The University may provide assistance to eligible students through its Student Loan Scheme.

There are four loan options in place:

- General Purpose Loan (International or Australian Guarantor) (refer to page 3)
- Emergency Australian Student Loan (no Guarantor required) (refer to page 3)
- Short-term International Student Loan (no Guarantor required) (refer to page 4)
- Overseas Study Loan (International or Australian Guarantor) (refer to page 4)

**LOAN ELIGIBILITY**

You must be a currently enrolled student at The University of Western Australia. Other eligibility criteria include:

- **genuine financial hardship**: Loans will only be considered where financial hardship is established and you can demonstrate that a loan is essential for you to continue your current course at this University and that you are unable to obtain funding elsewhere.

- **academic record**: You must have already successfully completed at least one full semester of study at UWA in the last 12 months to be considered for a General Purpose Loan or Overseas Study Loan. You must have good standing with no encumbrances (may be excepted for emergency loans). Loans will only be considered where you are enrolled for a minimum of 18 credit points in a semester or 36 credit points over the course of a complete academic year. Loans will not be considered in your final semester.

- **other possible sources of income**: If you have other possible sources of income such as assets, fixed term deposits, loans from family members, etc., you should investigate such avenues before applying.

**NOTE**: Loans will not be provided to pay University or HECS fees, for debts, fines, house or other expenses NOT DIRECTLY related to essential course-related endeavours.

**STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

The Student Financial Aid Officer and the International Student Adviser assess loan applications according to the guidelines formulated by the Student Financial Assistance Committee. The Committee is made up of representatives from Academic Staff, Guild, International Centre, the Residential Colleges and an Equity Adviser.

**INCOME LIMITS**

Students with a low income who can demonstrate financial hardship and inability to get a loan from elsewhere may be considered for a loan. Gross income should not exceed $20,000 pa, with no investments or substantial assets. If your income exceeds these limits, your application may be accepted at the discretion of the Student Financial Aid Officer or the International Student Adviser in compliance with the exemption provisions of the Credit Code.

The University of Western Australia is exempt from most of the provisions of the Credit Code in respect of this loan agreement. Only sections 56(1) (increase in guarantor’s liabilities) and 70-74 (reopening unjust transactions) apply.
SECURITY

You must provide a Guarantor as security for all loans except a Short-term International Student Loan and Emergency Loan. However, having a Guarantor for these loan types may benefit your application. Applications for all other loans will not be processed if a Guarantor is not offered. Your Guarantor must be over 18 years old and cannot be a student, staff member of UWA or affiliated colleges (other than relatives). A housemate or your spouse or partner (or someone who is directly financially linked to the applicant) cannot guarantee a student loan.

We will ask your guarantor to provide evidence of their assets, such as proof of ownership of a vehicle or any real estate.

Guarantors are liable by law to pay the outstanding balance of the loan if you default in your repayments. Guarantors who have undertaken to guarantee several loans concurrently will not be accepted. Both you and your Guarantor are required to complete formal agreements. Faxed copies of the "Deed of Guarantee" are not acceptable. The original Deed of Guarantee document must be returned prior to funding of the loan.

International Guarantor: If an international Guarantor is offered, then you must be able to demonstrate how you will be able to fully repay the loan before the completion or cessation of your current UWA course.

LOAN LIMITS

It is in your interest to borrow no more than you actually need. You will not be loaned more than the equivalent of two full General Purpose Loans whilst studying at UWA and not more than the equivalent of one full General Purpose Loan in any one year, with the exception of loans provided to assist with overseas study.

APPEAL

If your loan application is declined you have the right to appeal. You should apply in writing to the Chair of the Student Financial Assistance Committee. The appeal must state precisely the grounds on which it is made and must be lodged with the Secretary of the Student Financial Assistance Committee in Student Support Services, no later than seven (7) working days after receipt of the loan decision.

An appeals sub-committee of the Student Financial Assistance Committee will consider your appeal. You will be notified of the decision of the appeals sub-committee within seven (7) working days after receipt of your appeal. The decision of the appeals sub-Committee is final.

WHO TO CONTACT

If you have questions please contact the Student Financial Aid Officer in Student Support Services, Level 1, Student Central.
Telephone +61 8 6488 5573; Fax +61 8 6488 1119.
Web-site located at www.studentservices.uwa.edu.au
E-mail: studentfinance@uwa.edu.au

To apply for a loan: You can pick up a loan application from Student Central or download the documents from our website at: http://www.studentfinance.uwa.edu.au/loans

After we have received your completed application an appointment will be made for you to call in and discuss your application on another day.
GENERAL PURPOSE LOAN  
(Australian or International Guarantor)

Loan Amount:  
Up to $4,000 in an academic year; $8,000 in total throughout current course of study.

Purpose:  
Available to students for necessary expenses associated with educational and directly related living costs, especially where continuation of studies may be threatened.

Loans to 1st Years:  
1st year students are eligible to apply for this loan once they have satisfactorily completed their first semester of study at UWA.

Repayments:  
Minimum repayments of $100 per month commencing two months from date of approval are to be met by the student whilst enrolled in current UWA course of study. The remaining balance on loans up to $4,000 is then to be cleared within one year from the cessation of the current course of study at UWA and on loans up to $8,000 to be cleared within 2 years. Balances outstanding on funds approved in excess of $8,000 are to be cleared within 3 years from the date of cessation of the current course of study at UWA. Failure to meet repayments may result in graduation and/or academic transcripts being withheld.

For International students or loans with a international guarantor, the loan must be fully repaid by completion or cessation of current UWA course in fortnightly or monthly instalments, in accordance with an agreed repayment schedule. If the loan is not fully repaid by this date, graduation and academic transcripts may be withheld.

Interest:  
Interest free during the current course of study. On completion or cessation of current UWA course of study, any residual debt will attract an interest rate of 12% pa. until the loan is fully cleared.

EMERGENCY LOAN – AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS  
(No Guarantor required)

Loan Amount:  
Up to $1,500.

Purpose:  
Available to assist Australian students overcome urgent, unforseen contingencies.

Loans to 1st Years:  
1st year students are eligible to apply for this loan.

Repayments:  
Amounts up to $500 repayable within six months; amounts between $501 and $1,500 repayable within one year, in accordance with an agreed repayment schedule. The repayment period commences four weeks from the date of the loan agreement.

Interest:  
No interest is charged if the loan is fully repaid by the due date. However, if the loan is not repaid within seven days of the due date, interest of 12% p.a. will be charged until the loan is fully cleared.
SHORT-TERM INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LOAN
(No Guarantor required)

Loan Amount: Up to $1,500.

Purpose: Available to international students in order to overcome urgent unforseen contingencies.

Loans to 1st Years: 1st year students are eligible to apply for this loan.

Repayments: Payable within 2 calendar months, which commences four weeks from the date of the loan agreement.

Interest: Interest free if repaid within 2 calendar months and four weeks from the loan agreement date. Otherwise, interest will start accruing at 2.5% per month.

OVERSEAS STUDY LOAN
(Australian Guarantor)

Loan Amount: Up to the maximum of an equivalent OS-HELP loan (*$6,362 as at 2015) $12,000 in total throughout current course of study. Loans in excess of $6,362* will only be considered where the overseas program is of a greater duration than 1 semester. This loan operates under the same conditions as the General Purpose Loan, as outlined on page 3.

Purpose: UWA Overseas Study Loans are available to students who are planning overseas study and are not eligible for an OS-HELP loan, or where no OS-HELP funding is available.

The Student Financial Assistance Committee has agreed to the following guidelines for the allocation of loan funds for overseas study:

Students must:

• be enrolled at UWA and be approved to undertake a period of overseas study which will count towards your current UWA course,
• apply for an OS-Help loan (where eligible) before applying for an Overseas Study Loan
• provide with their application:
  – confirmation of selection into the UWA Student Exchange Program; and/or,
  – a completed Faculty Approval Form (for non-Exchange programs); and,
  – bank statements for the last 3 months,
  – an overseas money management plan, detailing the costs of the overseas program; and
  – a copy of the formal acceptance from the Host University (this can be provided later).

Loans will not be considered in a final semester or if you will complete your UWA course while overseas.

Repayments: Minimum repayments of $100 per month commencing immediately after completion of the overseas study period. This loan operates under the same conditions as the General Purpose Loan, as outlined on page 3.

Interest: Interest free during the current course of study. On completion or cessation of current UWA course of study, any residual debt will attract an interest rate of 12% pa. until the loan is fully cleared.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What can I apply for a UWA student loan for?
A loan can be for any expense or purchase essential for you to continue your current studies at UWA or enable you to undertake a period of study overseas, but cannot be for University fees, existing debts or fines, or anything not directly associated with course related endeavours. *Exceptions may be made for emergency circumstances.* Loans towards the purchase of a used car will be considered only where deemed essential to course related endeavours.

When is ‘cessation of course of study’?
Cessation of the current course is defined as being the date UWA records show that you complete, withdraw, are excluded from, relinquish by death or otherwise your enrolment status at UWA.

What if I have difficulty in meeting my loan repayments?
You must contact the Student Financial Aid Officer (Australian students) or the International Student Adviser (International students) to discuss your situation. If you do not keep up with the agreed repayments, graduation and/or release of academic transcripts may be withheld.

What if I change my enrolment status from full-time to part-time?
You must inform the Student Financial Aid Officer (Australian students) or the International Student Adviser (International students) to discuss repayment arrangements on your loan. You may be asked to begin the full repayment of your loan, including interest.

What if I change my address?
You must inform the Student Financial Aid Officer (Australian students) or the International Student Adviser (International students). If you are enrolled, you must change your address on Student Connect.

What if I have difficulty in meeting my loan repayments?
You must contact the Student Financial Aid Officer (Australian students) or the International Student Adviser (International students) to discuss your situation. If you do not keep up with the agreed repayments, graduation and/or release of academic transcripts may be withheld.

What if I default on my repayments?
All costs incurred in recovery of the debt will be your responsibility. Should you not repay the debt (including all recovery costs) in full the University will seek payment from the Guarantor.

What if I can’t repay my loan?
Your Guarantor will be legally responsible for repayment. Graduation and/or academic transcripts will be withheld until paid.

What if I have not fully repaid my loan by cessation of my current UWA course?
Interest will start accruing on the balance owing. Please contact the Student Financial Aid Officer (Australian students) or the International Student Adviser (International students) before you are due to complete your studies if you are having difficulties meeting the agreed repayment schedule.

What if I am not up to date with my repayments by the time I complete my course?
You will not be able to graduate from the University, or obtain an academic transcript. Interest may start accruing. Please contact the Student Financial Aid Officer (Australian students) or the International Student Adviser (International students) before you are due to complete your studies if you are having difficulties meeting the agreed repayment schedule.
What if I have finished the course I was undertaking when a loan was granted and now wish to undertake postgraduate studies, such as a Graduate Diploma, Masters, or PhD?
The loan should have been fully repaid by the completion or cessation of your current course.

What if I withdraw from the University or defer my studies?
Under the terms of your loan agreement, your loan is fully repayable upon withdrawal or deferment.

What if I change my current course at UWA?
The loan is fully repayable by the date already agreed in the loan repayment schedule. The due date for full repayment of your loan will not be extended beyond this date.

Answers to these questions and more can be found on askUWA: [http://www.ask.uwa.edu.au](http://www.ask.uwa.edu.au)

If you have any other questions relating to your eligibility to apply for a UWA Student Loan, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Where to find us:

**UWA Student Support Services**

**Level 1, Student Central**

For enquiries about UWA Student Loans, call:
+ 61 (8) 6488 5573 or email: [studentfinance@uwa.edu.au](mailto:studentfinance@uwa.edu.au)

Visit our website


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