Federal Budget Factsheet for Students

**What?**

**Funding deregulation**
Government to extend funding support to non-university higher education providers governed by TEQSA.
The funding will also extend to diplomas, advanced diplomas and associate degrees.

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<td>Increased competition. Providers may also deal with more requests for Recognised Prior Learning from students that want to use their credit from a bachelor degree toward a diploma or associate degree instead.</td>
<td>HECS loans will be available through non-university higher education providers and will be applicable to diplomas, advanced diplomas and associate degrees, not just bachelor degrees. Students will have more choice when it comes to where and what they study.</td>
<td>When you're researching which education provider you should study with, think about the need for first-class student support alongside a first-class qualification. Ask whether the provider you’re considering also offers the flexibility to fit study around your other commitments – your work, your social life and your family time. If you want to undertake formal study but don’t have the time (or money!) for a bachelor degree, consider an associate degree or diploma instead. It will always count towards a full degree later if you want to study further.</td>
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<td>Unis, colleges and TAFEs will need to provide in-demand courses that lead to better employment opportunities.</td>
<td>Greater availability of courses linked to high-demand employment sectors could lead to improved job prospects for graduates.</td>
<td>Once you have an idea of the area of study you’re most interested in, seek advice on which courses are linked to in-demand jobs.</td>
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<td>Education providers will need to find ways to lower their costs. Online delivery is likely to become an even more popular way of delivering courses.</td>
<td>More options for flexible study modes that will fit around students’ personal commitments (career, family and social life).</td>
<td>Work out which mode of study suits your lifestyle best. If you’re already juggling work or family commitments, online study has the benefit of letting you study when and where it suits you. If you’ve got a little more time on your hands you might prefer the more traditional approach, with structured timetables and face-to-face interactions.</td>
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# Federal Budget Factsheet for Students

## What?

**Deregulation of university fees:** From 2016 universities can charge what they like for qualifications.

## Impact to Industry

- Expect to see competitive pricing in the industry. Some providers will use their reputations to justify higher price tags, while other providers may lower prices to represent themselves as affordable alternatives.

## Impact to Students

- **a)** If you commenced your study prior to 14 May 2014, your university fees will essentially remain the same until 2020.
- **b)** If you commence your study from 14 May 2014, your university fees may increase as of 1 January 2016.

  Students will need to consider more factors than ever before to determine what a quality education is and what value they place on it. Some students may find that courses they had their eyes on may become out of reach because course fees rise too much. Many students will also find themselves enjoying access to a more affordable education.

## ADVICE

1. Work out how long it will take you to be debt free and whether a more expensive degree is affordable or worth the extra investment.
2. Will the degree actually increase your chances of getting a job or a promotion? What will the overall career benefit be once you graduate?
3. Ask yourself whether you’re just looking for a degree or whether you’re looking for a study experience, including support and tools that will contribute to your success.
4. Does the provider offer enough flexibility to help you commit to your studies and see you through to graduation or will you be working to the schedule that suits the provider?
5. If you start your study now, think about your study load and aim to complete your study before 1 January 2016, when university fees are likely to increase. Now is a good time to fast track!
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### What?

The funding proportion that the federal government will contribute towards a qualification will be reduced, placing a greater responsibility on students to pay for their education.

A new minimum threshold will be established for the repayment of HELP debts.

### Impact to Industry

It’s unlikely, but education providers may see a drop in student numbers because their degrees may no longer be as affordable.

### Impact to Students

Students requiring government support to complete a degree will be expected to contribute more money for their degree and repay their loans sooner.

This is because the federal government will reduce their contribution for the payment of a qualification. Students will have to start paying back their loan once they earn $50,638 rather than $53,345.

### ADVICE

It’s important to remember that on average, someone who has a bachelor degree is likely to earn about $2.9 million* over their lifetime. That’s over 40% more than someone who has only completed high school.

*Source: National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM)