

Student Services and Amenities Fee FAQs

- **What is a Student Services and Amenities fee?**

The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSA fee or SSAF) is a fee introduced by the Federal Government to increase student support services and facilities in Australian Universities. The Bill which allows the charging of this fee is the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill 2010. The University will be charging the SSA fee to students from 1 January 2012.

- **How much is the SSA fee?**

The Government has set the SSA fee for 2012 at \$263.00 and will be indexed annually from thereafter. The University of Sydney will be charging this fee on a semester basis as follows:

Full time students (semester study load of 0.375 or more): \$131.50

Part time students (semester study load of 0.374 or less): \$98.62

- **Are all students charged the SSA fee?**

Most domestic and international (undergraduate and postgraduate) students are liable for the SSA fee at the University of Sydney. As the Bill was passed after the commencement of Sydney Summer School enrolments for 2012 (session 42, 43 and 44), all Sydney Summer School enrolments will be excluded from the SSA fee calculation, for 2012 only, i.e. the Sydney Summer School units (unit of study enrolments in sessions 42, 43 and 44) will be excluded in the calculation of your full time / part time status for the semester.

Further, the following categories of students will also not be charged the fee in 2012:

- Students (commencing and continuing) enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing Post Registration (Singapore) award program.
- International students attending the University of Sydney on a formal Exchange program from an overseas institution.
- International students commencing a new course of study in 2012

Please note: a commencing international student who is not charged the SSA fee in 2012, then obtains permanent residency and informs the University of this change on or before the SSAF payable date, will become liable for the SSA fee from that semester onwards.

- **How will the University spend my SSA fee?**

There are strict rules and regulations that stipulate the distribution of the SSA fee. The proceeds from this fee can only be used for student services such as advocacy, food, childcare, legal, accommodation, sports and recreation etc. The legislation prohibits the use of the fee to support any political party. Further, universities must also consult with current students regarding the expenditure of the proceeds.

The University is currently consulting the student population regarding the specifics of spending the revenue raised from the SSA fee. Details will be available on The University of Sydney website once finalised.



- **How will I be advised of the SSA fee due for the semester?**
The SSA fee amount due for the semester will be displayed on your Student Financial Statement, which will be sent to your preferred correspondence address. A Statement of Fees Due is also available through MyUni at all times.
- **Do I have to pay the SSA fee upfront?**
Some students will be eligible for the new government introduced SA-HELP loan program. This will enable eligible students to obtain a loan from the government for all or part of their SSA fee. Those students who are not eligible for SA-HELP will be required to pay their SSA fee upfront.
- **Who is eligible for SA-HELP?**
You are eligible for SA-HELP if you are:
 - an Australian citizen or a permanent humanitarian visa holder residing in Australia; and
 - you are enrolled in a course of study (or a bridging course for overseas trained professional); and
 - you submit a valid *Request for SA-HELP assistance* form with your tax file number (or a Certificate of application for a TFN) on or before the SSA fee payable date.
- **The University records are incorrect as I am now an Australian citizen. I would like to apply for SA-HELP. What should I do?**
Please attend the Student Centre on Level 3, Jane Foss Russell Building (Health Science students attend Student Central) with proof of Australian citizenship (Australian passport or Australian citizenship certificate) on or before the SSA fee payable date.
- **I do not have a tax file number (TFN) and would like to apply for SA-HELP loan. What should I do?**
Ensure that you apply for a TFN and provide either a TFN or a Certificate of application for a TFN on or before the SSA fee payable date for the semester.
- **Do I have to take a SA-HELP loan for the full semester SSA fee?**
No. You can opt to take a loan (minimum \$1.00) for part of the semester's SSA fee and pay for the balance. To do this, please attend the Student Centre on Level 3, Jane Foss Russell Building (Health Science students attend Student Central).
- **Do I still have to pay the SSA fee if I don't use any University of Sydney services?**
Yes, all students who are charged the SSA fee must pay the fee. All students are encouraged to use the services and amenities provided.



- **If I vary my enrolment, will my SSA fee amount for the semester change?**
Yes, if you add units of study and your semester load is equal to or great than 0.375, you will be charged at the full time rate of \$131.50. If you reduce your semester load to less than 0.375, you will be charged the part time rate of \$98.62.
- **Is the SSA fee refunded or remitted if I withdraw my studies for the semester?**
Students who withdraw from their course of study on or before the census date (i.e. from all units of study) will not be liable for the SSA fee. Therefore, if the SSA fee was paid upfront you will be eligible for a full refund; or if you opted to obtain a SA-HELP loan, you will no longer be liable.
- **Who do I contact if I have a question regarding the SSA fee or SA-HELP?**

Domestic student:

In person: Level 3, Jane Foss Russell Building, City Road, Darlington.

Phone: (02) 8627 8239

Email: hecs.office@sydney.edu.au

International students

In person: Level 4, Jane Foss Russell Building, City Road, Darlington.

Phone: (02) 8627 8346

Email: iofinance@sydney.edu.au