



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment**

# Job-ready Graduates

## Higher Education Reform Package

## Explaining the Job-ready Graduates Package to your students

### Talking points for career advisors

From 1 January 2021, there will be some changes to Australia's university sector to provide new students with affordable options to study at our many world-class universities.

The Job-ready Graduates Package aims to help prepare students to be equipped for jobs of the future.

The talking points are intended to help you explain to your Year 11 and 12 students about the impact that the changes could have on their options for university.

### General

- For most people, they enrol to study in a university course to help them get a good job with the potential to provide better options for their working life.
- Australian universities do a good job of preparing students for a future career and, in some cases, future study and research.
- Recent reforms by the Government are designed to support this by encouraging students to study areas that will be in demand because of the likely labour force and national priorities that will emerge in the future.
- Overall, there will be more places available.
- It will be cheaper to study some courses — those in the areas where the Government considers there is a need for more skilled workers will cost you less.
- These include subjects like STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), as well as teaching, nursing or pharmacy. All indications are that there will be a need for more skilled people in these areas over coming years.
- If you didn't study these subjects in year 12, you don't need to worry.
- There are still many other options that will cost you less to study. These include subjects like English, languages other than English (including Indigenous languages) or the courses that prepare you for the professions of social work and psychology.
- Whatever you chose to study, you won't have to pay your uni fees upfront if you don't want to. If you're eligible for a Commonwealth supported place and a HELP debt, you can defer your fees and pay them back when you start working full-time and earning a certain wage.
- The changes apply to individual units, rather than degrees, so regardless of what type of degree you enrol in, it's good to think about your electives wisely.
- The new package takes effect on 1 January 2021, so if you are going to be enrolling as a new student from then on, the changes will apply to you.
- If you decide to take on a HELP loan for a full fee-paying place (e.g. at an independent or private university), the loan fee you will have to pay will be reduced from 25% to 20%.

# More opportunities for regional students

## More ways to go to university

From 1 January 2021, there will be more Commonwealth supported places:

- Around 30,000 additional places for students.
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from regional and remote areas are guaranteed a Commonwealth supported place when they are admitted to their university of choice.
- Growth will be faster at regional campuses – meaning you are more likely to be able to stay in your region to study, or move to a regional centre for university.

Universities are also providing more support for regional and remote, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in addition to existing support for low socio-economic status students. You should talk directly to the university you want to attend if you think you will need to access this sort of support.

## Access university without leaving your community

- For those who cannot move to a campus to study, additional Regional University Centres are being established to support online students during their studies.
- There will be up to eight new centres established.

## Financial support

### Tertiary Access Payment

- There will be a new one-off payment of \$5,000 to help school leavers (Year 12) from outer regional and remote areas who will be relocating for tertiary study.
- This payment is only available to students who go straight to study a higher-level tertiary education (Certificate IV or above) after Year 12 and don't take a gap year.
- Students must be studying face to face, or in dual delivery method, for at least part of the course and courses must have a duration of at least one academic year
- Applications for the TAP will open on 1 January 2021.
- If you're studying at university, you will need to apply for the payment directly through your participating university.
- If you're studying at a non-university higher education provider, or vocational education and training provider, you can apply through Services Australia.

### Improving the Fares Allowance

- The Fares Allowance is a payment available to assist students who live in regional areas to travel between their permanent home address and their place of study.
- You can access the payment if you receive Youth Allowance or Austudy.
- From 1 January 2021, eligible students will only have to wait three months before they can access to return trip home during their first year of study.

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