

# The University of Sydney

## 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

## The University of Sydney's Approach

The University of Sydney separated 2023 SSAF funds into 'base', 'contestable', and 'infrastructure' funding, a successful approach that has ensured that student organisations and other eligible areas benefit 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, is 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 is 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. Infrastructure funding is available to the same recipients as contestable funding, but for capital works 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 (HESA)*. As a condition of receiving SSAF funds, recipients must use the funding only for the purposes outlined under the *HESA*. In early 2024, student organisations completed financial acquittals confirming expenditure on their SSAF services and amenities.

## 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 July 2022, the DVC (Education) Portfolio held a consultation session with representatives from the University's student organisations regarding the 2022 acquittal and 2023 budget allocation process, including information on updated Commonwealth reporting requirements.

In August-September 2022, the SSAF Student Survey was held. The survey identified student priorities for funding and was provided to SSAF recipients to link 2023 funding applications with the survey outcomes.

In October 2022, the 2023 SSAF budget and allocation process was endorsed by the UE Education Committee. The budget paper included a proposal to increase the portion allocated to base funding, which was also endorsed. Representatives from the University's student organisations were involved in the Committee discussion about the budget, allocation process, and base uplift, providing a formal consultation point regarding the 2023 SSAF.

Following review by the SSAF Budget Allocation Committee, applications for base funding were provided to the December meeting of the UE Education Committee for endorsement. At this meeting, two additional items regarding SSAF infrastructure funding were discussed with student organisation representatives.

At the July 2023 meeting of the UE Education Committee, the SSAF Budget Allocation Committee proposed a list of contestable funding applications for consideration and endorsement. The item also included a discussion regarding the 2024 SSAF budget. Student organisation representatives, as members or attendees at the UE Education Committee meeting, participated in the discussion.

The 2023 SSAF infrastructure projects shortlist was endorsed by the new SSAF Student Consultative Group in April 2024, which comprises representatives from student organisations and will provide the formal consultation point for the SSAF going forward.

## **Achievements**

With 2023 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 2023 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, including opportunities for students to learn a new sport and 'learn to swim' classes
- Support for student-produced media, including *Honi Soit*, *Pulp*, and *BlakOut: An Anthology of First Nations Students' Scholarship*

# SSAF Revenue Summary

	2023 Forecast Allocation \$ <sup>1</sup>	2023 Actual \$
SSAF Revenue	\$19,863,826	\$20,307,547
SSAF revenue carried forward from 2022	\$6,750,675	\$6,750,675
<b>Total SSAF funds available for 2023</b>	<b>\$26,614,500</b>	<b>\$27,058,221</b>
SSAF revenue carried over into 2024	\$4,254,544	\$4,698,265

<sup>1</sup> 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 \$326.00.

Student Status	2023 SSAF charged \$ <sup>2</sup>	Number of students charged in 2023 <sup>3</sup>
Full-time <sup>1</sup> (> 0.75 EFTSL)	\$4,376,754	25,665
Part-time <sup>1</sup> (< 0.75 EFTSL)	\$15,928,686	49,618
		<b>Total: 75,283</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 \$ <sup>2</sup>	Approx. number of SSAF students remote learning 2023 <sup>4</sup>
Remote learning/Online only	\$205,991	1,278

<sup>4</sup> 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. Please note, due to the limitations of our information systems, the above data may be approximate.

# 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	\$481,000.00	\$360,639.73	No	700
<b>2. Clubs or other associations</b>	<b>\$12,349,739.13</b>	<b>\$11,390,397.50</b>		
a. Sporting	\$6,802,528.38	\$5,848,670.90	Yes	16,000
b. Internal student politics	\$588,912.00	\$588,912.00	Yes	8,500
c. Gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, or nationality-based	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	No	25
d. Areas-of-study related e.g. law	\$0	\$0		0
e. Other activities e.g. music, debate, chess	\$1,011,899.00	\$1,011,899.00	Yes	43,500
f. Other	\$6,489,257.41	\$5,095,192.69	Yes	50,000
3. Employment/career services	\$414,539.00	\$456,774.68	Yes	13,020
4. Legal aid	\$493,842.00	\$493,842.00	Yes	1,463
5. Other: Food or drink services	\$264,359.00	\$269,387.96	No	60,000
6. Other: Helping students secure accommodation	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	Yes	600
7. Other: Financial or insurance advice for students	\$0	\$0		0
8. Other: Libraries and reading rooms	\$361,000.00	\$57,967.01	No	20
9. Other: Study skills	\$0	\$0		0
10. Other: Advising on matters arising under the University's rules	\$2,514,263.00	\$2,514,263.00	Yes	20,000
11. Other: Student Orientation and Welcome activities	\$2,018,765.00	\$2,018,765.00	Yes	63,000
12. Other: Helping to meet the specific needs of overseas students	\$326,932.00	\$326,932.00	Yes	13,400
13. Other: Student produced media	\$261,795.00	\$261,795.00	Yes	33,500
14. Other: Childcare services	\$235,864.98	\$199,182.11	No	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,359,956.77</b>	<b>\$22,359,956.77</b>		

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

Organisation Name <sup>1</sup>	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	Total SSAF Funding Received \$	% of total SSAF Funding Received
Students' Representative Council	59 739 130 668	2b, 2c, 4, 10, 11, 13	\$2,434,569	12%
Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association	17 011 530 374	2b, 2e, 2f, 4, 11	\$2,225,977	11%
Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness	45 634 542 644	2a, 2f, 12	\$5,955,760	29%
University of Sydney Union	73 818 179 759	1, 2b, 2d, 2e, 2f, 5, 9, 11, 12	\$6,554,021	32%

<sup>1</sup> 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, 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.

*Joanne H. Wright*  
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Signature of Person making Declaration

..Professor Joanne Wright.....

Full name of Person making Declaration

..Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education).....

Position of Person making Declaration

.....19 June 2024.....

Date