to you. You should seek financial advice before entering into this arrangement.

For more information, see Salary sacrificing for employees.

Tax deductibility

Any voluntary repayments made by you, or by someone else other than your employer, are not tax deductible. If your employer makes voluntary repayments on your behalf, they may be able to claim a tax deduction. Your employer may also be liable for fringe benefits tax (FBT) on the repayments.

QC 44860

Overseas obligations when repaying loans

Provide an overseas travel notification and report your worldwide income if you have a study or training support loan.

Last updated 2 October 2025

Changes to study and training loans

There are 2 recent changes to your study or training support loan:

- All loans that existed on 1 June 2025 will be reduced by 20%.
- From 1 July 2025, compulsory repayments have changed. They will either be less or no longer required for most people with loans.

We're currently updating our systems to deliver the 20% reduction. We expect most changes will be applied before the end of the 2025 calendar year.

You don't need to phone us or do anything for the changes to apply. Report your worldwide income and lodge your tax return as normal. Reporting won't change the reduction amount applied to your loan account.

We'll notify you when we have applied the 20% reduction to your loan account.

Find out more about the changes at Study and training loans – what's new.

Repaying loans from overseas

If you plan to live and work overseas and have a study or training support loan, you are required to:

- update your contact details and submit an *Overseas travel notification* within 7 days of leaving Australia – if you intend to (or already) reside overseas for 183 days or more in any 12 months
- lodge your worldwide income or a non-lodgment advice.

This applies to people with the following types of loans:

- Higher Education Loan Program (HELP – previously known as HECS)
- VET Student Loan (VSL)
- Australian Apprenticeship Support Loan (AASL) – previously known as Trade Support Loan (TSL).

You can report your worldwide income online by using ATO online services through myGov, or through an Australian registered tax agent.

The deadline for you to report for the Australian income year (1 July to 30 June) is **31 October**. It's important you lodge on time, even if you can't pay straight away, as you'll avoid a penalty for lodging late.

You can use an Australian registered tax agent to lodge on your behalf. They can lodge after the usual 31 October deadline. The due date will depend on your personal circumstance. Contact your tax agent for advice.

After you have reported your worldwide income, you will receive a notice confirming:

- how much you owe or will be refunded
- the due date for payment.

Your study or training loan will continue to be indexed each year until it is paid. Your loan may grow over time if no compulsory or voluntary repayments are made. You can make additional voluntary payments from overseas at any time to reduce the balance. These will not reduce any compulsory repayment or overseas levy obligations you may have.

For further information on indexation and processing times for payments, see:

- Indexation
- Voluntary repayments

Accessing ATO online services through myGov

If you're an Australian living overseas, you can manage your tax and super obligations while overseas with a myGov account linked to the ATO.

To access ATO online services you can sign in to myGov using:

- myID set up to a Standard identity strength
- codes created by the myGov Code Generator app – you will need to download the app and update your sign-in option before you travel
- SMS codes, if you have access to your Australian mobile phone number.

Completing an overseas travel notification

You need to notify us, within 7 days of leaving Australia, if you intend to move or already reside overseas for 183 days or more in any 12-month period.

To notify us, complete an *Overseas travel notification* and update your contact details, including your mobile, international residential, postal and email addresses.

You can submit your *Overseas travel notification* through ATO online services via myGov or through an Australian registered tax agent. If you notify us online, you only need to update your details in ATO online services, not in your myGov account.

Once you have logged in to ATO online services, follow these menu options to complete your *Overseas travel notification*.

Tax>Manage>Overseas travel notifications

You need details of your:

- Australian or foreign passport
- travel information, including
  - country you are planning to reside in while overseas
  - expected or actual departure date from Australia
  - expected or actual date of return to Australia.

You must continue to update your contact details while you reside overseas. You can update your details through ATO online services or an Australian registered tax agent.

You will only need to lodge a subsequent *Overseas travel notification* if you come back to Australia, or your residency changes and you meet the requirements to notify again.

You do not need to complete another notification if you are only returning to Australia for a short period (for example, a holiday).

Sign in to myGov

Reporting your worldwide income

Your worldwide income is your repayment income and your non-resident foreign sourced income. Your non-resident foreign sourced income is any income you earned from sources outside of Australia while you were a non-resident.

The next steps in reporting your worldwide income will depend on your tax residency status. You will first need to work out if you are an:

- Australian resident
- Non-resident

Note: If you have a study or training loan, you will have an ongoing obligation to report your worldwide income or lodge a non-lodgment advice.

Australian resident

If you reside outside Australia for less than 183 days in any 12-month period, the information in the following table applies to you.

Table 1: If you have a HELP, AASL or VSL loan and are an Australian resident for tax purposes for the full year

Your worldwide income	What you need to do
If you earn worldwide income, including repayment income and foreign sourced income in the income year.	Do you also need to lodge a tax return? Check Do I need to lodge a tax return? If you do not need to lodge a tax return, you may need to lodge a non-lodgment advice form. To complete the non-lodgment advice form, lodge through ATO online services **Tax>Lodgments>Non-lodgment advice** or through an Australian registered tax agent.

Non-resident

If you reside outside Australia for 183 days or more in any 12-month period, the information in the following table applies to you.

Table 2: If you have a HELP, AASL or VSL loan and are a non-resident (full or part year)

Your worldwide income	What you need to do
If your worldwide income for the 2024–25 year is at	You need to lodge a non-lodgment advice form.

or below $13,608 (AUD). This is 25% of the minimum repayment threshold.	Do you also need to lodge a tax return? Check [Work out if you need to lodge a tax return?] To complete the non-lodgment advice form, lodge through ATO online services **Tax>Lodgments>Non-lodgment advice** or through an Australian registered tax agent.
If your worldwide income for the 2024–25 year is above $13,608 (AUD).	You need to report your worldwide income. Do you also need to lodge a tax return? Check Work out if you need to lodge a tax return? To report your worldwide income, you can lodge through ATO online services **Tax>Lodgments>Report worldwide income** or through an Australian registered tax agent.

Note: When declaring your foreign sourced income earned as a non-resident, you will have the option of choosing between one of 3 assessment methods.

How to report your worldwide income

If you're a non-resident for tax purposes, you can report your worldwide income through either:

- myTax within ATO online services
- an Australian registered tax agent.

If your worldwide income (converted into Australian dollars) exceeds the minimum loan repayment thresholds, you will be required to make a repayment of your study or training loan. Repayments may be a compulsory repayment or an overseas levy depending on how your worldwide income is made up.

Our Study and training loan repayment calculator will help you determine the amount of compulsory repayment. This calculator **has not** been updated with the latest compulsory repayment changes and may estimate your 2025–26 compulsory repayment higher than your actual repayment amount. The calculator will be updated from 1 July 2026. You can get an estimate of your new compulsory repayment on the Department of Education's Reduction and repayment estimator.

Note: You can access myTax within ATO online services by logging in to your myGov account. Once you've accessed ATO online services, follow these menu items options: **Tax>Lodgments>Report worldwide income**.

When reporting your income, you will be asked to confirm if your contact and financial details are up to date – myTax only accepts Australian financial institution details. If you don't have an Australian account, you may bypass this step. The bypass is triggered when you have a study or training loan and an international residential address recorded.

Information you need to report

To assist in determining your worldwide income, you may need to refer to notices or statements you have received in your country of residence, or country you earned worldwide income. These may include, but are not limited to:

- tax assessment or summary from a foreign tax authority (for example, those issued from HMRC, IRS, National Tax Agency)
- payment summaries or income statements, or payment slips from employers
- bank statements
- notices showing amount of government benefits received
- dividend and interest certificates
- rental income statements
- receipts to claim deductions for expenses incurred in earning non-resident foreign sourced income, for example, work-related expenses you incurred while performing your job as an employee.

Converting your currency

You must convert all foreign income, deductions and foreign tax paid into Australian dollars before you include this in your tax return. The rate of conversion will be the average exchange rate for the Australian income year.

Our Foreign income conversion calculator will help you convert your foreign currency. If you require a foreign exchange rate for a currency that is not listed within the conversion calculator, you may use any reasonable externally sourced exchange rate for that currency, for example from a bank. The rate of conversion must be the average exchange rate for the Australian income year.

Completing a non-lodgment advice

You will need to submit a non-lodgement advice if you did not earn more than 25% of the minimum repayment threshold for the income year.

Note: You can access myTax within ATO online services by logging in to your myGov account. Once in ATO online services, follow these menu items options: **Tax>Lodgments>Non-lodgment advice**.

A non-lodgment advice is a document lodged instead of a tax return. This document tells us that you will not be lodging a return as you either:

- are not above 25% of the minimum repayment threshold
- have made a determination that you have no requirement to report your worldwide income, which includes lodging an individual tax return.

Note: If you had previously submitted a non-lodgment advice and your situation has changed, you are still able to report your worldwide income. You can lodge using ATO online services through myGov or through an Australian registered tax agent.

Example: non-lodgment advice

Harriet has a HELP loan from her undergraduate studies. She moves to the UK to undertake her postgraduate degree. In the UK, she studies full-time and works casually as a tutor.

For the relevant income year, Harriet earns the equivalent of $10,500 AUD. This is below the 25% minimum repayment threshold.

Harriet has made the determination that she does not need to lodge an Australian individual tax return. She will lodge a non-lodgment advice using ATO online services through myGov or through an Australian registered tax agent.

Assessment methods

When you declare your worldwide income to us, you may choose one of the following 3 income assessment methods to calculate your worldwide income for study or training loans:

- Simple self-assessment method
- Overseas assessed method
- Comprehensive tax-based assessment method

You can only choose one method to assess your foreign income for the income year. However, you may choose another assessment method in a later year.

Simple self-assessment method

The simple self-assessment method requires you to provide your gross amount of non-resident foreign income for the income year and state the occupation from which you derived most of your foreign-sourced income. A standard deduction will automatically be applied to reduce your foreign income based on your occupation.

Depending on your personal circumstances, you may wish to use a different assessment method to determine the non-resident foreign-sourced income component of your worldwide income. For example, if you have deductions that would be allowable under Australian tax laws.

Example: simple self-assessment method

Anita has been living in New Zealand for 2 years, working as an occupational therapist. To calculate her non-resident foreign-sourced income, Anita chooses the simple self-assessment method.

Anita declares her total gross foreign income for the income year and reports her occupation.

As part of the simple self-assessment method, a standard deduction is then automatically subtracted from her gross foreign income. This works out her net non-resident foreign-sourced income, which is used to calculate her overseas levy.

Overseas assessed method

The overseas assessed method allows you to enter the foreign income amount you were assessed for, on your most recent income assessment from your foreign country of residence. The assessment must cover a 12-month period, even if you did not earn income for the whole 12 months.

There are limitations to using this method. You can't use this method if:

- you did not receive a tax assessment from a foreign tax authority
- you received a tax assessment that does not cover a 12-month period
- the period of the assessment does not overlap the relevant Australian income year (1 July to 30 June)
- you received multiple assessments for the income year from tax authorities of different foreign countries
- you have previously used that income assessment to calculate your foreign income.

Example: overseas assessed method

Lee is living overseas and working as a lawyer. In working out his non-resident foreign-sourced income for the Australian income year, Lee chooses the overseas assessed method.

Lee has an overseas tax assessment for the period 1 April to 31 March. This overlaps the relevant Australian income year. Lee has not received any other income assessments from other countries. He has not previously used his income assessment to calculate his foreign-sourced income.

When using the overseas assessed method, Lee reports the foreign income amount he was assessed for as shown on his foreign income assessment. He then converts this to Australian dollars to calculate his non-resident foreign-sourced income.

Comprehensive tax-based assessment method

The comprehensive tax-based assessment method will require you to declare your gross foreign income and enter allowable deductions, similar to how you would complete an Australian tax return.

You must provide the gross amount (pre-tax amount) of your foreign income. You must do this even if tax was taken out in the country where you earned the income.

Example: comprehensive tax-based assessment method

Nadia is a small business owner in Canada. When working out her foreign-sourced income for the Australian income year, Nadia chooses the comprehensive tax-based assessment method.

Nadia determines her gross foreign income from her salary and business income. She then works out her allowable deductions related to her employment. Nadia subtracts her allowable deductions from her gross foreign income to work out her non-resident foreign-sourced income.

For more information, see Overseas Debtors Repayment Guidelines 2017.

Contacting us from overseas

You can phone us from overseas on **+61 2 6216 1111** between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm (AEDT) Monday to Friday. We will need to establish your proof of identity before we can discuss details of your account.

Ensure you have the right proof of identity documents with you before you contact us, including your Australian passport or Australian birth certificate.

Note: You must repay your HELP (previously known as HECS), AASL (previously known as TSL) and VSL if you live overseas and are not an Australian resident for tax purposes.

See how to Contact us.

QC 47358

Deferring repayments

You may apply to defer your compulsory repayment or overseas levy if you are in serious hardship or for other reasons.

Last updated 16 December 2025

What deferring means

If you have a loan with the ATO (which includes a compulsory repayment or overseas levy) and you can't pay on time, you may apply to defer or amend your compulsory repayment or overseas levy.

This means we will either:

- not raise a repayment (defer)
- reduce the amount of repayment required toward your loan (amend).

When to apply to defer

You may apply to defer or amend your compulsory repayment or overseas levy if:

- making your repayment would cause you serious hardship
- there are other special reasons, for example
  - natural disasters affecting you
  - death or serious illness
  - other serious or difficult circumstances.

If you apply to defer or amend your repayment under serious hardship, we will ask you for a detailed statement of your household income and expenditure to justify your claim.

We may also ask you to provide further details of income and expenditure and evidence, such as a copy of your most recent payslip.

If you have special circumstances and need to apply to defer or amend your repayment, complete a *Defer or amend your compulsory repayment or overseas levy* form (NAT 2471).

For more information see Tax support for individuals.

How to apply for deferral

To apply for a deferral see Defer or amend your compulsory repayment or overseas levy.

For more information see Contact us – Individuals enquiries

Support for people experiencing vulnerability

If you're facing challenging personal circumstances and need extra help managing your tax obligations, visit Tax support when you need it most for other support options available to people experiencing vulnerability.

QC 44862

Study and training loans – what's new

See changes related to any new legislation for student and training support debts.

Last updated 5 February 2026

20% debt reduction

We have commenced reducing all student and training support debts by 20% that existed on 1 June 2025. If you have multiple eligible student debts, each account will receive a 20% reduction.

What is happening?

The 20% reduction was applied to your student debt balance as at 1 June 2025, before indexation was applied. The 2025 indexation was recalculated on the reduced debt amount.

You don’t need to do anything to get the reduction. Most people would have received their reduction before the end of 2025, however more complex reductions may not be processed until early 2026.

We have issued notifications to advise that we've applied the 20% reduction to your student debt. The notification were sent via SMS, email or to your myGov Inbox. Ensure you keep your contact details up to date.

You can view your loan account using the ATO app or ATO online services. Find out what you can expect to see on your account at View your study loan account online.

Remember to lodge your 2025 tax return as normal. There is no benefit in delaying lodgment as the reduction is based on your debt balance as at 1 June 2025.

Study loan refunds

Where your study loan account is in credit after the 20% reduction, you may receive a refund. If you have outstanding tax or other Commonwealth debts, we will apply your credit to these debts first.

You don't need to phone us to get your refund. We’re working to process refunds as quickly as possible. Most refunds were completed by the end of January 2026. Students whose account is more complex and requires manual action will receive their refunds in February or March 2026.

Your refund will be sent to your nominated bank account. If you're expecting a refund, make sure your bank details are up to date with us to avoid any delays. You can view or update your current nominated bank account using the ATO app or ATO online services. If your tax agent's account is listed as your nominated bank account, they'll send your refund to you. Contact your tax agent if you have any questions.

If you made a compulsory repayment in your 2025 income tax return and your study loan account is now in credit, we'll refund your study loan credit by amending your tax return to adjust your assessed compulsory repayment. Once this has happened, your study loan account will have a zero balance and there will be an amended income tax return on your Income Tax account. You'll also receive a notice of amended assessment.

Once your refund is processed, it takes 3 business days before the amount will be sent to your nominated bank account. Also allow for bank processing timeframes, which can vary.

Compulsory repayment changes

The following changes to compulsory repayments for student and training support debts are in effect from 1 July 2025:

- The minimum repayment income needed to make a compulsory repayment has increased to **$67,000** for the 2025–26 income year (from $54,435 in 2024–25).
- Compulsory repayments have moved to a marginal repayment system. This means they are only calculated on the income above $67,000 (instead of the total repayment income). See the latest Study and training loan repayment thresholds and rates.
- If your repayment income is $179,286 or more, your compulsory repayment will continue to be 10% of your total repayment income. This means you won't be worse off because of the shift to marginal rates.

These rates and thresholds will be indexed each year in line with average weekly earnings.

Compulsory repayment estimate

You can get an estimate of your new compulsory repayment on the Department of Education's Reduction and repayment estimator.

Our Study and training loan repayment calculator will not be updated with these changes until 1 July 2026. Before then, it may estimate your 2025–26 compulsory repayment amount incorrectly because it is using the old thresholds and rates.

What the changes mean for study loan holders

Depending on your income:

- Most people's compulsory repayments will be lower from their 2026 tax return onwards.

- Some people will no longer need to make a compulsory repayment as their repayment income is $67,000 or less.
- There is no change for people earning $179,286 or more.

The tax withheld from your pay throughout the year can include an amount towards your compulsory repayment. As a result of these changes, if you're an employee:

- you may have less tax withheld from your pay towards a compulsory repayment
- any additional amounts already withheld may be refunded to you when you lodge your 2026 tax return – if you have no outstanding tax or other Commonwealth debts.

Example: compulsory repayment change

Grace has a HELP debt. She has one employer and has a repayment income of $80,000 in the 2025–26 income year.

Before the law change, Grace’s compulsory repayment would have been $2,800 (or 3.5% of her total $80,000 repayment income).

Now, Grace pays 15% of her 2025–26 repayment income above $67,000 (the minimum repayment income for that year). This means her compulsory repayment is $1,950 (15% of $13,000).

Grace's employer is aware of her study loan. They are now using the updated tax tables and withholding less tax from Grace's pay.

Grace is paid fortnightly, so she gets around $32 extra each pay (calculated as ($2,800 − $1,950) ÷ 26).

If you pay your tax in instalments:

- these changes will not be applied until 1 July 2026
- you'll receive any extra tax you paid in the 2025–26 income year in your 2026 tax assessment – if you have no outstanding tax or other Commonwealth debts

- you may want to vary your instalments in 2025–26 to accommodate a lower compulsory repayment. You can get advice from a registered tax agent on whether you should vary your instalments.

Don't forget – you can still make voluntary repayments at any time to reduce your debt.

QC 59241

Our commitment to you

We are committed to providing you with accurate, consistent and clear information to help you understand your rights and entitlements and meet your obligations.

If you follow our information and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we will take that into account when determining what action, if any, we should take.

Some of the information on this website applies to a specific financial year. This is clearly marked. Make sure you have the information for the right year before making decisions based on that information.

If you feel that our information does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, contact us or seek professional advice.