

Applying for HECS-HELP benefit

From 1 July 2017, the HECS-HELP benefit will be removed. This means the 2016–17 income year is the last you can claim the HECS-HELP benefit. However, you still have two years to lodge your application. Late applications will not be accepted.

There are two different application forms for HECS-HELP benefit depending on your area of study:

- early childhood education
- maths, science, education or nursing (including midwifery).

If you're eligible, you can apply for the HECS-HELP benefit by completing the relevant application form via links below.

You have **two years** to lodge your application from the end of the income year for which you are applying. **We will not accept late applications.**

Income year for which you are claiming the HECS-HELP benefit	Applications must be lodged with us by
2015–16 income year	30 June 2018
2016–17 income year	30 June 2019

Eligible graduates may apply for the HECS-HELP benefit on an annual basis for a **total lifetime claim** of 260 weeks. The claim does not need to be for a continuous period. The number of weeks claimed each year is subtracted from the 260 weeks until the entitlement is reduced to nil.

Lodging your application

- Complete the eligibility checklist at the start of the application form. You must complete the questions on this checklist to determine your eligibility. If you're not able to answer **Yes** to all requirements, you will not be eligible for the benefit.
- Complete all fields in the application form.
- Print application form when completed.
- Sign and date application form.
- Send us your completed application, including any attachments. Before you send your application, make a copy for your own records – you cannot withdraw your application once it has been processed.

If you're having issues viewing the application form in your web browser, you will need to use an alternative web browser.

The best time to lodge your application is before you lodge your Australian tax return or report your worldwide income earned as a non-resident. If you lodge it afterwards, we will amend your notice of assessment or notice of overseas levy.

If you have completed one or more eligible courses and work in an eligible occupation in Australia, you may be entitled to claim more than one benefit. You must meet the eligibility requirements for each type of benefit.

If you believe you are eligible to apply for multiple benefits and need further help, phone **1300 650 225**.

Next steps:

- Apply for HECS-HELP benefit for

- [Early childhood education teachers \(PDF 315KB\) \(/uploadedFiles/Content/CAS/downloads/n72575-06-2017_js39154_fen.pdf\)](#)
- [Maths, science, education or nursing \(including midwifery\) graduates \(PDF 305KB\) \(/uploadedFiles/Content/CAS/downloads/n73404-06-2017_js39154_fen.pdf\)](#)
- If you need help completing the form, use
 - [Instructions for early childhood education teachers \(?anchor=earlychildhoodeducationteachers#earlychildhoodeducationteachers\)](#)
 - [Instructions for maths, science, education and nursing \(including midwifery\) graduates \(?anchor=mathsscienceeducationnursing#mathsscienceeducationnursing\)](#)

See also:

- [Application process \(?anchor=applicationprocess#applicationprocess\)](#)
- [StudyAssist: HECS-HELP benefit \(http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/payingbackmyloan/hecs-help-benefit/pages/hecshelpbenefit\)](#) to find out if you are eligible.

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If you follow our information and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we will take that into account when determining what action, if any, we should take.

Some of the information on this website applies to a specific financial year. This is clearly marked. Make sure you have the information for the right year before making decisions based on that information.

If you feel that our information does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, contact us or seek professional advice.

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