VET Student Loans Courses and Loan Caps

VET Student Loans are income contingent loans provided by the Australian Government to support eligible students undertake high quality training for skills that are aligned to workplace needs.

Eligible students can access VET Student Loans for approved courses only. The VET Student Loans (Courses and Loan Caps) Determination 2016[1] (the Determination) sets out the approved courses and loan caps which may apply to all approved providers, as well as a smaller number of courses only approved for specified listed and not-for-profit providers.

Course list

What is the methodology for approving courses?

Courses are added to the Determination if they:

- are at diploma and above level and on at least two state or territory skills needs lists or
- science, technology, engineering, agriculture or mathematics related or
- tied to licensing requirements for a particular occupation.

Exceptions to the methodology are currently available for listed and not-for-profit providers who can provide evidence of strong employment outcomes, strong employer support, and a strong track record of student progression and completion through a particular course.

How often will the course list be refreshed?

The Determination is updated annually, to take effect January each year. Courses are assessed for addition to the Determination ahead of its implementation to provide VET Student Loans approved providers with sufficient notice prior to changes taking effect.

Students who commenced studies and had loans approved prior to the update will continue to access the loan to complete their course of study.

Treatment of superseded and non-current courses

Superseded courses will remain on the Determination for 12 months, until the next update. Similar to the transition policy under the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) approved VET Student Loans providers can offer loans to new students of the superseded course.

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[1] This links to the Series home page of the Determination. If the compilation has not been updated, the latest amendment will be included under *Unincorporated Amendments* on the left-hand side of the Series home page

Non-current accredited courses that have been replaced will be removed from the Determination as they are not subject to a 12-month transition period under the standards for RTOs.

What if there is a new version that isn't on the Determination yet?

Replacement versions of courses on the Determination are automatically eligible for VSL by reference to the National Register of VET. VET Student Loans providers that were approved to offer VET student loans for the superseded or non-current courses are automatically approved to offer the new course under the terms of the 'Superseding courses' condition of approval, subject to the new course being on the provider's scope of registration.

For more information on how to seek approval to add courses, please refer to Varying the conditions of approval or loan cap band.

What if my course has been taken off the Determination?

Students studying in a course that has been removed from the Determination will be 'grandfathered' for the remainder of their course, provided the student submitted an eCAF for the course prior to its removal from the Determination.

That is, those students with access to VET Student Loans will continue to receive VET Student Loans until they complete the course. From the date a course is removed from the Determination, no new student can access a VET Student Loan in that course.

The HELP IT System (HITS) will be updated to reflect the changes to the Determination. You should note this will prevent any student from submitting eCAFs for courses no longer on the Determination. You should therefore manage any student who may have commenced an eCAF to ensure they submit the eCAF and have loan access approved before the new Determination takes effect.

Loan caps

Courses that are approved for loans, and the amount students can borrow per course, are determined and set by the Government.

In setting limits on which courses are available for a VET Student Loan and the amount that can be borrowed, the Government is seeking to ensure that students are not incurring an inflated level of debt and that loans are only being provided for courses that are closely aligned to the skills Australian employers require, thereby enhancing the opportunities for graduates to work and repay the money lent to them by taxpayers.

Where course price exceeds the applicable loan cap

Establishing loan caps does not prevent approved VET Student Loans providers from setting tuition fees above the cap. Rather, it sets a ceiling on the maximum loan amount the Government is willing to lend to students for a specific course.

If a student wishes to undertake an approved course with an approved VET Student Loans provider that is charging above the allocated loan cap, the student will need to cover the difference.

Loan cap updates

Loan cap amounts are indexed annually as provided by the *VET Student Loans Act 2016* and according to the provisions set out in the Determination.

Table 1: Table - VET Student Loans (Courses and Loan Caps) Determination amounts

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Band 1 ($5000)	$5,000	$5,075	$5,171	$5,264	$5,358	$5,406
Band 2 ($10000)	$10,000	$10,150	$10,342	$10,528	$10,717	$10,813
Band 3 ($15000)	$15,000	$15,225	$15,514	$15,793	$16,077	$16,221
Schedule 2 ($75000)	$75,000	$76,125	$77,571	$78,967	$80,388	$81,111

For more information

The Determination can be found on the Federal Register of Legislation. This link will show Determination amendments and subsequent compilations. You should check this site for the most current version of the Determination.

Note: You may need to access the latest update on the Series home page under 'Unincorporated Amendments' until a compilation is displayed, noting the commencement date of any updates.

If you cannot find the answer to your question in this document you are encouraged to use the VET Student Loans online enquiry form.