Fees-free 2018 – A quick guide for students

Have you checked your eligibility for fees-free tertiary education yet?

You have applied to study at a tertiary provider. If this is the first time you are doing tertiary study, you could be eligible for fees-free study.

This quick guide will help step you through the eligibility process and understand next steps. If you think you could be eligible for fees-free it is important that you complete these processes as soon as possible so we know not to charge you for your study.

If you already know you're eligible, great! Take a look at the checklist over the page to make sure you are ready for study.

Follow the decision path below to check your eligibility.

Eligible Courses and Qualifications

Is the programme you are enrolling in:

- starting in 2018
- funded by TEC, and
- recognised by NZQA or Universities NZ, and
- at NZQF Level 3 or above?



Ineligible for 1 year fees-free in 2018



Citizenship and Residency Status

Are you either:

- a New Zealand citizen, or
- an Australian or New Zealand resident who has lived in New Zealand for at least three years while holding a residence class visa, or
- a refugee or protected person, or a sponsored family member of a refugee or protected person.



Ineligible for 1 year fees-free in 2018



NO

Current School Students

Will you be enrolled in a school while completing your tertiary course?



Ineligible while enrolled in a school

Recent School Leavers

Were you enrolled in a school in 2017 or earlier in 2018?

This includes trades academies, home schooling, alternative education, etc.



You QUALIFY for fees-free in 2018



Prior Tertiary Study

Have you previously undertaken more than half a year of equivalent full-time tertiary study at NZQF Level 3 or above, while not enrolled in a school?

This includes all forms of tertiary education towards formal qualifications, including industry training, in NZ or overseas.



You QUALIFY for fees-free in 2018



Ineligible for 1 year fees-free in 2018





If you think you qualify for fees-free in 2018

Head to www.feesfree.govt.nz to confirm this at the fees-free website. You will need to have your National Student Number on hand to check this.

OR

Go through the checklist below to make sure you're ready for study

You're not eligible for fees-free.

If you have questions about this, head to www.feesfree.govt.nz or if you have questions about getting a student loan head to www.studylink.govt.nz



If you've already applied for a Student Loan to pay your fees only, and they're less than or equal to \$12,000, you may choose to cancel you loan application.

Call StudyLink on 0800 88 99 00 to talk about cancelling your application.

If you've already applied for a Student Loan, you may want to revise how much you plan to borrow because your fees are now covered.



You can do this through My StudyLink

- 1. Log into https://my.studylink.govt.nz/ using your RealMe log in
- 2. Navigate to the 'Pay fees' field in your loan application
- 3. Select 'No' in this field

 NB don't cancel your loan application completely if you will still need other support from the loan like the living costs and course-related costs.
- 4. Click Save.



If you haven't yet applied for a Student loan, make sure you apply for the living costs portion only (if you need it).

You can do this by logging into My StudyLink https://www.studylink.govt.nz and following the loan application steps under the Student Loan section.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I find out my National Student Number (NSN)?

If you studied after 2003, you will have an NSN. To find it, contact NZQA on 0800 697 296 - they will ask you some verification questions, and then let you know what it is.

When do I need to complete the eligibility process?

It is very important you do this as soon as you can, so we know not to charge you for your study. Otherwise you may receive a bill for your study. You might still have to apply for a Student Loan.

Will all my course fees be paid?

Fees-free will cover:

- Tuition
- Associated mandatory fees
- Compulsory student service fees

Fees-free will not cover:

- Students' association fees
- Club memberships
- Course materials
- Late fees

Fees will be paid up to a total amount of \$12,000 or less. If your fees are more than this, you will need to pay the difference.

What happens if I withdraw from my courses?

It is important to know that if you enrol in courses and don't complete your study, you may lose your entitlement to fees-free in subsequent years.



