Guide for Students opting in to VET Fee Help

What is VET Fee Help opt in about?

You’re receiving this information sheet because you may be doing a training course for which you’re receiving a VET FEE-HELP loan. From 1 January this year VET FEE-HELP closed for all new students and VET Student Loans began to better safeguard students and provide for quality training.

If you want to continue your current studies under the same arrangements as before, you will need to opt in via an online form for your VET Fee Help Loan to continue. It won’t cost you anymore and your loan amount will not increase.

You may have received a letter from the Department of Education and Training telling you about opting in if they have your latest contact details, but if you haven’t received it please proceed to opt in anyway if you want to continue your studies.

Please note, your training provider cannot continue your training under VET Fee Help unless you have completed the on line opt in form as soon as possible, but certainly no later than 31 March. To opt in you need to get a passkey from:


Why should I opt in?

You only need to opt in if you intend to continue your current studies this year under your VET Fee Help loan otherwise you don’t have to opt in. But if you want to finish your training it’s preferable for you to complete your studies by the end of this year (2017) since continuation into next year (2018) is not certain.

Previously, eligible students could get a VET FEE-HELP loan for all Diploma and above courses offered by approved training providers, but under the new VET Student Loan program you can only get a loan for certain courses and not necessarily for the full amount of the fee. If you continue your current training and complete by the end of 2017 this won’t affect you, but extension into 2018 might not be approved depending on your circumstances.

A list of the approved courses, the maximum loan, and a list of approved VET Student Loans training providers is available at www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans

What if I don’t want to opt in?

If you don’t want to complete your current studies you don’t have to opt in. However, you will still have a loan debt even if you don’t complete your course. Also, you may not be able to get a VET Student Loan later as a new student for the course you want, since not all courses are approved for loans under the new program. To check the list of approved courses please go to:


How do I opt in?

If you have already received a letter from the Department of Education and Training giving you a passkey, please proceed with the instructions in the letter. But if you haven’t received the letter or can’t find it, you will need to get a passkey by filling in the enquiry form at this link:
www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-fee-help-opt-in and select ‘Requesting passkey’ in the field called ‘What is your question regarding?’ and follow the prompts from there.

If you still need help, there is a section called ‘I still need help’ at the same link: http://www.education.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-fee-help-opt-in

If you still need help, ask your training provider to assist you.

What do I need to do after I’ve opted in?

After you’ve opted in, keep a record of this, whether it’s a printed confirmation, an email or a reference number. Make sure you check your spam or junk mail as your opt in confirmation email may have ended up there. Most importantly, tell your training provider that you’ve opted in with the copy of your record of it so that your training can continue.

For further information about opting in for VET Fee Help go to the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training website:


You can access the Department’s VET Student Loans Fact Sheet at: https://docs.education.gov.au/node/41951

ACPET is the national industry association for private providers of education and training in Australia.

See: www.acpet.edu.au