

Rural and remote students



11. Rural and remote students

Transitioning from school is a major event for a young person. Some rural and remote students can find this time particularly challenging. This fact sheet has information to help you to access and remain in higher education.

Australian Government financial support

The Department of Human Services, through Centrelink, provides [financial support](#) to assist with costs while you finish school, undertake tertiary education, or undertake an Australian Apprenticeship or traineeship. See **fact sheet 15 – Higher education student loans** for a full list or visit the [Services Australia](#) website. Some examples include:

- [Youth Allowance](#) provides financial help for people 16 to 24 years of age who are studying full time, undertaking a full time Australian Apprenticeship, training, looking for work or sick.
- [Relocation Scholarship](#) is a yearly payment to help students move to or from a regional or remote area to study. You must get ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance and be in full time higher education.
- [Student Start-up Loan](#) supports the upfront cost of study for higher education students.

Grants and scholarships

- The [Country Education Foundation](#) (CEF) helps disadvantaged rural and regional students' access education, training and careers. See the 'Students' tab on their website for information on CEF grants, a survival guide, a scholarship guide and student support.
- NSW Department of Education offers [rural teaching scholarships](#). Get paid while you study to become a
 - [primary](#) or
 - [secondary](#)teacher in a [rural or remote NSW public school](#).
- [Rural Skills Australia](#) has compiled a list of rural scholarships around the country.
- Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW offers a variety of [Education Grants](#) to students from NSW.
- [Going Rural Health](#) have compiled a list of scholarships for the health services. Check out if you are eligible for any.
- [Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships](#) – the commonwealth Government is offering scholarships to regional and remote students to help them access and complete tertiary STEM qualifications.

Student loans

A [Commonwealth supported place](#) (CSP) is a subsidised higher education enrolment. CSP's are available at all public universities (and some private higher education providers in national priority areas like nursing and education). A CSP means the government helps by paying part of the fees directly to the university. Students are required to pay the remainder of the fees which is known as the 'student contribution' amount.

The Australian Government's [Higher Education Loan Program](#) (HELP) provides financial assistance through different HELP schemes to assist you to pay the student contribution amount and other tuition costs. The right loan for you will depend on your circumstances, eligibility and where you want to study.

[VET Student Loans](#) provide similar loans to students studying approved higher-level vocational education and training (VET) courses.

The Australian Government [StudyAssist](#) website has full details about eligibility, student contributions and repayment. Note that there are citizenship eligibility requirements to be met.

These programs are administered by the Australian Government, Department of Education and Training. Debts and repayments are managed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Refer to **fact sheet 15 – Higher education student loans**.

University Educational Access Scheme

[Educational Access Scheme](#) (EAS) is designed to help students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage gain admission to tertiary study.

The University Admissions Centre (UAC) administers the EAS. Participating institutions (except University of Technology Sydney, which allocates places for eligible applicants) use EAS assessments to apply equity adjustments that increase an applicant's selection rank.

Equity adjustments do not change an applicant's Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), instead they change your selection rank for a particular course. The application of equity adjustments does not guarantee you entry to a course, as you still need to meet the published lowest selection rank.

Disadvantage codes S01C and S01R apply to certain rural schools.

New – [Help for students affected by drought](#)

For students who are affected by drought, EAS enables them to apply and claim for disadvantages such as excessive family responsibilities, severe family disruption and financial hardship.

Students who attend schools in regional and remote areas are automatically eligible for EAS consideration and will receive notification from UAC after they apply for study.

Also check the website of the universities that you are interested in for information on scholarships offered for students from rural or regional areas.

Refer to **fact sheet 8** for additional information – **Alternative university entry schemes**.

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