

University of Sydney

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

2024 Allocation Report

Introduction

The *Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022* (SSARA Guidelines) 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.

The information provided in this *SSAF Allocation Report* does **not** require auditing by a financial accountant. The SSAF [expenditure reporting is a separate process and 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

The University of Sydney's Approach

The University of Sydney separated 2024 SSAF funds into 'base' and 'contestable' funding, an approach that ensured that student organisations and other eligible areas benefited from a guaranteed funding foundation to support ongoing projects, while also encouraging funding recipients to address one-off student needs.

Base funding, a set funding amount that is reviewed annually, was primarily provided to the four independent student representative organisations that support the University of Sydney's students, i.e., the Students' Representative Council (SRC), the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA), Sydney Uni Sports & Fitness (SUSF), and the University of Sydney Union (USU). Base funding was also provided to the Office of Student Life to support student leadership training and the Careers Centre. Contestable funding involves one off projects for any additional funding from the SSAF funding pool for one-off services or amenities projects.

Eligible parties submit proposals for projects to be funded by the SSAF that must align with key areas under s 19-38(4) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003 (Cth) (HESA)*. As a condition of receiving SSAF funds, recipients must use the funding only for the purposes outlined under the *HESA*. For instance, both the application form and annual funding agreement require the President or relevant student organisation representative to sign off that the funds will only be used for purposes in accordance with the *HESA*. In early 2025, student organisations completed financial acquittals confirming expenditure on their SSAF services and amenities, which is reviewed and signed off by an independent auditor.

Consultation

The University of Sydney engages in ongoing consultation to better understand the most pressing issues faced by students and their priorities concerning the allocation of SSAF funds, both directly, through an annual survey that all students are invited to complete, and via the student representative organisations that serve the University's student body.

In May – June 2023, the annual SSAF Student Survey was held. The survey helped identify student priorities for funding and was provided to SSAF applicants to link funding applications with the survey outcomes.

At the July 2023 University Executive Education Committee meeting, an agenda item and discussion regarding the 2024 SSAF budget (to exclude infrastructure projects from the 2024 funding round) was held. Representatives from the University's four student representative organisations attended the meeting and participated in the discussion.

The 2024 SSAF budget was tabled at the September 2023 meeting of the UE Education Committee for endorsement. Representatives from the University's student representative organisations were invited to provide feedback on the proposal at the meeting, which provided a formal consultation point regarding the 2024 SSAF budget.

Applications for base and contestable funding were submitted in October 2023. All applications were required to include information about how the proposal aligns with the student priorities in the SSAF Student Survey, which is a key aspect of the University's consultation with students about the SSAF.

Base and contestable funding applications were endorsed at the November UE Education Committee meeting. The Committee also endorsed an additional shortlist of contestable projects totalling \$523,030, which was allocated following confirmation of available funds after the Semester 1, 2024 census. Additionally, the committee endorsed the establishment of a new SSAF Student Consultation Group, which would commence in 2024. Student-led organisation representatives, as members or attendees at the UE Education Committee meeting, participated in the discussions relating to these items.

Alignment with the requirement to allocate 40% of SSAF revenue to student-led organisations

Three of the University's student representative organisations meet the requirements of a 'student-led organisation' as defined by s 19-39(3) of the *HESA*. These organisations are the SRC, SUPRA, and USU. Each has a governing body/board that is comprised of a majority of democratically elected students. For the SRC and SUPRA, all board members are democratically elected students. For the USU, 12 out of 14 board members are democratically elected students (including the immediate past president). These governing bodies make decision independently from the University. Moreover, these organisations publish their audited annual financial report on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Register. The organisations also have constitutions, policies, and/or procedures that relate to record keeping, risk management, fraud prevention, and financial controls. Combined, these three organisations received more than 40% of SSAF fee revenue collected by the University in 2024. In total, the University provided 63% of 2024 SSAF revenue to these student-led organisations.

Achievements

With 2024 SSAF funding, student representative organisations, faculties, and professional units providing student support services were able to continue delivering vital ongoing services and new initiatives such as campus life activities, food and drink services, student-produced media, career advising services, sporting and recreational activities, legal aid services, health and wellbeing services, and support for student clubs and societies.

Achievements in 2024 included the following:

- Food-security-related programs, including provision of food pantry supplies and free lunches
- Legal advice and assistance, including support for international students concerning migration and visa issues; keeping students safe from scams; and providing advice to students experiencing housing and accommodation issues
- Events and activities during Welcome Week / Orientation to welcome new and returning students to the University of Sydney
- Sports training and sporting activities
- Music festivals and student musician 'Battle of the Bands' event
- Support for over 200 student clubs and societies

SSAF Revenue Summary

	2024 Allocation \$ ¹	2024 Actual \$
SSAF Revenue	\$21,934,257	\$22,649,975
SSAF revenue carried forward from 2023	\$7,459,014	\$7,459,014

Total SSAF funds available for 2024	\$29,393,271	\$30,108,989
SSAF revenue carried over into 2025	\$2,915,016	\$6,062,374

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 **2024** the maximum SSAF was \$351.00.

Student Status	2024 SSAF charged \$²	Number of students charged in 2024³
Full-time ¹ (> 0.75 EFTSL)	\$18,138,070.56	52,424
Part-time ¹ (< 0.75 EFTSL)	\$4,513,208.76	24,709
		Total: 77,133

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 2024. 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 2024 as the total EFTSL they undertook in 2024 was equal to 0.875.

Student Status	2024 SSAF charged \$ ²	Approx. number of SSAF students remote learning 2024 ⁴
Remote learning/Online only	0	0

⁴ Note: The Department of Education 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. Please note, due to the limitations of our information systems, the above data may be approximate.

SSAF Allocation Summary

Key areas of expenditure 2024

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	2024 Total Allocation \$	2024 Total Actual Spend \$	Are services available online?	Estimated No. of students accessing services
1. 1. Health Services	\$451,268.54	\$451,268.54	No	45,000
2. 2. Clubs or other associations	\$17,358,136.89	\$15,427,485.38		
a. <i>2a. Clubs or other associations: Sporting</i>	<i>\$8,261,673.63</i>	<i>\$7,824,089.63</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>30,000</i>
b. <i>2b. Clubs or other associations: Internal</i>	<i>\$1,656,492.00</i>	<i>\$1,656,492.00</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>9,000</i>

	<i>student politics and advocating students' interests</i>				
c.	<i>2c. Clubs or other associations: Gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, or nationality-based</i>	\$215,820.00	\$215,820.00	No	500
d.	<i>2d. Clubs or other associations: Areas-of-study related e.g. law</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00		
e.	<i>2e. Clubs or other associations: Other activities e.g. music, debate, chess, art</i>	\$1,614,808.85	\$934,597.66	No	3,825
f.	<i>2f. Clubs or other associations: Other</i>	\$5,609,342.41	\$4,796,486.09	Yes	66,000
3.	3. Employment/career services	\$421,623.00	\$356,597.00	Yes	14,000
4.	4. Legal aid	\$659,616.00	\$659,616.00	Yes	2,262
5.	5. Other: Food or drink services	\$710,550.00	\$670,988.97	No	83,800
6.	6. Other: Helping students secure accommodation	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	No	450
7.	7. Other: Financial or insurance advice for students	\$0.00	\$0.00		
8.	8. Other: Libraries and reading rooms	\$458,276.81	\$93,062.56	No	5,000
9.	9. Other: Study skills	\$20,237.00	-\$10,069.83	No	150
10.	10. Other: Advising on matters arising under the University's rules	\$2,466,204.00	\$ 2,466,204.00	Yes	30,000

11. 11. Other: Student Orientation and Welcome activities	\$1,955,852.00	\$1,954,971.00	Yes	55,000
12. 12. Other: Helping to meet the specific needs of overseas students	\$451,990.00	\$451,990.00	No	9,577
13. 13. Other: Student produced media	\$1,379,501.00	\$1,379,501.00	Yes	50,000
14. 14. Other: Childcare services	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Total	\$26,478,255.24	\$24,046,614.62		

Organisations, bodies or third-party providers that received SSAF funding in 2024

1. Allocation of SSAF revenue – non-student-led organisations

Organisation Name ¹	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	Total SSAF Funding Received from provider \$	% of total SSAF revenue collected by the Provider
Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness	45634542644	2a, 2f, 2c, 6, 11, 12	\$6,846,174	30%
		Total SSAF provided to non student-led organisations	\$6,846,174	30%

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

2. Allocation of SSAF revenue to student led organisations – evidence of meeting requirement of 40 per cent

Organisation Name ²	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	SSAF Funding Received from Provider \$	% of total revenue collected by the provider	If below 40 per cent, is there an agreed transition plan in place	Details of transition plan
Students' Representative Council	59739130668	2b, 2f, 4, 10, 11, 13	\$2,901,247	13%	No	N/A, transition plan not required as 40% or more allocated to student-led organisations overall
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association	17011530374	2a, 2c, 2f, 10,11, 12	\$2,927,820	13%	No	See above
University of Sydney Union	73818179759	2b, 2c, 2e, 2f, 5, 11,12,13	\$8,504,772	38%	No	See above
Total SSAF provided to student-led organisations			\$14,333,839	63%		

² Note: Only organisations, bodies or third-party providers who receive over \$1,000 in SSAF funding are expected to be disclosed.

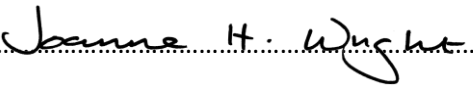
3. Attestation that student led organisations in receipt of a minimum of 40 per cent of SSAF revenue are meeting governance requirements

Organisation Name¹	Majority student-led	Democratically elected leaders	Independence	Audited accounts	Corporate Governance policies and procedures established and adhered to	If replying no on any measure, is there an agreed transition plan in place?	Details of transition plan
Students' Representative Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
University of Sydney Union	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A

Declaration by Person of Authority

I, Joanne Wright, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) of the University of Sydney, 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.

I further attest that the information provided in this Report meets the requirements of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and the Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022 and that, where transition arrangements have either been sought or approved, information is provided on this.

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Signature of Person making Declaration

Professor Joanne Wright

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Full name of Person making Declaration

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

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Position of Person making Declaration

23 June 2025

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Date