

114. COURSE FEES

Before calculating the total cost of your units, you need to find out which units you will study in your course, what cluster they belong to and therefore the rate per credit point which will be charged. Note that a normal full-time study load is 8 credit points per year.

Course and unit details and associated fees can be found by using the course search tool www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/courses.

Please confirm fees when you are applying by visiting www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/fees or phoning the Division of Student Administration on 03 9244 6333.

Course fees and tax benefits

When you enrol in a postgraduate course you may be entitled to an income tax deduction for your course fees and study-related expenses. You may be able to claim for your course fees, textbooks, stationery, student association fees, depreciation on equipment (for example your computer), or some of your travel expenses between home and the University or between work and the University. There is a threshold below which your expenses may not be claimable.

For the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to allow self-education expenses to be tax deductible a direct connection must exist between your course and your existing work. If you are studying the course in order to maintain or improve a skill or specific knowledge that is required in your existing work, your course expenses might be tax deductible.

To clearly demonstrate to the ATO that a direct connection exists, you might have to provide a supporting statement from your employer.

Please note that this information is provided as a guide only. For more information about study and tax arrangements, please speak with your accountant or tax adviser or visit the Tax Office website at www.ato.gov.au.

Cost-sharing with employers

Some employers provide financial and other support, such as study leave, for staff members who are completing study that is directly related to their employment and the employer's main business. At Deakin, many people are studying a postgraduate course with their employer's help.

Study support policies benefit both the employer and the employee.

For employers, when they support relevant study programs, they can help attract and retain well-qualified and experienced staff members. Before you approach your employer for study assistance, please check to see whether a support policy is in place.

Try to give your employer every reason to agree to your application. It can help if you provide your employer a written submission in which you outline the benefits and the direct and indirect costs involved. The submission can include information about the course you wish to study; any tax deductible aspects of the program; a summary of the short and long-term benefits that would flow to you and your employer; an estimate of the total course costs of fees, textbooks and other materials; an estimate of the time you would be required to be away from work in order to attend classes and exams, prepare reports and so on; and what assistance you are requesting for aspects such as sharing of costs and granting of time off work.

Many employers are willing to share the course costs. They might either reimburse you after you have successfully completed the course or pay a percentage of the individual unit fees at the end of each trimester. If your employer is reluctant to support your study application, consider suggesting you form an agreement to cover contingencies. For example, propose that if you withdraw from or fail a subject or leave your job within a year of finishing the course, you will offer to pay back some of the fees your employer has paid.

Your employers might be concerned about how your studies will affect your availability and productivity at work. In the case of off-campus study it is easier to complete your studies outside working hours.

In many on-campus programs, classes are held outside regular working hours.

Scholarship opportunities

Deakin offers a variety of scholarships to help support you financially during your studies.

General information about scholarships at Deakin is available at www.deakin.edu.au/scholarships. Further detail on scholarships for students enrolling in postgraduate research degrees at Deakin University is available at www.deakin.edu.au/research/admin/scholarships.

You can also visit the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training's scholarships information website for links to a range of scholarships relevant to postgraduate study, including Australian Postgraduate Awards.

FEE-HELP

FEE-HELP is a loan program that assists eligible fee-paying students to pay their tuition fees at university.

Australian citizens and holders of permanent humanitarian visas are eligible for FEE-HELP. For more information please visit www.goingtouni.gov.au or phone the DEEWR inquiry line on 1800 020 108.