Study Now, Pay Later

- Domestic Fees
- Research Training Scheme
- Federal Government’s FEE-HELP Scheme

Jayne Watson
HECS and Domestic Fees Office
Postgraduate Degree Programs

• Research programs

• Coursework programs
Postgraduate Research Degrees

• All Domestic students are covered by the Research Training Scheme (RTS)

• This entitles PhD students:
  
  o A fee exemption for 4 years full time equivalent study

• This entitles Masters students:
  
  o A fee exemption for 2 years full time equivalent study

• Once these entitlements have been exhausted, the University will provide written notification regarding any future fees required.
Postgraduate coursework degrees

- Are mainly fee paying
- A small number of Commonwealth supported places are available in most course work degrees (for information contact faculty)
Coursework fees continued ..........

- Payment options available:
  • Up-front
  • For those eligible students:
    o FEE-HELP loan
    o Partial up-front / partial FEE-HELP
Coursework fees continued……..

• Those opting to and required to pay upfront:
  o To be paid by the due date as per invoice

• Those opting to make a partial payment while obtaining a FEE-HELP loan for the balance:
  o Payment to be made in person at the Student Centre during the partial payment week (Semester 1 = 25 – 31 March and Semester 2 = 25 and 31 August)
Coursework fees continued ..........

FEE-HELP:

- Available to eligible students
- Loan facility from the Australian government
- Can be obtained for whole or partial payment of semester fees
- Lifetime loan limit of $86,422 ($108,029 for those studying medicine, dentistry or veterinary science)
- Loan repaid through the taxation system
FEE-HELP

• Who is eligible for FEE-HELP?
  o Australian Citizens
  o Australian permanent resident visa holders

• All other domestic students are not eligible for FEE-HELP and are required to pay their fees upfront to the University
FEE-HELP process

• Enrol in an award course of study
• Make a decision regarding payment option; i.e. pay upfront or obtain a FEE-HELP loan
• Complete a valid ‘Request for FEE-HELP assistance’ form before census date
  o March 31 (semester 1)
  o August 31 (semester 2)
• Ensure to provide your tax file number on the form
FEE-HELP process continued ……..

• FEE-HELP loan recorded against your Tax File Number with the Australian Tax Office

• A Commonwealth Assistance Notice will be emailed outlining your debt

• Your accumulated HELP debt with the Australian Tax Office is indexed in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on 1 June each year
Repayment of loan

• Voluntary repayments can be made directly to the tax office; payments of $500 or more will receive a 10% bonus

• Minimum compulsory repayment threshold is $44,912 (for 2010-2011 income year). These compulsory repayments are based on your annual income and will increase/decrease accordingly

• For further queries on repayment, please contact the Australian Tax Office on : 1300 650 225
Withdrawing from studies

• If you wish to withdraw from your course of study, you MUST inform your faculty in writing on or before the relevant census dates.

• Census dates:
  
  o Different units of study have different census dates. The main census dates are:
    
    Semester 1: 31 March
    Semester 2: 31 August
Withdrawning after the census dates

- Students who request to withdraw after the census date are financially liable for the enrolment and are not eligible for an automatic refund of fees paid or for remission of FEE-HELP debt.

- Exemptions:
  - Students who discontinue their enrolment due to special circumstances, i.e. medical, personal or employment reasons are able to apply to have the FEE-HELP debt incurred re-crediting or fees paid refunded.
Re-crediting / Refund of fees due to special circumstances

- Applications must include independent supporting documents
- 12 month application period
- If application is approved, any money paid to the University will be refunded and the FEE-HELP debt incurred will be re-credited.
For more information

HECS and Domestic Fees Office

- Phone: (02) 8627 8239
- Email: hecs.fees@records.usyd.edu.au