

University of Newcastle Australia

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

2023 Allocation Report

The *Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022* require higher education providers to provide a publicly available report on student services and amenities fee (SSAF) allocations and actual expenditure for the year as part of their annual reporting and in the form approved by the Minister. This *SSAF Allocation Report* is the form approved by the Minister.

Additional reporting was introduced to allow for greater transparency and consistency in SSAF allocations and expenditure.

Please note, the information provided in this *SSAF Allocation Report* does **not** require auditing by a financial accountant. The SSAF expenditure reporting remains unchanged, more information can be found in the [Financial Statements Guidelines](#) for Table A and B providers, and in the [Financial Viability Instructions: Applicants and Providers of FEE-HELP \(FVI\)](#) for all other approved providers.

SSAF Consultation and Achievements

In 2023, the University of Newcastle met legislative requirements by conducting consultations with all students, elected student representatives, and internal stakeholders to identify priorities for allocating SSAF revenue in 2024. This involved engaging with the University SSAF Advisory Group as outlined in the council approved Framework. Frequent meetings and discussions with third party entities such as NUsport and the University of Newcastle Students Association took place, with agreements outlined in a schedule outlining SSAF categories and the corresponding services.

The 2023 SSAF funded projects and initiatives have led to notable accomplishments, including the establishment of peer support for international students through the recruitment of International Student Ambassadors. These ambassadors offer assistance via drop-in services, events, and engagement activities.

Enhancements were made to the gym facilities at the Ourimbah campus, along with the provision of outdoor furniture and games such as table tennis and Frisbee Golf for student use. With the introduction of these amenities, students have actively participated in outdoor activities, including soccer and various sports.

The refurbishment of the adaptive technology space within the Auchmuty library was funded by SSAF. This development encompasses soundproofing walls, the establishment of new rooms, and the refurbishment of existing areas, serving to underscore the University's dedication to assisting neurodivergent students and those with additional needs.

SSAF Revenue Summary

	2023 Allocation \$ ¹	2023 Actual \$
SSAF Revenue	\$6,730,409	\$6,915,808
SSAF revenue carried forward from 2022	\$1,246,975	\$2,927,967
Total SSAF funds available for 2023	\$7,977,384	\$9,843,775
SSAF revenue carried over into 2023	\$0	\$1,429,407

¹ Allocation refers to the SSAF funds expected to be received in the reported year (i.e., budgeted SSAF revenue).

SSAF Charge Summary

The student services and amenities fee (SSAF) charged to students must not be above the maximum fee for a calendar year. The maximum SSAF is indexed annually as required by the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. In 2023 the maximum SSAF was \$326.

Student Status	2023 SSAF charged \$ ²	Number of students charged in 2023 ³
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$98	431
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$147	5
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$163	1
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$171	86
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$196	1
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$212	96
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$220	8
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$245	791
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$261	3
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$269	3
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$285	3008
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$293	19
Full Time (>=0.75 EFTSL)	\$326	11532
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$49	9
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$98	14
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$122.25	2438
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$146.70	1
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$163.00	2555
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$171.15	335
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$211.90	64
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$220.05	21
Part Time (<0.75 EFTSL)	\$244.50	2698
		Total: 24,119

¹ Note: As per Part 2 of the *Higher Education Support (Administration) Guidelines 2022* (Administration Guidelines), students studying on a part-time basis must not be charged more than 75 per cent of the maximum SSAF that a higher education provider determines for students studying on a full-time basis. The term “part-time basis” means a study load of less than 75 per cent of the normal full-time student load for the period to which the fee relates. As per part 7 of the Administration Guidelines, the normal EFTSL value for a full-time student studying over a period of one year is 1.0.

² Note: As per Part 2 of the Administration Guidelines, a higher education provider may choose to determine a different SSAF for particular categories of persons, including a zero amount.

³ Note: Students are categorised as full-time or part-time students based on the total EFTSL value of the units of study they undertook in 2023. For example, a student undertook a full-time study load in Semester 1 which was equal to 0.5 EFTSL and undertook a part-time study load in Semester 2 which was equal to 0.375 EFTSL. This student would be categorised as a full-time student in 2023 as the total EFTSL they undertook in 2023 was equal to 0.875.

Student Status	2023 SSAF charged \$²	Approx. number of SSAF students remote learning 2023⁴
Remote learning/Online only	\$49	2096
Remote learning/Online only	\$98	2088
Remote learning/Online only	\$112	2
Remote learning/Online only	\$147	714
Remote learning/Online only	\$196	86
Remote learning/Online only	\$245	19
		5005

⁴ Note: The Department understands that not all higher education providers capture mode of study in their information systems and many students undertake a mixed mode of study such as face-to-face and remote learning. The data provided above is for students who undertook remote learning for 100% of their units of study.

SSAF Allocation Summary

Subsection 19-38(4) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act) provides a list of 19 allowable expenditure items which higher education providers may allocate and spend SSAF revenue on.

Please note, under subsection 19-38 of the Act, SSAF revenue must not be spent to support a political party or the election of a person as a member of the legislature of the Commonwealth, State or a Territory, or a local government body.

Key Area	2023 Total Allocation \$	2023 Total Actual Spend \$	Are services available online?	Estimated No. of students accessing services*
1. Health Services	\$2,496,826	\$2,487,930	Yes	15,962
2. Clubs or other associations	\$385,370	\$370,248		
a. Sporting	\$23,006	\$22,103		
b. Internal student politics	\$9,040	\$8,685		
c. Gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, or nationality-based	\$63,244	\$60,763		
d. Areas-of-study related e.g. law	\$175,249	\$168,372		
e. Other activities e.g. music, debate, chess	\$56,711	\$54,485		
f. Other	\$58,118	\$55,838		
3. Employment/career services	\$626,032	\$602,174	Yes	1402
4. Legal aid	\$6,000	\$1,000		
5. Other student amenities	\$5,122,079	\$4,953,013	Yes	
6. Other - please provide description	0	\$		
Total	\$8,636,309	\$8,414,368		

* This figure indicates the count of students using the services but does not specify how frequently each student utilised a service.


Organisations, bodies or third-party providers that received SSAF funding in 2023

Organisation Name ¹	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	Total SSAF Funding Received \$	% of total SSAF Funding Received
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION LTD	40641135195	2. Clubs or other associations	\$1,722,185.00	24.90%
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SPORT NUSPORT	67096090372	7. Sports & Rec Activities	\$849,160.06	12.28%
BATYR AUSTRALIA LIMITED	51152952737	1. Health Services	\$110,000.58	1.59%

¹ Note: Only organisations, bodies or third-party providers who receive over \$1,000 in SSAF funding are expected to be disclosed above.

Declaration by Person of Authority

I, Mark Hoffman, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of The University of Newcastle, declare that the information provided in this Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Allocation Report is to the best of my knowledge true, complete and correct.



 Signature of Person making Declaration

MARK HOFFMAN

.....
 Full name of Person making Declaration

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC)

.....
 Position of Person making Declaration

16 May 2024

.....
 Date

Student Services & Amenities Fees (SSAF)

In 2011, legislation was passed allowing universities to charge a fee for student services and amenities of a non-academic nature. The fee may be spent by higher education providers on items such as sporting and recreation activities, employment & career advice, child care, financial advice and food services.



What we're doing

The SFUN survey is one way you are able to express how you would like your SSAF fees allocated. The allocations are based on balancing student need and the preferences of student cohorts.

For previous SSAF allocation reports and further information about the fees and legislation, you can follow the links below.

www.newcastle.edu.au/ssaf