



Changes to tuition fees in 2017

Frequently asked questions

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Please read the frequently asked questions below for more information about the changes to tuition fees. If you have any additional enquiries, please refer to the [webpage](#), or [contact us](#).

1. What exactly is changing?

From 2017 the University will charge a single annual course fee (reviewed each year), instead of setting fees based on the units of study you choose.

This means once you have enrolled, annual fees are based on an equivalent full-time student load (EFTSL) of 24 credit points per semester or 48 credit points (1.0 EFTSL) per year. If your study load in any calendar year is more or less than 1.0 EFTSL your tuition fee will differ.

2. Who do the changes affect?

The changes affect fee-paying undergraduate students. If you are starting or continuing a single undergraduate degree in 2017, for example, as an international student, the University will calculate your tuition fees based on an annual course fee that is subject to increase each year.

If you are a combined or double degree student, you will pay one or more course fees, depending on which program you have chosen.

3. When will the new fee structure come into effect?

The changes will be effective from 1 January 2017. There will be no change to your 2016 fees.

4. Does this affect the Student Services and Amenities Fee?

No, this is not connected in any way to the Student Services and Amenities Fee.

5. Are Commonwealth supported students affected? Will the changes affect student contributions?

No – if you are a [Commonwealth supported student](#) starting or continuing with a single undergraduate degree, a combined degree or a double degree, these changes will not affect you. The University will continue to set fees based on the units of study you choose. The exact student contribution amount you will pay depends on the calendar year in which you undertake your study and the specific units of study in which you enrol.

This amount is subject to an annual increase for each year of your study (subject to an Australian Government-specified cap), effective at the start of each calendar year.

6. What about postgraduate students?

If you are starting or continuing with a single postgraduate degree (eg. a master's degree, graduate diploma or graduate certificate), nothing will change. The University still charges tuition fees for single postgraduate coursework degrees based on an annual course fee that is subject to increase each year.

Domestic higher degree by research students are still covered by the Research Training Program if they wish to undertake an additional unit of study as part of their research.

7. Will this affect my study choices?

No – there is no change to your course structure or the units of study you can enrol in as part of your degree. The fees are determined by the course you are enrolled in, not the units of study you select when you enrol.

8. I am studying part time/ doing less than four units of study a semester. Will I be charged the full course fee for the year if I do less than 48 credit points?

You will pay fees based upon the number of credit points you are enrolled in for your program in the current calendar year. With a course-based system, the cost of each credit point is even, so no matter which units of study you select each semester, the costs won't vary.

9. What happens if I fail or discontinue a unit of study?

If you fail or discontinue a unit of study you will be charged for it based on your calendar year of enrolment in that unit.

10. If I'm repeating a unit of study in 2017, will I be charged by the 2016 unit of study price or the new course-based cost?

If you extend your studies beyond the normal duration of your course, either by repeating subjects through failures or by taking additional subjects, you will be required to pay the fee as indicated at the time of re-enrolment. So if you repeat a subject in 2017 you will be charged for the additional credit points based on your calendar year of re-enrolment (2017).

11. Are tuition fees changing in 2017 for Summer and Winter School students?

Yes – there is no change to your course structure or the units of study you can enrol in as part of your degree. The fees are determined by the course you are enrolled in, not the units of study you select when you enrol. The University calculates tuition fees for Summer and Winter School undergraduate units of study based on each student's residency status and the degree that the unit will be credited towards. Tuition academic fees vary between courses, and the academic year in which you undertake your study. [Find out more on the Summer and Winter School website.](#)

12. I am on a scholarship; will my scholarship payment increase/decrease because of the fee changes?

In general, [University of Sydney scholarships](#), whether awarded on merit or equity conditions, are delivered as a cash payment that is not related to the course costs. The University does provide a small number of undergraduate tuition fee scholarships. You should check the terms and conditions and award offer to determine the impact on your scholarship.

13. Where do I find my exact tuition fees?

Your Student Financial Statement will show the exact fees you will need to pay for any given semester (or research period). The statement will be generated and available in [Sydney Student](#) within 24 hours after you enrol.

14. Why do fees increase each year?

All tuition fees increase each year as part of the University's regular budgeting process. Tuition fees are set at a rate that ensures the University maintains a high standard of teaching and student experience, while keeping the costs as affordable as possible. It is important to note that tuition fee increases are different to student contributions (made by Commonwealth-supported students), which are set annually and paid to the federal government.

15. Why has the University made this change?

The change to course-based pricing will allow you to have greater certainty of what you will be charged for each course before you enrol.

Under the current system, setting a fee for each individual unit of study is a complex task to administer, particularly when applying annual increases. By setting fees at course level, the University simplifies the overall process by reducing the number of price points in a student's overall tuition costs. So, instead of calculating your fees by adding up multiple unit of study

(subject) costs, you will see just one fee for your course, allowing greater visibility of the total financial commitment for the course (1 EFTSL) one year before you enrol.

16. I am finding it difficult to afford my fees; is there support to help disadvantaged students pay additional fees?

Yes, the University offers extensive support services for students facing financial hardship. There is immediate help through bursaries as well as interest-free loans and other schemes that help lighten financial burdens for eligible students. [Find out more about financial assistance.](#)

17. Who do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any additional enquiries, please [contact us by phone or online.](#)