

Administration of Student Enrolment, Fees and Charges Guidelines

The Administration of Student Enrolment, Fees and Charges Guidelines provide important information to existing and prospective Melbourne Polytechnic students and staff including, but not limited to:

- Fees
- Tuition Payment Options
- Fee Protection
- Refunds
- Vocational Education and Training (VET), Higher Education and International Enrolments
- Government Subsidised Training under the 2022 *Skills First* TAFE VET Funding Contract
- Eligibility for Government Subsidised Training (VET Enrolments).

These Guidelines:

- i) apply to Vocational Education and Training, Higher Education and International students and should be read in conjunction with the [Administration of Student Enrolment, Fees and Charges Policy](#); and
- ii) have been developed in line with initiatives, rules and requirements of both State and Federal Governments and will be monitored and updated annually, or as required by changes advised by the State Government via Contract Notifications or Federal Government legislation.

PART A – VET ENROLMENTS

A.1 FEES

A.1.1 Tuition Fees

Course Tuition Fees will be set each academic year in line with the Institute's Pricing Strategy Process and approved by the Melbourne Polytechnic Executive.

The Tuition Fee for each individual course is available on the relevant course page on the Melbourne Polytechnic website <https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/>

Tuition Fees for individual units of study within Diploma and Advanced Diploma level courses are available on the Institute's website <https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/study/fees/local-student-fees/fees-for-local-vocational-education-students/schedule-of-vet-tuition-fees-diploma-and-above-programs/>

A.1.2 Materials Fee

A Materials Fee may apply for certain courses. The cost will vary for each course. The applicable fee will be published on each course page on the Melbourne Polytechnic website <https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/>

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A.1.3 Student Services & Amenities Fees

In addition to the tuition fee, students will be charged a compulsory non-academic fee for the purpose of the provision of student services and amenities.

A Student Services and Amenities Fee will be payable by all students (excluding RPL enrolments) at enrolment. The applicable fee will be published on each course page on the Melbourne Polytechnic website <https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/>

The Student Services and Amenities Fee is charged at forty cents (40 cents) per student contact hour and is capped over a twelve (12) month period, effective from the enrolment date, to \$250.00 for full fee paying students and \$175.00 for Concession students.

The Student Services and Amenities Fee for Workplace delivery or Community Locations is a flat rate of \$50.00 per course enrolment.

A.1.4 Ancillary Charges

The Chief Executive Officer may determine annually, or at the time of providing the service, charges for provision of:

- (a) issuing a replacement Student Identification Card;
- (b) issuing an additional Statement of Student Results and/or Statement of Attainment;
- (c) Issuing a replacement Testamur.

A.2 TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS

A.2.1 Upfront Payment

Students may elect to pay Tuition Fees for each enrolment period within an academic year in one upfront payment.

A.2.2 Debitsuccess

Debitsuccess is available on all courses with Tuition Fees of \$150.00 or more where:

- You are enrolling in Certificate I-IV Course; or
- You are enrolling in a Diploma or Advanced Diploma Course and are not eligible for a VET Student Loan; or
- To pay the gap between the VSL Course Cap and the Tuition Fee cost.

The maximum amount for a Debitsuccess loan is \$7,000.00.

Direct debit agreements can be up to the duration of enrolment *with the option of weekly or fortnightly* payments & are administered through Debitsuccess.

Debitsuccess has additional charges of:

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- a) A billing fee of 4.4 per cent of total course tuition costs;
- b) A non-refundable administration fee of \$12.00 (paid with the first payment).

Note:

- Student Services & Amenities and Materials fees (where applicable) will require full payment at time of enrolment.
- The direct debit agreement must end before your current period of enrolment.
- You can terminate your Debitsuccess Agreement at any time by paying the full balance owing direct to Debitsuccess.
- The Debitsuccess contract must be completed and signed by the student and the owner of the account being used.
- If the student is under 18 when applying for the payment plan, a guarantor form must be completed, and the Debitsuccess contract counter signed by a parent or guardian.
- If the bank account or credit card payment details are not those of the student applying for the payment plan, the 'owner' of the account must complete and sign a Direct Debit Authority form.
- Debitsuccess administration and billing fees are not refundable for any withdrawal.
- Students entering a Debitsuccess agreement remain liable for their payments when they withdraw after 28 days from commencing their course for the enrolment period. Students who remain in default of the agreement may be sent to Debt Collection.
- Students with a current Tuition Payment Plan will be liable to pay the debt where the student withdraws outside the 28 day refund period.
- If a student defaults on the Debitsuccess agreement or Tuition Payment Plan, an automatic suspension of the enrolment will occur resulting in restricted access to all training platforms at Melbourne Polytechnic until the default is rectified.
- Melbourne Polytechnic will withhold a Statement of Attainment, Statement of Results and Qualification until the course has been paid for in full.

Note: Direct debit arrangement is with Debitsuccess Terms & Conditions apply. Please refer to website <http://www.debitsuccess.com.au/> for further details.

A.2.3 VET Student Loan

VET Student Loan (VSL) is an income contingent loan scheme for the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector which will assist VSL eligible students who are enrolled in an approved VSL Diploma or Advanced Diploma course to help pay for all or part of their Tuition fees.

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A VET Student Loan will be a debt due to the Commonwealth until it is repaid. A VET Student Loan will not be approved for students who do not meet the eligibility requirements.

Melbourne Polytechnic is required to collect and verify all VSL eligibility documents, including identity and date of birth documents provided by the student at enrolment.

Eligibility for VET Student Loan

To be eligible for a VET Student Loan, prospective students must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

Student is:

- an Australian Citizen; or
- a [qualifying New Zealand citizen](#); or
- a Permanent Humanitarian Visa holder who usually resides in Australia.

The applicable evidence of Citizenship must be provided to Melbourne Polytechnic at the time of enrolment.

- Where under 18 years of age, the student must provide a signed Parent/Guardian Consent Form.
- The enrolment is in an [Approved VET Student Loan Course](#) (*available in Related Downloads on the VET Student Loan page of the [Melbourne Polytechnic website](#)*).
- Student is assessed as academically suited to undertake the approved VSL course on the basis of either:
 - providing their Australian Year 12 Certificate; or
 - providing their Diploma awarded for completion of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme; or
 - providing evidence of successful completion of an Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate IV or higher qualification (where the language of instruction is English); or
 - displays competence at or above Exit Level 3 in the Australian Core Skills Framework in both reading and numeracy through an approved Language, Literacy and Numeracy test.

Upon completion of the Assessment, students will be able to access and print their results which includes result date, time spent on completing the assessment and the details of the result.

In addition, Melbourne Polytechnic will report the results to the Secretary in the form, manner and by the time requested by the Secretary.

- The FEE-HELP balance held by the student is sufficient to cover the amount to be accessed for the course enrolment. In the instance where the FEE-HELP balance is insufficient to cover

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the full Tuition Fee cost, students may pay the outstanding amount upfront via the available payment options.

- Student has a Tax File Number (TFN) or provides a Certificate from the Commissioner stating that the student has applied for a Tax File Number.

If the TFN information provided is assessed as not correct by the Australian Taxation Office, the application will not be finalised and the student will be ineligible for a VET Student Loan.

- Student has a Unique Student Identifier (USI).

Where the student is assessed as eligible for a VET Student Loan, the student must submit the Commonwealth Application Form (eCAF) by the first census day but by no less than two business days after the date of enrolment.

A3. FEE PROTECTION

A.3.1 Upfront Pre-paid Fees

Melbourne Polytechnic has in place the [Protection for Pre-Paid Upfront Fees \(VET\) Policy](#), which advises students that upfront pre-paid fees are protected in the event that Melbourne Polytechnic ceases to deliver a course of study in which the student is enrolled and has commenced.

A.3.2 Tuition Protection Arrangements (TPA)

Students who are studying with a VET Student Loan are advised that the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business has made amendments to the *VET Student Loans Rules 2016* (Cth) (**Rules**) to commence from 1 January 2020 to exempt government owned registered training organisations and TAFEs from the requirements of the new tuition protection arrangements (Part 5A of the VSL Act). This reflects that TAFE providers have the capacity and capability to place students in suitable replacement courses in the event that the provider ceases to deliver a course of study in which the student is enrolled and has commenced.

[Conditions](#) relevant to the Provider being exempt from Part 5A of the VSL Action can be viewed on the Melbourne Polytechnic website.

A.4 REFUNDS

The Manager Student Experience Process Improvement will ensure that information relating to Refund of Enrolment Fees and Charges is discussed and provided to students at the point of enrolment.

All refunds will be issued in the name of the student, unless alternate payee details are completed upon payment. The Tax Invoice issued will reflect the payee details. Any private arrangements for reimbursement between a student and a Third Party/Employer is outside of the Melbourne Polytechnic Administration of Student Enrolment, Fees and charges Guidelines/Policy and will not be entered into. All fees paid are non-transferable outside of Melbourne Polytechnic.

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A.4.1 Withdrawal from Certificates I-IV Level Courses

If a student fully withdraws, either by written notice, or by verbal advice to the teaching department or the Student Hub in the current enrolment period **prior to or within twenty eight (28) days of the confirmed start date of the course** Melbourne Polytechnic will refund Tuition, Amenities and unissued material fees. An Administrative Fee of **\$50 will be deducted from the refund** amount, as well as fees for any materials issued to the student. Unissued materials are subject to approval and verification by the appropriate Manager. Where fees paid are less than the \$50 Administrative Fee, this may result in no refund being issued.

No refund will be issued outside the current enrolment period or after twenty eight (28) days of the confirmed start date of the course except in Special Circumstances.

Special Circumstances – Certificate I to IV

To be considered for a refund due to special circumstances, a student must submit a [Student Request Form](#) addressing each of the following criteria:

- Circumstances were beyond your control; **and**
- These circumstances did not make their full impact until on, or after, 28 days from the confirmed course commencement; **and**
- Made it impracticable for you to complete the requirements for the subject

together with any supporting documentation *eg medical certificate/s, statutory declaration or other applicable evidence.*

A.4.2 Withdrawal from Certificate I-IV Level Courses – Debit Success

- Debit Success establishment and billing fees are not refundable for any withdrawal.
- Students entering a Debit Success agreement remain liable for their payments when they withdraw after 28 days from commencing their course for the current enrolment period.

A.4.3 Partial Withdrawal from Certificate I-IV Level Courses

If a student withdraws from only part of a course, in the current enrolment period **prior to or within twenty eight (28) days of the confirmed start date of the course** the Institute will refund Tuition and Amenities for subject/s withdrawn taking into account fees still payable for remaining course/class/modules. Refund of Tuition and Amenities fees are dependent on subject hours attended. An Administrative Fee \$50 **will be deducted from the refund** amount, as well as fees for any materials issued to the student. Unissued materials are subject to approval and verification by the appropriate Manager. Where fees paid are less than the \$50 Administrative Fee, this may result in no refund being issued.

No refund will be issued outside the current enrolment period or after twenty eight (28) days of the confirmed start date of the **course** except in Special Circumstances.

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Diploma and Advanced Diploma Courses

Students will be required to advise their intention to be withdrawn from either a full course or part of a course by sending an email to vetstudentloans@melbournepolytechnic.edu.au. Where the intention is to withdraw from part of a course, the advice should include a list of the applicable unit/s of study.

A.4.4 Withdrawal from Diploma and Advanced Diploma Courses – VET Student Loan

If a student withdraws from a Diploma or Advanced Diploma level course **prior to or on the Census Date**, the Institute will refund the tuition fee and any other fees and charges paid by, or on behalf of, the student. A student who has VET Student Loan will incur no debt.

No refund will be issued after Census Date for any fees and charges paid by, or on behalf of, the student, including any VET Student Loan debt incurred except in Special Circumstances.

A.4.5 Partial Withdrawal from Diploma and Advanced Diploma Courses – VET Student Loan

If a student withdraws from only part of an enrolment **prior to or on the Census Date**, the Institute will refund the tuition fees payable for the withdrawn units of study. A student who has VET Student Loan will not incur a debt for the withdrawn unit/s of study.

No refund will be issued after Census Date for any fees and charges paid by, or on behalf of, the student, including any VET Student Loan debt incurred except in Special Circumstances.

A student withdrawing under A.4.4 or A.4.5 will not incur financial, administrative or any other barrier to the withdrawal.

A.4.6 Re-enrolling After Course Withdrawal

If a student withdraws from an approved course or part of an approved course, Melbourne Polytechnic will not, after the withdrawal, enrol the student in an approved course or a part of an approved course without the written permission of the student (which must be given after the withdrawal). Where applicable, the student's authority will be granted via the Addition to Enrolment form at the time of re-enrolment.

A.4.7 Withdrawal from Skill Sets

There will be no refund for withdrawal from a Skill Set once the training has commenced.

A.4.8 Cancelled Courses - All Course Levels & Skill Sets

If a Course or Skill Set is cancelled by the Institute at any time during the period of a student's enrolment, a full refund of Tuition Fee, Student Services and Amenities and Materials fee, and any other payments made by the student will apply.

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A.4.9 Refunds for Apprenticeships/Traineeships

Where an Employer has paid the Tuition Fees (and Amenities Fees where applicable) on behalf of an Apprentice/Trainee and subsequently the Apprentice/Trainee is no longer employed, a partial refund in line with the Refund Policy may be issued to the Employer upon application. The partial refund will be based on the cessation of employment date. The Apprentice/Trainee will be liable for all outstanding Fees.

A.4.10 Concession Refunds

Where a student has paid full Tuition Fees and subsequently presents a valid Concession Card within ten (10) days of course commencement, a refund will apply providing that the Commencement Date on the Concession Card is on or before the date of commencement of training.

A.4.11 Student Account Refunds

The Student Account is a holding account for a student where they are entitled to a credit of funds that have not been issued as a refund. The funds will be retained within the individual Student Record on the Student Management System for future use.

Where a refund is required for the purpose of a course transfer or correction of enrolment, the refund amount will be deposited into the Student Account for future use. Where the amount payable exceeds the funds available in the Student Account, the student will be required to pay the difference. Where the amount payable is less than the funds available in the Student Account, excess funds of more than \$5.00 will be refunded.

Where the refund amount equates to \$5.00 or less, the refund amount will be deposited into the Student Account for future use. This applies where there is no Credit Card option to issue the refund.

A.5 INSTITUTE WITHDRAWAL OF A STUDENT ENROLMENT

A.5.1 A student may have their enrolment in a course withdrawn by the Academic Registrar when:-

- (a) the penalty of expulsion or suspension has been imposed under the [Student Discipline Policy](#).
- (b) any appeals arising out of the imposition of that penalty have been disposed of;
or
- (c) the student has failed to attend classes for the course for four (4) consecutive weeks and the student has not advised their intention to continue the program;
or
- (d) if the Manager or other relevant Institute staff determines that the student has failed to make satisfactory progress towards the completion of an approved course during the previous semester or year of study enrolled at the Institute.

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A.5.2 A student whose enrolment in all subjects is withdrawn shall forthwith cease to be an enrolled student of the Institute and shall no longer have the right as an enrolled student:

- (a) to enter and to remain in any of the precincts of the Institute;
- (b) to participate in any classes, examinations or tests conducted by the Institute; or
- (c) to participate in any other activities of or under the control of the Institute.

A.6 APPEALS AGAINST INSTITUTE WITHDRAWAL OF A STUDENT ENROLMENT

A.6.1 Where enrolment has been withdrawn subject to clause A.5.1 (c) the Manager shall notify the student in writing and advise that appeals against the decision must be made in writing to the Director Vocational Education and Training (VET) within 14 days of the date of issuance of the letter notifying the withdrawal.

A.6.2 Where an enrolment has been withdrawn subject to clause A.5.1 (d), a student may lodge an appeal as per the [Student Complaints and Appeals Policy](#) and the [Student Complaints and Appeals Procedure](#).

A.6.3 Appeals under clause A.5.1 shall be undertaken by the Director Vocational Education and Training (VET) within seven (7) business days.

A.6.4 The decision of the Director Vocational Education and Training (VET) on the appeal against withdrawal shall be final.

A.6.5 A student whose enrolment has been withdrawn subject to clause A.5.1 (c) and whose appeal has been dealt with under clauses A.6.3 and A.6.4 may only re-enrol in a subsequent year after written application and approval by the Director Vocational Education and Training (VET).

A.6.6 A student whose enrolment has been withdrawn subject to clause A.5.1(d) and whose appeal has been disallowed under clauses A.6.4 may take further action under the [Student Complaints and Appeals Policy](#) and the [Student Complaints and Appeals Procedure](#).

A.6.7 Special Circumstances – FEE-HELP

Under the Higher Education Support Act (2003) (HESA) an application for re-credit of a FEE-HELP Loan is considered on the basis of special circumstances that:

- Were beyond the student's control; **and**
- Circumstances did not make their full impact until on, or after, the census date; **and**
- Made it impracticable for the student to complete the requirements for the subject.

To be considered for a refund due to special circumstances, a student must refer to the Melbourne Polytechnic website within 12 months of the withdrawal date and:

- i read the [How to Apply for a Re-credit of FEE-HELP Debt under Special Circumstances Instructions](#); and

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- ii complete and submit an [Application for Re-credit of FEE-HELP under Special Circumstances](#)

A.6.8 Re-crediting VET Student Loan Balances

A student's VET Student Loan balance can be re-credited:

- Under Part 6 of the VET Student Loan Act (2016) (VSL);
- Under Section 68 of the VSL because of Special Circumstances;
- By applying to the Secretary under Section 71 of the VSL because Melbourne Polytechnic or person acting on behalf of Melbourne Polytechnic is engaged in unacceptable conduct in relation to the student's application for VET Student Loan or Melbourne Polytechnic has failed to comply with the VSL or an instrument under the Act and that failure adversely affects students. Applications under Section 71 must be made within five years after the census day for the course or the part of the course concerned or within that period as extended by the Secretary.

There will be no charge for reconsideration or review of decision other than review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

A.6.9 Treatment of Students Seeking Review

There will be no victimisation or discrimination against students who:

- seek review or reconsideration of a decision; or
- use Melbourne Polytechnic's processes or procedures about dealing with grievances; or
- makes an application for re-crediting their HELP balance under Division 2 or 3 of Part 6 of the Act.

A.6.10 Student Progression Compliance Requirements

Effective from 1 July 2017, to continue to access a VET student loan, students must demonstrate to the Department of Education and Training that they are a genuine student, continuing with their studies. The Student Engagement and Progression requirement process is part of the increased protections for students accessing the VET Student Loans program.

To demonstrate engagement and to continue to receive the loan, students must complete the 'VET Student Loans—Confirming Enrolment and Continued Course Engagement and Participation form' (the Progression Form) in the eCAF system **at least twice each calendar year** for the duration of their course. The form asks if students intend to continue studying and accessing a VET student loan, and contains a short survey.

An invitation email with login details to the eCAF system will be sent to students requesting that they indicate their study intent and complete a short survey. Students who fail to complete the form and survey within the required time, **may be ineligible** to continue accessing their VET Student Loan to pay for the remainder of their course tuition fees.

A.7 ENROLMENTS

A.7.1 Enrolment at the Institute is conditional upon:

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- (a) the accuracy of enrolment information/evidence of eligibility provided by the student upon which the offer of a place in a course is based;
- (b) the prospective eligible student agreeing to undertake a Pre-training Review of current competencies including Literacy and Numeracy Assessment to ascertain course suitability;
- (c) the prospective student completing the Institute enrolment form and all related eligibility evidence requirements;
- (d) the undertaking of the prospective student to abide by the regulations, rules, procedures and standards of conduct of the Institute;
- (e) the granting of authority to the Academic Registrar to provide employers and others, who have permitted a prospective student to enrol at the Institute, such details of the person's academic progress as may be required by them;
- (f) the granting of authority to the Academic Registrar to seek from other Educational Institutions at which the prospective student has been enrolled details of their academic record and progress;
- (g) the prospective student either:
 - i providing their USI (*Unique Student Identification No.*) upon enrolment; or
 - ii granting permission to Melbourne Polytechnic to obtain a USI number on their behalf;
- (h) the acknowledgment by the prospective student to participate in the National Student Outcomes Survey managed by the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) and/or an invitation to participate in a Department of Education and Training endorsed project and/or being contacted by the Commission (or persons authorised by the Commission) for audit purposes;
- (i) the payment of the prescribed fees and charges, or the submission of an application for VET Student Loan assistance in relation to those fees applicable to Diploma and Advanced Diploma level courses and where applicable, the upfront payment of any fee owing between the Tuition Fee cost and the VSL cap for the course enrolment;
- (j) the payment of the prescribed fees and charges, or the submission of an application for FEE-HELP assistance in relation to those fees applicable to Higher Education courses; or the payment of the prescribed fees as set out in the Debit Success Agreement; and
- (k) the prospective student making satisfactory progress towards

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the completion of an approved course during the previous semester or year of study enrolled at the Institute.

A.7.2 Melbourne Polytechnic treats fairly all students who are, or would be, entitled to VET Student Loan assistance under clause 43 of Schedule 1A of the Higher Education Support Act (2003) and all persons seeking to enrol with the VET provider in a VET unit of study that meets the course requirements under subclause 45(1) of Schedule 1A of the Act and who are, or would be, entitled to VET Student Loan under clause 43 of the Act.

A.7.3 Melbourne Polytechnic has open, fair and transparent procedures that, in its view are reasonable - based on merit for making decisions about:

- (a) the selection, from among the students who are, or would be, entitled to VET Student Loan assistance under clause 43 of Schedule 1A of the Higher Education Support Act (2003) (*HESA*) and who seek to enrol with the provider in a VET unit of study that meets the requirements under subclause 45(1) of Schedule 1A of the Act, of students to enrol;
- (b) the treatment of students who are, or would be, entitled to VET Student Loan assistance under clause 43 of Schedule 1A of the Higher Education Support Act (2003) undertaking a VET course of study; and
- (c) the treatment of students who, are, or would be, entitled to FEE-HELP assistance under Part 3-3 clause 104-1 of the Higher Education Support Act (2003) undertaking a Higher Education course of study.

A.8 AMENDMENTS TO PERSONAL DETAILS

A student who wishes to change any of their personal details should, within seven (7) days of the change, complete a [Student Request Form](#) available on the Melbourne Polytechnic website.

Where the amendment relates to 'Change of Name', students will be required to, in the first instance, update their name on the USI register and provide evidence. Melbourne Polytechnic accepts the following documentation in support of 'Change of Name':

- birth certificate with change of name details
- citizenship certificate with change of name details
- change of name certificate
- deed poll document
- married or registered relationship certificate (issued by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages)
- divorce decree/revocation of registered relationship or death certificate of spouse or adult partner of a registered relationship
- court order directing child's change of name.

A.9 HARDSHIP

A student may apply in writing to the Executive Director Student Engagement Community and International Partnerships for consideration of a Fee Waiver, attaching supporting

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documentation, if they are experiencing hardship in relation to the payment of Tuition Fees. The student will be advised of the decision within seven (7) business days.

A.10 ADMISSION TO CLASSES

Student attendance in class is permitted upon meeting one of the following criteria:

A.10.1 Where the student has paid all prescribed fees and charges or has taken up an alternate payment option *ie* Tuition Payment Plan or equivalent;

A.10.2 Where the student is considering a VET Student Loan option within the '48 hour cooling off period';

A.10.3 Where the student enrolment has been processed with 'To be Invoiced' (TBI).

Managers will be responsible for ensuring that a student does not commence training without having met one of the above criteria.

A.11 ADMINISTRATION

A11.1 It will be the responsibility of the Manager Student Experience Process Improvement to administer the Student Enrolment, Fees and Charges Guidelines and co-ordinate the collection of fees and charges across all locations.

A.11.2 It will be the responsibility of the Chief Finance Officer to ensure monies collected from fees and charges are appropriately banked and recorded in the financial systems of Melbourne Polytechnic.

A.12 TRANSITION PROVISION

All fees, charges and levies owing to the Institute by any student or former student pursuant to a Melbourne Polytechnic Rule or Policy as at the date of adoption, shall remain due and owing.

A.13 GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISED TRAINING UNDER THE 2022 TAFE VET FUNDING CONTRACT

A.13.1 ELIGIBLE STUDENT CRITERIA (for a Government Subsidised Place – VET Programs)

To be eligible for a Government subsidised place, an individual must meet *Skills First* Program requirements as follows:

- a) An individual must be:
 - i) An Australian citizen; or
 - ii) A holder of a Permanent Visa; or
 - iii) A New Zealand citizen; and

- b) An individual must enrol and commence training in a course or qualification provided by the RTO between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 inclusive; and

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- c) either
- i) Under 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and enrolling in National recognised training or training the Victorian Certificate of Education or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning; or
 - i) Over 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in nationally recognised training in a Foundation Skills List course (*Foundation Skills courses are identified in Appendix 1 of these Guidelines*); or
 - ii) Over 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in nationally recognised training as an Apprentice (**not Trainee**); or
 - iii) Over 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in training in the Victorian Certificate of Education or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Intermediate or Senior); or
 - iv) Over 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in nationally recognised training in a course that is at a higher qualification level than the highest qualification held at the time of the scheduled commencement of training.

A.13.2 In addition to meeting the requirements of A.13.1 an individual is only eligible to:

- a) Commence a maximum of two Government subsidised courses/programs in a calendar year. Where an individual is enrolled in a course(s)/program(s) that is scheduled to commence at a later date in that calendar year, this course(s) must be counted for the purpose of this clause when assessing eligibility (*the '2 in a year' limitation*);

The '*2 in a year*' limitation does not apply if an individual is seeking to enrol in an apprenticeship (not traineeship) after having participated in one of the Pre-Apprenticeship and Pathway Qualifications.

- b) Undertake a maximum of two Government subsidised courses at any one time (*the '2 at a time' limitation*);

Participation in the following programs or initiatives will not be counted when determining if a student meets this limit:

- any program undertaken as part of the Department's 'Skills Uplift Pilot Program';
 - 22510VIC – Course in identifying and responding to Family Violence Risk';
 - any program undertaken as part of the Department's 'Construction Industry Skill Sets' initiative.
- c) Commence a maximum of two government subsidised courses at the same level within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) in their lifetime (*the '2 at a level' limitation*).
- d) '2 Skill Sets in a year' and '2 AQF qualifications in a year' limits

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In a calendar year, a student (regardless of their age) may only commence a maximum of two:

- a) *Skills First* subsidised Skill Sets; and
- b) Two *Skills First* subsidised programs that are AQF qualifications.

The following scenarios are not counted when determining if a student meets these limits:

- a) transitioning from a superseded program to the current version of the same program;
- b) recommencing training in the same program (at either the same or different Provider);
- c) enrolling in an Apprenticeship (not Traineeship) after having participated in one of the Pre-Apprenticeship and Pathway Programs (Appendix 2 to these Guidelines); or
- d) participation in:
 - any program undertaken as part of the Department's 'Skills Uplift Pilot Program';
 - 22510VIC – Course in identifying and responding to Family Violence Risk; or
 - any program undertaken as part of the Department's 'Construction Industry Skill Sets' initiative.

A.13.3 Additional Apprentice/Trainee Eligibility Requirements

If the RTO is to deliver training to Apprentices/Trainees who are Eligible Individuals in accordance with the schemes deemed by the VRQA to be Approved Training Schemes under the Act, then in addition to individual eligibility requirements in A.13.1 to be eligible for government subsidised training under the VET Funding Contract as an Apprentice/Trainee the individual must be:

- a) Employed in Victoria in either a full time or part time capacity under an award or registered agreement;
- b) Undertaking an Approved Training Scheme;
- c) A signatory to a Training Contract with their employer which is registered with the Victorian Registration and Quality Authority (VRQA);
- d) A signatory, jointly with the employer and the RTO, a Training Plan; and
- e) Involved in paid work and Structured Training, either workplace based or off-the job.

Whether an individual is an Apprentice or a Trainee depends on how the qualification they are undertaking is designated in the relevant Approved Training Scheme. Information on current Approved Training schemes can be found at

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/apprtrain/Pages/schemes.aspx>

A.13.4 Determining Eligibility for Courses and Qualifications on the Foundation Skills List

An individual is **not** eligible for government subsidised training in courses and qualifications on the [Foundation Skills List](#) if the individual is:

- a. the holder of a qualification issued by an Australian VET or Higher Education Provider that is at AQF Level 5 (Diploma) or higher;
- b. enrolled in the Commonwealth Government's 'Skills for Education and Employment' program.

A.13.5 Upskilling – Determining Prior Completed Qualification for the Purpose of Eligibility

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For the purpose of determining the 'highest qualification' (*upskilling*), the following qualifications are **not** taken into account:

- a. The Victorian Certificate of Education; Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Intermediate or Senior); International Baccalaureate Diploma; and senior secondary school certificates from other Australian jurisdictions.
- b. Programs listed in the [Foundation Skills List](#)
- c. Any VET certificates completed as part of a senior secondary qualification (including School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships).
- d. Skill Sets; and
- e. Non-Australian programs, except where equivalency has been formally established with a qualification within the AQF.

In accordance with the AQF and for avoidance of doubt, Vocational Graduate Certificate and Vocational Graduate Diploma level qualifications are higher than qualifications at the Bachelor Degree level.

A.13.6 Determining the Number of Courses in Which an Individual is Eligible to Commence/Undertake in 2022 ('2 in a year' and '2 at a time')

- a. An individual is eligible to commence a maximum of two government subsidised courses in 2022.
- b. An individual is eligible to undertake a maximum of two government subsidised courses/programs at any one time in 2022.
- c. The following scenarios will not be counted towards the course maximum outlined in A.13.6 (a) above:
 - i if an individual is transitioning from a superseded qualification to the current version of the same qualification;
 - ii if an individual is recommencing training in the same qualification (at either the same or a different provider); or
 - iii if an individual is seeking to enrol in an apprenticeship (not a traineeship) after having participated in one of the [Pre-Apprenticeship and Pathway Qualifications](#)

A.13.7 Determining Two Commencements at the Same Level within the AQF (*the 2 at a level lifetime limit*)

In determining two commencements at the same level, the following commencements are **not** taken into account:

- a. The Victorian Certificate of Education; Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Intermediate

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or Senior); International Baccalaureate Diploma; and senior secondary certificates from other Australian jurisdictions;

- b. Qualifications listed in the [Foundation Skills List](#) ;
- c. Any VET certificates undertaken as part of a senior secondary qualification (including School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships);
- d. Where an individual is transitioning from a superseded qualification to the current version of the same qualification; and

Where an individual is recommencing training in the same qualification (at either the same or a different provider).

A.14 JOB TRAINER – FULL QUALIFICATIONS

14.1 The JobTrainer Initiative is a joint Commonwealth and State Initiative that provides additional funding to increase access to free or low fee training places for young people and Job Seekers.

To be eligible under the JobTrainer Initiative students must be:

- 17 – 24 years of age at the commencement of training; or
- A Job Seeker of any age.

14.2 A Skills First Student may receive JobTrainer benefits for a program that is delivered as a Traineeship if they are:

- a) 17 to 24 years of age at the time of commencement of training;
- b) Over 24 years of age and:
 - i) Hold a current and valid Health Care Card issued by the Commonwealth, Pensioner Concession Card or Veteran’s Gold Card, or are the dependant spouse or dependant child of a card holder;
 - ii) Were unemployed on the commencement date of their Training Contract; or
 - iii) Became employed no earlier than 31 days before the commencement date of their Training Contract; or
- c) Enrolling in a JobTrainer priority program as identified on the JobTrainer Funded Programs Report.

14.3 The Skills First eligibility criteria applies with the exception of the following:

- ‘2 at a level in a lifetime’; and
- ‘upskilling’ eligibility criteria

Students will be eligible for one course commencement under JobTrainer in their lifetime.

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A.15 JOB TRAINER - SKILL SETS

A.15.1 To be eligible for participation in a JobTrainer Skill Set students must be:

- 17 – 24 years of age at the commencement of training; or
- A Job Seeker of any age; and
- Not previously have commenced a Skill Set under JobTrainer.

A.15.2 The Skills First eligibility criteria applies with the exception of the following:

- '2 at a level in a lifetime'; and
- 'upskilling' eligibility criteria.

Students will be eligible for one Skill Set commencement under JobTrainer in their lifetime.

A.15.3 There will be no charge for Tuition Fees, however, Student Amenities Fee or Materials Fee will apply for enrolments in JobTrainer Skill Sets.

A.16 SKILLS FIRST SKILL SETS

Under the VET Funding Contract, a Skill Set is an accredited program that is on the funded Skill Set list and may include:

- An accredited course with the title '*course in*';
- A Nationally Recognised Skill Set from a Training Package;
- An accredited single subject; or
- A group of accredited subjects approved by the Department of Education and Training.

The Skills First eligibility criteria applies with the exception of the following:

- '2 at a level in a lifetime'; and
- 'upskilling' eligibility criteria.

The '2 at a time' limit still applies but now applies collectively across both Skills Sets and full Qualifications for example, a student cannot undertake two Skill Sets and one full Qualification at the same time.

The '2 in a year' limit still applies but Skill Sets and full Qualifications are treated separately. This means a student can commence a maximum of two Skills Sets and two full Qualifications in a calendar year but no more than two at the same time.

Payment of the applicable Tuition Fee, Student Amenities Fee and Materials Fee will apply for enrolments in *Skills First* Skill Sets, excluding enrolments in:

22469VIC_Course in Introduction to the National Disability Insurance Scheme;
22510VIC_Course in Identifying and Responding to Family Violence Risk; and
22521VIC_Course in Gender Equity.

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A.18 EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDED TRAINING

A.18.1 Evidence of an individual's eligibility for the *Skills First* Program is to be sighted and retained by the RTO for each Eligible Individual prior to commencement of training. For each individual that the RTO assesses as Eligible for the *Skills First* Program the RTO must:

- a. Complete in hard copy or electronically, the information and declarations specified in the *Evidence of Eligibility and Student Declaration* form;
- b. **Sight and retain one** of the following as evidence of eligibility:
 - An Australian Birth Certificate (not Birth Extract);
 - A current Australian Passport;
 - A current New Zealand Passport;
 - New Zealand Citizenship Certificate;
 - Australian citizenship by descent extract
 - A Current *Green* Medicare Card;
 - Australian Citizenship certificate'
 - A proxy Declaration by a Relevant Referee in exceptional circumstances;
 - Formal confirmation of permanent residence granted by the Department of Home Affairs (or its successor) AND the student's foreign passport or ImmiCard;

and if the student's age is relevant to their eligibility and the document produced from the list above does not include a date of birth sight and retain a copy of one of the following:

 - A current Drivers Licence; or
 - A current Learner Permit; or
 - A Proof of Age card; or
 - A 'Keypass' card; or
 - A current Foreign Passport.
- c. Retain the unique verification number or code issued by the Commonwealth Government's Document Verification Service to verify the details an individual has entered into an online enrolment form.

A.19 TUITION FEE CONCESSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS/WAIVERS

A.19.1 A student enrolling in a Government Funded Courses at the Certificate IV level and below, will be charged the concession fee if, prior to commencement of training, holds a current and valid:

- a. Health Care Card issued by the Commonwealth; or
- b. Pensioner Concession Card; or
- c. Veteran's Gold Card; or
- d. An alternative card or concession eligibility criterion approved by the Minister.

A.19.2 The concessions provided also apply to a dependant spouse or dependent child of a card holder as identified on the Concession Card.

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A.19.3 Where a prospective student is not able to produce appropriate proof of concession at the time of enrolment, the student has up to the commencement of training to present with a valid concession card *ie* the effective commencement date on the concession card must be on or before the date of commencement of training.

A.19.3.1 Where a student has paid full Tuition Fees and subsequently presents a valid Concession Card within ten (10) business days of course commencement date, a refund will be applied according to the [Refund and Fee Information Flyer](#).

The RTO must retain a copy of the relevant concession card:

- a. Hard copy or electronically scanned copy where a physical card is presented;
- b. Its equivalent record as extracted from Centrelink Confirmation eServices; or where the concession card is presented via a Digital Wallet through a Centrelink Express Plus mobile application, of which a copy is not possible, the RTO must sight and authenticate the card by viewing the card directly through the Centrelink Express Plus mobile application on the cardholder's mobile device. These cards may not be sighted via a screen shot of the card that is emailed or otherwise produced.
- c. In hard or electronically scanned copy where a physical card is presented; or
- d. Its equivalent record as extracted from Centrelink Confirmation eServices.

A.19.4 A Tuition Fee will not be charged for an Eligible *Skills First* Individual who commences a course on the [Free TAFE for Priority Courses](#) list on or after 1 January 2019.

Students are eligible to receive a **fee exemption for only one commencement in a life-time** in a course on the [Free TAFE for Priority Courses](#) list.

A.19.5 A tuition or other fee will not be charged for an enrolment for which funding has been provided directly or indirectly by the Commonwealth Government and where a condition of the funding prohibits the imposition of a tuition or other fee.

A.19.6 Judy Lazarus Transition Centre

The RTO **must not charge a tuition fee** for enrolment by an individual who is from the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre (as a prisoner within the meaning of the *Corrections Act 1986*).

The RTO must retain a copy of written confirmation from the management of the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre that the individual meets the requirements of this Clause.

A.19.7 Young People on Community Based Orders

The RTO **must not charge a tuition fee** for enrolment by an individual who is required to undertake the course pursuant to a community based order made under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*.

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The RTO must retain a copy of written confirmation from the relevant Youth Justice Unit of the Victorian Department of Human Services that the individual meets the requirements of this Clause.

A.19.8 Job Trainer Full Qualifications

Tuition Fees for enrolment in JobTrainer full Qualifications will be either 'free' or be charged at the 'concessional rate'.

A.19.9 Job Trainer Skill Sets

There is no charge for tuition fees for enrolment in JobTrainer Skill Sets.

A.20 SPECIAL INITIATIVES under the SKILLS FIRST 2022 TAFE VET FUNDING CONTRACT

Asylum Seekers and Victims of Human Trafficking Initiative

Individuals referred to training under the Asylum Seekers and Victims of Human Trafficking Initiative must meet all *Skills First* Program eligibility criteria **except** the citizenship/residency requirements. The RTO must sight and retain a 'Referral to Government Subsidised Training – Asylum Seekers form or it may confirm eligibility by using the Commonwealth Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) to confirm the individual holds a valid:

- a) Bridging Visa Class E (BE); or
- b) Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV); or
- c) Temporary Protection Visa (TPV); or
- d) Bridging Visa Class F (BVF); or
- e) Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) (subclass 449) Visa.

Melbourne Polytechnic must keep on record confirmation of the student's eligibility for the Asylum Seeker program.

Under the Asylum Seeker VET program, **Tuition Fee** for enrolments in courses at all levels will be charged at the **Concession Rate** regardless of whether or not they hold one of the forms of Fee Concession entitlements specified in A.19.1. **Student Services & Amenities & Materials Fees will not be charged.**

Retrenched Employees

Retrenched employees must meet all *Skills First* eligibility requirements **except** the 'upskilling' and '2 at level in a lifetime' requirements. Retrenched employees will be required to present with a training referral letter issued by a Regional Manager, Industry Engagement, Department of Education and Training.

Referred individuals must commence training within twelve months of the date shown on the Training Referral Letter issued by the Department.

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Skills First Youth Access Initiative

The Skills First Youth Access Initiative is to support participation in training by young people (24 years of age or under) who have been, or are currently on, Youth Justice Orders or Child Protection Orders, or are residents of an Education First Youth Foyer. A full Fee Waiver for Tuition Fees and Student Services and Amenities Fees must be granted to a student who meets the criteria and who is referred to training by:

- a) the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing;
- b) the Department;
- c) the Department of Justice and Community Safety; or
- d) a referring agency, which is defined for this purpose as an organisation based in the State of Victoria that currently receives funding or is contracted by the Victorian Government or the Commonwealth government to provide services to children, youth and/or families.

The Training Provider must retain the original referral form and **return a copy to the relevant Referring Agency.**

Automotive Supply Chain Training Initiative

Automotive supply chain employees must meet all *Skills First* Program eligibility criteria except the 'upskilling' requirement and '2 at level in a lifetime'.

Individuals referred to training under this extension of eligibility provision must present the RTO with an Automotive Supply Chain Training Initiative Letter issued by a Regional Manager, Industry Engagement, Department of Education and Training.

Referred individuals must commence training within twelve months of the date shown on the Automotive Supply Chain Training Initiative Letter. The RTO must retain the Automotive Supply Chain Training Initiative Letter.

Back to Work Scheme

Where an individual provides a standard email issued by the State Revenue Office to the individual's employer that confirms the individual's status as a 'Back to Work' participant, the following exemptions may be applied:

- a) 'upskilling';
- b) 'two at level in a lifetime'; and/or
- c) 'two "courses in" In a lifetime.

Individuals enrolling under the Back to Work Scheme must be charged **Tuition Fees** at the **Concession Rate.**

Latrobe Valley Initiative

Under the Latrobe Valley Initiative, individuals who are referred to training by the Latrobe Valley Authority or the Morwell Skills Job Centre are exempt from the following eligibility criteria:

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- a) 'upskilling'
- b) 'two at level in a lifetime'; and/or
- c) 'two "courses in" In a lifetime'.

Indigenous Completions Initiative

Under the Indigenous Completions Initiative, **Tuition Fees** for enrolments in a course at any level the RTO must charge the **Concession Rate** to individuals who self-identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent (and are reported as such through the 'Indigenous Student Identifier' field of the Student Statistical Report). Concession rate must be applied regardless of whether or not they hold one of the forms of Fee Concession entitlement specified in A.19.1

The RTO must keep a copy of the enrolment form on which the individual self-identified as Indigenous and also a copy of the relevant Concession Card where applicable.

A.21 INELIGIBLE STUDENTS (for a Government Subsidised Place – VET Programs)

Students Ineligible for a Government Subsidised Place are prospective students who do not meet the requirements as listed for Eligible Students.

An individual is **not eligible for training subsidised through the Skills First Program** if the individual is:

- a) a student enrolled in a school (excluding a school based apprentice/Trainee). This includes:
 - i) any government, non-government, independent or Catholic school; or
 - ii) a student registered for home schooling in Victoria.
- b) within the meaning of the *Corrections Act 1986* (Vic), a prisoner held at a prison, including:
 - i) Hopkins Correctional Centre (Ararat);
 - ii) Barwon Prison;
 - iii) Beechworth Correctional Centre;
 - iv) Dame Phyllis Frost Centre;
 - v) Dhurringile Prison;
 - vi) Langi Kal Kal Prison;
 - vii) Loddon Prison Precinct;
 - viii) Marngoneet Correctional Centre;
 - ix) Tarrengower Prison;
 - x) Metropolitan Remand Centre;
 - xi) Melbourne Assessment Prison;
 - xii) Fulham Correctional Centre;
 - xiii) Port Phillip Prison; or
 - xiii) Karrenga Annex; or
 - xiv) Ravenhall Correction Centre.

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- c) a person who is detained under the *Mental Health Act 2014* (Vic), or the *Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997* (Vic) or the *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic) at the Thomas Embling Hospital; or
- d) a person who is detained (other than on a weekend detention) under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic) or the *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic) or who is held on remand in one or more of the following youth justice facilities:
 - i) Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre;
 - ii) Parkville Youth Residential Centre; or
 - iii) Melbourne Youth Justice Centre.

Note that the exclusions described in A.17.d above **do not apply** to:

- young people on community based orders made under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic); or
- individuals held in Judy Lazarus Transition Centre.

A.22 INELIGIBLE TUITION FEES

The Melbourne Polytechnic Executive will approve the tuition fees for Ineligible Students.

Full Course Tuition Fees and Material Fees are published on each course page on the Melbourne Polytechnic website <https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/>

Tuition Fees for individual units of study within Diploma and Advanced Diploma level courses are available on the Institute's website <https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/study/fees/local-student-fees/fees-for-local-vocational-education-students/schedule-of-vet-tuition-fees-diploma-and-above-programs/>

A full tuition fee will be payable by all students at enrolment with the exception of students enrolling in Diploma or Advanced Diploma level courses wishing to apply for VET Student Loan assistance, who have until the end of the Census Date for each unit of study to either pay the tuition fee or submit an application for VET Student Loan assistance for the course of study.

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PART B – HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLMENTS

B.1 FEES

B.1.1 Tuition Fees

Course Tuition Fees for Higher Education programs will be set each academic year in line with the Institute's Pricing Strategy Process and approved by the Melbourne Polytechnic Executive.

The Tuition Fee for each individual course is available on the relevant course page on the Melbourne Polytechnic website <https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/>

Tuition Fees for individual units of study within the Higher Education courses are available on the Institute's website <https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/study/fees/local-student-fees/fees-for-local-higher-education-students/schedule-of-higher-education-tuition-fees/>

B.1.2 Ancillary Charges

The Chief Executive Officer may determine annually, or at the time of providing the service, charges for provision of:

- (a) issuing a replacement Student Identification Card;
- (b) issuing an additional Statement of Student Results and/or Statement of Attainment;
- (c) Issuing a replacement Testamur.

B.2 TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS

B.2.1 Upfront Payment

Students may pay Tuition Fees for each enrolment period within an academic year in one upfront payment.

B.2.2 FEE-HELP

FEE-HELP is an Australian Government income contingent loan scheme to assist eligible students to pay for all or part of their studies in a Higher Education program.

Eligibility for FEE-HELP Loan

To be eligible for FEE-HELP, you must first meet the citizenship and residency requirements by being ONE of the following:

- an Australian Citizen, or New Zealand Special Category Visa (NZ SCV) holder who meets the long-term residency requirements, and will study at least part of the course of study in Australia, or
- a permanent humanitarian visa holder (check www.homeaffairs.gov.au for the list of humanitarian visa subclasses) who will be resident in Australia for the duration of unit(s) of study, or

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- a permanent visa holder undertaking bridging study for overseas-trained professionals who will be resident in Australia for the duration of unit(s) of study.

In addition, students must also meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

- be assessed as academically suitable for your course of study;
- effective 1 January 2018, once a student has enrolled in eight (8) or more units toward a Degree program, they must maintain a pass rate of at least 50% of the enrolled units to continue to access FEE-HELP (this may be waived where a student has successfully applied for an exemption under Special Circumstances);
- be enrolled in an eligible course by the census date;
- read the Australian Government's FEE-HELP Information booklet;
- submit a valid *Request for a FEE-HELP loan* form to the training provider by the census date (or earlier administrative date); and
- obtain a Unique Student Identifier (USI) by the census date.

B.2.3 Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) and HECS-HELP Loan Scheme

A CSP is an Australian Government subsidised higher education place. CSPs are only available to domestic students (Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens or permanent visa holders). The Australian Government pays part of the course fees directly to the training provider and students are required to pay the balance of course fees known as the '*student contribution amount*'.

Eligibility for a CSP

To be eligible for a CSP you must be **either**:

- an Australian citizen, who will live and study in Australia for some of the course; or
- a New Zealand citizen, who will live and study in Australia for the whole course; or
- a permanent [visa holder](#), who will live and study in Australia for the whole course.

AND meet each of the following criteria;

- be enrolled in each unit by the census date;
- read the Australian Government's Commonwealth Supported Places and HECS-HELP Information booklet; and
- submit a valid *Request for a Commonwealth Supported Place and a HECS-HELP loan* form by the required date.

Eligibility for HECS-HELP

HECS-HELP is a scheme that assists eligible Commonwealth Supported students to pay their student contribution amount with a loan. Students must be studying in a Commonwealth Supported place at an approved HECS-HELP provider in order to access a HECS-HELP loan.

To be eligible for a HECS-HELP loan you must:

- be studying in [a Commonwealth Supported place](#);

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- be an Australian citizen and meet the [residency requirements](#) (you must study at least part of your course in Australia) or
- be a New Zealand Special Category Visa (SCV) holder or permanent humanitarian visa holder and meet the [residency requirements](#).
- Submit the Request for Commonwealth Support and HECS-HELP form to your provider by the [census date](#);
- be enrolled in each unit/subject at your provider by the census date;
- obtain a Unique Student Identifier (USI) by the census date;
- not have already borrowed up to your HELP loan limit.

B.3 FEE PROTECTION

B.3.1 Upfront Pre-paid Fees

Melbourne Polytechnic has in place the [Fee Protection Policy](#), which advises students that upfront pre-paid fees are protected in the event that Melbourne Polytechnic ceases to deliver a course of study in which the student is enrolled and has commenced.

B.3.2 Tuition Protection Arrangements (TPA)

From 1 January 2020 the Australian Government rendered TAFEs and other Government-owned providers exempt from the new tuition protection arrangements, with the exception of obligations relating to providing information about replacement courses and providing tuition protection support and assistance in the event they default.

This reflects that TAFE providers have the capacity and capability to place students in suitable replacement courses in the event that the provider ceases to deliver a course of study in which the student is enrolled and has commenced.

B.4 REFUNDS

If a student withdraws, by written notice, from a Higher Education course **prior to or on the Census Date**, the Institute will refund the Tuition fee. A student who has FEE-HELP will incur no debt.

No refund will be issued after Census Date for any fees and charges paid by, or on behalf of, the student, including any FEE-HELP debt incurred except in Special Circumstances.

B.4.1 Partial Withdrawal from a Higher Education Program

If a student withdraws from only part of an enrolment, **prior to or on Census Date**, the Institute will refund only the portion of the tuition fee applicable to that part of the Higher Education course. A student who has FEE-HELP will incur no debt for the withdrawn unit/s of study.

No refund will be issued after Census Date for any fees and charges paid by, or on behalf of, the student, including any FEE-HELP debt incurred except in Special Circumstances.

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B.4.2 Special Circumstances – FEE-HELP

Under the Higher Education Support Act (2003) (HESA) an application for re-credit of a FEE-HELP Loan is considered on the basis of special circumstances that:

- Were beyond the student's control; **and**
- Circumstances did not make their full impact until on, or after, the census date; **and**
- Made it impracticable for the student to complete the requirements for the subject.

To be considered for a refund due to special circumstances, a student must:

- i read the [How to Apply for a Re-credit of FEE-HELP Debt under Special Circumstances Instructions](#); and
- ii complete and submit an [Application for Re-credit of FEE-HELP under Special Circumstances](#) form available on the Melbourne Polytechnic website within 12 months of the withdrawal date.

B.5 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Students are able to request a leave of absence from their Higher Education studies for a period of time up to 12 months, following one semester of study. A student seeking a leave of absence should consult with the relevant Head of Program before applying for leave. Refer to the [Enrolment \(HE\) Policy](#), available on the Melbourne Polytechnic website for further information.

B.6 AMENDMENTS TO PERSONAL DETAILS

A student who changes their name, address, telephone contact should within seven (7) days of the change, complete an [Amendment to Personal Details form](#). The form is available from the Student Hub at the Preston Campus or Enrolment Centres at other Campus locations.

Students requesting a 'Change of Name' will be required to:

- in the first instance, change their name on the USI Register; and
- complete the [Amendment to Personal Details form](#) and attach legal documentary evidence (*eg. Marriage Certificate, Statutory Declaration, Deed Poll Certificate*).

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PART C – INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLMENTS

International Students | Holders of a Student Visa and/or Temporary Resident Visa

The *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act) sets out the legal framework governing delivery of education to international students in Australia on a student visa. The Act defines an International student as one who holds a Student Visa. These students are ineligible for a Government Subsidised place and must apply via the International Office and pay full International Student Fees.

The Australian Government, through the Department of Education and Training, administers the ESOS Act and its associated instruments.

These rules should be read in conjunction with the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000, and in particular the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students (National Code) 2007.

C.1 TUITION FEES

Tuition Fees for International Students will be set in line with the Institute's Pricing Strategy Process and approved by the Melbourne Polytechnic Executive.

C.2 ADMINISTRATION

It will be the responsibility of the Chief Finance Officer to ensure monies collected from fees and charges are appropriately banked and recorded in the financial systems of Melbourne Polytechnic.

C.3 REFUND OF ENROLMENT FEES AND CHARGES

The rules for refund of enrolment fees and charges for International students are set out in the [International Students Withdrawal, Transfer and Refund Policy](#) and the [International Students Withdrawal, Transfer and Refund Procedure](#).

C.4 ENROLMENTS

Enrolment at the Institute is conditional upon:

- (a) the information that is supplied by the prospective student to the Institute upon which an offer of a place in a course is based, being accurate;
- (b) the approval of the relevant Manager (or nominee) of the subjects concerned;
- (c) the completion by the prospective student of the Institute enrolment form;

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- (d)
 - (i) the undertaking of the prospective student to abide by the regulations, rules, procedures and standards of conduct of the Institute; and
 - (ii) the granting of authority to the Academic Registrar to provide government departments, who have authorised a prospective student to enrol at the Institute, such details of the person's academic progress as may be required by them; and
 - (iii) the granting of authority to the Academic Registrar to seek from other education institutions at which the prospective student has been enrolled, details of their academic record and progress; and
 - (iv) the acknowledgment by the prospective student to participate in the National Student Outcomes Survey managed by the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) and/or an invitation to participate in a Department endorsed project and/or being contacted by the Commission (or persons authorised by the Commission) for audit purposes;
- (e) the prospective student making satisfactory progress towards the completion of an approved program during the previous semester or year of study enrolled at the Institute, consistent with Standard 8 of the Australian Government's Educational Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act and outlined in the [International Students Academic Course Progress and Attendance Policy](#) managed by the International Office at Melbourne Polytechnic.
- (f) the prospective student enrolled in an English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) course maintaining satisfactory attendance within the course as described in the [International Students Academic Course Progress and Attendance Policy](#) managed by the International Office at Melbourne Polytechnic.

C.5 INSTITUTE WITHDRAWAL OF A STUDENT ENROLMENT

C.5.1 A student may have his/her enrolment in a program withdrawn by the Academic Registrar when:-

- (a) the penalty of expulsion or suspension has been imposed under the [Student Discipline Policy](#).
- (b) and when any appeals arising out of the imposition of that penalty have been disposed of; or
- (c) the student has failed to achieve satisfactory academic progress, or failed to achieve satisfactory attendance according to C.4 (e) and C.4 (f) and any appeals against the determination of unsatisfactory academic progress or unsatisfactory attendance under the [Student Complaints and Appeals Policy](#) and the [Student Complaints and Appeals Procedure](#) have been addressed.

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C.5.2 A student whose enrolment in all subjects is withdrawn shall forthwith cease to be an enrolled student of the Institute and shall no longer have the right as an enrolled student:-

- (a) to enter and to remain in any of the precincts of the Institute; or
- (b) to participate in any classes, examinations or tests conducted by the Institute; or
- (c) to participate in any other activities of or under the control of the Institute.

C.6 APPEALS AGAINST INSTITUTE WITHDRAWAL OF A STUDENT ENROLMENT

Where a student is undertaking a vocational or higher education course and is identified as not making satisfactory progress as outlined in C.4 (e), or satisfactory attendance as outlined in C.4 (f) the student will be advised in writing of the Institute's intention to report the student to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

The student will be advised in writing of the way to access the student grievance process which includes an external appeals mechanism. This process is outlined in the [Students Complaints and Appeals Policy](#) and the [Student Complaints and Appeal Procedure](#).

Students exercising their right to grievance procedures will continue to be enrolled students until any appeals have been disposed of.

International students studying in an ELICOS program are required to attend in accordance with DHA Regulations. Appeals in relation to visa regulations are managed by (DIBP).

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PART D – SKILLS RECOGNITION

Skills Recognition is the general term given for the assessment of an applicant's previous learning or skills development for the purpose of gaining credits or exemptions for a partial or full qualification. The three categories of Skills Recognition are as follows:

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

This is a process through which people can gain credit in recognised courses based on learning gained from experience in the workplace, in voluntary work, in social or domestic activities or through informal training.

Recognition of Current Competency (RCC)

This is a process through which people who have previously successfully completed a unit of competency or module can be reassessed to determine whether the currency of the unit of competency or module has been maintained.

Credit Transfer (T)

This is a process where people who have previously successfully completed the same or equivalent unit of competency or module at another educational institution, can apply for a credit transfer towards the Melbourne Polytechnic course for which they are about to enrol in or are currently enrolled in. There are no costs associated with Credit Transfer.

Skills Recognition Fees

Fees for Skills Recognition are charged at the same hourly rate as that which applies to students Eligible for a Government Subsidised Place under the *Skills First Program*. There will be no charge for Student Services & Amenities or Materials Fees.

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PART E - INSTITUTE ACCREDITED COURSES

E.1 COURSE FEE

Subject to any direction from the Minister or other appropriate authority, Melbourne Polytechnic Accredited Courses and customised programs will be charged at full cost recovery rate and may be used to wholly or partially cover:

- (a) teaching salaries;
- (b) support salaries;
- (c) materials;
- (d) resources;
- (e) publicity;
- (f) hospitality;
- (g) administration;
- (h) transportation or
- (i) any other costs attributed to the course as determined by the Executive Director Programs and Educational Leadership.

E.2 REFUNDS

The following applies to all IAC refunds:

- If a student withdraws at any time up to 5 days prior to the commencement date of a course, the Institute will refund enrolment fees paid less 10% to a maximum of \$50.00.
- If a student withdraws less than 5 days before the commencement date of a course, the Institute will not refund any fees.
- If a course is cancelled by the Institute at any time during the period of a student's enrolment, the Institute will refund the full enrolment fee.

Administration of Student Enrolment, Fees and Charges Guidelines

Definitions

<u>Academic Registrar:</u>	The person appointed/nominated by the Chief Executive to be responsible for the development, continuous review and implementation of the Administration of Student Enrolment, Fees and Charges Policy and related Guidelines at Melbourne Polytechnic.
<u>Academic Year:</u>	Any one period within 1 January and 31 December.
<u>Approved Course:</u>	A sequence of study leading to an Australian Qualifications (AQF) award or a vocational outcome.
<u>Asylum Seeker:</u>	A person confirmed as 'Asylum Seeker' by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASCR).
<u>Automotive Supply Chain Training Initiative:</u>	The Automotive Supply Chain Industry is being supported by the Victorian Government through a two year \$30 million investment to extend the training entitlement and provide support to individuals transitioning during major changes to Victoria's Automotive Manufacturing Sector.
<u>Board:</u>	The Board of Melbourne Polytechnic.
<u>Census Date:</u>	<p>The closing date for application for VET Student Loan or FEE-HELP for a unit of study.</p> <p>It is also the last day on which a student can withdraw from a unit of study without incurring a VET Student Loan debt, FEE-HELP debt or tuition fee.</p>
<u>Chief Executive:</u>	The person appointed by the Melbourne Polytechnic Board as the Chief Executive.
<u>Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP):</u>	A CSP is an Australian Government subsidised higher education place.
<u>Debitsuccess:</u>	A loan payment option available for students to pay course Tuition Fees of \$150.00 or greater through a Tuition Payment Plan (TPP).
<u>DHA:</u>	Department of Home Affairs.
<u>Enrolled Student:</u>	A person who is enrolled in a course at Melbourne Polytechnic.
<u>FEE-HELP:</u>	FEE-HELP is an Australian Government income contingent loan scheme to assist eligible students to pay for all or part of their studies in a Higher Education program.

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<u>FEE-HELP Eligibility:</u>	As detailed in the FEE-HELP Information Booklet available on the Department of Education and Training (<i>Commonwealth</i>) website www.studyassist.gov.au
<u>Higher Education and Skills (HES):</u>	HES is part of the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training.
<u>Higher Education Student:</u>	A student enrolled in a Higher Education Qualification.
<u>HESA:</u>	Higher Education Support Act 2003.
<u>Tuition Payment Plan:</u>	A Tuition Fee payment option via Debitsuccess.
<u>TPA:</u>	Tuition Protection Arrangements.
<u>VET Student Loan Eligibility:</u>	As detailed on the Department of Education and Training (<i>Commonwealth</i>) website www.studyassist.gov.au
<u>VET Student Loan:</u>	VET Student Loan is an income contingent loan scheme for the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. VET Student Loan will assist VET Student Loan eligible students who are enrolled in an approved VET Student Loan courses to help pay for all or part of their tuition fees at Diploma and Advanced Diploma level courses.